

For Immediate Release

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NEW REPORT FROM FEDAL INQUIRY INTO DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE MAKES 88 RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT IT JUST ISN'T ENOUGH

Women's Safety Ministers from across Australia meet today to discuss the next steps in addressing the high prevalence of sexual, domestic and family violence in Australia.

On the agenda will be the 88 recommendations from the report released on the 1st of April 2020¹, based on the Federal Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence. The comprehensive, bi-partisan report was based on the findings of the Inquiry that commenced in June 2020 and received almost 300 submissions.

"Domestic Violence NSW provided a submission and provided evidence at the Inquiry, and welcomes many of the recommendations made in the report that align with [those made by Domestic Violence NSW](#)," says CEO of DVNSW Delia Donovan. "However, we note there are still inadequacies that must be addressed in order to improve the current and future National Plans - in particular, the need for adequate funding to the service sector responding to victim-survivors who have experienced or are experiencing harm."

"This is not enough."

The key recommendations from DVNSW and the 85 services the peak body represents was the need for state and territory governments to increase the baseline funding for specialist family and domestic violence service providers, after the lack of funding and funding certainty was raised by multiple frontline services who gave evidence to the inquiry. "There is also a call for a significant increase in funding with a specific focus on prevention programs," says Ms Donovan.

Significant recommendations DVNSW supported in the report include:

- The need for a universal definition of domestic and family violence
- Continuation of the \$150 million funding injection into services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Implementation of a consistent, whole of system response
- Increased focus on children and young people, acknowledging that they are victims in their own right, and that there should be more research investigating the impact of harm, and the development of specific training for people working with children and young people who have experienced domestic and family violence
- More support to reduce the rate of domestic violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTQI communities with calls for the next National Plan to be more inclusive of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

To achieve the ultimate goal of eradicating family, domestic and sexual violence DVNSW recommends a much stronger focus on prevention programs, particularly those that can be delivered at a grassroots level and a better understanding the causes of violence, which requires significantly increased funding on the issue.

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Domestic Violence NSW 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. Their mission is to eliminate domestic and family violence through leadership in policy, advocacy, partnerships and the promotion of best practice.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence help can be found via:

- **1800RESPECT** or 1800 737 732 which offers a national counselling helpline, information and support
- **NSW Domestic Violence Line** 1800 65 64 63 which offers a state-wide counselling helpline, information and support
- **Men's Referral Service** 1300 766 491 for men, or friends and family of men using violence