

For Immediate Release

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2021/2022 Budget Announcement Falls Short for Women

"If we are to truly address the catastrophic levels of domestic and family violence in our community, we need to see a \$1 billion **year on year** investment. We need to invest in a future where no more women and children are murdered due to domestic and family violence. The Federal Government's investment into women's safety initiatives is positive - but we can't stop here." – Delia Donovan, CEO of Domestic Violence NSW.

This evening, the NSW Treasurer Josh Frydenberg announced the Morrison Government's commitment to invest a further 1.1 billion in women's safety. This includes delivering more emergency accommodation, more legal assistance, more counselling and more financial support, including emergency cash payments.

Additionally, they have committed to improve the family law system to in order to better protect children, give victim-survivors of domestic and family violence greater access to justice and reduce overall time spent in court.

The budget also announced specific measures to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and culturally and linguistically diverse women. A further \$9.3 million was committed over three years for the prevention and response of violence against women and girls with disability.

In context, it is estimated that violence against women costs Australia \$21.7 billion a year, including \$7.8 billion a year in Government spending on health, administration and social welfare costs (Price Waterhouse Cooper, 2015).

It was also announced there will be \$20.5 million dollars to implement the Respect@Work inquiry report that was conducted last year by Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins, with the government accepting a majority of the report's 55 recommendations.

The budget, dubbed 'the women's budget', comes after the Morrison Government faced criticism last year for not doing more to address women's economic security during a global pandemic. It also comes after a turbulent period when the Morrison government's commitment to tackling violence against women and sexual harassment has been less than ideal.

While Domestic Violence NSW acknowledges the increased commitment to the sector and sees this as significant progress, gaps in the response, early intervention and prevention space must be addressed.

“Despite endless advocacy and evidence, the government is still not quite grasping the opportunity to invest in women and ultimately save lives,” says Ms Donovan.

“We have the solutions to respond and to prevent violence against women, we just need to invest in them.”

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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