

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

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

Greater Accountability for Sexual Violence on Campus as National Student Ombudsman Introduced.

Date: 1 February 2025

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

The National Student Ombudsman commences operations this week, putting in place much needed and overdue trauma-informed, timely complaints processes for higher education students subject to and impacted by gender-based violence.

Full Stop Australia welcomes this and commends advocacy groups such as End Rape on Campus Australia and The Stop Campaign for their tireless efforts to achieve this outcome.

Decades of work have gone into shining a light on campus sexual assault and advocating for adequate responses to sexual violence in higher education. In the 1970s Sydney Rape Crisis (now Full Stop Australia) started supporting students on campus with community education activities and in 1980 our targeted phone-in for university students in Sydney resulted in 53 disclosures of sexual violence. For a long time, inaction on sexual assault on campus and victim-survivor safety was the status quo.

Rape and sexual assault on campus and other university settings (such as accommodation and on placement) can lead to serious, lifetime impacts including students leaving university or not completing their course.

Full Stop Australia is calling on the federal and state governments to make sure that victim-survivors who come forward can get access to the support services they need with increased resources to front line services.

"We know that these reforms are hard won and require ongoing investment and awareness to be implemented and effective. Reforms of this magnitude have a ripple effect that increase demand on services like ours. Frontline specialist services need to be better resourced so we can make sure students get the ongoing support they need. What happens when people disclose sets the course for recovery. There is no time to wait." said CEO Karen Bevan.

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In the past students at universities nationwide have faced significant challenges with accessing timely university counselling after rape and sexual assault- this will need to be improved to make sure students and staff get the supports they need.

"We welcome the implementation of this initiative and look forward to working with government, the Ombudsman, the university sector and key NGO's to see this important reform deliver better and safe environments for all students and staff", said CEO Karen Bevan.

The **NSW Sexual Violence Helpline** provides free, trauma-specialist counselling to anyone in NSW impacted by sexual violence. Call 1800 424 017.

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END
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