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1800 FULL STOP 1800 385 578

Full Stop Australia Welcomes Proposed NSW Reforms, Calls for Complimentary Frontline Funding to Meet Demand.

Date: 2 September 2024

Notes to Editors:

- 1. Please use "Full Stop Australia" (full name) when referring to the organisation in a media story.
- 2. The contents of this press release can be used as quotes attributable to Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

Full Stop Australia welcomes proposed reforms set to address the state's growing sexual, domestic and family violence crisis. We are generally supportive of law reform that keeps perpetrators in view and increases their accountability. Law reform that proactively addresses high-risk behaviour is critical, given its correlation with escalation and lethality.

"There is no panacea for addressing sexual, domestic and family violence but reforms such as this do add more tools to the arsenal of response and ultimately prevention." said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

Full Stop Australia particularly supports reforms that broaden the definition of 'stalking' to reflect the increasing prevalence of technology-facilitated tracking and monitoring of victim-survivors. This change would better reflect the reality of tech-facilitated abuse and the harm, distress and danger this causes to victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

Any reforms must be complemented by increased investment in the frontlines of the specialist response sector. An ongoing review of any reforms or new schemes is essential to ensure these efforts are translated into productive action.

"As fast as technological advancements occur, perpetrators develop new and dangerous ways of manipulating technology to intimidate and control victim-survivors." said Karen Bevan.

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"Victim-survivors of serious violence need places to go – they need more support to remain safely at home as well as safe and accessible refuge accommodation. Victimsurvivors need caseworkers who can help them with safety planning, financial planning and rebuilding their lives. They need trauma-specialist, and domestic-violence specialist recovery supports and services" she said.

Free 24/7 trauma-specialist counselling is also available to anyone in Australia who has been impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence. Call 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578).

END

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