

## Creating sexually explicit deepfakes is now a crime in NSW

**Date:** 16 Feb 2026

**Note to Editors:** The contents of this press release can be used as quotes attributable to **Full Stop Australia Director of Clinical and Client Services, Tara Hunter**

The Crimes Amendment (Intimate Images and Audio Material) Bill comes into effect today in NSW. The reform criminalises the alteration, production and distribution of sexually explicit intimate images and audio material.

Full Stop Australia supports legislation that reflects the rapidly changing nature of technology facilitated sexual violence. These laws bring NSW in line with other jurisdictions that have legislated it as an offence to create and distribute sexually explicit images.

We advocate for all states and territories to take action to address deepfake abuse and hold perpetrators to account. We also call on the government to ensure that the companies that create these types of products are accountable for maintaining “safety by design” principles and the significant harms that this type of product can create.

Full Stop Australia acknowledges the contributions of survivor-advocates who have hard-fought for action and accountability in this area.

In any form, sexual violence causes significant harm and distress. Perpetrators of gender-based violence are quick to exploit emerging and unregulated technologies such as generative AI. The normalisation of tech-facilitated sexual violence has recently been amplified on a global scale with the release of generative AI tools on a major social media platform, enabling users to manipulate images and produce non-consensual sexually explicit material unchecked.

Tech-facilitated sexual violence disproportionately impacts women and children, with research indicating that victimisation online corresponds to experiencing violence offline. According to a 2021 UNESCO research paper 20% of women who have experienced online violence reported also being attacked offline — [a figure that more than doubled by 2025](#).

*“The impacts our clinical team observes include psychological distress, an ongoing sense of feeling unsafe, shame and humiliation caused by the public exposure amongst family, friends and work colleagues. This harm can really stay with people.”* said Director of Clinical and Client Services at Full Stop Australia, Tara Hunter.

Full Stop Australia welcomes this legislation and calls on governments to ensure there is a commensurate investment in addressing the broader drivers of gender-based violence and

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

**1800 385 578**

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



funding frontline specialist services to ensure they have the skills and capacity to respond to victim-survivors impacted by this crime.

Full Stop Australia is seeking a \$1 million-dollar annual increase in funding for the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline in the upcoming state budget to help us reach out proactively to more victim-survivors of sexual violence. We support the calls by Domestic Violence NSW for a 50% baseline increase in funding for frontline domestic violence services in NSW.

Anyone in NSW impacted by sexual violence can access 24/7, free and confidential trauma-specialist counselling by calling the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline on 1800 424 017 or webchat with our counsellors at [nswsexualviolence.fullstop.org.au](https://nswsexualviolence.fullstop.org.au).

Anyone in Australia impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence can access 24/7, free and confidential trauma-specialist counselling is available by calling 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578) or webchat with our counsellors at [fullstop.org.au](https://fullstop.org.au).

For anyone interested in reporting their experience of this type of abuse, we encourage you to access the resources provided by the eSafety Commissioner: [Report online harm | eSafety Commissioner](#).

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