

April 21, 2020

## **CENTRE FOR NON VIOLENCE WELCOMES OPERATION RIBBON**

Central Victoria's specialist family violence service, Centre for Non-Violence, welcomes today's commitment by Victoria Police to actively check in on those at high risk of family violence.

Victoria Police has announced Operation Ribbon, which will see specialist Family Violence Investigation Units across the state contact those assessed as being at high risk of further family violence.

Police will also be conducting compliance checks with perpetrators.

Centre for Non Violence chief executive officer, Margaret Augerinos, says Operation Ribbon is a positive and proactive step by Victoria Police, in 'ensuring they're keeping an eye on some of the most high-risk cases'.

"Calls to crisis lines and police are low at the moment, but we expect that to change as women find safe ways to contact our service.

"Anything we can do to reach those who are most vulnerable or at risk at this time, is positive."

Centre for Non Violence invites stakeholders and partners to make contact about service delivery, and how we can all work together to ensure the safety of women and children.

"Providing safe ways for women to contact our service during this global pandemic is essential," Ms Augerinos said.

"We remain ready and willing to be able to respond and to support integrated system responses to support victim survivors, as well as men using violence.

"It is important we do not place the burden on women to protect themselves and remain safe – but we must also continue to hold perpetrators to account and place the onus on them to change their attitudes and behaviour.

"The only way we can do this is to address the drivers of violence against women and children.

"The main driver of violence against women is gender inequality – which includes attitudes that excuse or condone violence, limit women's decision-making, adhere to rigid gender roles and disrespect women."

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