

Media Release



Federal Opposition commitment on family violence welcome

Wednesday 4 March 2015 – for immediate release

The Federation of Community Legal Centres has welcomed the announcement today of a \$70m Federal Opposition commitment to family violence, including funding for legal services of \$47.4m. Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has also committed to a national crisis summit, which has also been welcomed as a vital opportunity for coordinated national action on family violence.

"This announcement recognises the vital role of free legal help in keeping women safe from family violence, and acknowledges that family violence is a national emergency," said Liana Buchanan, Executive Officer of the Federation of Community Legal Centres, today.

The announcement follows deep Federal Government cuts to legal assistance services in the last budget, and the prospect of further cuts in the next budget due in May.

"Community legal centres play a key role ensuring women have legal protections from family violence, including appropriate conditions on intervention orders. Women unable to access free legal help are at greater risk from violent former partners," Ms Buchanan said.

"This vital funding commitment is consistent with the findings of the Productivity Commission that legal services are significantly underfunded, and, if implemented by a future Labor Federal Government, would go some way to helping community legal centres better deal with cases that relate to family violence, which comprise a third of all new legal cases opened each year in Victoria alone," Ms Buchanan said.

Media contacts

Liana Buchanan
Executive Officer
Federation of Community Legal Centres
0407 189 221

Darren Lewin-Hill
Communications Manager
Federation of Community Legal Centres
0488 773 535