

PRESS RELEASE

Full Stop Australia welcomes new sexual violence justice navigators

Full Stop Australia is one of five community organisations selected to deliver the NSW Government's new Sexual Violence Justice System Navigator program and will support victim-survivors across metropolitan Sydney.

This new program is backed by \$4.36 million in Commonwealth funding through the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-2030 Federation Funding Agreement, part of the NSW Government's \$6.2 million Strengthening Sexual Violence Justice Responses package.

Full Stop Australia welcomes the investment and commends the NSW and Australian Governments for funding a role that victim-survivors and the services supporting them have been asking for, a role that was also recommended by the Australian Law Reform Commission.

What a navigator does

A justice system navigator is a specialist worker who stays with a victim-survivor through making informed decisions about reporting, first contact with police, to the end of the court process. They explain the justice options, support people to exercise their rights, deal with police, prosecutors and courts on the victim-survivor's behalf, and connect people to legal, medical, housing and counselling services.

The program announced today follows what Full Stop Australia has been recommending to governments since 2022.

- **November 2022.** *Sexual Violence Criminal Justice Reform Priorities* recommended that all complainants in sexual violence matters have automatic access to court advocacy and case management workers.

Putting a **Full Stop** to sexual, domestic and family violence.



- **June 2024.** Full Stop Australia's submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Inquiry into Justice Responses to Sexual Violence recommended that government "fund access to 'sexual violence system navigators' for all victim-survivors of sexual violence" (Recommendation 3), and that navigators be co-located with police at stations (Recommendation 11). Four of the 11 navigators announced today sit in NSW Police stations, at Fairfield, Belmont, Orange and Nowra.
- **2025-26 NSW Pre-Budget Submission.** *Investing in Safety* costed a Sexual Violence Justice Navigator pilot at \$4.7 million over two years across five local government areas.

The program announced today funds 11 navigators for the whole of New South Wales at \$4.36 million over two years. Full Stop Australia's navigator will cover metropolitan Sydney. NSW Police recorded 13,089 sexual assault incidents across New South Wales in the 12 months to March 2026. In Greater Sydney, where five of the eleven navigators will be based, they recorded 5,880, up from 3,690 five years earlier.

BOCSAR reports that the median trial delay in the New South Wales District Court was 843 days in 2025, up from 834 days in 2024; more than two years and three months.

Quotes attributable to Karen Bevan, CEO, Full Stop Australia

"Victim-survivors of sexual assault want consistent, trauma-informed support, and access to information as they consider their options, make reports and during investigation and court processes. They tell us that the system can make them feel like they are the one on trial. A navigator's job is to walk alongside them and make that experience less traumatic and more supported. In England, where this role has been established for longer, around one in ten victim-survivors with specialist support withdrew or took no further action, compared with one in five of those without it"

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24/7, free and confidential trauma-specialist counselling for anyone in Australia impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence.

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