

Preventing Violence Against Women

An Australian Timeline – 1970-2015





1970

First Women's Liberation Conference held in Melbourne identified violence against women as a priority area.

1971

Establishment of Women's Electoral Lobby which agitated for rape law reform in Victoria, and establishment of the Victorian Rape Study Committee.



1972

First Women's Liberation Centre opened in Melbourne.

1974

Establishment of 'Elsie' – Australia's first women's refuge, Sydney.

Establishment of the first RAPE Crisis Centre by Women Against Rape at the Women's Liberation Centre with medical examinations offered to women from the Melbourne Women's Health Collective in Collingwood.

Establishment of Women's Liberation Halfway House, the first funded women's refuge in Victoria.

1979

First 'Reclaim the Night' march held in Melbourne.

Establishment of Elizabeth Hoffman House, originally established as the Aboriginal Women's Refuge.

Establishment of the Queen Victoria Medical Centre Sexual Assault Centre – Victoria's first funded sexual assault service.

1982

Establishment of the Sexual Offences Squad by Victoria Police.

1983

United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women adopted by Australia.

1984

Victorian *Equal Opportunity Act* and Federal *Sex Discrimination Act* passed.



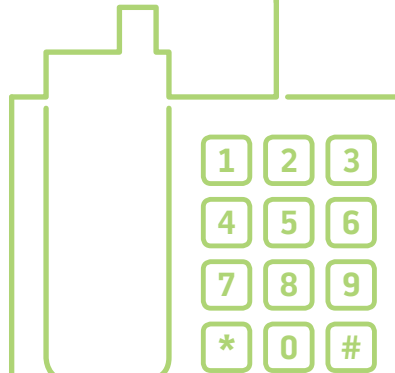
1986

Establishment of the Federal Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.



1987

Crimes (Family Violence) Act passed in Victoria which expanded options for victims of family violence to seek protection using intervention orders.



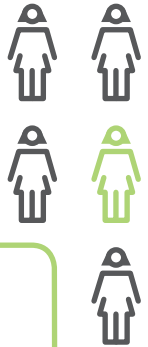
1991

Crimes (Rape) Act passed making significant changes to Victoria's rape laws, including clarifying the legal definitions of consent, requiring judges to direct juries in relation to what consent means, and creating provisions to allow special procedures for victims of sexual assault to give their evidence.

Establishment of the Telephone Service Against Sexual Assault to provide statewide after-hours service to victims of sexual assault.

Victoria Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Sexual Assault Complaints introduced.

The High Court of Australia confirms the legal right of women to refuse sex within marriage and removes immunity from prosecution from men who rape spouses.



1993

Establishment of 'No To Violence: Male Family Violence Prevention Association' as the Victorian peak body of organisations working with male perpetrators to end their violence towards women.

1996

The Australian Bureau of Statistics leads the first Women's Safety Survey indicating that 1 in 5 women are subjected to male violence at some time in their adult lives.

1997

Introduction of crime of stalking to the *Crimes Act Victoria*.

1995

First National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS) led by the Federal Office for the Status of Women.



1999

United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, or White Ribbon Day.

The Office of the Status of Women launches the Partnerships Against Violence initiative designed to facilitate corporate and government action to respond to violence against women.

2002

Victorian government launches Women's Safety Strategy.

World Health Organization launches the *World report on violence and health*, which identifies violence against women as a key area for action across the globe.

2003

Establishment of White Ribbon Australia as part of UNIFEM (UN Women).



2004

Introduction of the Victoria Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence.

VicHealth and the Department of Human Services launch the first international study assessing the burden of disease associated with intimate partner violence. Violence is identified as the leading contributor to ill health, death and disease for Victorian women aged 15–44.

2005

Release of the *Access economics report*, indicating that the economic cost associated with violence against women is \$8.1 billion in 2003.

The Victorian Government allocates over \$35 million for the development of an integrated response to family violence.

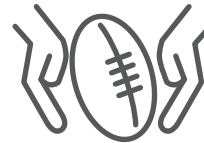
\$8.1 billion
ECONOMIC COST

\$35 million
RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE



Local governments and Primary Care Partnerships across Victoria develop integrated plans to prevent violence against women.

The Australian Football League launches their Respect and Responsibility Policy.



2006

Introduction of the *Crimes (Sexual Offences) Act* amending rape laws.

Victorian survey of community attitudes towards violence against women led by VicHealth.

Australian Bureau of Statistics leads second Personal Safety Survey revealing that 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced violence from a male partner.

2008

Victorian Government introduces the *Family Violence Act* and launches the 'Enough' campaign.

2009

Second National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS) led by VicHealth and Commonwealth Government includes Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities for the first time.

Commonwealth Government appoints National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.

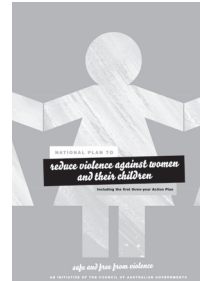
Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development releases the *Respectful relationships education report*.

2010

Surf Coast Shire becomes the first workplace in Australia to include specific family violence clauses in their Enterprise Agreement.

2011

The Commonwealth Government releases the *National plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010–2022*.



Australian Defence Force launches an investigation into the treatment of women followed by concrete actions to drive cultural change. Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick is appointed to lead the inquiry.



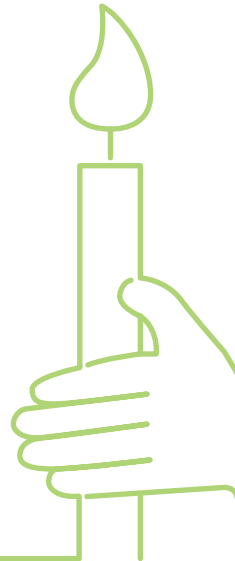
2012



VicHealth releases *More than ready*, a research report into bystander behaviour towards sexism, and finds overwhelming support for workplaces and sports clubs to show leadership on the issue.

After the assault and murder of two Victorian women, Jill Meagher by a stranger, and Sargun Ragi by her ex-husband, Victorians take to the street indicating their support for measures to prevent violence against women. Unprecedented and comparatively sophisticated media commentary ensues.

The Victorian Department of Justice launches the Reducing Violence against Women and their Children grants with \$7 million allocated to support regional activity.



2013

Our Watch, previously the Foundation to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, is established by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.

Sex worker Tracy Connelly is murdered by a client in St Kilda. Hundreds of community members come together to hold a vigil in her honour.

Australian Bureau of Statistics leads third Personal Safety Survey revealing that prevalence is stable – 1 in 3 women report experiencing violence from a male partner in their lifetime.

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) is established, as an initiative of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*.

2014

Young boy Luke Batty is murdered by his father, who had perpetrated continuing violence against his ex-partner Rosie Batty and was under an Apprehended Violence Order at the time. Amidst the grief of her loss, Rosie calls for urgent and lasting action on family violence.

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration undertakes an inquiry into domestic violence in Australia, with the final report to be tabled in 2015.

Commonwealth Government releases the *Second action plan: moving ahead 2013–2016*, the second plan under the *National plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010–2022*.



Focus on prevention

2015

Third National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS) is released by VicHealth and Commonwealth Government, including analysis of changes in attitudes since the 2009 survey.

Under the new Victorian Government, Fiona Richardson is appointed the Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence, the first time such a ministerial portfolio has been created in Australia.

The Victorian Government announces the terms of reference of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, which includes a focus on prevention, and commits to implementing all recommendations.

Rosie Batty is named Australian of the Year in recognition of her advocacy for women and children experiencing domestic violence.

