

For Immediate Release

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NSW Women’s Alliance Launches 2023 State Election Platform: Action to End Gendered Violence

Today, the NSW Women’s Alliance will launch their official 2023 election campaign, Action to End Gendered Violence. The platform includes seven key areas for reform in NSW, where numbers of domestic violence assaults have increased annually in the past five years and sexual violence increasing by 21% in 2021 alone, making this the fastest growing crime reported in NSW.

The campaign will call upon the NSW Parliament to act by ending gendered violence and creating a safe state for all in NSW, with commitments to:

1. A coordinated, whole-of-government approach to sexual, domestic, and family violence policy in NSW.
2. Commit to intersectional primary prevention to end gendered violence and promote gender equality.
3. Immediate and long-term support for people experiencing and recovering from sexual, domestic, and family violence
4. Safe and appropriate housing for everybody experiencing and recovering from sexual, domestic, and family violence.
5. Reform legal systems and policing for people experiencing sexual, domestic, and family violence.
6. Enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to lead change towards ending sexual, domestic, and family violence in their communities.
7. Develop and implement a workforce development plan for the specialist sexual, domestic, and family violence sector.

“This election is an opportunity for NSW to put women’s safety as a higher priority,” says Interim CEO of DVNSW, Elise Phillips. “Already, 21 women have been killed this year because of domestic violence, because not enough is being done to prevent it. The NSW Women’s Alliance has seven recommendations aiming to reduce sexual, domestic and family violence, including investments of \$20m per year for preventing violence, \$133m per year increase for specialist services, and an extension to the consultation period for the coercive control bill.”

“The NSW Women’s Alliance Election Platform calls for important reform of legal systems and policing for people experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence,” says Helen Campbell OAM, Executive Officer at Women’s Legal Service NSW. “This includes a safe, phased, transparent and accountable approach to the further criminalisation of coercive control in NSW. It also includes consistent and safe responses to sexual, domestic and family violence by police and courts, ongoing sexual, domestic and family violence training and support and regular auditing of police responses to sexual, domestic and family violence.”

Yumi Lee, CEO of the Older Women Network NSW, says the campaign represents the wishes of the women of NSW for important, urgent steps to be taken to make this a safer state. “We’re calling on all parties to make a commitment to truly understand that violence against women must stop, and that the time for making statements without real action and substantive long-term funding is over,” she says. “Violence against women impact the full diversity of women and across all ages. It is an outrage that girls through to older women are suffering because the government is not doing enough to provide support, build affordable housing and ensure adequate wraparound services.”

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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
- **National Violence and Abuse Trauma Counselling and Recovery Service** on 1800 FULL STOP (1800 385 578) or [online](#) for 24/7, free, confidential counselling.