



MEDIA RELEASE

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DFV Peak Body Calls for Urgent Progress on National Crisis

A lack of new data and progress on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap priority to reduce family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is painfully obvious in the Productivity Commission's latest report, according to the national peak body for the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLS) sector.

Chief Executive Officer of First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV - formerly the National Family Violence Prevention & Legal Services Forum), Kerry Staines, said the latest data outlined in the fourth Annual Data Compilation Report falls short of making any meaningful progress on Target 13.

"Of the nine drivers identified as indicators of progress against Target 13, just one has been actioned and reported against since the Closing the Gap Agreement was signed four years ago," Ms Staines said.

"The only current indicator used to capture domestic and family violence (DFV) data is based on the rates of hospitalisation for family violence assaults of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, which as a data source is a skewed observation of DFV as physical injuries are just one way of observing the impacts of violence," Ms Staines said.

"Our recommendation is for the Productivity Commission to work closely with our sector to access and utilise a more diverse range of data to more accurately capture the prevalence of domestic and family violence within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, noting that there are high rates of underreporting particularly amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities," she said.

"Specifically, what the data on Target 13 must also focus on is capturing the prevalence of murdered and missing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women as they have some of the highest homicide/missing persons rates, which are not currently captured in the progress report.

"Now more than ever, we are eager to get this moving given it's a national crisis for our people and our communities."

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.

– **ENDS** –

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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.

