



The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Friday 23 April 2021

Dear Premier

Re: The NSW Women's Alliance Nine-Point Plan to Address Sexual Violence

The NSW Women's Alliance represents peak organisations and state-wide specialist service providers that work to prevent and respond to sexual, domestic and family violence. Our objective is to ensure that everyone is safe to live, work and learn free from violence.

We work with women, children, young people and families impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence, inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, sexuality and gender diverse people (LGBTQA+) people, and people of all ages, cultures, languages, religions, ability, and socio-economic and health status. We call for the Nine-Point Plan to be implemented in a manner which is accessible to all.

The NSW Women's Alliance seeks a meeting with you to discuss the need for urgent reform to address sexual violence in NSW. The **NSW Women's Alliance's Nine-Point Plan to Address Sexual Violence** are our key recommendations for action by the NSW Government.

NSW Women's Alliance Nine-Point Plan to Address Sexual Violence

- 1. Introduce affirmative consent laws in NSW.**
- 2. Introduce changes to evidence and procedural law to make the court process more accessible, safer, and trauma-informed for adult sexual assault complainants.**
- 3. Better recognise sexual assault in the context of domestic and family violence in our laws, including introducing jury directions on domestic violence.**
- 4. Develop a model for the practical implementation of court specialisation for matters involving domestic, family and sexual violence in NSW, including attached support services for victim-survivors and offenders.**
- 5. Fund sexual assault case management teams to operate out of currently funded domestic and family violence specialist services, and supports for young offenders.**
- 6. Fund independent legal representation for sexual assault complainants in criminal trials.**
- 7. Introduce mandatory reporting and systematic audits of sexual assault complaints in aged and disability care settings, and develop a trauma specialist, survivor-led response to disclosures.**
- 8. Fund a comprehensive, whole-of-community primary prevention strategy for NSW, in line with the national framework *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia*, including a roll out of whole-of-school community education on consent.**

9. **Examine alternative pathways to supplement the criminal justice system in holding perpetrators to account and delivering justice for victim-survivors, noting that the overwhelming majority of victim-survivors of sexual assault do not want to report to police or engage in current court processes but do want access to justice.**

These recommendations have come from our members – frontline specialist domestic and family violence services who work with victim-survivors of sexual violence on a daily basis. Frontline specialists are calling on the NSW Government to act.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss **the NSW Women's Alliance Nine-Point Plan to Address Sexual Violence** in detail. Please contact Ms Delia Donovan, CEO, Domestic Violence NSW, 0400 936 192, ceo@dvnsw.org.au, to arrange a time convenient to you.

Sincerely



Delia Donovan
CEO, Domestic Violence NSW (on behalf of the NSW Women's Alliance)

NSW Women's Alliance

- Domestic Violence NSW
- Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia
- ACON
- Immigrant Women's Health Service
- Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW
- Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation
- Muslim Women Australia
- NCOSS
- No to Violence
- Older Women's Network NSW
- People With Disability Australia (NSW)
- Women's Safety NSW
- Women's Legal Service NSW
- Women's Health NSW
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service