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MEDIA RELEASE

inTouch congratulates Chair on induction into Victorian Honour Roll of Women

The Chair of inTouch's Board of Directors, Ms Faye Spiteri, was today inducted into the 2019 Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Ms Spiteri was acknowledged for her compassion and drive to create social change.

Ms Michal Morris, inTouch Chief Executive Officer, said that they were inspired by Ms Spiteri's enormous impact on the community that they decided to nominate her for the Honour Roll.

'We felt strongly that Faye's achievements needed to be recognised and celebrated. She has worked in many areas, from her role as the first female President of Fronditha Care, an aged-care provider for the Greek Australian community, to working on social behavioural change campaigns. Faye is a strong, passionate woman who really knows how to make an impact - we can all take some inspiration from that,' said Ms Morris.

Ms Morris congratulated Ms Spiteri and said she has played a critical role in transforming inTouch as a leading voice for culturally diverse communities experiencing family violence.

'inTouch would not be in the position we are in today without Faye's commitment to helping migrant and refugee women experiencing family violence. Under Faye's 10-year leadership, our organisation has grown from four employees to over 50 bilingual and bicultural staff. Faye's vision has driven inTouch to open our own legal centre as part of the services we provide and to create inSpire - a fund to help women rebuild their lives after moving on from family violence. These are just two of the great initiatives she has led,' said Ms Morris.

Ms Spiteri was delighted and humbled following the announcement. 'I am truly honoured to be joining the Honour Roll of amazing and inspiring women. To be acknowledged on International Women's Day is quite fitting – I believe we all have a role to play in empowering women to reach their full potential', said Ms Spiteri.

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For media inquiries, contact Sonia Morabito, Communications Coordinator, on 03 9413 6568 or email soniam@intouch.org.au or contact CEO, Ms Michal Morris, on 0409 161 758.

inTouch is the only accredited family violence service in Australia specialising in culturally tailored support for both victim-survivors and perpetrators. For over 35 years, inTouch has assisted more than 18,000 women from refugee and migrant backgrounds whose lives are devastated by family violence.

To find out more about the Victorian Honour Roll of Women program visit vic.gov.au

Faye Spiteri

Victorian Honour Roll of Women biography



Faye Spiteri is a woman on a mission – a mission to create social change. As a passionate advocate for social justice, she has been committed to giving voice to the most vulnerable people in the community.

Faye is an accomplished strategist with extensive experience in leadership roles, such as her position as the first female president of Fronditha Care, an aged-care provider for the Greek Australian community. Through clear vision and purpose, she has led organisations to improve governance and financial performance and developed award-winning social behavioural change campaigns.

She has been recognised for her leadership in driving social change – awarded the 2001 Victorian Premier’s Award for her role overseeing the introduction of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 legislation and accompanying education campaign. But she is most proud of the role she has played in changing the lives of women and children who have found themselves victims of family violence.

As an ardent proponent of human rights and gender equity, Faye has championed the cause for women to live free from violence. Within a decade as Chair of inTouch, she has led a dedicated team to transform

the organisation, a centre for victims of family violence, from a small crisis support service with four employees and a single telephone to a multidisciplinary centre offering a range of client-centred services across the spectrum from prevention to recovery. Today, inTouch is a leading provider of culturally centred care, employing over 50 bilingual and bicultural staff and managing an operating budget of over \$6 million.

Faye's vision and passion to take inTouch to the next level was driven by her desire to ensure women from culturally and religiously diverse backgrounds have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Faye Spiteri's compassion and leadership have ultimately resulted in positive change for thousands of Australian migrant and refugee women, children and families.