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Launching today: new strategy to prevent violence against women

The Preventing Violence Together partnership is today launching its new strategy, *Preventing Violence Together 2030: Western Region Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women*.

Preventing Violence Together is a regional partnership made up of 19 organisations who work together to prevent violence against women across Melbourne's west.

The strategy is being launched at the Substation in Newport by the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC. The event will also feature a keynote address from the Honourable Marsha Thomson, MP for Footscray.

The strategy will guide the work of the Preventing Violence Together partnership, by outlining actions and a shared vision: 'women and girls across Melbourne's west live free from violence and discrimination and have equal status, rights, opportunities, representation and respect'.

The strategy was developed following consultation with partners, service providers and communities of interest, to ensure it is relevant and tailored to the unique needs and context of Melbourne's western region.

Dr Robyn Gregory, CEO of Women's Health West, the Preventing Violence Together lead partner, said:

'The new Preventing Violence Together 2030 strategy marks an increased commitment to undertake the long-term work required to prevent and eliminate men's violence against women.

Violence against women is a gendered problem, with the majority of intimate partner violence, sexual assault and family violence in Australia perpetrated by men against women. It is a problem rooted in gender-based power inequalities between women and men.

We know violence against women is preventable. By working as part of this long established partnership across the west, we can take action to end men's violence against women.'

The strategy is a coordinated, action-based approach to preventing violence against women across Melbourne's west. It is accompanied by an annual action plan and an evaluation plan.

Download the full strategy and its accompanying action plan at <http://bit.ly/pvt2030launch>.

Notes:

1. For more information, please contact Kelly Ventress, Women's Health West's communications manager, on 9689 9588 or kelly@whwest.org.au.
2. Preventing Violence Together was established in 2010, and was Victoria's first primary prevention regional partnership to prevent violence against women.
3. Preventing Violence Together partners are:
Brimbank City Council, Cohealth, Department of Justice and Regulation, Djerriwarrh Health Services, HealthWest Primary Care Partnership, Hobsons Bay City Council, Inner North West Primary Care Partnership, IPC Health, Maribyrnong City Council, Melbourne City Council, Melton City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Victoria Police, Victoria University, West CASA (Centre Against Sexual Assault), Western Bulldogs, Western Integrated Family Violence Committee, Wyndham City Council, Women's Health West.
4. To request professional photographs from the event, please email Women's Health West's communications manager on kelly@whwest.org.au.