

For Immediate Release

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DVNSW Holds Biennial Conference as Domestic and Family Violence Reaches Crisis Levels

The 2022 Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) conference will commence today, to be held over 12th and 13th of May. The theme of this year's conference is Reconnect, Re-energise and Redesign – a theme chosen to indicate the systemic changes needed to address the rising national crisis of domestic and family violence.

Hosted by author and advocate Amani Haydar, the conference will see over 300 specialist domestic and family violence delegates attending from across the state for one of the first face-to-face conferences held in two years. Guest speakers include the Minister of Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Natalie Ward and Shadow Minister Jodie Harrison, Police Commissioner Karen Webb, Chair of Our Watch Moo Baulch, Advocate for Children and Young People Zoe Robinson, and Chief Executive Officer of Safe and Equal Tania Farha.

"It's been an incredibly difficult two years for the domestic and family violence sector, with increased demand for our already stretched services amidst the pandemic," says Elise Phillips, Interim CEO of DVNSW.

"We have an impressive panel of guest speakers who will engage delegates in robust conversations, covering topics such as respectful relationships, primary prevention, healing and trauma recovery, and policing of domestic and family violence in NSW. This conference is an opportunity to celebrate the work of the sector, listen to marginalised voices and reflect on what we can collectively do to redesign the system to create real and positive change."

Chair of DVNSW Annabelle Daniel says NSW is at an important cross-roads in how we prevent and respond to domestic and family violence. "Looking back over the last two years, we've rallied time and again to respond to women and children experiencing intensified abuse during COVID lockdowns, after floods, and after the devastation of bushfires across the state," she says.

"As May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, it's a perfect time for all of us to come together as a sector in person to re-energise, reconnect and be inspired by the work of our peers. We also have much to look forward to, with a significant investment in new services by the NSW Government and a new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children on the way. Our conference speakers and delegates will bring together knowledge and expertise from a wide range of backgrounds, and we're united in working to create real, systemic change to end domestic and family violence."

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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