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MEDIA RELEASE

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Carroll Government Commits to Next Decade of Family Violence Reform at NTV Election Forum

No to Violence has welcomed the Carroll Government's commitment to maintain all funding for family violence services alongside a new 10-year family violence strategy, announced by Premier Ben Carroll in a video message at today's *Fear Shouldn't Live Here* Victorian election forum.

The commitment answers a central call from Victoria's peak family and sexual violence bodies, No to Violence, Sexual Assault Services Victoria and Safe+Equal.

With Victoria's current strategy ending in 2027, No to Violence said the announcement provides an important foundation for continued reform. It must now be backed by sustained investment and concrete measures to stop men's violence earlier.

80 per cent of family violence incidents attended by Victoria Police involved someone with a history of perpetrating violence, and more than 82,000 incidents were assessed as likely to continue or escalate. Approximately 1,120,337 Victorian men, 35% of the male population, will use violence over their lifetime. These figures underline the urgent need to reach men earlier and stop repeated harm.

No to Violence CEO Phillip Ripper said the commitment was a significant step forward for the sector and the women and children whose safety depends on this work.

"Today's commitment recognises that ending family violence requires leadership that lasts beyond an election cycle," Mr Ripper said. "The next strategy must reach men earlier, hold them accountable and ensure victim-survivors have the support they need to be safe."

Held at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre and online, the forum brought together Victorian political representatives, sector leaders and advocates to put family violence on the election agenda and discuss what the next government must deliver.



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The event gave the sector a shared platform to bring frontline experience and priorities directly to decision-makers, with a strong focus on earlier intervention and the next decade of reform.

No to Violence said further commitments were needed to deliver the remaining priorities in its election platform (view the full platform [here](#)):

1. Invest in targeted supports for young people to break cycles of violence before they become entrenched.

The cost of inaction early is measured in shattered lives and lost futures. Bold, targeted investment is urgently needed to stem the alarming rise in youth intimate partner violence.

2. Stop the funding shortfall to genuinely centre child and adult victim-survivor agency and safety.

Victoria needs to provide victim-survivors with the dedicated advocacy and support they deserve. MBCP funding models must reflect this but currently do not.

3. Connect the dots through an integrated framework to stop men's use family violence.

There is an urgent need for integrated ecosystem of responses to men using violence. Queensland and New South Wales already have state strategies to put those using violence at the centre of their response.

"A ten-year strategy must change what happens when a young person starts using violence, when a man comes into contact with services, and when a victim-survivor needs support," Mr Ripper said. "These are the practical commitments we still need to see."

The joint letter also calls for a dedicated strategy to address sexual violence, alongside the new family violence strategy.

No to Violence urged all parties seeking to form Victoria's next government to commit to sustained reform and set out how they will fund and deliver these priorities.

"Today's forum showed the strength of a sector coming together around a shared demand for safety," Mr Ripper said. "Political leaders must build on that momentum with commitments that stop men's violence earlier and make a lasting difference to women and children's lives."



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About No to Violence

No to Violence is the Australian peak body for organisations and individuals committed to ending men's use of family violence. We support specialist men's family violence services and operate the national Men's Referral Service, a 24/7 telephone and online counselling and referral service to link men to the support they need to get on a pathway of change and end their use of family violence. We undertake research, training and advocacy and work with governments, employers and business to stop family violence at the source.

Please list the Men's Referral Service with all Domestic, Sexual and Family Violence stories

Men's Referral Service, provides counselling and referrals for men who are concerned about their behaviour: [1300 766 491](tel:1300766491)

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