

19 March 2020



Dear friend of EDVOS,

RE: EDVOS Service Continuity in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

EDVOS is continuing to follow the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Guidelines (www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) with a **focus on prioritising the important services and programs we deliver to women and children responding to family violence.**

We are committed to ensuring that women and children experiencing family violence remain supported during this time. We know that in times of crisis, family violence can escalate, and we already have evidence of this locally.

EDVOS is working to ensure that we do everything we can to minimise disruption to service delivery, whilst also ensuring that we continue to protect the health and safety of our workers and comply with government directives:

- **EDVOS Specialist Family Violence Service teams** will continue to provide services. Wherever possible, remote client contact will be prioritised. Our office will remain open and all necessary actions will be taken to ensure the health and wellbeing of clients and staff. Please contact EDVOS by phone (03) 9259 4200 or email: edvos@edvos.org.au, opening hours are Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday 9am-5pm. For those people in immediate need, please contact Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre on 1800 015 188 or Victoria Police on 000.
- **EDVOS Primary Prevention team** will continue all Primary Prevention activities, however postpone all external events in consultation with our sector partners.
- **EDVOS Education and Training team**, in collaboration with our partner organisations, will reschedule all group training sessions and forums due to be delivered over the next four weeks.

Whilst the international and local situation rapidly evolves and as new information about COVID-19 comes forward, the Board and the Executive Management team, together with the family violence sector will continue to develop and update plans in response to emerging scenarios.

We will continue to provide you with regular communications and updates to these plans as they unfold.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Billings

Interim CEO