



GENDER  
EQUITY  
VICTORIA

ADVANCE EQUITY. PROMOTE HEALTH. PREVENT VIOLENCE.

## MEDIA RELEASE

24 April 2018

### Introducing the new peak body for gender equity

Victoria's first peak body for gender equity, women's health and the prevention of violence against women, Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC), was officially launched today by the Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Natalie Hutchins.

Gender Equity Victoria builds on the 24-year history of the Women's Health Association of Victoria (WHA), expanding its membership to include a rapidly growing gender equality and prevention of violence against women sector, and opening its doors to more health organisations across Victoria.

"It's an incredibly exciting time in Victoria right now, with unprecedented social and political investment in addressing gender inequality and its health impacts on women. Change is underway but until women are paid equally to men, until women's autonomy over their own bodies ceases to be questioned, until all women are safe in their homes and in public, there's still much more work to be done," said Kristine Olaris, Convenor of Gender Equity Victoria.

"As a peak body, Gender Equity Victoria will unite the many organisations and individuals who are working towards the equality, health and freedom from violence for every woman and girl in Victoria."

GEN VIC today launched its 2018-2021 strategic plan, focussing on four key priorities:

- Advance gender equity
- Promote women's sexual and reproductive health
- Prevent violence against women
- Build an influential and sustainable peak body.

"For many years we have been advocating for gender equity, women's sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of violence against women to be statewide priorities. For the first time in Victoria's history, these priorities align with government strategies.

The time is right for a peak body for gender equity." said Ms Olaris.

GEN VIC is now accepting expressions of interest for membership from organisations and individuals across Victoria who advance gender equity and hold values that align with feminist principles. Go to [www.genvic.org.au](http://www.genvic.org.au) for further information.

-ENDS-

#### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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## FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT GENDER EQUITY VICTORIA

- [GEN VIC video](#)
- [GEN VIC brochure](#)
- [GEN VIC strategic plan](#)

## GENDER INEQUALITY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Victorian workforce is highly segregated by gender and female-dominated industries – such as aged care, child care and health and community services – have historically been undervalued  
[//www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018)
- Victorian women are over-represented as part-time workers in low-paid industries and in insecure work, and continue to be underrepresented in leadership roles in the private and public sectors  
[//www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018)
- On average, women spend 64 per cent of their working week performing unpaid care work. They spend almost twice as many hours performing such work each week compared to men.  
[//www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018)
- In 2015-2016 everyday Australian woman was reaching retirement with an average of \$113,660 less superannuation than the average male. As a result, women are more likely to experience poverty in their retirement years and be far more reliant on the Age Pension  
[//www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018).  
For migrant and refugee women, women with disabilities and LGBTI women, gender-based discrimination is intensified and inequality is compounded by racism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia. For instance,
  - For migrant and refugee women, underemployment is much higher  
[http://sydney.edu.au/business/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/44107/OECD\\_EU\\_migrant\\_women\\_and\\_work.pdf](http://sydney.edu.au/business/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/44107/OECD_EU_migrant_women_and_work.pdf)
  - women with disabilities and men with disabilities have different economic opportunities, with disabled women less likely to be in the paid workforce than disabled men  
<http://wwda.org.au/about/snapshot/>
  - And as we've seen in the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, LGBTI people experiencing family violence are regularly rendered invisible.  
<http://www.rcfv.com.au/MediaLibraries/RCFamilyViolence/Reports/Final/RCFV-Summary.pdf>
- Gender stereotypes continue to dominate the mainstream media and the arts, shaping ideals about how one should look, act and treat others. When women and girls are depicted, they are twice as likely as men to be shown in sexually explicit scenes; they are also more likely to be the subject of violence  
<https://www.vic.gov.au/women/gender-equality/a-victorian-gender-equality-strategy/working-together/media-arts-and-culture.html>
- In Victoria we've seen abortion decriminalised, however accessing abortion is still difficult, particularly in regional Victoria and for women migrant women <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-02/access-gaps-to-abortion-services-in-victoria/9007024>
- Eight out of ten women aged 18 to 24 were harassed on the street in the past year  
[http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/Everyday\\_sexism\\_TAIMarch2015\\_0.pdf](http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/Everyday_sexism_TAIMarch2015_0.pdf)
- Online abuse and harassment of women remains a serious issue, with more women being experiencing psychological and emotional harm and fearing for their physical safety.  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/11/amnesty-reveals-alarming-impact-of-online-abuse-against-women/>
- More than one in three Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence in her lifetime and one in two experiences sexual harassment. <https://d2c0ikyv46o3b1.cloudfront.net/anrows.org.au/s3fs-public/151022%20Horizons%201.1%20PSS.pdf>
- On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner, according to the most recent analysis of homicide statistics in Australia. <https://aic.gov.au/publications/sr/sr002>