

31 March 2016

Relationships Australia Victoria welcomes the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence

Relationships Australia Victoria (RAV) commends the Royal Commission into Family Violence for its summary and recommendations report, which provides for reform across the areas of family violence prevention, support and recovery.

“RAV understands that family violence strategies need to incorporate early intervention and prevention approaches with support and recovery services, and it’s encouraging that the recommendations recognise this” Dr Andrew Bickerdike, RAV Chief Executive Officer, said.

With over 65 years’ experience providing family and relationship support services, and as the largest provider of Men’s Behaviour Change Programs in Victoria working across all areas of the service system, RAV is acutely aware of the importance of providing systemic responses to the issue of family violence.

“The Royal Commission report contains a raft of recommendations for implementation across the service system. It includes specific recommendations for therapeutic interventions and counselling for children and young people experiencing family violence, and for the introduction of respectful relationships education in schools,” Dr Bickerdike said.

“Family violence affects everyone in the community, and it’s essential that responses to family violence provide help for all family members, including children and young people.”

“Current approaches to violence prevention emphasise primary prevention and early intervention to encourage respectful and equitable relationships, highlighting the importance of promoting healthy relationships to children and adolescents.”

RAV is particularly pleased that the report includes recommendations for improved information sharing between agencies, which is critical for the safety of women and children escaping violence, and for the monitoring of perpetrators in a systemic way.

Dr Bickerdike also welcomed the recommendation for the establishment of a robust governance structure to implement the Royal Commission's recommendations.

"RAV looks forward to working with government and the sector to improve integration and service delivery."

"The Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations are comprehensive and ground-breaking, and provide Victoria with a roadmap to eradicate the scourge of family violence. We applaud the Victorian Government for their commitment to implement all 227 recommendations in the report. These recommendations need to be implemented in full, and within the timelines outlined in the report, in order to effect much-needed reforms to the family violence system, and put a stop to family violence in our community."

About RAV

RAV is a valued provider of specialist family and relationship services. Our vision is for positive, safe and respectful relationships for couples, families, schools, workplaces and communities. RAV provides a diverse range of services to strengthen relationships and social connections from 12 centres and additional outreach locations across Victoria. For more information, visit www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au.

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