

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 24 November 2016

All Eyes Are on Victoria: Aboriginal women highlighted in 10 year plan to end Family Violence



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

FVPLS Victoria welcomes today's launch of the Victorian Government's 10 year plan 'Ending Family Violence Victoria's Plan for Change'. The plan recognises Aboriginal women in Victoria are at least 25 times more likely to be killed or injured as a result of family violence. It 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."

"I am delighted to see Premier Andrews keep his word on respecting Aboriginal self-determination and support for Aboriginal solutions to family violence in our communities," said Antoinette Braybrook, CEO of the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services Victoria ('FVPLS Victoria').

"However, this significant commitment must be matched by concrete action," said Ms Braybrook. "Aboriginal 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."

FVPLS Victoria recognises the commitment in the Plan to set a target to "significantly reduce" the number of substantiated child protection reports. "This is something we have long been calling for," said Ms Braybrook. "Family violence is the single biggest driver of Aboriginal child removal in Victoria. If we are to stave off another 'stolen generation' we need a radical transformation to the way our child protection system responds to Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence – predominantly mothers," Ms Braybrook said.

The 10 Year Plan represents the next step in the implementation of Victoria's landmark Royal Commission into Family Violence. Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence – predominantly women – were front and centre of the Royal Commission's report and recommendations. This is testament to the courage of Aboriginal victims/survivors who came forward to give evidence, and the culmination of decades of advocacy led by Aboriginal family violence services like FVPLS Victoria.

"The acknowledgement by Premier Andrews that family violence has been a silent epidemic for far too long highlights the important work that needs to be done," Ms Braybrook said. "Today's announcement is an important commitment to the need for long-term, sustainable change."

Premier Andrews declared today that the government "must be held to account". Ms Braybrook welcomes this sentiment, but notes that: "It is only through supporting the voices of victims/survivors and the services that work with them that this can take place."

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.

Like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on twitter: [@FVPLSVictoria](#) and Antoinette Braybrook: [@BraybrookA](#)

Media Contact: Ben Schokman on 0403 622 810 or bschokman@fvpls.org