
Friday, 2 December 2011

NEW WOMEN'S SAFETY STRATEGY LAUNCHED

The South Australian Government is moving to further combat violence against women with the release of a revised women's safety strategy.

Titled "A Right to Safety", it puts South Australia in line with a national push to reduce violence against women and children.

Minister for the Status of Women Gail Gago said the updated women's safety strategy builds on legislative reforms initiated in 2005.

"Many incidents of violence are still ignored or go unreported because they are deemed to be a 'private matter'," the Minister said.

"Our new strategy, A Right to Safety, aims to prevent violence against women from occurring in the first place.

"We can do that by addressing such factors as unequal power relationships between men and women, gender stereotyping and discrimination."

Key elements of the strategy include:

- Continuing the significant reforms undertaken since 2005 focused on community awareness initiatives, early intervention, law reform and systems improvement;
- Preventing violence against women through the promotion of gender equity, eg increasing women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles;
- Working in partnership with a range of organisations including UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
- Bringing together service providers, advocates and interested organisations to develop regional approaches;
- Establishing an Alliance Network whose members commit to undertaking a range of actions to prevent violence against women.

Reforms undertaken through the 2005 Women's Safety Strategy include the establishment of the Family Safety Framework to better support women and families at high risk of domestic violence, and the reform of South Australia's laws on rape, sexual assault and domestic violence.

As part of that reform agenda, the State Government has introduced new Intervention Orders that will come into effect on Friday, December 9.

The Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009 reforms the previous system of domestic and personal violence restraining orders.

A Right to Safety was launched on Friday, December 2 at the Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre in Adelaide.