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

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**20 November 2026**

# Thousands March to Demand Action on Victoria's Biggest Community Safety Crisis: Family Violence

Thousands of Victorians gathered in Melbourne today to grieve lives lost to family violence, stand alongside victim-survivors and frontline workers, and demand action from whoever forms Victoria's next government.

With just eight days until the Victorian election, No to Violence says both major parties have made big promises on community safety, but a critical question remains unanswered: what will they do to stop men's violence before another woman or child is harmed, rather than simply responding after the damage is done?

Family violence remains Victoria's biggest community safety challenge, tearing families apart, making women and children unsafe in their own homes and, far too often, taking their lives. In 2025–26, Victoria Police recorded 102,836 family violence incidents, approximately one every five minutes. National research also found 35 per cent of men aged 18–65 reported having used intimate partner violence during their lifetime, equivalent to an estimated 1.1 million Victorian men when extrapolated to the state's male population.

No to Violence spokesperson Chris Lacey said the election's focus on policing, sentencing and punishment must be matched by serious investment in stopping violence at its source.

"Police and courts should be the last resort. For many victim-survivors they have become the first system response, often after years of violence and control. Without earlier intervention, Victoria allows the cycle to repeat," Mr Lacey said.

Labor has committed to a new 10-year family violence strategy, but its $16 million early intervention fund amounts to just $4 million annually across Victoria, while additional investment in The Orange Door must be backed by funding for specialist services to respond to referrals.

Jess Wilson's Liberal–National Coalition has proposed more police, tougher sentencing and stalking reforms, but has yet to detail a comprehensive, funded strategy to end men's use of violence.

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With Victoria's current family violence strategy expiring in 2027, No to Violence is calling for a new funded 10-year strategy, a dedicated plan to end men's use of violence, targeted interventions for young people using intimate partner violence and funded family safety contact within men's behaviour change programs.

"Thousands of Victorians are marching today to remember lives lost, stand with victim-survivors and back the workers supporting families through unimaginable harm. They're demanding change, and with just eight days until the election, every political party should be listening," Mr Lacey said.

"Whoever forms the next government must deliver a funded plan to stop men's violence at its source, because women and children cannot afford another decade of waiting until crisis to get help."

**Fear shouldn't live here. A safer Victoria starts with ending family violence.**
Read No to Violence's election platform here.

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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:* **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**

####ENDS####