

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Monday, 19 January, 2015

NOTHING OFF LIMITS IN FAMILY VIOLENCE ROYAL COMMISSION

Premier Daniel Andrews today announced the proposed Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission into Family Violence, the most dangerous and prevalent form of violence perpetrated against women.

The Premier was joined by the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona Richardson, CEO of Domestic Violence Victoria, Fiona McCormack, and CEO of Our Watch, Paul Linossier.

Justice Marcia Neave will chair the Royal Commission with Patricia Faulkner and Tony Nicolson serving as Deputy Commissioners. The proposed Terms of Reference task them with finding the most effective ways to:

- Prevent family violence
- Improve early intervention to identify and protect those at risk
- Support victims
- Make perpetrators accountable
- Improve the way that Government and society work together

The proposed Terms of Reference will be presented to the Governor of Victoria so the Royal Commission can commence its work in February.

The effect of family violence is profound. Family violence is the leading cause of death and disability in Victorian women under 45. Every week in Australia, a woman is killed by her current or former partner.

In 2013-14, there were 65,393 family incidents reported to Victoria Police, a rise of 83 per cent since 2009-10. A third of all police work, family violence costs our economy over \$3 billion every year.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

“Family violence is a national emergency. It’s our number one law and order issue and it can happen to anyone.”

“We need a system that protects the vulnerable, punishes the guilty and saves lives. The Royal Commission will give us the answers we need and nothing will be off limits.”

Quotes attributable to Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona Richardson

“It’s time for solutions. The proposed Terms of Reference give the Commission the ability to look root and branch at how we can do better, because we must.”

“This Royal Commission will change lives and attitudes – it will shine a light on the problem and help victims and survivors of family violence take a powerful step.”