

# TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## 2016 Summary of Achievements

2016 was a big year for the Luke Batty Foundation and our supporters, who are the critical mass to our vision of all Australians being engaged in ending violence against women and children.

### Never Alone now has over 70,000 members

In 2016 we utilised this powerful collective voice to actively seek systemic change within the family law court. In partnership with Women's Legal Services Australia, we campaigned for the five step plan to create a family law system that puts our kids first. A particular focus was to stop the ability of perpetrators to cross examine victims in the family court not only causing further trauma but potentially impeding evidence and leading to bad decisions that put children at risk.

On June 20, Luke's birthday, 21,000 Never Alone signatures were presented to the Minister for Women - Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, the Shadow Minister - Senator Claire Moore and the Greens Leader - Senator Richard Di Natale. We are thrilled to report that following the December 2016 COAG meeting, the Commonwealth has released a public consultation paper and Exposure Draft Bill in relation to proposed amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) that would in part respond to family violence.

### Intervening early

Rosie has not lost sight of a key message echoed by many during her travels - that we must focus our efforts on the start of the problem. A recent survey commissioned by Our Watch showed:

- 1 in 3 young people don't think that exerting control over someone else is a form of violence
- 1 in 4 young people think it's pretty normal for guys to pressure girls into sex
- 1 in 4 young people don't think it's serious if a guy, who's normally gentle, sometimes slaps his girlfriend when he's drunk and they're arguing

In 2015, a petition of 13,000 Never Alone signatories was presented to the then Prime Minister Tony Abbott at the COAG meeting in Sydney, calling for a national and comprehensive program of teaching respectful relationships in schools.

In 2016 we formalised a partnership with Our Watch to develop and trial a respectful relationships education program in an effort to foster positive attitudes and behaviours in all students. We are excited by the potential of this partnership and remain committed to tackling the problem at its core and empowering children to affect change.

## The power of Rosie!

Rosie inspires people in communities all over the country and continues to amaze many, including our team at the Foundation. In 2016 Rosie continued to take a leading role in the National debate on family violence - raising awareness, speaking out and supporting organisations and individuals across all parts of the continent. She was a keynote speaker on more than 150 occasions, lent her personal support and name to countless organisations and campaigns, and was instrumental to major reforms including the system-changing 227 recommendations from the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence. Through Rosie the Foundation has been keen to strategically target areas where change can maximise safety for women and children and ensure that more vulnerable communities are not forgotten. This is why Rosie has targeted education and health, both settings and professionals, the legal profession and Aboriginal communities, particularly those in remote areas.

Rosie's courage and ongoing work through the Foundation is so significant that associated rises in the instances of women and children fleeing family violence is becoming known as the "Batty effect". Her speaking out and continuing to raise awareness is providing more women with courage to assess their options. This is only effective where there are genuine support options for women and children to utilise. Rosie and the Foundation team are determined to ensure that genuine systemic change occurs to provide necessary resources for these women and children regardless of where people live in Australia. In 2016 there were significant injections of funding across many jurisdictions to improve frontline services and continued work at all levels of government is recognising this necessity. The Luke Batty Foundation continues to play a significant role in advocating for and informing the best use of these funds.



WITH YOUR HELP 2017  
WILL BE BIGGER STILL,  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!

## We all want the same thing

The foundation understands that Rosie's lived experience and expertise provides an avenue and indeed a responsibility for us to amplify events and activities that support the family violence sector more broadly, thus maximising safety of women and children. Social media is providing a powerful medium for this aspect of our work. Our facebook community has grown to over 27,000 followers and Rosie's twitter following continues to grow, raising awareness and promoting education.