

2014 Victorian Election

# NO MORE DEATHS

Keep women and children safe from family violence.



FACT SHEET 4

#nomoreFVdeaths

## Break down the system silos that endanger women and children

In the lead up to the 2014 Victorian election, we call on all political parties to commit to a genuinely integrated family violence response. Government leadership and partnership with community agencies to make sure policy and practice are 'joined up' will save lives.

### What happens now?

#### We still don't have a 'joined up' response

- Victoria has progressed in the last 10 years, but tragic deaths and other incidents this year have shown that many gaps and inconsistencies in the family violence system still endanger women and children.
- The diverse range of agencies working to respond to family violence including crisis services, legal services, police, community services and government departments don't always communicate effectively nor work well with each other.
- Standards that guide child protection and family violence service delivery are not well integrated even though family violence is present in 60 per cent of child protection cases.
- There are often no clear lines of accountability on family violence matters, for example if police fail to adhere to their Code of Practice by not responding to a complaint about a breach.
- Data is often not available or not collected consistently, making it hard to assess 'what works'.

### What needs to be done?

- **Appoint a Minister for Preventing Violence against Women and Children** to drive the next Victorian Government's agenda on ending family violence.
- **Shift the Office of Women's Affairs to the Department of Premier and Cabinet** and bring other Ministers to the table to break down policy, service and funding silos.
- **Develop a new and comprehensive Victorian Action Plan to address violence against women and children** with a strong primary prevention focus to align with the National Action Plan.
- **Require shared understandings, language and practices across the family violence response**, including in community legal services, police, courts and child protection, with clear accountability.
- **Make sure we know what works and where systems fail** through accurate, timely and thorough data collection and independent evaluation.

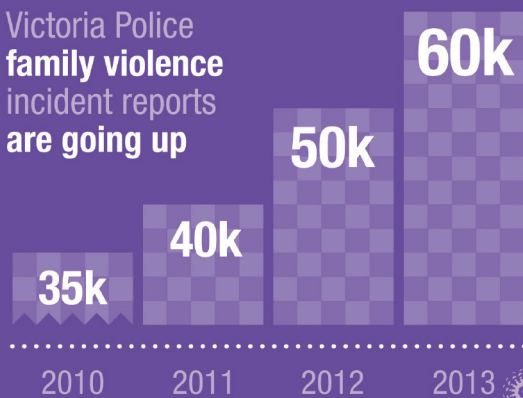
## Family violence in Victoria: why we need to act now

Victorians are more  
**concerned** about  
**family violence** than  
street crime, muggings,  
home burglaries



family violence deaths  
in Victoria in 2013

Victoria Police  
family violence  
incident reports  
are going up



Family violence  
intervention orders  
are going up



Children are present in  
**1 out of every 3** family violence  
cases reported to police

Intimate partner violence is  
the **top risk factor** for  
**death, disability & illness**  
in **Victorian women**  
aged 15–44

**Sources:** 1. Galaxy poll, *Herald Sun*, 29 July 2014; 2. "Police shocked by massive rise in family violence", *Herald Sun*, 25 November 2013; 3. Victoria Police Crime Statistics, 2012/2013; 4. Magistrates Court Victoria, 2014; 5. Victoria Police Crime Statistics, 2011/2012; 6. VicHealth, 2004. Infographics © DVRCV 2014

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