

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Early childhood professionals play key role in tackling family violence**

Early childhood education and care professionals are in a unique position to support children and families who are living with family violence. That's why Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (DVRCV) and Community Child Care Association (CCC), with support from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), are hosting a Victorian first conference which brings together expertise from across both the family violence and early childhood sectors.

Family violence is a serious issue in Australia. One in three women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and more than half of women experiencing family violence had children in their care at the time.<sup>1</sup> Early childhood professionals, who work with thousands of families every day, have a huge role to play in making sure the impacts of family violence are recognised and responded to.

Importantly, these services can also help to teach the next generation of Australian's that violence is never excusable and address the structure, norms and practices that drive violence against women in our society.

"Early childhood services are an ideal setting to develop a foundation of gender equity and respectful relationships in children that helps to prevent violence in the next generation," said Emily Maguire, CEO of DVRCV. "That's why we're thrilled to be working with CCC to deliver this sell-out conference which will support almost 100 early childhood professionals develop an in-depth understanding of how to both respond to and prevent family violence in their day-to-day work" she said.

Presentations and workshops throughout the day will aim to support professionals to recognise and respond to family violence, to support children, parents, families and colleagues who may be experiencing violence and to learn how to create learning and workplace environments that promote respect and equality.

"We believe that everyone has a responsibility to prevent and respond to family violence," said Leanne Giardina, Executive Director of CCC. "We are delighted to be partnering with DVRCV for this conference, which will inform and empower the early childhood sector to be an advocate for this important issue within our society."

Sponsored by the Department of Education and Training, the [Responding to and Preventing Family Violence - The Role of Early Childhood Professionals conference](#) will be held on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

### **Media contact**

To arrange an interview or photo opportunity please contact:

Emily Maguire  
CEO, Domestic Violence Resource Centre  
Ph: (03) 9486 9866 or 0403 885 570

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<sup>1</sup> ANROWS *Violence against women in Australia: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012: Key findings and future directions* 2015 and 6. National Crime Prevention (2001) *Young people and domestic violence: National research on young people's attitudes and experiences of domestic violence*, Crime Prevention Branch, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra; and Cox (2015), see note 2.