



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate distribution

Women's Health Victoria introduces 25 Champions for Women.

MELBOURNE – 7 November 2019

Twenty-five 'Champions for Women' were announced by Women's Health Victoria (WHV) as part of their 25-year celebrations in front of more than 100 guests at the 2019 Annual General Meeting, on Monday 28th October.

"Each of the women honoured has had an impact on the health and well-being of Victorian women" said Christine Fitzherbert, the chair of Women's Health Victoria. The inaugural honourees come from many areas including: the health and community sector, education and politics, with varying roles including staff, board members, volunteers, researchers and other partners. Christine continued "these awards acknowledge those who have made significant contributions to our work and have been integral in building our legacy".

'WHV's Champions for Women' recognise women who have been at the forefront of women's health, gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights. Those awarded include Marilyn Beaumont OAM and Dr Jo Wainer from the very early days, to more recent champions including the late Hon. Fiona Richardson.

Fiona was recognised for her incredible work supporting women in her role as Minister for Women and as the first Minister for Prevention of Family Violence in Australia, including her instrumental role in developing Victoria's first Gender Equality Strategy.

Some other notable honourees include Fiona Patten MP, Dr Paddy Moore, Hon. Jill Hennessey MP, Dr Sally Cockburn, Hon. Mary Wooldridge MP, Rita Butera and Counterpart volunteers Judy Sammut and Rhonda Cole.

"I am honoured and humbled to be recognised as a Champion for Women" remarked award recipient Judy Sammut, who has delivered innovative exercise programs to women with cancer for over 15 years.

Many of the honourees echoed this sentiment, while others noted the amazing impact of WHV's work over the last 25 years, the high quality of its policy work, an organisation of great integrity and innovation, and a strong reputation as a great collaborator and partner.

CEO, Dianne Hill concluded the event saying "The 25-year anniversary is an opportunity for us to reflect on our successes and achievements as #championsforwomen and show how this has improved the lives of women and girls across Victoria. We will build on this legacy,



continuing to be a strong and credible voice of influence in the prevention of violence against women, sexual health and reproductive rights and gender equality”.

Full list of #championsforwomen 2019

Dr. Susie Allanson
Belinda Astl
Marilyn Beaumont OAM
Rita Butera
Meredith Carter
Dr. Sally Cockburn
Rhonda Cole
Mary Crooks AO
Hon. Jill Hennessy MP
Louise Johnson
Patty Kinnersly
Dr. Maggie Kirkman
Di Missen
Dr. Paddy Moore
Fiona Patten MP
Hon. Fiona Richardson
Judy Sammut
Hon. Kay Setches
Helen Szoke
Dr. Angela Taft
Dr. Jo Wainer AM
Dr. Amy Webster
Dr. Beth Wilson AM
Hon. Mary Wooldridge MP
Dr. Desiree Yap

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For media enquiries and interviews, please contact:

Kylie Inserra, Communications Coordinator, Women's Health Victoria
Ph: 03 9664 9316
M: 0409 119 101
Email: kylie.inserra@whv.org.au

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 whv.org.au**