

NO MORE DEATHS: WE NEED A FAMILY VIOLENCE SYSTEM THAT SAVES LIVES

What do we know about family violence?

We know that family violence is endemic in Victoria.

We know that in 2012/13 Victoria Police recorded 60,829 incidences of family violence. In the same year, the Magistrates' Court finalised 33,879 family violence intervention order applications.

We know that women and children are most likely to be the victims of violence in the home. According to 2012 ABS statistics, 62% of women were physically assaulted in their home compared to 8.4% of men.

We know that family violence increases the risk of homelessness, poverty and poor health outcomes. In 2012 one in every two women with children seeking homelessness services was escaping a violent home situation.

How can our system protect the most vulnerable women and children?

Family violence must be a key election priority for all political parties in the lead up to the 2014 Victorian election.

We call on all political parties to commit to:

- **Specialist family violence units in all regional and metropolitan courts** staffed by victim and respondent support workers, lawyers and specialist advocates for women from high risk groups.
- **Safe waiting spaces** for victims in courts that hear family violence intervention order cases.
- **Collaborative court-based training with magistrates, court staff, lawyers and family violence workers** on risk assessment, the dynamics of family violence and victims' experiences rolled out across Victoria.
- **Holding perpetrators to account** by ensuring a broader range of programs and justice responses are available at the time a family violence intervention order is made.

What you can do: Contact your state [Member of Parliament](#) and call on them to commit to these key improvements to the justice system in order to help save the lives of women and their children.