

For Immediate Release

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Women's Safety Summit Launches with Australia Calling for Urgent Change

The Women's Safety Summit has launched its open forums today, with women's safety advocates from around Australia gathering as part of the consultation process for the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, a 12-year plan which maps out Australia's long-term response to keeping women safe.

The Summit commenced with closed roundtables last week, and in [a joint letter](#) signed by thousands of individuals and over 205 organisations, women's safety experts have come together in a call for the government to commit on 12 key actions for women's safety.

The letter was sent to the National Women's Safety Taskforce, including Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne and Minister for Women's Safety Anne Ruston, who will present the closing address at the summit.

As the peak body for over 110 specialist domestic and family violence services in New South Wales, Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) made extensive recommendations following comprehensive consultation with the domestic and family violence sector and based on [our submission](#) to the 2020 Federal Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence.

The fourteen recommendations cover key priority areas, including:

1. Quality design and service system cohesion
2. Investment in resourcing
3. Accessibility and support for marginalised groups
4. Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
5. Housing and homelessness
6. Investment in research and evaluation
7. People and animals experiencing domestic and family violence
8. Commitment to primary prevention
9. Investment in early intervention
10. A trauma and gendered violence-informed justice system

11. Improved access to justice in the family law system
12. Improved health response to sexual, domestic and family violence
13. Financial support for victim-survivors
14. Governance and accountability

CEO of DVNSW Delia Donovan says now that experts from around the country have come together to define what actions need to be taken, the government needs to make it happen.

“Every day our member services are trying to work within a system that isn’t fully designed to keep women, children and gender diverse people safe,” she says. “We want to see recognition of the specialist domestic and family violence sector and significant investment for services. We have provided all the solutions - now we want action.”

“It’s time for bold and transformative change if we are to seriously address this national emergency.”

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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