



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Sector Calls for Investment to Lead Solutions

The national peak body for the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (FVPLS) sector welcomes the release of the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches' report and calls for immediate investment to bolster grossly under-resourced services in First Nations communities across the country.

"We note and support the recommendations made in the report, namely its recognition of the vital role played by Aboriginal Community Controlled (ACCO) legal assistance services that work tirelessly to reduce the risk of domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) in our communities," Chief Executive Officer of First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV - formerly the National Family Violence Prevention & Legal Services Forum), Kerry Staines said.

"We are particularly pleased to see recognition of the importance of place-based/community-based solutions in addressing DFSV, as FVPLS' are the only specialist DFSV service providers that provide both legal and non-legal supports in community to our First Nations women and children," Ms Staines said.

"We call on the government to invest in us to lead a national intersectoral framework that will identify where sectors can work together in collaboration to achieve greater impact," she said.

"Our calls extend to increased sustainable funding for our sector to allow us to meet current unmet demand and expand to all geographical areas to provide support to communities in regions where our services are spread thin, or non-existent."

Ms Staines said that while they acknowledge the accelerated way in which the report was compiled and released, it also reflects the sentiments of the NLAP report released in May that highlighted the critical underfunding of the FVPLS sector, as well as many of the recommendations made in the Murdered and Missing Women's report released earlier this month.

"With several successive reports echoing each other in the last few months, our call is for immediate action and investment, and to transition funding from non-indigenous services to our ACCO services. We don't need more reviews; we need to empower our communities to give effect to these recommendations. We call on Government to respond to these recommendations and deliver a plan of action."

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For further information and media enquiries:

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About First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV)

First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV), formerly 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. FNAAFV 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.