Australian of the Year Rosie Batty has helped launch a new domestic violence app, designed to help young women.

**ALGWA NSW supports Rosie Batty in her campaign against domestic violence.**

Violent relationships aren't limited to black eyes so it's vital women are empowered to deal with psychological abuse as well, Australian of the Year Rosie Batty says.

Ms Batty, who became an anti-domestic violence campaigner after her 11-year-old son Luke was murdered by his father a year ago, has helped launch a revolutionary app for young women.

Doncare's iMatter app, unveiled on Valentine's Day, is designed to empower young women and help them understand the warning signs of abusive and controlling relationships.

Ms Batty says the app will help educate women about different forms of domestic violence, increase awareness and support them to make safe choices.

"I think throughout our communities, at any age, we're learning it's not just about physical violence," she told reporters on Saturday.

"Violence is also psychological, which includes verbal. It's not just about wearing a black eye and physical harm, it's far more complex than that."

Ms Batty said she was aged 40 when she realised it wasn't her fault.

Research shows 22 per cent of girls under 20 have experienced dating violence.

The interactive iMatter app is also aimed at promoting self-esteem, and conversations between young people about healthy relationship behaviour.

"If you're approaching a relationship when you have no self esteem you're most likely to enter into a toxic relationship," Ms Batty said. "It will not get better, it will wear you down and will reduce you to a very low point."

The app, which includes images, clips, quizzes and articles, is now live. It enables users to share and save content and use the app as a journal.

Doncare clinical director Carmel O'Brien said it was like driving lessons for relationships.

"We hear again and again from young people that they are putting up with things in relationships that are really very disrespectful and sometimes frightening," she said.

**Source:** AAP 14 FEB 2015

**ALGWA NSW supports councils which provide paid leave for employees who suffer domestic violence.**

Two Local Government Councils have led the way.

In September 2010 the first Australian family violence clauses were incorporated into the enterprise agreement between the [Victorian Surf Coast Shire Council](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au) and the Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities and Services Branch. These provide world’s best practice with up to twenty day extra paid leave for reasons of family violence. In December 2010 the [City of Sydney Council](http://www.sydney.nsw.gov.au) adopted the clauses as policy including 20 days leave.

**What positive steps is your Council taking to assist employees suffering domestic violence?**

Unions are pushing to give millions of Australian workers the right to access domestic violence leave. ACTU President Ged Kearney said paid domestic violence leave is designed to support victims of domestic violence and help them to keep their job.

"Having access to domestic violence leave means victims have time to attend court appearances and related appointments, seek legal advice and make relocation arrangements."

Over 1.6 million employees now have access to paid domestic violence leave in union negotiated workplace agreements.

Ms Kearney said extending this to all modern awards will provide a safety net for millions of workers. The ACTU claim for domestic violence leave will be lodged in the Fair Work Commission on Tuesday, 28 October as part of the review of Modern Awards currently underway.

**Source:** ACTU Media Release 28 October, 2014