



**Royal Commission
into Family Violence**

JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT OF JACQUI WATT AND RODNEY VLAIS

I, Jacqui Watt, Chief Executive Officer of No To Violence and Men's Referral Service and I, Rodney Vlais, Registered Psychologist and No To Violence Manager, of Melbourne in the State of Victoria, say as follows:

1. We are authorised by No To Violence (NTV) and Men's Referral Service (MRS) to make this statement on its behalf.
2. We make this statement on the basis of our own knowledge, save where otherwise stated. Where we make statements based on information provided by others, we believe such information to be true.

Current role

3. NTV, the Male Family Violence Prevention Association, is the Victorian state-wide peak body of organisations and individuals working with men to end their violence and abuse against family members.
4. MRS is a telephone service which has been in operation for over 22 years and is staffed by paid Telephone Referral Workers and professionally trained volunteer telephone counsellors. MRS also operates the state-wide After Hours Service which processes the L17 police referrals for incidents involving male perpetrated family violence.
5. Jacqui is the Chief Executive Officer of NTV and MRS. As part of Jacqui's role as Chief Executive Officer, she is responsible for both NTV and MRS and reports directly to the Board of Governance.
6. Rodney is the Manager of NTV. Rodney is responsible for managing and/or providing the policy, training, professional development, practice development, research and advocacy functions of NTV.
7. NTV is the only non-government organisation in Australia focussing specifically on strengthening interventions and accountability systems for perpetrators of family violence.

8. NTV has over 100 members who deliver approximately 35 men's behaviour change programs in Victoria. NTV oversees the standards of practice for these programs ensuring that the safety of women and children is at the heart of the work, however it is not an accrediting body and does not audit or monitor program provider adherence to these standards.

Background and qualifications – Jacqui Watt

9. Jacqui commenced at NTV and MRS in February 2015. Prior to commencing in this role, Jacqui led two Peak Bodies both in Australia and overseas. Jacqui has 30 years' experience working in public policy organisations. Attached to this statement and marked "JW RV-1" is a copy of Jacqui's curriculum vitae.
10. Jacqui holds the following qualifications:
 - 10.1. Master in Social Policy (Honours) from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom;
 - 10.2. Master in Science (MSc) – Management Development & Social Responsibility from the University of Bristol, England, United Kingdom; and
 - 10.3. Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

Background and qualifications – Rodney Vlasis

11. Rodney has worked at NTV since February 2007. He was the Acting Chief Executive Officer of NTV and MRS from November 2013 until January 2015.
12. Rodney has over 10 years' experience as a men's behaviour change group facilitator. Rodney is recognised as an Australian expert in this area, speaking at international conferences about working with male perpetrators of violence against women and children, and he has published a number of articles on this topic. Attached to this statement and marked "JW RV-2" is a copy of Rodney's curriculum vitae, including a list of publications he has authored or co-authored.
13. Rodney holds the following qualifications:
 - 13.1. Master of Psychology (Clinical) from the University of Western Australia;
 - 13.2. Bachelor of Psychology from the University of Western Australia;

- 13.3. Graduate Certificate in Social Science (Male Family Violence Prevention – Group Facilitation) from Swinburne University of Technology;
- 13.4. Certificate IV in Training and Assessment from Swinburne University of Technology.
14. Rodney is a registered psychologist in Victoria.


Submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence

15. We refer to and rely on the submission by NTV and MRS to the Royal Commission into Family Violence dated June 2015, which includes 49 recommendations. The NTV and MRS submission addresses men's behaviour change programs as one aspect of strengthening perpetrator accountability within an integrated family violence service system. A copy of that submission is attached to this statement and marked "JW RV-3".



Jacqui Watt

Dated: 14 July 2015



Rodney Vlasis

Dated: 14 July 2015