

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

📞 1800 FULL STOP
1800 385 578
💬 fullstop.org.au

Alarming rates of sexual violence perpetration underscore need for commensurate action.

Date: 10 July 2024

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

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released [data](#) examining the rate of self-assessed sexual violence perpetration amongst Australian adults. The report outlines that around 12.5% of respondents (1 in 6 men and 1 in 20 women) had *perpetrated* sexual assault as adults. 'Sexual assault' is used in the AIC report to refer to rape, stealthing, and nonconsensual touching and kissing.

People using sexual violence know that what they are doing is wrong. The data debunks an entrenched myth about sexual violence—that perpetrators do not understand the gravity of their actions. This is why affirmative consent laws are so critical in protecting and supporting victim-survivors. It is important to shift the onus of responsibility for sexual violence onto the people committing it.

Perpetration studies provide an important window into a side of the conversation that is almost never heard. *"Sexual violence is often either invisible or responded to in a vacuum of victimisation. Communities are yet to come to terms with the fact that people, some we know, knowingly perpetrate sexual violence."* Said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

We need a significant increase in attention and support for specialist sexual violence responses as well as targeted and evidence-based prevention programs that shift the norms and beliefs that drive sexual violence and minimise accountability. We need to adequately fund sexual violence prevention, response, recovery and healing.

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Community attitude studies show that while Australians recognise gender-based violence as a problem, it is still commonly seen as someone else's problem. Many Australians view sexual violence as something that exists elsewhere—in other neighbourhoods, workplaces, and communities. This is not the reality.

"We know that at the centre of this epidemic of violence, victim-survivors' experiences tell us what this research confirms. Perpetrators must be held to account for their intentional and purposive use of rape and abuse. We stand with victim-survivors, always." Said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan

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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