



10 May 2019

Time to Change the Story to prevent domestic and family violence in NSW

This morning NSW's new Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence Mark Speakman has confirmed that the NSW Government will officially become a member of Our Watch, the national organisation established in 2013 to lead nationwide change in the behaviours that lead to violence against women and children.

Domestic and family violence practitioners, survivor advocates, services and community leaders have long been calling for NSW to become a member of Our Watch. It is one of the key recommendations in the recent NSW Women's Alliance's Safe State election campaign <https://www.safensw.org.au/> and in their 2015-17 report the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team recommended that the government give consideration to joining.

Domestic Violence NSW Chief Executive Moo Baulch said today, "NSW Government's membership of Our Watch will change the way that primary prevention work in the state is coordinated and disseminated. For years we have been calling on NSW politicians and leaders to take this step and we're delighted that the new Minister has listened. Membership is important both symbolically and in a practical sense. All other states and territories have joined and we've been baffled at the resistance from our government to do so."

"There is significant, highly sophisticated primary prevention work already being undertaken in communities across NSW. From Wagga Wagga to the Central Coast to Parramatta, local councils, women's health services, domestic violence services and respectful relationship educators have been collaborating to change attitudes to gender-based violence and tackle the root causes and drivers of this violence at a community level. Today's announcement is a significant step forward for NSW's commitment to evidence-based Primary Prevention. We look forward to continuing to work with the NSW Government, our partners in the NSW Collaboration on Primary Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, NSW communities and Our Watch to coordinate meaningful, generational change across our state".

Our Watch CEO Patty Kinnersly said, "Our Watch's work focuses on evidence-based primary prevention strategies delivered via partnerships to help stop violence before it happens. We've collaborated closely with DVNSW and other key partners in NSW since 2013. Our Watch commends NSW's decision to join nationwide efforts that will ultimately relieve the pressure on the extremely important services that organisations like DVNSW provide to women experiencing violence."

To learn more about DVNSW and Our Watch: <https://www.dvnsw.org.au/what-is-domestic-violence/prevention/>

Available for comment:

Moo Baulch, CEO 0400 936 192

Domestic Violence NSW Inc (DVNSW) is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. DVNSW provides a representative and advocacy function for specialist services and the women, families and communities they support.