

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

 **1800 FULL STOP**
1800 385 578
 **fullstop.org.au**

NSW Budget Makes Progress but Critical Areas Left off the ‘Must Have’ List.

Date: 18 June 2024

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

The NSW Budget has made some good progress on strategic investment in addressing domestic violence, but overall the response to the crisis of sexual, domestic and family violence does not match the scale and impact of gender-based violence across NSW.

It is disappointing that increases in funding for specialist sexual violence responses, frontline domestic violence refuges and case work support seem to have been left out of the government’s self-described ‘must have’ budget.

Recent research released by BOCSAR showed increased reports of sexual and domestic violence. The testimony of victim-survivors and families who have lost loved ones to domestic violence show us that the need for increased sector capacity and improved system response is non-negotiable.

Frontline organisations across the state are struggling to meet demand or are being forced to make difficult decisions between equally important priorities.

Today is a start. We welcome the expansion of the WDVCS, Staying Home Leaving Violence, investment in prevention and social housing, and additional workforce sector development through DVNSW. Investments to implement bail law reform effectively are critical.

Next, we need the NSW Government to commit to a plan to significantly increase NSW’s investment in addressing this crisis to bring down prevalence rates in sexual, domestic

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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and family violence, stop preventable domestic and family violence homicides and invest in victim-survivors through response, recovery and healing services.

A focus on disproportionately impacted communities, including First Nations communities, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disability and regional communities is also much-needed requirement of this work.

END

Media Enquiries

0448 716 265

media@fullstop.org.au

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