

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Health Infrastructure
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence



Monday, 6 July 2026

NEW RESPECT VICTORIA BOARD MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

The Allan Labor Government has welcomed four new members to the Board of Respect Victoria.

Minister Horne announced the new and four returning members to Victoria's dedicated agency for the prevention of family violence and violence against women.

The experienced board plays a significant role in the important work to build a Victoria free from violence.

Ms Claudia Fatone will serve as the Board's new Chair for the next three years – it follows four years as a Board Member.

Ms Fatone is the CEO of Women's Legal Service Victoria and is an experienced leader across the prevention of family violence, legal assistance, higher education, sport and community sectors.

Following an open and competitive recruitment process, the Board will also include:

- Returning members – Nesreen Bottrill, Jan Noblett and Hang Vo
- New members – Sandie de Wolf AM, Bridie O'Donnell, Sharon Paten OAM and Michael Smith.

The new appointments fill vacancies created by the departure of three outgoing Board members, Chair Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Maxine McKew AM and Professor Steven Roberts.

The Board members start their new terms on Tuesday, 7 July.

Respect Victoria continues to deliver statewide leadership in prevention through innovative projects like *Respect Ballarat* and behaviour change campaigns such as *What Kind of Man Do You Want to Be?*

Quotes attributable to Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Melissa Horne

"Family violence continues to have devastating impacts throughout the community – the work of Respect Victoria is more important than ever."

"The diverse skills and backgrounds of the new Board members place them in a strong position to continue Respect Victoria's critical work."

"I thank the outgoing Chair and Board members for their outstanding service and leadership during their tenure."

Quotes attributable to Respect Victoria Chair Claudia Fatone

"I am honoured to be appointed Chair of Respect Victoria at a time when preventing family violence and violence against women has never been more important."

"Respect Victoria has become a nationally recognised leader in primary prevention. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Board members, CEO Helen Bolton and the talented team to build on that strong foundation and continue creating safer, more equal and respectful communities across Victoria."

Quotes attributable to outgoing Respect Victoria Chair Kate Fitz-Gibbon

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“It has been a tremendous privilege to serve on Respect Victoria’s inaugural Board and to lead the organisation as Chair over the past five years. I am incredibly proud of how the organisation has grown and the impact it continues to have across Victoria.”

“Respect Victoria’s greatest strength has always been its people. It has been an honour to work alongside such dedicated Board members. I am so pleased to see Claudia Fatone appointed as Chair and look forward to all that Respect Victoria will continue to achieve under Claudia and Helen's leadership.”