

Media Release

The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women



Friday, 17 April 2020

MORE FUNDING TO KEEP WOMEN AND CHILDREN SAFE

Women experiencing or at risk of family violence will continue to get access to the services they and their children need, with a two-year funding package for women's health services across Victoria.

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Gabrielle Williams today announced 12 women's health services across the state will share in \$3 million over the next two years to continue their work in preventing family violence.

The continuation of funding will ensure these services can continue their vital work to deliver prevention of family violence training, advice and support to organisations in their local areas, including local government and health services.

Of the 12 services receiving funding, nine are regionally based while three operate state-wide.

This investment includes \$600,000 from our recent \$59.4 million mental health package to help meet demand as Victorians reach out for help with stress and isolation during coronavirus. It's also in addition to the \$40.2 million package for crisis accommodation and specialist services for people suffering or at risk of family violence.

Family violence is a national emergency, with one woman killed at the hands of a current or former partner every week. It is the leading cause of death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15 to 44 years.

Disaster events cause enormous emotional, social and financial stress, and research shows this can compound the gendered drivers of violence and exacerbate the conditions that lead to violence.

The Andrews Labor Government established Australia's first ever Royal Commission into Family Violence and has invested \$2.9 billion implementing each and every one of its 227 recommendations.

Significant progress has already been made with 154 recommendations already implemented and the remaining all underway.

This includes establishing the Free from Violence strategy, Victoria's plan to break the cycle of family violence and all forms of violence against women, and Building from Strength, a 10-Year Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response, of which this funding program forms part.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Gabrielle Williams

"Coronavirus has created an unprecedented situation around world, including here in Victoria - in these uncertain times prevention of family violence remains a critical priority for our Government."

"Research shows that during times of crisis family violence can increase. It is more important than ever that the health services that support women and families continue have the resources they need to keep Victorians safe."

"We've already announced a multi-million dollar package to help manage the family violence impacts of coronavirus – this additional funding is about keeping the sector running so they can deliver that all important help."

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