

Royal Commission Into Family Violence

P.O.Box 535

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29<sup>th</sup> May 2015

To the Royal Commission delegates,

I thank you for taking the time for my submission into family violence.

This is a positive opportunity which offers the complexities of this social health issue to be thoughtfully considered and recommendations forthcoming which I hope like many will hope to see a positive change for our communities.

I write to you as a women with 20 years experience in the health field in rural Victoria. To my current role as an elected representative of a small rural shire the Strathbogie Shire.

Through my back ground and council representation our council has perused and advocated for better outcomes and to ultimately put an end to violence in our communities.

There will I am sure be many submissions presented to you and rather than duplicate, I would like to take this opportunity to firstly acknowledge and appreciate this proactive step to address this community crippling issue.

No community is immune, each community potentially may have unique issues, situations, levels of opportunity to cope with the demands that this places on us all.

As chair of the Municipal Association of Victoria Leadership Network. A committee representing and reaching all 79 councils of Victoria through a leadership committee., Sharing and supportive network with regard to the complexities of addressing this in our local government areas.

As well as offering a united voice through this committee to the MAV Board including but not limited to Ministers directly on the challenges we face and the wonderful committed initiatives Local Government has achieved and hopes for into the future.

I fully support the MAV submission and am very honoured to have been able to contribute in a small way as have the Network Committee and more.

I simply provide my submission here as an endorsement of the MAV submission and support for the recommendations outlined in the submission.

If you seek further clarification on my council, community, region and committees which I represent this issue on. I would be happy to avail myself in any way that you may feel would be appropriate.

I wish the Royal Commission well as you challenge this issue in the days, weeks and months ahead.

We all I know hope for a violence free community but it is fair to say this is going to take a lot of commitment and effort and I can assure you that I know as many do that Local Government will play an integral role in this to be a success.

Yours sincerely

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*(MAV PVAW Leadership Group Chair,*

*MAV Human Services Leadership Group Chair*

*Committee member of Women`s Health Goulburn North East PVAW Steering committee.*

*Prevention of Violence Against Women 12 Local Government committee.)*