



**NATIONAL  
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
AND LEGAL SERVICES  
FORUM**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

For Immediate Release

### **Peak body welcomes national response but calls out major gap.**

Today's National Cabinet announcement of \$925million for domestic and family violence measures and an acknowledgement of the national emergency facing Australian women are welcome pledges to the cause but fall short of any commitment to community-controlled services in desperate need of increased funding to support the disproportionate number of First Nations women and children affected by domestic, sexual, and family violence, says peak body.

CEO of the National Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services Forum, Kerry Staines, applauds the Federal Government's emergency response to the escalating number of women killed in acts of gender-based violence this year but says the conversation and actions need to go much further.

"While we note the significance of this meeting and welcome the Federal Government's pledge to provide financial help for women escaping violence, there continues to be a critical shortage of funding for First Nations led Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLSs) that deliver high impact and meaningful results for communities and families across the country," Ms Staines said.

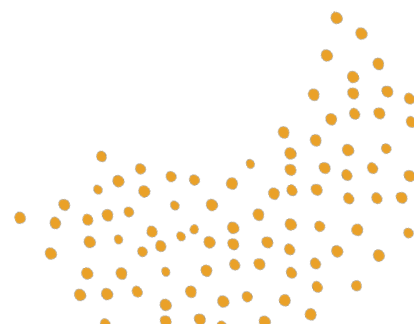
"Our sector has consistently responded to urgent and specific need in their communities, while being underfunded and under resourced yet simultaneously working tirelessly for communities that are overrepresented, since their emergence 25 years ago," Ms Staines said.

"And with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women 35 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence, and seven times more likely to be victims of domestic homicide than other Australian women, this chronic over-representation demands a considered and proactive approach that is informed by expertise and experience in delivery.

"Now is the time to get real about investing in community-controlled organisations that, despite being starved of resources, are already on the ground delivering services that have a proven track record in making a difference, specifically regarding early intervention, prevention, crisis response and recovery and healing.

"Our door is always open for conversations with government so we can share solutions to addressing these issues in our communities."

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FVPLSs provide critical frontline legal and non-legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence in areas including intervention orders, victims of crime assistance, child protection, and family law.

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For further information and media enquiries:

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**About the NFVPLS Forum**

The National Family Violence Prevention & Legal Services Forum (NFVPLS Forum) was established in May 2012 and is the National Peak Body for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) around Australia that provide culturally safe and holistic services to First Nations people affected by family violence – predominantly women and children.

The NFVPLS Forum provides expert national policy advice in areas of policy, planning and law reform, and advocates for safety and justice for First Nations people affected by family violence.