



# Khalil Eideh M.P.

*State Member of Parliament  
for Western Metropolitan Region*



21<sup>st</sup> May 2014

Dear Commissioner,

## **Submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence**

I am writing on behalf of my community to advise you of the seriousness of family violence and the need for decisive action for change. Domestic violence has a profound impact on my community in the Western Metropolitan Region.

In 2013/2014 there were 2,486 family violence incidents in the following locations in my electorate:

Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong and Wyndham had a total of 1148 cases reported, Brimbank and Melton recorded 1,183 cases and Hume, Moonee Valley and Moreland had 1,154 cases reported. Of these communities, the highest figures were recorded in Wyndham, Melton and Hume.

Commissioner, the prevalence of domestic violence in my electorate can only be considered as a state emergency, far too many innocent lives have been taken at the hands of senseless and violent perpetrators. Two prominent cases within my electorate highlight the urgency of this issue to myself, my constituents and I believe all members of the Victorian public; Rekih O'Donnell and Fiona Warzywoda.

Rekih's life was taken in 2013 when she was shot by an ex-partner after she had taken considerable steps to protect herself. The young woman's attempt through Victoria's legal system to ensure her safety highlights a significant issue with the protection we as a state can offer women in Victoria.

Unfortunately, Fiona Warzywoda's case is very similar, she too was attempting to protect herself from her ex-partner, and in fact she was leaving Sunshine Magistrates Court to receive an intervention order against him, when she was violently stabbed in a Sunshine shopping centre.

These brave women's stories have left the community calling out for more to be done to protect victims, many have raised their concerns with my office and I support their pleas, as



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domestic violence is the leading cause of death and disability in women under 45 and on average one woman per week dies as a result of domestic violence.

Miss O'Donnell and Ms Warzywoda's cases and I am certain, unfortunately many more cases in neighbouring electorates highlight the need to introduce more protection to victims of domestic violence and ultimately restore trust back into the courts and legal system to encourage victims to report their abuse.

I am proud to be a part of a Government that is working towards addressing family violence through the first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, the Royal Commission into Family Violence and a newly announced Family violence Index to monitor and evaluate the prevalence of family violence in Victoria.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khalil Eideh".

Khalil Eideh MLC

Member for Western Metropolitan Region