

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –27 February 2017

Recognition of Aboriginal women's leadership as a driving force for change



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

Nomination of the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria (FVPLS Victoria) CEO Antoinette Braybrook to the City of Yarra's *2017 Inspirational Women of Yarra Award* is an opportunity to celebrate the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Hosted by the City of Yarra in honour of International Women's Day, the *Inspirational Women of Yarra Award* nomination of FVPLS Victoria's CEO, is recognition of the leadership that has made FVPLS Victoria a driving force for change.

Most importantly, as CEO of one of the only specialist family violence service providers for Aboriginal victims/survivors in Victoria, Ms Braybrook's advocacy has played a vital role in ensuring that Aboriginal women's voices are no longer silenced.

Advocacy work undertaken by Ms Braybrook contributed to the *Royal Commission into Family Violence* acknowledging the severity of family violence experienced predominantly by Aboriginal women and their children.

Ms Braybrook points to the extensive experience of FVPLS Victoria working with Aboriginal victims/survivors and the expertise held as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. "The views we have and positions we hold in respect to family violence come from over 15 years of our on the ground experience working with Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence."

Since the landmark Royal Commission report was handed down, FVPLS Victoria has been at the forefront of the Victorian Government's commitment to implement the Commission's recommendations, with Ms Braybrook advocating for change.

"Whilst the landscape of family violence service response is changing, there needs to be a major shift towards recognising that Aboriginal women have the solutions to addressing family violence" states Ms Braybrook.

Ms Braybrook highlights the crucial role Aboriginal women play in addressing family violence which can be "seen in the success of globally recognised FVPLS Victoria programs like *Sisters Day Out* which has reached over 8,000 Aboriginal women and girls since inception ten years ago".

Prior to her nomination, Ms Braybrook accepted a commitment to celebrate International Women's Day in the remote community of Fitzroy Crossing Western Australia. Ms Braybrook encourages all members of the community to "be bold and stand firm against family violence experienced by Aboriginal women".

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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