

Media Release

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Welcoming the Victorian Government's commitment to tackle violence against Aboriginal women



Aboriginal Family
Violence Prevention
& Legal Service Victoria
**Standing Firm Against
Family Violence**

The Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria (FVPLS Victoria) welcomes the Victorian Government's commitment to investing \$572 million into preventing and addressing the state-wide family violence crisis. In particular we welcome the \$25.7 million in dedicated funding for Aboriginal communities, including for early intervention and prevention programs.

“The investment in Aboriginal community organisations is a statement of intent from the Andrews Government,” says Ms. Antoinette Braybrook, CEO of FVPLS Victoria. “The Royal Commission highlighted our Sisters Day Out as the best practice for early intervention and prevention programs for Aboriginal women and their children. It works because it’s run by and for Aboriginal women. It builds on cultural strength to reduce vulnerability to violence and breaks down barriers to accessing services for safety.”

Since 2007 the Sisters Day Out program has reached almost 8,000 Aboriginal women across the state. In its report the Royal Commission expressed great concern that Sisters Day Out has never received sustainable ongoing funding, and described the program as an example of “the way that family violence early intervention can be creative, non-judgemental and effective. These are the ways of working that we need to see more of, not less”.

Aboriginal women are at the epicentre of the family violence crisis. The clear message emerging from the Royal Commission’s report is that Aboriginal women must be front and centre of the Victorian Government’s efforts to reduce family violence. This \$25.7 million investment is an important step towards showing that the Government is committed to reducing the scourge of family violence in Aboriginal Victorian communities. Aboriginal women and the community controlled organisations who support them should be prioritised as this funding is rolled out and the Victorian Government implements the findings of the Royal Commission.

FVPLS Victoria looks forward to continuing to work with the Government on the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission.

Note: FVPLS Victoria provides culturally safe legal assistance, early intervention prevention and community legal education to Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault. Our legal assistance includes intervention orders, victims’ of crime assistance, child protection and family law.

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