

2014 Victorian Election

NO MORE DEATHS

Keep women and children safe from family violence.



MEDIA RELEASE

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STOPPING FAMILY VIOLENCE MUST BE STATE ELECTION PRIORITY

The *No More Deaths* campaign to put family violence at the top of the 2014 state election agenda is being launched today (August 25) on the steps of Parliament House.

Victoria's leading family violence organisations are calling on the state's political parties to commit to wide-ranging policies across housing, justice, police, health, education and other portfolios to keep women and children safe in Victoria.

"Our hearts have been torn by the horrific violence we see devastating the lives of everyday Victorians," said Fiona McCormack, Chief Executive Officer of Domestic Violence Victoria. "Sometimes the issue can seem so big and complex that we despair about being able to do anything effective. But the reality is we can absolutely make a difference."

The *No More Deaths* election platform outlines 25 priority actions to:

- Keep women and children safe and housed.
- Make the justice system safe and supportive.
- Hold violent perpetrators to account.
- Break down the service silos that endanger women and children.
- Prevent violence against women and children.

"Throughout the election campaign we will assess commitments on family violence for how they compare to other public safety and justice promises," Ms McCormack said.

"What we don't want are promises of quick fixes or a focus on just one part of the problem.

"Our political leaders have to stand up and be counted, to see where failure by governments to act – on safe housing, in the courts, on the status of women and across other areas of policy and practice – puts women and children at risk of family violence."

"We are not just asking for money. We are asking for leadership and accountability."

The members of the No More Deaths coalition are: Domestic Violence Victoria, the Federation of Community Legal Centres, No To Violence, Women's Legal Services Victoria, Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria, Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service and Women with Disabilities Victoria. Together they represent most statewide and local organisations working with women and children, community legal services and men's behaviour change programs across Victoria.

Media can access the full election platform at <http://www.dvrcv.org.au/>. For information or to arrange an interview with Fiona McCormack, contact Marie McInerney on 0418 273 698.

