

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

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

Full Stop Australia Acknowledges Commissioner Cronin's National Plan Report, Welcomes Focus on Sexual Violence.

Date: 21 August 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 welcomes the acknowledgement by Commissioner for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence that Australia must break the silence on sexual violence and her commitment to prioritise sexual violence in the coming year.

Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Commissioner, Micaela Cronin made the comments while delivering an address to the National Press Club after tabling in parliament a report on the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children.

Commissioner Cronin called out the concerning increase in reports of rape and sexual assault. National rates for reported sexual assaults are at a 31-year high and sexual violence is a risk factor in intimate partner homicide.

Preventing the epidemic of sexual, domestic and family violence requires a holistic approach that is constantly evolving to respond to changing community norms and new risks.

The Commissioner highlighted the particular challenges of the growing exploitation of online environments in gender-based violence. *"Emerging forms of tech-facilitated sexual violence are rapidly increasing, yet legal and systemic responses are lagging behind."* said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

In a year marked by increasing community action on gender-based violence, Commissioner Cronin highlighted the importance of system change, adequate resourcing and keeping a focus on accountability for violence.

The findings of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children released last week highlights the disproportionate impact that sexual, domestic and family violence has on First Nations communities and the failure of systems to respond effectively, truth-telling and autonomy must be front and centre.

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The logo for Full Stop Australia, featuring the text "Full Stop Australia" in white on a purple circular background, which is set against an orange square background.

**Full
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Australia

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The Commissioner's report shows that more resourcing must be made available for evidence-based programs that work with people who use abuse and engage in concerning behaviours, to stop the cycle of violence and address harmful behaviours before they escalate. We know that early intervention is essential if we are going to address the transmission of trauma impacts across generations.

"The priorities of prevention, response and healing cannot be made to compete for inadequate resources. We have to move on all fronts with urgency and commitment" said Full Stop Australia CEO, Karen Bevan.

The sector needs to be adequately resourced to provide trauma- and gender-based violence-informed support so that victim-survivors are given choice about how and when to access specialist trauma-informed services to recover and re-establish their lives.

We continue to call for reform of the criminal justice system so that it better recognises the experiences of victim-survivors and holds perpetrators to account.

Amongst other asks, Full Stop Australia calls for:

- Significant increases in resourcing for national trauma-specialist support services, including 1800 FULLSTOP.
- A major focus on healing and recovery services, including substantial investment in healing and recovery from sexual violence.
- Development of a national workforce strategy to underpin growth in domestic and family violence, and specialist sexual violence workforce.

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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