Safe and Strong
Victoria’s first gender equality strategy

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Overview of *Safe and Strong*: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy

- Victoria’s first ever gender equality strategy, *Safe and Strong* was launched on 5 December 2016 as part of Victoria Against Violence.
- Framework includes founding reforms, early actions and a strong accountability focus.
- It is designed to change attitudes and behaviours required both to deliver gender equality and prevent violence against women.
First year achievements under Safe and Strong

Highlights of landmark founding reforms launched in first year:

• Began work on development of a Gender Equality Act.
• Established the Ministerial Council on Women’s Equality, the Equal Workplaces Advisory Council and the Gender Equality Deputy Secretaries Group.
• Introduced gender responsive budgeting.
• Met the Premier’s commitment to increasing the representation of women in new appointments to paid public boards.
• Committed to making all Victorian Public Service roles flexible with a requirement to justify ‘if not, why not’ was rolled-out in 2016-17.
First year achievements under Safe and Strong

Highlights of early actions across settings

• Launched two women’s leadership programs – the Joan Kirner Young and Emerging Leadership Program for Women and the Women on Boards Leadership Program.

• Released Victoria’s first women’s sexual and reproductive health strategy in March 2017.

• Provided grants that build financial security and leadership within migrant and refugee communities.

• Established the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation headed up by the trailblazing medical doctor and athlete, Dr Bridie O’Donnell.
Safe and Strong work underway in 2018

- Developing a gender gap app to identify and evaluate gender equality in urban environments
- Piloting gender auditing
- Developing a business case for flexible work