

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

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

NSW Budget 'Focused on the Future' Risks Leaving Victim-Survivors Behind, Today.

Date: 25 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.

The NSW Government's budget papers reflect a misplaced confidence that current efforts are sufficient to address the escalating crisis of sexual, domestic, and family violence in NSW.

"Frontline services continue to be at capacity across the sexual, domestic and family violence sector, and demand continues to grow. This means that on the ground, women and children particularly are at risk of missing out on life saving response services." said CEO, Karen Bevan

Full Stop Australia welcomes several initiatives announced by the NSW government, but fundamentally until frontline services can respond to the level of demand we know is out there, NSW remains in a crisis that doesn't have an end.

"The future will look a lot like the current situation until we see real investment into frontline services such as domestic violence refuges and community outreach and specialist sexual violence services." Bevan said.

There is a significant increase in the funding for the Victims Support Scheme, which we welcome. We hope this will increase timely and appropriate access for people impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence to critical counselling and recovery services.

Other major announcements in this area focus on Justice initiatives provided by government including the Department of Corrections, the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions and the development of a new 'Vulnerable Persons Hub' providing a safe environment for 'vulnerable persons' going through court proceedings. These are welcome and provide important support to the small group of SDFV victim-survivors who make

E: info@fullstop.org.au

P: 02 8585 0333 F: 02 9555 5911

PO Box 555, Drummoyne, NSW, 2047

ABN: 58 023 656 939

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reports to Police. For the 8% of sexual assault survivors, and 32% of domestic violence survivors who report to Police, we welcome funding initiatives that make their experiences accessing justice easier.

Full Stop Australia welcomes investment in a Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework, a Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Strategy in NSW and the development of an Aboriginal Domestic Violence Plan. We note that these are funded at levels less than advocates requested but are important first steps.

BOCSAR released more data this month showing increased reports of sexual and domestic violence. Frontline organisations across the state are struggling to meet demand or are being forced to make difficult decisions between equally important priorities.

To be truly “focused on the future” in NSW, we need to meet demand and support all victim-survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence.

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

Media Enquiries
0448 716 265
media@fullstop.org.au

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