



2016-17 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Hearing

Women

Fiona Richardson MP

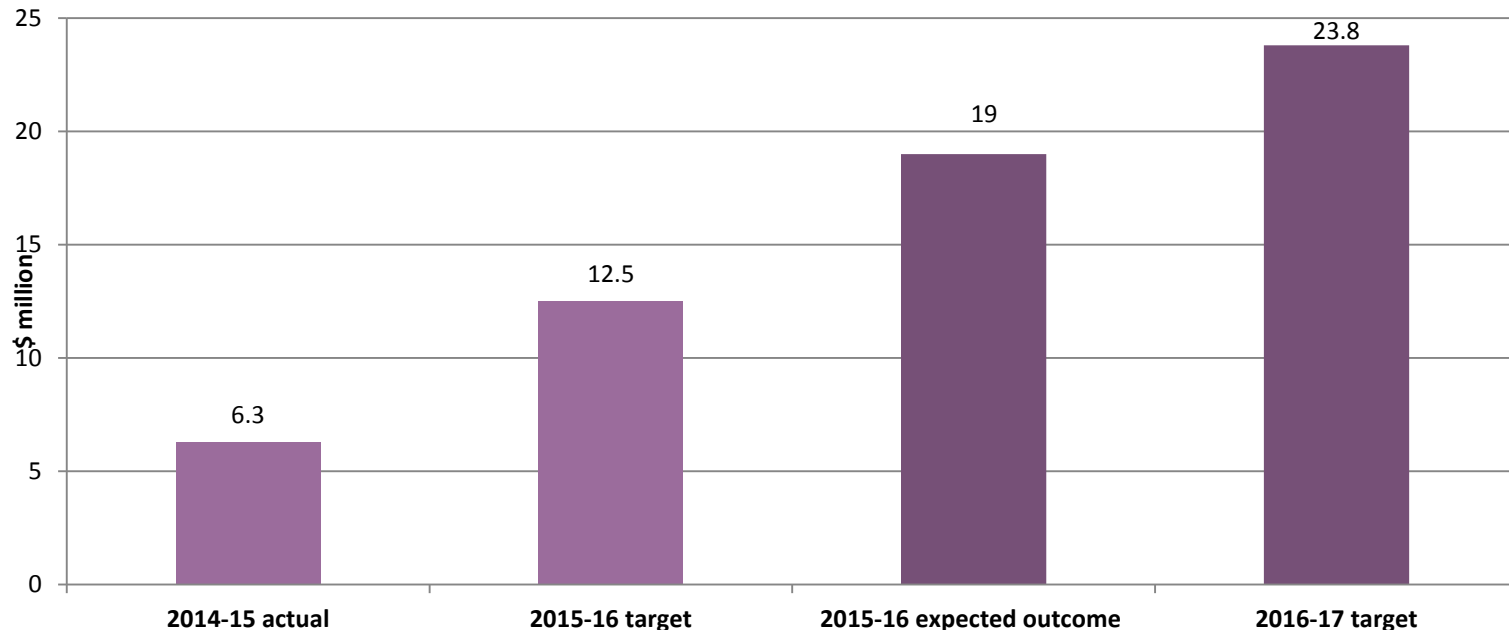
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women

Wednesday 18 May 2016

Labor is investing in Victorian women

- The 2016-17 State Budget invests a record **\$572m** in women's safety, through the Family Violence package.
- This includes **\$9.0m** to promote and achieve gender equality in Victoria.
- Funding will be used for new gender equality initiatives, including delivering Victoria's first **Gender Equality Strategy** and advancing **women's leadership programs**.
- Promoting gender equality is crucial to achieving a meaningful, long-term reduction in family violence.

Women, the Prevention of Family Violence and LGBTI Equality - Total Output cost



A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy

- Advancing gender equality increases women's safety, security and wellbeing by encouraging a society based on respect and equality.
- A **Gender Equality Strategy** will advance women's economic and social participation in society, by implementing strategies that shift the attitudes, behaviours, structures and practices that create barriers for women.
- The Strategy will guide the state's actions and priorities, facilitate partnerships and collaboration, and drive our work with the community towards a common goal of equal social, civic and economic participation for Victorian women.
- In November 2015 the Government launched a **Consultation Paper** to seek input on the challenges and priorities for women in Victoria, and views on how best it can be achieved.
- The Government received over **200 submissions** from individuals and organisations across a range of sectors.



Gender Equality is the key to FV Prevention

- Gender inequality is internationally recognised as a key underpinning driver of violence against women.
- If we are to curb family violence, we must understand and address these causes.
- **That is why the FV Budget Package includes a record \$61.6m investment in prevention initiatives.**
 - **\$21.8m** to support schools and teachers to deliver respectful relationships education through whole-of-school approaches.
 - **\$23m** for targeted prevention initiatives across all communities, with specific programs for adolescents, seniors, culturally diverse communities, Aboriginal communities, LGBTI communities, people with disabilities, and rural and regional communities.
 - **\$9m** to promote gender equality in Victoria, including delivering Victoria's first ever Gender Equality Strategy.
 - **\$7.8m** to scale up prevention approaches by having strong state-wide organisational arrangements.

Women's programs

Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust

Provides services, information and facilities for women at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre in Lonsdale Street.

Victorian Women's Governance Scholarship Program

Strengthens women's board skills through governance training.

Victorian Women's Honour Roll

Celebrates and recognises remarkable women across Victoria.

Victorian Women's Register

An electronic database of board-ready women which links women with board vacancies.

Thinking Ahead: Women into Local Government 2016

Supports women to stand in the October 2016 local government elections.

Key achievements in 2015-16

- Victoria's first ever Gender Equality Consultation Paper was launched in November 2015 as part of the state wide campaign Victoria Against Violence. The launch resulted in #VICforWomen become the third top trending hashtag on Twitter in Australia on the day.
- 51.7 per cent of the Government's appointments to paid boards have been women, following the Premier's announcement in March 2015 that 50 per cent of all paid appointments to Victorian Government boards and courts will be women.
- Respectful relationships education was introduced into the Victorian curriculum from Prep to Year 10.
- 20 outstanding Victorian women were inducted to the Victorian Honour Roll, as part of International Women's Day celebrations.
- 34 emerging female leaders were awarded scholarships to the Australian Institute of Company Directors Governance course.

Summary

- Victorian women are supported in the 2016-17 Budget through an unprecedented **\$572m** investment to address family violence.
- A long-term reduction in family violence will only occur if our crisis response is reinforced with a sustained investment in effective prevention strategies. That is why the Government is investing **\$61.6m** in prevention.
- Investing in gender equality is a key component of our family violence prevention strategy, as all the evidence shows that societies with greater equality between men and women also enjoy reduced rates of violence against women.
- The 2016-17 Budget includes a specific funding allocation to promote and achieve gender equality - **\$9.0m** for new gender equality initiatives, including advancing women's leadership and delivering the a Victorian Gender Equality Strategy.