

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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No To Violence incorporating the Men's Referral Service welcomes the New Laws to Boost Family Violence Protections

On March 7 2017 the Andrews Labor Government introduced the Family Violence Protection Amendment Bill 2017. This Bill means:

- Swifter processes for Family Violence Intervention Orders (FVIOs)
- Drastic changes to ensure the intervention order appeal process is not stifled or delayed
- Pre-recorded evidence to be used in some family violence related proceedings
- An increase in protection for children exposed to family violence.

Along with many other [improvements](#), Victoria is leading the way in responding to the 227 recommendations made by the [Royal Commission into Family Violence](#) that was launched this time last year.

Jacqui Watt, the CEO of [No To Violence incorporating the Men's Referral Service](#) (NTV/MRS) responds:

“Yesterday the family violence sector learned that 11 of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence will be operationalised to keep women and children safe, and hold the man perpetrating the family violence to account.”

“Our work as leaders in men's family violence prevention is being recognised as a key driver to not only prevent and reduce epidemic rates of family violence, but to start holding the man using violence to account.”

“For too long the onus has been on the woman to leave, to keep the children safe. Our work is being recognised and the roll out of these 11 recommendations supports our direction as an organisation” says Watt.

As the peak body for organisations and individuals working with men to end family violence in Victoria, NTV/MRS holds men who use violence to account through telephone contacts and referrals to Men's Behaviour Change Providers. We operate in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.



No To Violence Men's Referral Service

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Our trained telephone contacts, who operate the MRS have had over 160,000 phone conversations with men about their use of violence. We are the central point of contact for men taking responsibility for their violent behaviour.

NTV/MRS acknowledges that family violence can affect anyone, regardless of sex, age, race, sexuality, disability, gender identity or lifestyle. However, violent behaviour is most frequently used by men, as a way to exercise power and control over women and children.

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Interviews and/or photos: Jacqui Watt (CEO) is available for further interview and photo opportunities.