



# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN QUEENSLAND

*Peak body for Sexual Violence, Women's Health and Domestic Violence Services*

<http://www.violenceagainstwomengld.com.au/> [Evawq@dvconnect.org](mailto:Evawq@dvconnect.org)

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On behalf of our Peak Body, Ending Violence Against Women Queensland (EVAWQ), we would like to extend our congratulations on your appointment as a Member of Parliament following the 2015 Queensland election.

We would also like to introduce ourselves as the newest Peak Body in Queensland. Our journey towards establishing EVAWQ came to fruition just over a year ago, in February 2014. At that time a meeting of 68 Queensland services from across the women's sector - the Sexual Violence, Women's Health, and Domestic and Family Violence services - came together to plan the way forward to the pervasive problem of violence against women. From that meeting a Steering Committee was formed with representatives from each of the specialist service agencies in the VAW Sector across Queensland.

The Steering Committee has continued to work unabated over the past year to ensure the establishment of EVAWQ, including launching our website [www.violenceagainstwomengld.com.au](http://www.violenceagainstwomengld.com.au) which we encourage you to peruse.

There is no doubt that the establishment of EVAWQ is timely knowing that:

- *At least 1 woman every week is killed by their current or former partner in Australia.*
- *1 in 6 women experience physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner in Australia (as opposed to 1 in 19 men).*
- *In the first six weeks of 2015 Queensland saw the death of five women one child and two unborn babies due to domestic and family violence.*
- *Over 180 incidents of domestic and family violence were reported daily in Queensland in 2013-14.*
- *There are enormous health implications. A Victorian study shows violence to be a leading contributor to death, disability and illness for women aged 15-44 years.*
- *The annual cost of domestic and family violence in Queensland is estimated to be between \$2.7 billion to \$3.2 billion and predicted to rise.*

Sadly, these gendered statistics are a reflection of the structural and financial disadvantages that women experience which reverberate into many areas and systems including health, child safety, policing and imprisonment, mental health and employment. The crippling effects of violence against women also impose an enormous cost on Queensland financially and socially.

Given the criticality of this problem we hope you will share some of our excitement that Queensland now has a Peak Body that can provide specialist, representative and united information and advice for government (and other stakeholders) relating to violence against women and children.

This is particularly important for parliamentary members such as yourself, as EVAWQ fills a hitherto unfilled gap for government in establishing a 'go to' specialist peak body for consultation and feedback regarding Queensland women and children affected by gender-based violence.

Again, our congratulations on your appointment. We very much look forward to working with you and contributing our specialist knowledge to the government's efforts to eliminate violence against women.

If you would like to get in touch with EVAWQ you are welcome to connect with us through the secretariat [Evawq@dvconnect.org](mailto:Evawq@dvconnect.org) or by calling 3156 2323.