

Provocation no excuse

The Women's Electoral Lobby (Vic) congratulates the Victorian Government for agreeing to remove provocation as a defence for murder. Many women have gone in fear of their lives as violent partners have threatened and terrified them.

Leaving for a happier life can result in violent action. Some men think they are justified in resorting to violence when a woman leaves them. Until now the law has allowed them to plead provocation for such violence. We look forward to seeing the legislation introduced shortly.

Kerry Lovering, convenor, Women's Electoral Lobby

Self-defence law needs reform

The Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre is pleased that the Government plans to abolish provocation as a partial defence to homicide.

But we are concerned that reports are equivocal about whether the Government intends to adopt the whole package of reforms recommended by the Victorian Law Reform Commission, including the reform of self-defence laws.

Domestic homicide mostly results from men's violence against women. While women are more likely to kill to save their own lives, men are more likely to kill out of jealousy and control, most often when women try to leave the relationship.

Abolishing provocation as a partial defence to homicide without reforming self-defence as outlined by the VLRC will leave women who kill violent partners in a highly vulnerable legal position. The Government must adopt the whole VLRC package.

Libby Eltringham, Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre

For people who wish to access the whole report from the Victorian Law Reform Commission go to their website at www.lawreform.vic.gov.au