

Full Stop Australia Response to Women's Safety Budget.

Full Stop Australia welcomes the Federal Budget 2022 with a focus on supporting sexual, domestic and family violence survivors from crisis through to recovery but says more needs to be invested to address gender inequality.

Immediate Release – 30 March 2022

The Federal Budget 2022 handed down last night saw the Morrison Government commit an approximate \$500 million per annum (or \$2.5 billion over 5 years) to the first Action Plan of the pending National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan).

Investment was seen across the four pillars of the National Plan - prevention, early intervention, response and recovery, and included a newfound focus on sexual violence prevention and response, particularly for children and young people.

Full Stop Australia CEO, Hayley Foster, welcomed the additional investment aimed at putting a full stop to sexual, domestic and family violence, notwithstanding it falling short of the [\\$1 billion called for](#), stating that Full Stop Australia had been advocating for an [increased focus on sexual violence, young people](#), and a [national framework to support survivors from crisis through to recovery](#).

"It is pleasing to see a recognition of the need for recovery and healing for survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence," Hayley Foster said.

"Full Stop Australia has been advocating for increased investment not only to support survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence in the moment of crisis, but also to provide the [integrated trauma specialist care they need for recovery and healing](#)."

"And we're particularly pleased to see a commitment to better integrate the National Framework for protecting Australia's Children and the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Their Children so as to improve prevention and responses to children impacted by violence, abuse and neglect."

Ms Foster noted other important inclusions in the Government's women's safety package, such as the [expansion of the family violence case management pilot](#) in the Federal Circuit

www.fullstop.org.au

P 02 8585 0333 F 02 9555 5911
PO Box 555 Drummoyne NSW
2047

ABN 58 023 656 939

We acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

and Family Court of Australia to increase safety in family law, and the investment in measures to [support victim-survivors to stay safe at home](#) rather than being forced to flee.

"For far too long, we have placed the burden on victim-survivors of violence and abuse, including children, to flee into the night with a garbage bag over their shoulder to seek refuge, and start over."

"Where possible, we have to change that assumption, and shift our default, so that it is the responsibility of the person who uses violence and abuse to find alternative accommodation."

There is also an ongoing commitment to continue the Escaping Violence Payment to support victim-survivors of violence and abuse to leave the abusive relationship, although it is noted that there are still problems with victim-survivors obtaining [timely access](#) to these emergency funds, which Full Stop Australia understand are being resolved.

Offsetting these positive initiatives, Ms Foster noted concern at the lack of investment in measures which would substantively address gender inequality, known to be the [primary driver of sexual, domestic and family violence](#), alongside rigid, stereotypical ideas about gender roles and expectations.

"More needs to be done by the Federal Government to address gender inequality. With [Australia falling from 12th to 70th in the world for women's economic participation and opportunity in the last 14 years](#), we were really hoping to see bold action to address the wage gap, accessibility of childcare, superannuation deficiencies, protection from sexual harassment at work, and social and affordable housing for women."

On this last measure alone, Full Stop Australia had joined forces with [Are Media](#) and a number of other women's safety advocacy organisations to call for a [\\$7.6 billion investment over 4 years to address the nation's crisis of women's homelessness](#) with close to 50,000 women facing homelessness in Australia every night.

"These are the kinds of measures we need to see, alongside those [announced by the Government to address problematic violence supportive behaviours](#), if we really want to achieve a substantial reduction in violence against women and children in this country" said Ms Foster.

"As always, it comes down to competing priorities."

MEDIA: Meagan Prabhakar | 0406 065 012 | media@fullstop.org.au

Call 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578) or chat online at www.fullstop.org.au with our trauma-specialist counsellors who are available 24/7.

Full Stop Australia is national organisation committed to putting a full stop to sexual, domestic and family violence through support, training, and advocacy. Find out more here: www.fullstop.org.au