

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited

Media Release



Victorian Family Violence Royal Commission Recommendations

We call on Daniel Andrews' Government to reaffirm its commitment to implementing all of the Family Violence Royal Commission recommendations, particularly as it relates to recommendation 146. In the discussions being held, there is talk of supporting community legal service delivery in family violence, but no overt commitment being made to the Aboriginal Legal Service. This is disappointing, given the work we do in family violence. VALS is a generalist service. We take clients on a needs basis, first come first served.

We provide family violence services to women, men and children without discrimination.

Below is some feedback from one of our family violence clients, but for every one that rings, there are more we have to turn away because we don't have the staff. The Andrews Government could change that.

Case Study:

Client is single mother of 2 children who has escaped an abusive relationship and was now being pursued for the debts of her husband's collapsed company.

Clients feedback to VALS: I am ever so grateful of your help, guidance, support and time. I feel blessed to have found you and receive your help. This is the most amazing news I have ever heard since splitting with my ex. You have taken such a massive weight off my shoulders its an amazing feeling, one I have never felt before with everything I have had to deal with.

We ask the Andrews Government to make good on its commitment to supporting us in providing quality family violence legal service responses.