

# NSW WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release, 6 May 2021**

**NSW Women's Alliance welcomes announcement of extended funding for specialist domestic and family violence services beyond 2021.**

The NSW Women's Alliance welcomes Prime Minister Scott Morrison's announcement that the Federal Government will work with the states to continue supplementary funding to frontline family, domestic and sexual violence services. Member organisations have experienced unprecedented client demand.

"This funding means organisations providing vital services for victim/survivors of sexual, family and domestic violence will be able to continue to meet significant community need," says Domestic Violence NSW CEO, Delia Donovan.

"We welcome the Prime Minister's announcement that the Commonwealth Government will continue to support our frontline family, domestic and sexual violence services who are facing unprecedented demand," says Women's Safety CEO, Hayley Foster. "We look forward to being reassured as to the full funding amount continuing so we are not forced to cut staff from essential women's safety services at this critical time."

On 6 April, the Alliance wrote to elected officials of the NSW and Australian governments, stating that the increased demand since the initial COVID-19 outbreak for frontline services had not subsided and could not cope with increased client demand.

Despite this announcement, we note a dollar amount has not yet been committed. We call on the Federal Government to provide reassurance that the full funding amount will continue from 1 July 2021.

"The allocation of COVID-19 DFV funds was the first time ACON has ever been directly funded to deliver specialist sexual, domestic and family violence counselling and case management services to sexuality and gender diverse people," says Eloise Layard, Program Coordinator of Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence at ACON.

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“This funding has been transformative in our ability to provide direct specialist support. If we were to lose this funding we would not be able to continue this service in its current form, resulting in unmet community need and the loss of our specialist counsellor.”

---Ends---

## Media Contact

Caitlin Morahan, Media & Communications Manager DVNSW: 0466 813 124

Members who have signed:

- ACON
- Domestic Violence NSW
- Immigrant Women's Health Service
- Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW
- Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation
- Muslim Women Australia
- NCOSS
- No to Violence
- Older Women's Network NSW
- People With Disability Australia (NSW)
- Senior's Rights Service
- Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia
- Women's Safety NSW
- Women's Legal Service NSW
- Women's Health NSW
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service

**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.

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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---Ends---

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