

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

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

National Cabinet Funding Announcement Must Flow to Sexual Violence Response.

Date: 6 September 2024

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**.

Today’s announcements by the Prime Minister following a meeting of the National Cabinet are welcomed, as are all efforts to address the growing domestic and family violence crisis in Australia.

Whilst the specific details of the funding have not been made available, it is unclear whether sexual violence frontline services will receive a much-needed funding boost. With national sexual assault reports at a 31-year high, it is critical that part of the today’s funding announcement flow through to sexual violence services.

Funding shortfalls mean that services struggle to provide support to every victim-survivor. This barrier to accessing fair and timely justice or specialist support can be solved by government providing adequate funding where it is needed.

“The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this is an emergency, that is progress, but we have a long way to go. This is an issue on par with the cleaner energy transformation, it is as serious to our economy as cost-of-living pressures. We need to make sure we put community safety first.” said Karen Bevan, CEO.

Full Stop Australia welcomes the announcement of new funding for Community Legal Services and a commitment to pay parity. They are an essential component of support for people experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence. Women’s Legal Services are facing growing demand and must see an increase in funding.

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Full Stop Australia welcomes the government's consideration of the recommendations of the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches. By leaning on the expertise of the Expert Panel, the government has addressed issues raised in relation to frontline services, perpetrator accountability, support for children and young people and tackling the impacts of alcohol in exacerbating the impacts of domestic and family violence.

In terms of workforce, we urge federal, state and territory governments to continue working to fill all 500 roles, many of which remain vacant.

We encourage the government to go much further and continue additional investments in the frontline, until service demand is met.

Full Stop Australia continues call for:

- Significant increases in resources for national trauma-specialist support services responding to domestic, family and sexual violence, including our unfunded national service, 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578).
- 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 strategic growth in domestic and family violence, and specialist sexual violence workforces.

Free, 24/7, trauma-specialist counselling is 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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