# Key actions and work to improve women's health and wellbeing

Keeping the momentum going: Building upon the last 30 years of equity and health reform



#### Intersectional Gender Equity

The Gender Equality Act 2020 ('GE Act') is transformational for the Victorian economy and community. The focus on public sector organisations presents an opportunity to improve outcomes for Victorians of all genders.

# We ask all parties to build upon and continue to improve outcomes and equity by:

- Resourcing the implementation of the Gender Equality Act over the long term
- Support and build capacity and capability across Victoria on intersectional gender equity
- Extending the reach of the Act beyond the public sector
- Investing in the development of the gender equity workforce

#### Make healthcare equitable for all

We can never assume that our health services and policies are equitable or, that they are accessible to all. At present, we do not have a health system that enables gender equity in our community.

### We ask all parties to work to create health equity by:

- Building and supporting the capacity and capability of all health services
- Funding the next Victorian Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan, including resourcing outcomes to increase access to abortion services
- Requiring that all public hospitals in receipt of public funds provide MTOP and STOP, and all faith-based hospitals to provide evidence-based information and referral pathways to abortion services
- Embedding gender equity in the reform of the mental health system

#### Support and advocate for the workers that support all of us

Our care workforces are facing compounding crises – low pay and conditions, high turnover, burnout, and poor recognition and status in our economy and society.

In addition to those reforms already advocated for by the gender equity sector, we also ask all parties to:

- Apply gender impact assessments across all labour market, skills policies and programs
- Sustained uplift to Women's Health Services and expansion to include services for LGBTQI and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women





#### As Women's Health Services, we work by:

- Being a conduit between all women in our community and their health system
- Advocating to our health and social system on how to improve the way they deliver services to community
- Working in collaboration and partnership with community, identifying opportunities to act
- Delivering timely evidence based programming to work with the health system and structures
  to apply intersectional gender lens to prevent future pressures on the health system
- Partnering with local government, community organisations, and other not for profit agencies to develop and deliver health promotion messages and build capacity on specific health and wellbeing topics
- Translating research into evidence based policy and practice to inform systems and structures

#### Examples of our work include:



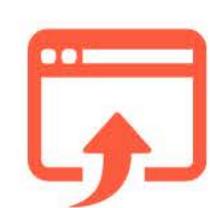
#### 9 Regional Collective Impact Strategies

to Prevent Violence
Against Women and
Improve Sexual and
Reproductive Health –
involving in excess of 500
partner organisations



### Consultancy and capacity building services

to implement the Gender Equality Act as part of the Action for Gender Equality Partnership – delivering training on Gender Equality Action Plans, Gender Impact Assessments and gender equitable leadership



## Individual health promotion, system reform and service navigation interventions

including direct education of women and gender diverse people on key areas of gendered health management, practice and policy at a statewide and regional level. Examples include abortion law reform, mental health reform, 1800MyOptions, the Victorian Women's Health Atlas and the Workforce of Multilingual Health Educators (WOMHEn) project WDV "Building the Evidence" report























