



MEDIA RELEASE

24/8/17

Vale Fiona Richardson MP

Members of Victoria's peak body for gender equality, women's health and the prevention of violence against women are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend Fiona Richardson MP.

Minister Richardson was a fierce and fearless advocate for women and for victim survivors of family violence. As Victoria's Minister for Women and Australia's first ever Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence she tirelessly fought for a better world for Victorian women.

Among her many ground breaking achievements, Minister Richardson oversaw the implementation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, and the development of *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy* and *Free From Violence: Victoria's Strategy to Prevent Family Violence and All Forms of Violence Against Women*. She recognised the importance of the voices of victim survivors of violence in preventing and responding to violence, establishing our first ever Victim Survivor Advisory Council.

The Women's Health Association of Victoria is proud to share Minister Richardson's commitment to the establishment of an Independent Prevention Agency to drive an enduring focus on the prevention of violence against women, and to hold governments to account. We will continue to advocate for this to come to fruition.

We will greatly miss Minister Richardson's passion, drive and sincerity. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and dedicated staff.

Fiona Richardson's legacy is enormous and we will strive to make true her vision of a world where women and children live free from discrimination and violence.

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Please see next page for more information on WHAV.



Who is the WHAV?

The Women's Health Association of Victoria (WHAV) is the peak body for gender equality, women's health and the prevention of violence against women. WHAV represents the nine regional and two state-wide women's health organisations (Women's Health Victoria and the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health) funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. WHAV membership also includes Victorian specialist women's organisations; Women with Disabilities Victoria, Positive Women and WIRE.

In order to improve health outcomes for women, our current key priorities are to advance gender equality, promote women's sexual and reproductive health and prevent violence against women.

Regional women's health services lead Regional Prevention of Violence Against Women Partnerships in every metropolitan and rural region across the State, with support from other WHAV members.

WHAV: The women's health peak body with specialist expertise, state-wide reach and a regional focus