

For DRAFT Release

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DVNSW Demands More for Women's Safety in the 2022 Federal Election

Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) is calling for increased commitment to ensure women's safety in Australia as the 2022 Federal Election approaches, with six specific asks aimed at increased funding and specialised support to the specialist domestic and family violence sector.

“Domestic and family violence IS an election issue’, says Interim CEO of DVNSW Elise Philips. ‘Already, 18 women have died this year because of violence – and we need to make sure our governments are putting women's safety at the top of their priorities. We especially need focus on our vulnerable communities, such as women on temporary visas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.’

“We want all people experiencing violence to have access to the supports they need.”

DVNSW have 6 key asks this federal election:

1. **Federal investment of \$1 billion per year** to implement the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, including a substantial increase in funding for specialist sexual, domestic, and family violence services to ensure everyone affected can access the support they need.
2. **Fund Aboriginal community-led initiatives** to address and prevent domestic and family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
3. **Build 25,000 new social housing properties** every year for the next decade, as part of a National Housing Strategy developed and led by the Federal government.
4. **Create a new temporary visa for women on temporary visas experiencing domestic and family violence.** This will allow the victim-survivors affected and their children to access the government services and support they need to be safe whilst making alternate visa arrangements.

“This election, we want to see increased community awareness of domestic and family violence as an issue the community cares about,” says Renata Field, DVNSW's Policy, Research and Advocacy Manager. “We want true accountability at all levels of government through a whole-of-system approach. We want a commitment to safe housing as a fundamental human right and ultimately, a reduction of the prevalence of 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