



MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister for Health launches outstanding new resource to improve health outcomes for Victorian women

MELBOURNE – Tuesday 27 October, 2015

The Minister for Health, the Hon Jill Hennessy MP, last night launched the Victorian Women's Health Atlas at Women's Health Victoria's Annual General Meeting.

The [Victorian Women's Health Atlas](#) is an innovative, interactive web-based resource that provides sex-disaggregated data across a range of priority health issues for women. The Atlas has been developed by Women's Health Victoria, in collaboration with other state-wide and regional women's health services in Victoria.

"The Victorian Women's Health Atlas is a spectacular achievement – an engaging platform that reflects the reality of women in Victoria" said Minister Hennessy as she acknowledged the work involved in the development of this useful resource.

"Access to reliable data is critical to our efforts to improve health outcomes. It is an important tool in program and policy design and evaluation," said Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria. "Until now we haven't been able to easily access gender-specific data on key health issues. The Victorian Women's Health Atlas makes visible the differing experiences of women and men and provides an evidence base for planning and monitoring which will contribute to lasting improvements in women's health."

The Atlas shows gender differences covering indicators for Sexual Health & Reproduction, Gendered Demographics, Mental Health and Violence against Women for each local government area in Victoria. "The Atlas will assist state and local governments, health services and other organisations to bring a gendered approach to health issues, target resources and ultimately improve health outcomes for women," Ms Butera said.

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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