

## ANROWS launch speech CEO, Heather Nancarrow

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Thank you, Warren for the warm welcome to Ngunnawal country. I pay my respects to the Ngunnarwal elders past, present and future.

Ministers and guests, Directors of the Board and ANROWS staff, it is an honour to stand with you today at the official launch of this extraordinary initiative.



We are here today first and foremost because women and their children have the right to live free from violence and in safe communities; and that right is denied to so many of them. We are here because the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children imagined what could be achieved if we concentrated effort on building evidence to drive future policy and practice towards enabling that right.

And here we are because governments across the country have committed to an unprecedented national plan and shared responsibility for achieving the right of Australian women and their children to safety from violence.

I am acutely aware of the responsibility that falls to ANROWS as a central part of the bigger plan. Governments have invested in ANROWS to deliver evidence to guide their decisions; and service providers look to us for resources to guide their practice.

ANROWS will deliver on these expectations through three core, intersecting functions:

1. The production of knowledge in our priority areas under the National Research Agenda;
2. The translation and exchange of knowledge to support the conversion of evidence to policy and practice; and
3. Leadership in these processes.

The development of the National Research Agenda has been discussed earlier. While all core functions are critical to our work, the translation and exchange of knowledge is arguably the most critical. There is no point in having a rigorous evidence base if it is not communicated effectively to the policy makers and practitioners who need it to make confident decisions in the development of policy and programs and the implementation of service responses. I would like to thank Dr Jan

Brackenridge and Dr Antonia Quadara for their support and assistance in the transition of clearinghouse functions to ANROWS from the Australian Domestic Family Violence Clearinghouse and the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. The transition will be complete later in the year. However, the final Australia Domestic Family Violence Clearinghouse Issues Paper, funded by ANROWS, is now available on the ANROWS website.

Our third core function, leadership, involves:

Setting the violence against women research agenda;

Facilitating research practice that builds capacity and meaningfully engages the people it aims to benefit;

Implementing our Reconciliation Action Plan with true conviction;

Ensuring that diversity is reflected in our work and that of others; and

Advocating for evidence emerging from the research to be taken up in policy and practice.

In all of these functions we will consult and collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders in government, research, peak organisations and services. A collaboration between VicHealth, the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children and ANROWS on primary prevention research was announced in April. I would like to acknowledge and thank our Foundation colleagues, Natasha Stott-Despoja, Chair, and Paul Linossier, CEO.

Collaboration with the violence against women's research community, is also critical to the delivery of our research priorities under the National Research Agenda. I'm very pleased to see such a good number of eminent violence against women researchers here, today, including: Professor Cathy, Humphreys, Professor Kelsey Hegarty, Professor Donna Chung, Professor Harry Blagg and Professor Patrick O'Leary.

They, their colleagues and their research students will play a critical role in the delivery of ANROWS's open grant and commissioned research projects.

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight for them that applications for grants are now open and may be made via the ANROWS website. Applications close on 11 July 2014.

Dr Mayet Costello, ANROWS's Research Manager, would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the grant application process.

We look forward to working with you all in our collective efforts to end violence against women and their children; and we look forward to the day when Australian women and children living free from violence is not just a right, but a reality for all.