

2014 Victorian Election

NO MORE DEATHS

Keep women and children safe from family violence.



Media Release

21 November 2014

Family violence policies under the spotlight

Victorian family violence organisations will today launch a scorecard on how well the major parties are addressing family violence in the lead up to the State Election.

The No More Deaths campaign is an alliance of statewide and local family violence organisations working with women and children, community legal services and men's behaviour change programs across Victoria. Earlier this year No More Deaths identified the [25 immediate policy priorities](#) across housing, justice, police, health, community services and other portfolios to keep women and children safe in Victoria and called for family violence to be a central issue in the Victorian state election.

No More Deaths teamed up with [Fair Agenda](#), a new independent community campaigning organisation promoting fairness and equality for women, to ask the parties where they stand on these 25 priority areas.

Today they are releasing the [Family Violence Scorecard](#), based on direct responses of parties along with their published policies and campaign announcements.

"The scorecard we are releasing today shows how far we have come and how seriously all parties are taking the issue of family violence," said Fiona McCormack, CEO of Domestic Violence Victoria.

"It is important these efforts are seen as the first steps in what will need to be a sustained community effort to build on this opportunity and keep women and children safe in Victoria. Family violence must remain firmly on the agenda after next week's election – with vital work still needing to be done to ensure the safety of women and children,".

"We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a comprehensive family violence policy for the whole of Victoria, that learns from local and international best practice and which puts the safety of women and children at the heart of government decision making."

"Reports of family violence have never been higher and overstretched community and legal services are struggling to meet the demand," said Dr Chris Atmore, Senior Policy Adviser from the Federation of Community Legal Centres.

"Many women and children also remain at serious risk of harm and death because our family violence system responses are often inconsistent. Victorians want political parties to truly appreciate the huge cost of family violence to our state."

“Emergency funding boosts are important and welcome, but unless the next Government makes ending family violence a budget and leadership priority, we will not have a properly integrated system offering consistent protection and accountability for all victims and perpetrators, regardless of where they live or who they are.”

“Each of the major parties have made significant commitments towards ending family violence, but there are immediate gaps across many services that will need funding and resources – especially as we head into the busy, and often fraught, Christmas and New Year holiday period,” said Rodney Vlais, Acting CEO of No To Violence and the Men’s Referral Service.

“We also need more training and support for police, corrections officers, court personnel and child protection workers who have a crucial role in reducing the risk posed by men who perpetrate family violence.”

“Whatever happens on November 29, we hope that all political parties will now take the violence that happens within people’s homes as seriously as violence occurring in other settings, in their policy and funding commitments,” said Rodney Vlais.

“This is an issue that we know matters to voters and thousands have signed their support for the priorities set by these frontline workers,” said Renee Carr, Executive Director of Fair Agenda.

The [full survey results and scorecard are online at Fair Agenda](#).

For interviews call:

Chris Atmore: 0425 796 434

Rodney Vlais: 0433 040 841

Fiona McCormack: 0409 937 800

For media inquiries call John Kelly on 0418 127 153