



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, November 14, 2024  
For Immediate Release

### **Data Falls Short: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women Deserve Better**

The release of new Closing the Gap data for Target 13, aimed at reducing family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children by 50% by 2031, highlights critical gaps in data collection and tracking progress, 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Kerry Staines, said the data outlined in the latest Productivity Commission's Annual Data Compilation Report remains outdated and raises serious concerns about its relevance and accuracy.

"How can progress be properly assessed without robust, timely, and culturally appropriate data?" Ms Staines said.

"The only current indicator used to capture domestic and family violence (DFV) data continues to be based on the rates of hospitalisation for family violence assaults of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. This is data that is old (from 2019) and unreliable as an accurate measure of DFV prevalence," she said.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, who experience disproportionately high rates of violence, deserve better from our national systems and all levels of Government must urgently address this issue. Our question is - what steps are being taken to ensure more accurate and comprehensive data collection?"

"Failure to collect relevant data undermines the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. It hinders targeted intervention, leaves service gaps unaddressed, and risks perpetuating cycles of violence.

"FNAAFV calls for an immediate discussion with stakeholders to establish clear, reliable indicators that align with the lived realities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.

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**FIRST NATIONS**  
ADVOCATES AGAINST  
FAMILY VIOLENCE



## **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.

