

PUTTING A FULL STOP TO SEXUAL, DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE.

📞 1800 FULL STOP
1800 385 578
💬 fullstop.org.au

Full Stop Australia seeks investment for sexual violence response in NSW 2025-26 budget.

Date: 9 January 2025

Notes to Editors: Please use “Full Stop Australia” (full name) when referring to the organisation in a media story. The contents of this press release can be used as quotes attributable to Full Stop Australia Director of Clinical and Client Services, Tara Hunter.

Full Stop Australia is calling on the New South Wales Government to increase its investment in response to the escalating crisis of sexual violence in the state. Full Stop Australia has submitted a [compelling proposal](#) to the NSW Government for the 2025-26 budget, titled **‘Investing in Safety.’**

Full Stop Australia’s submission calls for:

1. The development of a Sexual Violence Justice Navigators pilot that includes dedicated support people who assist victim-survivors of sexual violence to navigate the justice system, make informed choices between justice options, and access key services.
2. A place-based approach to addressing sexual violence by rolling out targeted ‘Good Night Out’ training for nightlife venues in Sydney’s CBD

In 2024 BOCSAR revealed a 42% increase in reported sexual assaults in NSW over the past five years and in the year leading up to September 2024, one in four reported sexual offences in NSW occurred within licensed venues in Sydney's CBD. Despite this increase in incident reporting, the path to justice for victim-survivors remains fraught with challenges, as underscored by BOCSAR's May 2024 report on attrition of sexual violence in NSW courts and the damning rate of conviction for these serious crimes.

Director of Clinical and Client Services, Tara Hunter, said *“sexual violence remains an insidious and far too common form of abuse. We know that there are ongoing challenges for victim-survivors impacted by sexual assault and rape navigating through our systems. There remains little accountability for perpetrators and limited justice for victim-survivors.”*

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Sexual violence is a pervasive and worsening problem for NSW, the costs of which are severe and far-reaching, these include:

- Mental health impacts and increased risk of suicidality,
- Strain on families, relationships and community cohesion,
- Cost of attrition and discontinued prosecution,
- Eroding community trust in legal processes,
- Preventable health care expenses and,
- Reduced workforce participation.

Full Stop Australia has been working on the frontlines of sexual violence in NSW for over 50 years, delivering the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline (1800 424 017). We remain committed to ensuring that adequate resources are made available to meet growing demand and support the diverse needs of victim-survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

Investing in nightlife safety and Sexual Violence Justice Navigators will help protect individuals from sexual violence, provide better support to victim survivors, and overall, create a safer, more inclusive community.

The need for urgent, transformative change to combat sexual violence is clear, and these investments are essential to building a society where everyone can feel safe, supported, and empowered to access services.

The NSW Sexual Violence Helpline is available to anyone in NSW impacted by sexual violence. Call 1800 424 017.

1800 FULL STOP is available to anyone in Australia impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence. Call 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578).

END

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