

Victorian Gender Equity Investment

20/21 STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION



1. PARTNERING FOR GENDER EQUITY

Victoria is Leading the Way in population growth and policy development

- Between 2006-11 Victorian Population increased by 9.7% and between 2011- 2015 it grew by a further 2.4%
- Rosie Batty + Family Violence Royal Commission = 227 Recommendations
- Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy
- Women's Sexual & Reproductive Health Key Priorities
- Free from Violence: Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

While there has been exciting growth and innovation, Women's Health & Gender Equity Services have been falling behind in their capacity to serve the community in partnership with the Victorian Government.

2. FUNDING CHALLENGES

11-12 No increase to base funding to Women's Health Services for 15 years (beside government indexation)

12-13 5% cut to Women's Health Services (loss \$337,232)

14-18 No increase to base funding to Women's Health Services (beside government indexation)

19-20 Cut to Victoria Against Violence: 16 Days of Activism (loss of \$120,000)

20-21 Cut to Local Prevention Partnerships (loss \$500,000)¹

21-22 Cut to Local Prevention Partnerships (loss \$500,000)

22-23 Unfunded Local Prevention Partnerships (loss \$1,200,000)

23-24 Unfunded Local Prevention Partnerships (loss \$1,200,000 and thereafter)

Victoria's support of the independent women's health sector is unique in Australia, and provides for coordinated specialist expertise and engagement across all rural and metropolitan regions. The sector strategically focusses on gender as a core social determinant of women's health, prioritising achieving outcomes in gender equity, sexual and reproductive health, and the prevention of violence against women.

¹ See attachment A - The infrastructure provided by Women's Health Services & Victorian Prevention Partnerships & Ongoing funding for Women's Health Services: Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women in the Regions A submission to the Victorian Government for the 2019-2020 Budget

3. GENDER EQUITY INVESTMENT BACK ON TRACK

20/21 State Budget Output: Victorian Gender Equity Investment

(\$ million)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Boost to Women's Health Services	3.9	3.9	4.5	4.5
Strengthening Gender Equity in the Community	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
TOTAL	5	5	5.7	5.7

This investment represents a very modest investment of 0.53% of the total projected Victorian State Budget Output for 20/21. That's less than 1% gender equity investment.²

BOOSTING WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Under this initiative, Women's Health Services in metropolitan and regional locations would receive a boost to preventative health information and resources, supporting gender equity, sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of violence against women (PVAW). This initiative would also provide specialist health education to women from migrant and refugee communities.

A BOOST TO WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES OVER FOUR YEARS WILL:

- Restore Budget Cuts & lost funding to Women's Health Services **\$5,828,928**
 - Women's Health Services boost proportionate to population^{1,3,4} **\$3,771,604**
 - Increase migrant women's health & intersectional PVAW⁵ **\$4,283,695**
 - Boost to the statewide Women's Health Service & The Women's Health Atlas **\$1,539,952**
- = TOTAL: \$16,899,129**

STRENGTHENING GENDER EQUITY IN THE COMMUNITY

This initiative would deliver a one-stop shop for gender equity resources, including auditing, planning, training and workforce development for organisations advancing the Victorian Gender Equality Strategy. It would also include the production of an Annual Victorian Gender Equity Report, a partnership between GEN VIC, PerCapita, Women's Leadership Institute of Australia and academic institutions, to produce a dashboard of comparable data sets.

STRENGTHENING GENDER EQUITY IN VICTORIA OVER FOUR YEARS WILL:

- Resource GEN VIC as peak & one-stop gender equity resource⁶ **\$3,277,732**
 - Produce an annual State of Gender Equity in Victoria Report⁷ **\$1,400,000**
- = TOTAL: \$4,677,732**

² See Table 1.1, 19/20 State Budget Papers, Budget Paper 3 (20/21 Output summary \$3,206.2 million)

³ Current rate of funding across all WHS organisations is \$2.33 per woman. WHO benchmark for primary prevention is \$4 per funded person. GEN VIC claims a 0.67 increase per woman, bringing the per woman figure to \$3. Please note: Future GenVic Budget Bids, following the next census, will seek to close the gap between the Victorian primary prevention investment and the WHO benchmark

⁴ This figure is based on 3,185,582 Total Female Population in Victoria (ABS Demographic Statistics as at 30 June 2017) x \$3 per woman \$9,586,746 - \$8,643,845 (Current base funding for 11 services) = \$942,901 per year x 4 years

⁵ The Victorian population of migrant and refugee women has doubled over a ten-year period to 885,061. An additional \$1.21 per migrant woman is required to provide bi-lingual education in workplaces and the community sector, as well as translation of resources and other documents. See also Attachment B, MCWH Budget Submission 20/21

⁶ See Attachment C Proposal to resource the peak body for gender equality, women's health and the prevention of violence against women (revised August 2019) & GEN VIC brochure

⁷ See Attachment D Proposal by GEN VIC, PerCapita, Women's Leadership Institute of Australia and other partners