We made history yesterday in Victoria.

We saw family violence emerge from the shadows, and be subject to the strongest scrutiny our system of government can provide, the brightest light that we could shine.

After a year of often harrowing testimony, the Royal Commission into Family Violence, a first in Australia, handed down its findings.

It's a hefty report in every respect: the six volumes weigh in at nearly five kilograms, with hundreds of pages and 227 recommendations focused on women, children, men, services, police, courts, the health and education systems.

It will take a long time to fully digest all that it discusses and recommends.

But the message is clear. The royal commission has mapped the devastating impact of family violence, the failure of our community and our governments to properly address it over many decades, and the need to put it front and centre of all our policies and, importantly, our Budget priorities.

It provides the opportunity to make an extraordinary difference for tens of thousands of women and children in Victoria.

As Premier Daniel Andrews said, we could fill the MCG each and every year with just those women and children who report the violence they experience, and we know there are countless others still unable to reach out for help. The royal commissioners have examined every aspect of the system and listened to the women who sought refuge in it.

Their conclusion is that all parts of the system — support services, police, courts — are overwhelmed by the number of family violence incidents reported. That our system currently expects women to leave their homes when violence occurs, but often gives them nowhere to go. That efforts to hold perpetrators to account are grossly inadequate. Their report makes many recommendations to fix these concerns and many others.

It says we don't need to throw all we know up in the air and start from scratch — there is much that we have to work with.

But there is so much more we can do and it must be a top priority. It says if the government can't find enough funding in the Budget, then it may have to look for new sources or redirect money from existing spending. So far, it says, family violence has been invisible not just in the community but in the state's Budget.

We are very pleased the report recommends funding to family violence services be explicitly included in the state Budget. As the Premier said yesterday, the historical pattern of "boom and bust" funding will no longer continue.

Finally these vital services will have secure funding and the report recommends that, for the first time, research be done to forecast demand so funding is in line with the number of people seeking support from these essential services.

This an amazing outcome. The commissioners have recognised the urgent need for housing for women and children leaving family violence, as well as the need to support women to stay safely in their own homes when they choose to.

The Premier's promise of a "blitz on housing" is fantastic news — it will take something beyond the ordinary to address the crisis in affordable, safe housing that stops so many women leaving violence.

Recommendations to improve the often exhausting, confusing and intimidating experience of women in the court process are vital and urgent.

While the family violence system has rightly always focused on the safety of women and children, this has meant that for far too long the perpetrators of violence have slipped under the radar.

They've remained in the family home, used the courts to continually put emotional and financial pressure on women on custody issues, and routinely breached intervention orders.

The commissioners have begun the process of changing this, in the way police, services and courts work.

They have identified the need for more men's behaviour change programs but recognise that much work and investment must go into finding out what works and why, and developing standards so programs across the state are the best they can be.

Change won't come overnight. Much work is required but this is the dawn of a new day in Victoria.

Much credit goes to the leadership shown by Premier Andrews and his government, which has promised to implement every recommendation.

But this moment has come because of the work of many people, not least brave women like Rosie Batty, and everyone who has worked so hard, including media like the Herald Sun, to change the way we think about family violence and to make sure it is no longer hidden.

Let's not lose that momentum.

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