



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

## **Long-awaited Funding Applauded by Grassroots DFSV Providers**

The collective voices of grossly under-resourced domestic, family, and sexual violence providers appear to have been heard and the sector now awaits the finer details of today's Nation Cabinet announcement of a \$3.9 billion package to support frontline specialist and legal services to address gender-based violence.

"We are delighted that this Government has listened to our collective voices, and we welcome today's announcement of critical funding for DFSV services," said Wynetta Dewis, Board Chair of the FVPLS sector's national peak body - First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV – formerly the National Family Violence Prevention & Legal Services Forum).

"We look forward to gaining clarity around what this significant funding injection means for the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLS) sector, and we remain committed to a conversation that will lead to sustainable and long-term funding that will support our services to continue to provide a holistic, culturally safe model of care that is consistent with the four National Pillars of Prevention, Early Intervention, Response and Recovery, as noted in the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032," Ms Dewis said.

FNAAFV Chief Executive Officer Kerry Staines said, "It is great to receive some investment into frontline services and we will continue to advocate for our full ask to be realised. We have provided the Government a comprehensive plan of what resources are required to meet current demand and what is required to expand our specialised programs into new geographical areas where they are spread thin or non-existent.

"Sustainable and long-term funding is crucial to ensuring we can walk alongside our families when they reach out for support; for us to increase education and prevention programs and help the healing journey begin for those who have suffered; work to increase staff retention and alleviate huge caseloads; support staff with a better work life balance; and ultimately assist in attracting more specialist DFSV workers to our sector across the country, particularly in rural, remote, and very remote locations where our services are spread thin or non-existent," Ms Staines said.

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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.

