



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash**

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women  
Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection  
Senator for Western Australia

24 November 2014

## **Standing together to tackle violence against women and children**

The collective leadership of Australia and New Zealand's Police Commissioners was on show this morning at Parliament House in Canberra, with Police Commissioners publicly declaring that preventing violence against women and children is everybody's responsibility and urging people to take an active role in challenging derogatory and abusive attitudes and behaviours.

The *Stand Together* event, which was hosted by the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, marked the second time ever that Police Commissioners had formally united to take a stand on a social issue that impacts all members of the community.

"Today's event is a powerful demonstration of the fact that domestic violence is an issue of national significance and that strong, sustained leadership is required to promote cultural and attitudinal change," Minister Cash said.

"As both community leaders and men, Australian and New Zealand Police Commissioners will not tolerate violence against women and children and that they are committed to protecting all victims of violence."

The Governor General of Australia, and Our WATCh Patron, Sir Peter Cosgrove, and the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, joined with the Police Commissioners in rejecting all forms of violence. The event was also attended by members of Parliament, the media and civil society organisations.

The Coalition Government has committed over \$100 million towards the Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*. State and Territory Governments are working with the Commonwealth as well as business and community sectors to ensure a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and children.

Federal Government funding will provide Our WATCh with \$13.1 million to deliver tangible change in preventing violence against women and their children in our community. Additional funding of more than \$1 million will be granted for the 1800RESPECT initiative, Australia's first national professional phone and online counselling service.

"Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility and every single Australian can take an active role in challenging violence-condoning attitudes and behaviours in our community," Minister Cash said.

"At a community level we can all help bring domestic violence against women from behind closed doors and encourage women to report offences against them to police and seek appropriate help.

"Together, we can all work towards advancing gender equality and eradicating violence against women, once and for all."

*If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or family violence, please call **1800RESPECT***

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