

# Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic)

Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence, which concluded in March 2016, highlighted the need for strengthened efforts to safeguard families from the impact of family violence. In Victoria, a number of high-profile cases of family violence, including that of 11-year-old Luke Batty, who was murdered by his violent father, have served to highlight the detrimental impact of family violence on our community.

Australian of the Year Rosie Batty says family violence needs to be seen as akin to terrorism and given the same level of attention by the government. Scarr 2015

The *Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic)* aims to improve the safety of children and adults experiencing family violence. The Preamble to the Act acknowledges that any person can be a victim of family violence and that it 'occurs in all areas of society, regardless of location, socioeconomic and health status, age, culture, gender, sexual identity, ability, ethnicity or religion'. Nonetheless, statistics indicate that most family violence is committed by men against women and children.

Whether children or young people are directly targeted, or whether they witness family violence, research indicates that it significantly and seriously impacts children's physical and emotional wellbeing.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

*Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic)*

[www9.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/vic/consol\\_act/fvpa2008283/](http://www9.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/vic/consol_act/fvpa2008283/)

Scarr, L 2015 'Rosie Batty says domestic violence should be seen as akin to terrorism', news.com.au, 3 June.  
[www.news.com.au/national/politics/rosie-batty-says-domestic-violence-should-be-seen-as-akin-to-terrorism/news-story/8f1472e3ad60549edda0115f1122d35d](http://www.news.com.au/national/politics/rosie-batty-says-domestic-violence-should-be-seen-as-akin-to-terrorism/news-story/8f1472e3ad60549edda0115f1122d35d)



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Version 1: July 2019  
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*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity  
of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.*