

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

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PRESS RELEASE

Full Stop Australia Welcomes NSW Government Investment in Domestic Violence; Appeals for Additional Support to the Front Lines, and Enhanced Focus on Sexual Violence Response.

Date: 6 May 2024

Notes to Editors: The contents of this press release can be used as quotes attributable to Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

Today's announcement from the NSW Government, following last Friday's State Cabinet meeting, is a good first step and an acknowledgement of the scope of the problem.

Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan, said "There is a lot to celebrate in this package. There has clearly been a reckoning with insufficient past investment in the crisis of men's violence in NSW. We welcome the Government's promise to keep doing the work—and, critically, keep committing much-needed funding—to address this preventable crisis."

Full Stop Australia welcomes the expansion of the Staying Home Leaving Violence program. This provides critical infrastructure and support to allow victim-survivors to stay safely in their homes following violence.

We also welcome the expansion of the Children and Young people's specialist workers program. This is a practical intervention, on the front line, that provides critical early support to child victims of violence. We know the impacts of trauma can be lifelong. Supporting children early is critical to breaking the cycle of violence.

Other announcements in primary prevention and research are very welcome.

The Government has recognised that the announcement today is the first step, and we look forward to continuing to work with Government to increase support and safety for people most at risk. There is more work to do in:

- Addressing sexual violence, and the extreme risk it presents for further violence and lethality. Sexual violence must be better integrated into primary prevention

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and response. The links between domestic and sexual violence are critical and poorly understood. Sexual violence is a well-known risk factor for intimate partner homicide—and yet, responses to domestic violence and sexual violence are too often siloed from each other. We also know that child sexual assault, sexual violence and intimate partner violence are inextricably linked. All prevention and response initiatives need to recognise these links.

- Further investment in frontline sexual, domestic and family violence services. We back in DVNSW's call for a 20% increase in baseline funding for all specialist frontline services.
- Include an enhanced focus on the unique experiences and expertise of Aboriginal women, backed in by funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations doing vital frontline work.
- Specific, targeted funding to support other priority populations—including specialist services that work with migrant and refugee communities and LGBTQ+ communities.
- Better support for surviving family members of domestic and family violence homicide. Government systems can do more to recognise family members as victims in their own right, and support them in their recovery.

The crisis of men's violence needs to be an ongoing focus for the Government. This needs to happen until the violence is entirely eradicated. The immense risks, and immense challenges, victim-survivors face must not be forgotten as soon as the news cycle moves on.

END

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