**Urgent Action needed to save Aboriginal Women's Lives**
**Statement on the alleged murder of Jayda Allen**

Last week, we lost Jayda Allen, a 21-year-old Yagera women living in Carlton, to male violence. The media is reporting that her wounds were so extensive, she was unrecognisable to her family. This is a horrifying disgrace.

Jayda is the 55th woman killed in Australia in 2026, and the 7th Aboriginal woman. In addition, we have lost three Aboriginal Girls, including Kumanjayi Little Baby.

Victoria's crisis of gendered violence is a catastrophe for Aboriginal women and girls, who are 25 times more likely to die from violence than any other woman.

Jayda's life mattered. The lives of all Aboriginal women affected by violence matter.

Jayda's family and our wider community is grieving. Sympathy and support are being extended to her family and friends in the usual way that we support each other in times of loss.

But while there is a place for sorrow, there must also be space for outrage and action.

We cannot stand by and let the circumstances of Jayda's death pass by without accountability. We make this statement with the full support and endorsement of Jayda's family.

As Victorian Aboriginal leaders, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and family safety experts working every day to keep Aboriginal women, men and children safe, especially in the justice system, we can say with 100% certainty - **Jayda's death was entirely preventable, not inevitable.**

While her death is now a criminal investigation, it is also a **widespread systems failure, especially of the management of high-risk family violence offenders, the management of offenders leaving prison** and **how we support Aboriginal women and their families to be heard and believed.**

We are furious that despite years of cultural safety training and daily work alongside Victoria Police, Corrections, Courts and the Department of Justice and Community Safety, that Djirra and other specialist Aboriginal family violence, justice and health services remained invisible to the system. All the red flags were there, yet we were not called to help.

The systems failure requires a thorough investigation by the Coroner, with full disclosure of policies, processes, statements and other critical decision making documents.

We shared our truths to the Yoorrook Justice Commission, sharing institutional racism, service gaps and funding shortfalls impacting on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. Our truths were translated into recommendations.

In the lead up to this election, there must be a multi-party commitment to implement all of the Yoorrook Recommendations, especially urgent action to keep Aboriginal women safe.

Politicians must rise above party politics, to prevent Aboriginal women losing their lives.

We call on all political parties to stop treating Aboriginal people as a political football and to take urgent action to prevent another tragic loss, like Jayda.

**Supported and signed by:**

## Victorian Aboriginal Community

**Antoinette Braybrook AM**
**CEO, Djirra**

**Jim O'Shea**
**Acting CEO, VACCHO**

**Dr Jill Gallagher AO**
**Interim CEO, VAHS**

**Nerita Waight**
**CEO, VALS**

**Sarah Thorpe**
**Acting CEO, Dardi Munwurro**

**Aboriginal Justice Caucus**

**Aboriginal Housing Victoria**

**Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance**

**Ngalgarra Resources**

## Individuals

**Laureate Professor Dr Marcia Langton AO**

## Victorian Partners


eastern
community
legal
centre


South-East
Monash
Legal Service


Barwon
COMMUNITY LEGAL


arc
justice


DLS
Disability
Discrimination
Legal Service Inc


L|A|C|W
LAW & ADVOCACY
CENTRE FOR WOMEN


SAFE+EQUAL


Safe
Steps


COURAGE
COLLECTIVE
Family Violence Services


Drummond
Street
Services


FVREE
FREE FROM
FAMILY
VIOLENCE


WiRE


FLAT
OUT


The
Sexual
Assault
&family
Violence
Centre


Wellsprings
for women


Kara
family violence service


project
respect


Villamanta
DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL SERVICE


Refuge
Victoria
Specialist Family
Violence Service


Allied
Justice
Here for community


Fitzroy
Legal
Service

INNER MELBOURNE COMMUNITY LEGAL

Police Accountability Project

Refugee Legal: Defending the rights of refugees.

switchboard

Young Workers Centre

justice connect

Women's Health East
Investing in Equality and Wellbeing for Women

emerge
Women and Children's Support Network

Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights
*Equality without exception*

Gender Lens
Australia

Centre for Non-Violence

Odyssey Victoria

Women with Disabilities Victoria

WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES NETWORK
Working together for the health, safety and wellbeing of all Victorian women

whise
Women's Health in the South East

JUNO

NORTHERN INTEGRATED FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

reconciliation victoria

WAM WOMEN AND MENTORING

Southside Justice

**National and Interstate Partners**

PROJECT hersel

ENDING VIOLENCE ONE ♥ AT A TIME
THE RED HEART MOVEMENT
australianfemicidewatch.org

MUDGIN-GAL WOMEN'S ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Domestic Violence NSW

CLOTHING THE GAPS

FIRST NATIONS ADVOCATES AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

RASARA

NYYANI
RESET. REFOCUS. RECLAIM

Good Shepherd
Australia New Zealand




**Individuals**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Rosie Batty AO, Australian of the Year 2015, Family Violence Prevention Advocate** | **Tarang Chawla** | **Joe Ball Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQA+ Communities** |
| **Maddison Thorpe** | **Jennifer O'Brien** | **Danny Blay** |
| **Lara Thompson** | **Safiya Alhassan** | |