



## GRADUATE WOMEN VICTORIA

11 November 2016

The Hon Fiona Richardson MP  
Minister for Women. Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
Level 1, 2 Treasury Place,  
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Dear Ms Richardson

**RE: SUPPORT FOR A VICTORIAN GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY**

On behalf of Graduate Women Victoria I would like to express strong support for the Victorian Government's proposed Gender Equality Strategy.

We support a vision in which all Victorians live in a safe and equal society, have access to equal power, resources and opportunities, and are treated with dignity, respect and fairness.

It is imperative that the Victorian Government acknowledge the impact that gender inequality has on women and girls in Victoria, as well as society as a whole, and that the Government shows strong and tangible leadership in driving change.

Gender equality is the key to the prevention of family violence and other forms of violence against women, including poor attitudes and behaviours and casual sexism.

We support a Gender Equality Strategy for Victoria which will address the following key measures, so that:

- Gender equality is overseen and safeguarded through the establishment of an independently funded Centre for Gender Equality and the Prevention of Violence.
- Gender equality is monitored and evaluated through rigorous reporting against benchmarks and targets.
- Gender equality strategies are evidence-based and grounded in international and domestic best practice.

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- Gender equality is embedded in Victorian legislation, including through the enacting of a *Gender Equality Act*.
- Gender equality is promoted across all levels of society, for all ages and for diverse groups, with the aim of increasing women's autonomy over their own lives and improving their economic security.
- Gender equality is invested in by the Victorian Government, including through Gender Responsive Budgeting and Gender Ethical Procurement practices.
- Gender equality is centralised in the policy framework of the Victorian Government, with the introduction of gender analysis on policy and programs and the collection of sex-disaggregated data.
- Gender equality is demonstrated with the Victorian Public Sector leading by example with gender equal workplaces.

Yours Sincerely,  
Dr Jennifer Strauss AM  
President, Graduate Women Victoria

