

Full Stop Australia concerned sexual violence services have been forgotten in NSW under National Partnership Agreement.

Sexual violence services in NSW have received no allocated funding, despite National Partnership agreement to deliver \$260million for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Full Stop Australia is calling for a review of the NSW Government's delivery of the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence following revelations that no funding has been given to sexual violence services.

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence, \$260 million was allocated to the NSW Government to boost the capacity of "NSW Crisis hotlines to meet increased demand."¹

The first installment of the National Partnership of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence was received by the NSW Government on 7 January 2022² however no funding has been allocated to NSW sexual violence services.

Full Stop Australia chief executive officer, Hayley Foster, said that the failure to prioritise sexual violence services in NSW is unacceptable.

"Under the National Partnership Agreement frontline sexual violence services in NSW were meant to share in \$260 million and yet none of this funding has been allocated to the state-wide 24/7 helpline," Ms Foster said.

"It is extremely concerning that the NSW Government has removed all reference to sexual violence when referring to the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence."³

¹ Media Release: "Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission to provide national leadership and accountability", 23 November 2021 <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/7771>

² Media Release: "Funding Boost for Frontline Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, 7 January 2022 <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/7911>

³ Media Release: "\$20 million to boost support for domestic violence victim-survivors," 25 Nov2021 <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/2021/-20-million-to-boost-support-for-domestic-violence-victim-surviv.html>

“Sexual violence frontline services have been forgotten in NSW.”

During a Budget Estimates hearing last week, the NSW Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Natalie Ward [said she had no idea if any of the money had gone to sexual violence services or not.](#)

Ms Ward added the sexual violence survivor helpline was funded by NSW Health as part of its general responsibility of funding sexual assault services.

Full Stop Australia is now meeting with the NSW Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard tomorrow.

This comes after Full Stop Australia revealed that one-in-three calls to the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline (formerly NSW Rape Crisis) go unanswered due to lack of funding.

Reporting of sexual violence has increased in NSW by more than 70% in the last 10 years (BOSCAR 2011/2021) and yet an increase in funding for the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline has not been received in over a decade.

“Despite reported assaults increasing by over 70% in the last decade⁴ the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline (formerly NSW Rape Crisis) has not received an increase in funding for over 10 years,” Ms Foster said.

“The NSW Sexual Violence Helpline is not a luxury – it is an essential service.”

Full Australia has established an online campaign, which allows supporters to send an email backing the cause to their local Member of Parliament via this link:

<https://fullstopaustralia.good.do/nswsexualviolencehelpline/nsw-sexualassault-helpline/>

⁴ BOSCAR (2011/2021)