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No to Violence
Leading the change to end male family violence in Australia

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Thousands to Fill the Streets as Demand for Political Action on Family Violence Grows

This Friday, thousands of Victorians will fill Melbourne's streets to honour those killed by family violence and demand political action before more lives are lost. Part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Walk Against Family Violence comes as parties ask voters to trust them on community safety. The message from Victoria's family and sexual violence peak bodies is urgent: family violence must be central to that discussion, and every party must put a renewed and fully funded ten-year plan to end family violence on the table now.

"The Walk is a chance to honour women and children killed by family violence, stand with victim-survivors and demand action before another family is torn apart," No to Violence General Manager of Advocacy and Social Impact, Chris Lacey said.

"When thousands of Victorians fill the streets, every candidate should hear them: family violence is Victoria's biggest community safety crisis, and our response is still too little, too late. The next government must fund the work that stops men's violence before more women and children are harmed."

No to Violence estimates about 1.12 million Victorian men, or 35 per cent of the male population, will use intimate partner violence over their lifetimes, while The Child Maltreatment Study shows nearly 40 per cent of Australians report childhood experiences of family violence.

"Crime headlines sell newspapers, but family violence is the crime doing the most harm in our community," Mr Lacey said. "Men using family violence are filling courts and prisons, stretching services to breaking point and costing Victorian women and children their lives.

"Police must respond when someone is in danger, but they should be a last resort in a system that reaches families much earlier. Instead, a police call-out is too often the first response after years of abuse, and every party promising community safety must fund the specialist workers who can intervene with men before the violence escalates."

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Premier Ben Carroll's commitment to a new ten-year family violence strategy is welcome, as are Labor's new early intervention fund and Orange Door funding. But the $16 million early intervention fund amounts to just $4 million a year across Victoria, compared to the billions of dollars spent on police and court responses, and more referrals will achieve little without specialist services funded to take them on.

No to Violence is calling on every party to commit to a ten-year strategy to end family violence with stable funding, a dedicated plan to end men's use of violence, tailored responses for young people using partner violence, and dedicated support for affected adults and children through men's behaviour change programs.

Hosted by Respect Victoria, the Walk begins at 10am on Friday 20 November at Birrarung Marr (Upper Terrace) and finishes at Treasury Gardens, where community leaders and advocates will speak. More than 10,000 people attended last year. The event welcomes everyone and coincides with the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Visit *Fear Shouldn't Live Here*, No to Violence's Victorian election platform here.

More information, and registration for the Walk Against Family Violence is available at Respect Victoria's website.

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: **The Men's Referral Service provides counselling and referrals for men who are concerned about their behaviour, including their use of surveillance or tracking: 1300 766 491**

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