

New Discussion Paper released Nov 2013

Justice or Judgement? The impact of Victorian homicide law reforms on responses to women who kill intimate partners

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DVRCV's latest Discussion Paper, written in collaboration with Monash University and funded by the Victorian Women's Trust, examines whether reforms to homicide laws in Victoria have improved legal responses to women who kill abusive intimate partners.

The research provides a detailed analysis of court transcripts in seven cases of women who have killed their intimate partners or ex-partners since the reforms were introduced.

The analysis shows that family violence is still receiving only limited recognition in cases of women who kill, and very few women succeed in arguing that they acted in self-defence. The paper also highlights the continued need to retain defensive homicide as a 'safety net' partial defence for women.



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