

# National Survivor Advocate Program: FAQ.

We understand there is a lot of interest in our National Survivor Advocate Program. Please see some answers below on the program's role and how it differs from other initiatives.

## What is the National Survivor Advocate Program?

Our intention for the program is to provide a range of supports to survivor-led projects and advocacy efforts, including legal support, media training/advice, promotion, professional services, and counselling services. It will also provide opportunities for people with lived experience to have their say in the policy, practice and law reform work of Full Stop Australia.

## How is it funded?

The program has been principally funded by a philanthropic donor which allows us to employ a project worker with lived experience and afford honorariums to each of the advisory group members. This is also supplemented by community donations.

## What is the national advisory group?

The national advisory group will help guide and support the project officer. They will also provide recommendations on Full Stop Australia's policy, practice, and law reform activities. The national advisory group will be selected through an Expression of Interest process after the program objectives are finalised.

## Why are we using an Expression of Interest (EOI) process?

We want the national advisory group to be as diverse as possible, including people from geographically and culturally diverse backgrounds with experience of sexual, domestic and/or family violence in a range of settings. An EOI process will facilitate this diversity whilst also allowing for equal opportunity.

### **Is this a survivor-led peak?**

The program will not be a peak or any other form of member-based agency. It is intended that it will operate as a contact list whereby each engagement occurs on an opt-in basis. There will also be opportunities for anyone involved to have input into Full Stop Australia's advocacy priorities through the national advisory group's recommendations, as well as through surveys and other forms of direct communication with people with lived experience on the contact list. The program will also offer supports to independent survivor-led advocacy initiatives.

### **Will this program report to government?**

The program will not involve a direct advisory group that reports to government. It will involve an advisory group that guides Full Stop Australia's work.

### **When did this idea originate?**

Full Stop Australia already engages in this work with several groups and many more individuals. The program was inspired by the Our Watch Voices for Change program and Women's Safety NSW Women's Safety Advocate Program but has been adapted in response to feedback from people involved in these programs as to how they could be enhanced, such as by providing trauma specialist counselling support and practical supports for survivor-led initiatives. With philanthropic support, we will be able to employ a project officer with lived experience to coordinate the program. Examples of the types of supports we provide include helping with organising events, providing opportunities to provide input into our policy and law reform submissions, providing opportunities to speak to the media to advocate for change, the provision of resources, the creation of trauma-informed spaces, the provision of trauma specialist counselling and group supervision, introductions to decision-makers, advocacy with organisational contacts, linking of pro bono services, and general guidance.

### **How will this program work with existing survivor-led initiatives?**

The program will aim to compliment, work alongside and support survivor-led initiatives that are in line with Full Stop Australia's objectives of putting a full stop to sexual, domestic and family violence and that operate in accordance with our organisational values and philosophies. We strongly believe that collaboration and cooperation is needed to bring about impactful change.

**People interested in being a part of the National Survivor Advocate Program can email [livedexpertise@fullstop.org.au](mailto:livedexpertise@fullstop.org.au)**

**[www.fullstop.org.au](http://www.fullstop.org.au)**

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**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.**