

# Media Release

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## ***Victorian Government announces comprehensive commitment to address family violence against Aboriginal women and children***



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

The Victorian Government's comprehensive commitment to addressing family violence in the state budget will be a game-changer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children, according to the state's leading authority for preventing family violence against Aboriginal women.

"These budget measures recognise the disproportionate impact of family violence on Aboriginal women and their children," said Antoinette Braybrook, CEO of Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Victoria (FVPLS Victoria). Aboriginal women in Victoria are at least 25 times more likely to be killed or injured as a result of family violence. "The Andrews Government has put its money where its mouth is and backed important commitments with real and concrete action."

The budget committed a total of \$1.9 billion over 4 years to its family violence package, including \$33.5 million over 4 years for preventing and responding to the severity of family violence experienced by Aboriginal people.

"This funding will provide much needed support for our state's most vulnerable women," said Ms Braybrook. "Importantly, the comprehensive package recognises the importance of taking a holistic approach to address family violence."

"Aboriginal women face particular barriers to accessing services, so access to culturally safe and holistic services and supports is vital," said Ms Braybrook.

"We're delighted that the Victorian Government has also recognised the importance of community development and early intervention programs in addressing the epidemic of family violence, particularly through the support for the Koori Women's Gathering Place and FVPLS Victoria programs such as Sisters Day Out, Dilly Bag and Young Luv," said Ms Braybrook. "If we are really going to put an end to family violence we need to build the strength and resilience of Aboriginal women to reduce their vulnerability to violence."

FVPLS Victoria provides holistic, culturally safe frontline legal and non-legal supports, as well as early intervention and prevention programs to Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault across Victoria.

"We welcome the Andrews Government's recognition of the value of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, such as FVPLS Victoria."

"For far too long family violence has been a silent epidemic, especially for Aboriginal women," Ms Braybrook said.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence and the Victorian Government's 10 Year Plan provide a blueprint for addressing family violence in this state. The 10 Year Plan ushers in sweeping reforms to be rolled out over the next ten years and commits to addressing the disproportionate impacts of family violence on Aboriginal families.

“Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence – predominantly women – were front and centre of the Royal Commission’s report and recommendations,” said Ms Braybrook. “I am delighted to see the Andrews Government keep its word on respecting Aboriginal self-determination and invest in Aboriginal solutions to family violence in our communities,” said Ms Braybrook.

“Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations who work with victims/survivors on the frontline must be properly resourced to provide long term supports to our women and children – from prevention and crisis through to healing and recovery. We need long term, secure funding so we can focus on doing what we do best - delivering culturally safe and evaluated programs that work.”

“This budget puts Aboriginal victims/survivors at the forefront of the Victorian Government’s commitment to ending family violence.”

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