



MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak Body Calls for Clarity and Commitment on Government's Response to Senate Inquiry

Critical questions remain unanswered in the Federal Government's response to the Senate Inquiry on Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children, says the national peak body for the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLS) sector.

"While there is recognition of the systemic issues and a range of recommendations addressing these concerns, we are concerned by the number of recommendations marked as "noted" or "support in principle" as these classifications lack the clarity and commitment necessary to instil confidence in real and actionable progress," Chief Executive Officer of First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV - formerly the National Family Violence Prevention & Legal Services Forum), Kerry Staines said.

"The "noted" and "support in principle" responses leave questions unanswered. How and when will these recommendations be implemented? What concrete steps will be taken to ensure systemic change? Without detailed plans and timelines, there is a risk that these responses may result in inaction, perpetuating the unacceptable rates of violence and systemic neglect faced by First Nations women and children," Ms Staines said.

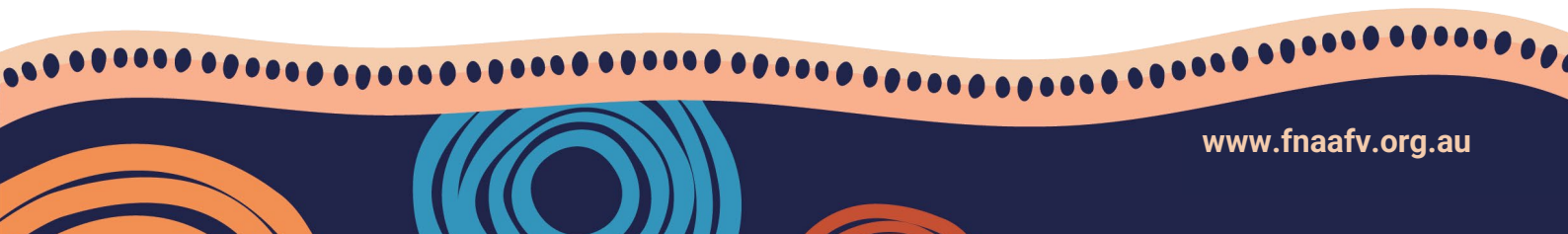
"The statistics are harrowing and cannot be ignored: according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) data, First Nations women are 33 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence and up to seven times more likely to be homicide victims than non-Indigenous women. These women and children are not just statistics—they are our mothers, daughters, and community members. Delayed or inadequate action further compounds the cycles of violence, victimisation, and trauma in our communities," she said.

"FNAAFV calls on the Australian Government to provide immediate clarity on the "noted" and "support in principle" actions. Specifically:

1. Clear timelines for implementation of these recommendations.
2. Transparency in how these recommendations will be integrated into existing initiatives, such as the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children.
3. A commitment to work directly with First Nations-led organisations to co-design and implement culturally safe solutions.

"Our communities cannot wait. The lives of First Nations women and children depend on decisive and coordinated action. It is not good enough to have a report that doesn't get backed and receive investment.

"The FVPLS sector needs a sustainable funding mechanism in the early intervention and prevention space to provide ongoing support for First Nations people, including women and children, experiencing domestic, family, and sexual violence specifically. This funding must prioritise service and program delivery by Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. (continued)





“The Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children report has laid bare the crisis of violence experienced by our First Nations women.

“We thank those who have shared their stories and for giving a voice to those who have lost theirs. This is a serious matter and we have consistently advocated that our communities have the solutions and must be empowered to realise these.”

FVPLSs provide critical frontline legal and non-legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence.

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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.

