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Incubator Program Launches: Supporting Survivor-Advocacy.

Date: 28 April 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.

Today Full Stop Australia proudly launches its latest initiative supporting survivoradvocacy, on our mission to put a full stop to sexual, domestic and family violence.

The <u>Survivor-Advocacy Ideas to Action Incubator Program</u>, is a free 8-week program aimed at creating social change by supporting victim-survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence to explore the skills, opportunities and challenges of advocacy.

Full Stop Australia has a 50-year history supporting victim-survivors, having been formed by survivor-advocates and their loved ones in 1974. Today, Full Stop Australia oversees the National Survivor Advocate Program (NSAP). The NSAP provides opportunities for victim-survivors to speak about the issues which matter to them. Their contributions inform the lived expertise driven approach of Full Stop Australia's advocacy work.

"Part of my advocacy journey has been being involved with the National [Survivor-Advocate] Program and getting to do some media training. It was a fantastic opportunity to really learn new skills and to empower me to shape how I tell my story. It's a great one for confidence." said Belinda Casselden, Victim-Survivor Advocate and NSAP Member.

Borne from an idea of Full Stop Australia's NSAP Advisory Group, the Incubator Program provides practical tools that empower victim-survivors to safely drive meaningful change in their communities.

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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The first **pilot round** of the Incubator Program **will commence in June 2025**. The pilot program will offer skill-building workshops, webinars, toolkits, peer connection and coaching opportunities.

Full Stop Australia invites victim-survivors with lived experience of sexual, domestic or family violence, who are based in the <u>Sydney City and Inner South</u> area, to express their interest on our website: <u>fullstop.org.au/incubator</u>.

Expressions of Interest are open now and close on Sunday, May 18th.

Full Stop Australia was able to launch the Incubator Program thanks to funding from the Department of Social Services, under the Strong and Resilient Communities grant program. The grant allows us to deliver the Incubator Program to people based in the <u>Sydney City and Inner South</u> area. The geographical focus is an aspect of Strong and Resilient Communities grants, which aim to support and empower local communities.

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

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