

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

 **1800 FULL STOP**  
1800 385 578  
 **fullstop.org.au**

## Underfunding for sexual, domestic and family violence sector comes at a grave cost.

Date: 26 March 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.

The Government's budget papers show plenty of self-belief that they have done enough to address the national emergency of sexual, domestic and family violence. Full Stop Australia disagrees.

The budget includes a raft of previously announced measures, some of which promise progress on strategies outlined in the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children. But it's not nearly enough.

“This budget is about cost of living but leaves much to be desired. The budget lacks badly needed new investment to address the serious cost of living with violence, which is largely borne by Australian women and children. There is nowhere near enough investment to address the growing strain on the sexual, domestic and family violence sector.” said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

We know that the national crisis of sexual, domestic and family violence—which was finally acknowledged by the Prime Minister last year—has increased demand for support from specialist sexual, domestic and family violence services. Full Stop Australia's national trauma-specialist counselling service for people impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence, 1800 FULL STOP, saw a 63% increase in demand last year.

1800 FULL STOP is funded by donations and corporate partnerships. A significant portion of the demand increase is a result of referrals from government-funded services also under pressure due to demand. We sought a contribution from government in this service—but so far, the government has not shown interest in supporting this vital work.

Calls to increase Job Seeker and income support payments beyond routine indexation were also denied. Our colleagues at ACOSS described this decision as ‘more dollars for everyone except those with the least’ — we agree. This will impact victim-survivors of domestic and family violence—with recent research by Dr Anne Summers finding that women subjected to domestic violence have worse workforce participation outcomes than others.

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We acknowledge that investments in women's health and early childhood education, as well as pay increases in the highly feminised aged-care workforce, positively contribute to broader gender equality.

The budget contains some previously announced investments in important initiatives—including Leaving Violence Payments and funding for frontline legal services—which Full Stop Australia has previously expressed support for. But the lack of new investment in frontline services that support people impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence remains a stark gap in the latest budget.

Without a holistic approach and investment that meets urgent and overwhelming demand, the sector risks ongoing overwhelm.

Full Stop Australia calls for:

- Significant increases in resources for trauma-specialist support services responding to domestic, family and sexual violence, including our unfunded national service, 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578).
- A major focus on healing and recovery services, including substantial investment in healing and recovery from sexual violence.
- Development of a national workforce strategy to underpin strategic growth in domestic and family violence, and specialist sexual violence workforces.

Free, 24/7, trauma-specialist counselling is available to anyone in Australia who has been impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence. Call 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578).

**END**

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