

A new approach to family violence

Fact sheet: family violence funding announcement

May 2006

How much new funding is being announced?

- The State Government has more than doubled its funding to family violence services over the next three years
- \$40.6 million will be invested to drive reform and respond to increasing demand for family violence services across Victoria
- 20 partnerships will be created, involving around 70 community service organisations to provide a better service for Victoria's most vulnerable families
- Community services, police and justice agencies will now work together to tackle family violence

What the funding means for Victorian women and men

Overall, the Victorian Government's new approach to family violence means that community services, police and the courts will now work together to:

- make Victorian women and children safer
- ensure that men who use family violence are held accountable for their actions
- help women make the decision about what happens to them and their families.

The new funding will help ensure that women and children are safer by ensuring that:

Women who are victims of family violence will:

- not have to find their own way to the different services they need
- have more counselling and support services
- be supported to make the decision about what happens to them and their families
- not have to tell their story over and over if they contact different family violence services
- have more emergency accommodation options, including access to the private rental market

Men who use family violence will:

- be held accountable for their behaviour through the police and courts
- have more support to help them change their behaviour
- have more emergency accommodation

About family violence

Family violence:

- affects one in five women
- is a factor in 52% of substantiated child protection cases
- is the leading contributor to death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15 to 44
- is responsible for more disease burden than high blood pressure, smoking and obesity
- affects all communities and evidence shows that it is a disadvantage that is handed from one generation to the next
- costs the Victorian economy an estimated \$2 billion annually (according to Access Economics).

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