



MEDIA RELEASE

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Safe access zones support women's health

MELBOURNE – Thursday 22 October, 2015

Women's Health Victoria welcomes the Victorian Government's introduction of legislation to ensure women's safe access to reproductive health services. Safe access to abortion is good public health practice and plays an important role in supporting women's broader health and wellbeing. Women's Health Victoria commends the Victorian Government on its leadership and commitment to supporting women's health.

"We strongly support amending the Public Health and Wellbeing Act to make sure that women can safely access reproductive health services. Too often women and staff face obstruction and harassment – it's time to stop this happening," says Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria. "This legislation will put Victoria on a par with other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally that provide safe access to medical services."

Women's Health Victoria was proud to play a key role in supporting abortion law reform in 2008. "We are pleased to support further legislative reform that safeguards the rights of women to access essential health services," continued Ms Butera. Women's Health Victoria calls on all Members of Parliament to support the Bill.

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About Women's Health Victoria

Women's Health Victoria (WHV) is a not-for-profit, state-wide women's health promotion, information and advocacy service, focused on improving the lives of Victorian women. WHV works collaboratively with women, health professionals, policy makers and community organisations to influence and inform health policy and service delivery for women.

The work of WHV is underpinned by a social model of health and a commitment to reducing inequities in health which arise from social, economic and environmental determinants.

For more information, visit www.whv.org.au