

Media Release

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Launch of FVPLS Victoria's Solutions to addressing family violence



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

Today, during NAIDOC Week 2016, the Aboriginal Family Violence and Prevention Legal Service Victoria (FVPLS Victoria) launched its campaign "*Solutions to addressing family violence*".

FVPLS Victoria's Solutions are based on 14 years of experience working at the frontline with victims/survivors of family violence. These solutions demonstrate our communities' leadership and commitment to ending family violence.

FVPLS Victoria is the only Aboriginal community controlled organisation that works exclusively with victims/survivors of family violence. It is a fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised because of family violence and 10 times more likely to die as a result of a violent assault. Beyond the social cost of family violence which sees lives lost and communities destroyed, unless action is taken now, violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women will cost the Australian economy \$2.2 billion by 2021-22.

"*FVPLS Victoria's Solutions* to addressing family violence gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women a voice. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are silenced by violence and by the system. These solutions will contribute to ending this silencing and help ensure their input to shape policy to influence systemic change", said Ms Antoinette Braybrook, CEO of FVPLS Victoria.

"FVPLS Victoria has built trust with the women in our communities. We listen to their voices and they have entrusted us with their knowledge on the solutions that work for them. FVPLS Victoria stands in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women calling on the whole of the community to support their voices." Ms Braybrook said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their communities are the key to creating change. That's why *FVPLS Victoria's Solutions* focus on amplifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to build resilience towards preventing family violence through strong culture and strong identity.

Ms Braybrook highlights that *FVPLS Victoria's Solutions* address the intersectional nature of family violence, stating that "Family violence does not operate in a vacuum. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience discrimination through racism, poverty and gender inequality. We have the knowledge to advocate for victims/survivors which is why it is absolutely critical that Government invest in our organisation to keep Aboriginal women's voices front and centre as it implements the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence."

FVPLS Victoria is a holistic, wrap around service which provides culturally safe services to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children are safe and can live free from violence.

Our women must have access to a broad range of services including legal and non-legal supports which are offered by FVPLS Victoria. This breaks down the many barriers to accessing justice that exist and impact on safety.

The disproportionate and devastating flow on effects of family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women can no longer be silenced. It is time to act. FVPLS Victoria is calling on the whole community to stand with us @FVPLSVictoria #SolutionstoFV.

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