

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

📞 1800 FULL STOP
1800 385 578
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PRESS RELEASE.

New reforms herald an evidence-based approach to bail laws, Full Stop Australia advocates for comprehensive protection against sexual violence.

Date: 14 May 2024

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

Full Stop Australia acknowledges that these bail law reforms are in accordance with a large and well-established evidence base. We hope this drives further reform that prioritises the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence.

Karen Bevan, CEO of Full Stop Australia said, *"We are broadly supportive of these changes, which respond to known risks in serious domestic and family violence matters. As the government has recognised, reforming bail laws won't end the sexual, domestic and family violence crisis. But ensuring that bail decisions appropriately prioritise victim-survivor safety, and considers well-established risk factors, is one of many important steps. We commit to continuing to work alongside the government to increase safety and support to victim-survivors of these most heinous crimes."*

These reforms *must* be backed in by increased resourcing of the sexual, domestic and family violence frontline services sector, rapid deployment of housing options, and increases to income and employment supports for people seeking safety.

Full Stop Australia acknowledges and supports the consideration given to sexual violence in these reforms, given that it is a prominent risk factor for, and predictor of, lethality. The addition of rape as an offence to which the 'stay of release' provision applies is a critical and necessary step that will allow the prosecution time to challenge the release of violent and dangerous abusers.

The expansion of offences to which the 'show cause' requirement applies is a critical step in the right direction. We welcome the announcement that serious domestic and family violence offending, and coercive control, will be subject to the requirement to 'show cause' that detention is not justified.

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We encourage the government to include rape as a 'show cause' crime, whether it occurs in an intimate relationship or not. We know that sexual violence also occurs outside of intimate partner settings and would want to see victim-survivors in these cases be afforded equal and necessary protections.

Full Stop Australia remains committed to working with the NSW government, as well as governments in other jurisdictions, to end sexual, domestic and family violence. Full Stop Australia offers a range of free, 24/7, trauma-specialist counselling services to anyone impacted by sexual, domestic and family violence. See available services [here](#).

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