

Media Release

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Royal Commission: A watershed moment to address 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 report and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence (Royal Commission). Today presents a unique opportunity to address the disproportionate impact of family violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children.

FVPLS Victoria CEO Antoinette Braybrook notes that “The Royal Commission should be commended for making violence against Aboriginal women front and centre of their report. Violence against Aboriginal women is all too often silenced. This is a watershed moment.”

“We strongly welcome the Royal Commission recommendations that the Victorian Government needs to invest in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, such as FVPLS Victoria, who support victims/survivors of family violence. Aboriginal women must have access to culturally safe services for their safety - it is imperative that our services are funded to meet need.”

“It is heartening that the Royal Commission recognised our programs such as *Sisters Day Out*® as best practice for early intervention and primary prevention for Aboriginal communities. The great concern around ongoing funding for these programs was noted by the Royal Commission,” says Ms Braybrook.

FVPLS Victoria’s early intervention and prevention program *Sisters Day Out* is designed by Aboriginal women for Aboriginal women. Since 2007 it has reached 8,000 Aboriginal women, or one third of Aboriginal women in Victoria, and is a success story in building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to violence.

The Royal Commission is comprehensive and includes 227 Recommendations. Over the coming months FVPLS Victoria will examine the detailed findings of the Royal Commission. FVPLS Victoria is pleased that the Royal Commission has made strong recommendations around child protection, women in prison and investment in services to meet need and making violence against women a first order priority of Government.

FVPLS Victoria welcomes Premier Daniel Andrews’ commitment to implement the Royal Commission’s recommendations in partnership with victim/survivors and organisations like FVPLS that support victim/survivors. This is leadership. We are excited by the prospect of partnering with the Victorian Government to implement the reforms.

FVPLS Victoria provides culturally safe legal assistance, early intervention prevention and community legal education to Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault. A holistic and culturally safe service model is the foundation of FVPLS Victoria’s success.

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Media Contact: Andy Gargett for Antoinette Braybrook, Chief Executive Officer on 0457 544 591
agargett@fvpls.org