



2017-18 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Hearing

Women

Fiona Richardson MP

Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women

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Safe and Equal - investing in Victorian women

- The 2017-18 State Budget invests a record **\$1.91 billion** in women's safety, through the Family Violence package.
- This includes **\$50.8 million** for prevention initiatives to support long-term generational change in attitudes and behaviours towards violence against women.
- In addition, the Budget builds on the **\$9 million** investment in the 2016-2017 for gender equality, with a further **\$5.9 million** over four years to support the implementation of Victoria's first Gender Equality Strategy.

VICTORIAN STATE BUDGET
2017/18



Why invest in gender equality?

- Australia is 46th on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index – down from 14th a decade ago.
- Closing Australia's gender employment gap would boost GDP by around 11 per cent, and by 20 per cent if the productivity gap were addressed.
- The Australian economy would gain \$8 billion if women transitioned from tertiary education into the workforce at the same rate as men.
- Investing in gender equality is good for women and the Victorian economy.

Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy

- Developed after 12 months of consultation across the state with thousands of women.
- Released during Victoria Against Violence in December 2016.
- Landmark reforms which set a new standard for action by Victorian Government.
- Founding Reforms:
 - Legislating for a Gender Equality Act
 - Establishing a new agency dedicated to preventing violence against women
 - Introducing gender responsive budgeting and gender ethical procurement
 - Targets to lift women's representation in leadership positions.
- Early Actions in Education, Workplaces, Health Leadership, Sport and Media & the Arts



Key achievements in 2016-17

- More women on paid government boards – From 38% in 2015 to 50% in 2017
- Expanded women's leadership programs
 - Building an Ambassadors Program into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll
 - Introduced Young women leaders are being supported through the Joan Kirner Young and Emerging Leadership Scholarships.
 - Seed funding for a new women's Museum, HerPlace.
- Launched a new Women Victoria website to provide a hub for resources and information on gender equality initiatives in Victoria.
- Piloting gender equality initiatives in grass roots sporting clubs across the state.
- Piloting best practice gender initiatives within the public sector.
- Re-introduced Gender Equality Budget Statements to account for spending on women.

New Gender Equality Investment in 2017-18

The \$5.9 million allocated for gender equality in the 2017-18 State Budget includes:

- **\$2.5m** to continue the expansion of Women in Leadership Programs.
- **\$1.4m** to promote women's self-employment opportunities skills.
- **\$1.1m** to enhance women's economic security and financial capability.
- **\$0.8m** to assist women entrepreneurs to deliver gender equality in their community through social entrepreneur programs.



Plans for 2017-2018

- Creation of a new Prevention Agency
- Enacting the Gender Equality Act
- Appointment of the Ministerial Council on Women's Equality
- First all woman trade delegation to China
- New women's cultural and innovation funding
- Developing a business case for employers to provide flexible leave and on site childcare
- Developing a Gender Gap App to enable Victorian citizens to identify gender equality in the urban environment.