



2016-17 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Hearing

Prevention of Family Violence

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Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women

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Family Violence Reform: A whole of government investment

- The 2016-17 Budget includes a record **\$572 million investment to prevent and respond to family violence.**
- This is the **largest ever single investment** addressing family violence.
- Funding over two years.
- The Government has committed to implement all **227 recommendations** made by the Royal Commission into Family Violence.
- The Government's family violence package marks the beginning of reform with work commencing on **65 of recommendations that could not wait.**
- **A 10 year action plan** will be designed in consultation with victim-survivors, the specialist family violence sector and other key groups, as well as the community.

Key features of reform

Prevention – increased investment for all Victorians

- Ending family violence: the Victorian government has made an unprecedented investment in the area of primary prevention, targeted to changing the determinants that allow family violence to occur.
i.e. gender inequality, and social norms that support violence against women.

Response – addressing gaps in immediate demand

- Unparalleled investment in responding to demand and addressing critical gaps, continuing the specialist response, and progressing policy and practice reform
i.e. investment in family violence specialist services and a Housing Blitz

Reforming the system – innovations that endure

- New initiatives to help address the siloing of services that put women and children at greater risk, integrate practice responses and ensure a whole of government, whole of system response
i.e. a new multi-agency safeguarding and safety and support hubs, as well as strong governance to ensure accountability – an implementation monitor.

The \$572m package at a glance

Prevention

- **\$61.6 million** to prevent family violence before it occurs.

Response

- **\$152.5 million** to begin a housing blitz to shelter more victims so they don't have to choose between homelessness and returning to an abusive relationship;
- **\$122.0 million** to keep children safe from harm and give them the best start in life;
- **\$103.9 million** for specialist family violence services such as crisis support and counselling to cope with unprecedented demand;
- **\$25.7 million** to work with Aboriginal communities in addressing family violence, including prevention and early intervention programs.

Reforming the system

- **\$82.3 million** for various initiatives that lay the groundwork for the 10-year *Victorian Family Violence Plan*, including \$10.4 million to build the capacity of the family violence workforce and to develop and embed the Family Violence Index.

Key achievements in 2015-16: Royal Commission into Family Violence

- The Victorian Government is leading the way on ending and responding to family violence and setting up systems that will endure.
- The Royal Commission into Family Violence delivered 227 recommendations, across 37 themes well within its budget of **\$36 million**.
- Contains a comprehensive analysis of how we improve the response to family violence and prevent it in the first place.
- Royal Commission report includes changes in legislation and new models of service delivery, including the establishment of better safeguarding arrangements and safety and support hubs.

Key achievements in 2015-16 - Prevention

The Victoria Against Violence campaign

- 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty addressed a joint sitting of Parliament
- The Listening Project - Victim's Voices Conference held at Parliament House;
- 10 iconic Melbourne landmarks illuminated orange for *UN's Unite: 16 Days of Activism*;

Gender Equality Strategy Consultation

- Victoria's first ever Gender Equality Consultation Paper launched.



Respectful Relationships Education in the School Curriculum

Key prevention projects from 2015-16 State Budget investment

- The 2015-16 State Budget provided \$2 million for initiatives to prevent family violence.

Key achievements in 2015-16 – Response

- **\$81.3 million** in the 2015-16 State Budget supported a number of initiatives to address demand in services across the state, including:
 - Additional crisis accommodation and transport
 - Additional counselling services
 - Additional outreach/case management services
 - Additional services for Aboriginal people; and
 - Additional legal services.
- A **\$16M Family Violence Fund** supported services throughout the year experiencing increased demand as a consequence of the Royal Commission.
- **Key family violence related election commitments delivered.**
- A new four-year VPS Enterprise Agreement now includes a best-practice family violence leave provision with **up to 20 days paid leave each year.**
- **Respectful Relationships Education in the School Curriculum.**

Key achievements in 2015-16 – System Reform

- Announced a **new Victim Survivors' Advisory Council** to be led by the 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty will give a voice to victims and form part of the co-design process.
- Announced a **Family Violence Statewide Steering Committee** to work with government to deliver new reforms.
- Work is underway on the world's first **Family Violence Index**.
- The combined effect of these activities over the past 16 months, coupled with the recent announcement of **\$572 million**, lays the groundwork for a scaled up focus on family violence for the years to come.



"People who make decisions about people like us cannot know what it's like... but you can experience it deeply if you listen to our voices"

Rosie Batty

Budget 16/17 - Prevention

- Record investment **\$61.6 million investment**
- **\$9 million** towards achieving equality for Victorian Women
- **\$21.81 million for Respectful Relationships education** in schools
- **\$23 million for targeted prevention initiatives** – including initiatives for adolescents, seniors, CALD, LGBTI, aboriginal, people with disabilities and people living in rural and regional locations
- **\$7.8 million** for the architecture we need to scale up prevention approaches

#UNITE ANDCHANGE

— FOR 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM —



Budget 16/17: Response

- **\$104 million to specialist family violence services**
- A **\$152 million** housing blitz to address accommodation shortages and homelessness of family violence victims
- **\$122 million for vulnerable children** as part of our RoadMap to Reform the child protection system.
- **\$25.7 million for Aboriginal Victorians** at risk of family violence
- **\$11.3 million for perpetrator accountability and men's behaviour change**

Budget 16/17: Reforming the system

- **\$32.5 million for Multi-agency risk assessment and Safeguarding**
- **\$19.0 specialist family violence system navigators**
- **\$15.4 million** to build a new and enduring family violence system
- **\$10.4 million** to lay the groundwork for a new family violence system, including support for the Family Violence Index
- **\$5 million** for business case to Support & Safety Hubs in 17 locations

Next steps

- A new **Family Violence Steering Committee** is being established, working in partnership with government on family violence reform implementation
- A **Victims Advisory Council**, chaired by Rosie Batty is being appointed to provide government with input from the people who use the system and need it to work better.
- **Taskforces in Housing and Child Protection** are being formed.
- **Consultation & Co-Design** will commence with a retreat for the steering committee in June.
- **Ten Year Action Plan** will be developed to be released later this year.

