



Gabrielle Williams MP

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women
Minister for Youth



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Ms Melanie Eagle
Chair of the Board
Respect Victoria
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D19/215605

Dear Ms Eagle,

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS – RESPECT VICTORIA

I am pleased to provide you with the inaugural Statement of Expectations for Respect Victoria.

In my role as Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, this Statement of Expectations sets out performance objectives for Respect Victoria in relation to the Victorian Government's commitments to address and prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women, consistent with your legislated obligations under the *Prevention of Family Violence Act 2018*. It forms part of the government's commitment to good corporate governance of government entities and applies from the date of signature on this letter until otherwise amended.

This statement supports the long-term vision for a Victoria free from violence, ensures a sustained statewide focus on primary prevention and delivers on the commitments outlined in *Free from Violence: Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women*.

The Statement of Expectations recognises that Respect Victoria's Board has its own legal responsibilities. It is not a direction to the Board to act in a particular manner, nor does it seek to impinge on Respect Victoria's level of independence or objectivity as a statutory authority.

Respect Victoria's functions

Respect Victoria's functions are detailed in section 6 of the *Prevention of Family Violence Act 2018*.

Accountability and role responsibilities

The Department of Premier and Cabinet's Office for Women is Respect Victoria's key policy partner, with overarching policy responsibility for the prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women.

Respect Victoria operates as part of the Victorian Government and, under section 85 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*, Respect Victoria's Board is accountable to me for the exercise of its functions, and thereby the delivery of important government policy outcomes.

As the responsible Minister, I am accountable to Parliament and the Victorian community for the exercise by Respect Victoria of its functions.

It is my expectation that Respect Victoria will:

- operate with a high degree of transparency and accountability;
- manage its resources efficiently and responsively to meet Victorian Government standards, including the requirements of the *Public Administration Act 2004*;
- acquit its role through the preparation of its annual business plan and a publicly available financial performance report tabled in Parliament;
- advise me, through the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, of any significant issues of public concern or risk that affect or may affect Respect Victoria.

As the responsible Secretary, the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet is responsible for:

- advising me on matters relating to Respect Victoria, including the discharge of its responsibilities;
- working with and providing guidance to Respect Victoria to assist with matters relating to public administration and governance.

I note that the Secretary may choose to delegate this responsibility to relevant personnel within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Performance objectives

In delivering advice and commitments under two pillars of the Free from violence strategy, namely 'Research and Evaluation' and 'Engage and Communicate with the Victorian community', I expect Respect Victoria to consider:

- the impact of prevention of family violence and violence against women community awareness campaigns, including the capacity of statewide campaigns to consider other primary prevention campaign levers that could drive uptake.
- Research activities to deepen understanding and inform family violence and violence against women prevention policy and programming, and the partnerships required to do so. This includes developing a Research Alliance with key partners to ensure high-quality evidence in family violence prevention, embedded across the whole Victorian community.
- Measuring and monitoring trends in family violence prevention. This includes responsibility for the development of the Family Violence Data Platform, quality assurance and endorsing primary prevention program type functions.
- The reach of prevention of family violence and violence programs and initiatives across the Victorian community, including those that support diverse communities, and policy and funding opportunities going forward.

Expectations for engagement

As the responsible Minister, it is my expectation that I will receive timely advice from Respect Victoria on significant activities, issues and plans. I expect Respect Victoria to work with the Office for Women and other government agencies in a consultative manner to achieve these objectives.

I expect Respect Victoria to participate in governance arrangements, including membership across a range of family violence prevention and other family violence bodies as appropriate.

Financial authorisation and delegation

I have delegated authorisation to you as chairperson of the Board of Respect Victoria (and person with the functions of a public body Head in relation to employees under section 16(1) of the *Public Administration Act 2004*) and have authorised the Chief Executive Officer of Respect Victoria to create financial obligations on behalf of Respect Victoria.

Publishing and reporting requirements

Respect Victoria is required to publish the Statement of Expectations performance objectives, and Respect Victoria's response to these, on its website. This will fulfil the requirement under the legislation that Respect Victoria provide a Statement of Intent containing information on the objectives, activities and performance measures. Reporting on Respect Victoria's progress to achieve the Statement of Expectations performance objectives should be undertaken shortly after the conclusion of the financial year on Respect Victoria's website.

I look forward to receiving your response outlining how the Board proposes to deliver on the Statement of Expectations, and to working with you to on preventing all forms of family violence and violence against women in Victoria.

Yours sincerely,



Gabrielle Williams MP
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3/10/2019