



PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**BARWON CENTRE AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT  
TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY – PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN FORUM 2015**

Disrespect for women lies at the heart of domestic violence and gender inequality is one of the reasons that we don't show women the respect that we should.

Australia requires a seismic cultural shift if we are to stop violence against women and their children.

One of the first steps is to change our attitudes towards women and to stop blaming them for the violence that they experience.

We must also stop excusing men and diminishing the severity and the long-lasting effects of this violence.

Every Australian has the responsibility to change that attitude—in their homes, in their workplace, in their school.

Together, we can make our community a safer, better place for women and their families.

I wish everyone a productive forum and I thank the Barwon Centre for its commitment to preventing and eliminating violence against women.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Turnbull'.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

20 November 2015