

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

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## Consistent Upward trend in NSW Sexual Assault Reports: Time to Focus on Accountability and Justice for Victim-Survivors

Date: 13 June 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 CEO, Karen Bevan.

Yet again, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) [figures released this week](#) show that sexual assault reports in NSW increased in the two years leading to March 2025. Reported sexual assaults increased by 6.4% since March 2023, with BOCSAR identifying a statistically significant rise in Greater Sydney, having seen a 9.8% spike.

This new data sits amongst a crowd of statistics highlighting the problematic rise of sexual assault - nationally, recorded sexual assault have reached a 31-year high according to ABS data released this time last year.

*“Sexual violence in NSW is more serious than even these rising numbers suggest. Most sexual violence is never reported – fewer than 10% of victim survivors report to police, so they aren’t represented in this data. We need to grapple with the true scale of this issue and act urgently to increase our prevention efforts, adequately resource for specialist sexual violence support services and take bold steps to improve access to justice for victim-survivors and increase accountability for those who commit these crimes.”* said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

While overall reporting remains low due to an array of complex barriers, online reporting of sexual assault in NSW has surged with 22.8% of all sexual assault reports in the year to March 2025 made using the online Sexual Assault Reporting Option (SARO). These numbers show that traditional pathways to reporting and justice for sexual violence do not provide safe, accessible and trauma-informed approaches.

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Full Stop Australia has put a pre-budget submission to the NSW Government for a pilot program of Sexual Violence Justice Navigators to improve the experience of victim-survivors whose cases do make it into the justice system (about 15% of reported all sexual assaults).

*“Sexual Violence navigators were recommended by the recent Australian Law Reform Commission Report into the experience of victim survivors in the justice system which found that in every jurisdiction in Australia the justice system is broken – it fails to deliver justice and accountability for sexual assault and often harms inflicts further harm during the process through poor system design, embedded attitudes about sexual assault and re-traumatising process. We await a response from the NSW government.” Bevan said.*

Justice Navigators are dedicated specialist support workers who assist victim-survivors of sexual violence to navigate the justice system, make informed choices between justice options, and access key services. Justice Navigators would help address disproportionately low reporting rates for sexual violence, as well as high attrition rates from the justice system and poor experiences among victim-survivors who engage with that system.

*“Adequately resourced trauma-specialist support is vital to reduce the impacts of trauma that victim-survivors experience in the legal system and address at least some of the many barriers to reporting” said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.*

Full Stop Australia operates the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline. Free and 24/7 trauma-specialist counselling is available to anyone in NSW impacted by sexual violence. Call 1800 424 017.

If you're not in NSW, anyone across Australia impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence can call 1800 FULLSTOP (1800 385 578).

**END**

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