



MEDIA RELEASE

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Call for Urgent Action on Domestic Violence in the NT: Invest in Early Intervention and Prevention

The findings from the Northern Territory (NT) Coroner's inquest into the devastating prevalence of domestic violence in the NT highlight an urgent need for systemic reform and increased investment in early intervention and prevention efforts, says the national peak body for the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLS) sector.

"The inquest underscores the significant gaps in support services and highlights the critical role that culturally safe, community-driven responses must play in addressing the crisis for our families," Chief Executive Officer of First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV - formerly the National Family Violence Prevention & Legal Services Forum), Kerry Staines said.

"First Nations women in the NT face some of the highest rates of domestic violence in the country, with devastating consequences for families and communities. We call on the government to prioritise funding for early intervention and prevention programs delivered through our Family Violence Prevention Legal Services in the Northern Territory. Our programs are proven to be effective in breaking the cycles of violence, providing culturally safe and holistic support tailored to the unique needs of Aboriginal communities," Ms Staines said.

"FNAAFV urges the government to immediately allocate dedicated funding for early intervention and prevention programs in the NT, with a focus on working with FVPLSs. These services save lives, strengthen communities, and break cycles of violence," she said.

"They are uniquely placed to provide culturally safe support and solutions, leveraging their deep understanding of the communities they serve. By adequately funding these services and partnering with them in designing interventions, we can create meaningful and sustainable change."

Domestic violence prevention cannot succeed without adequate resourcing. FNAAFV stresses the importance of:

1. **Early Intervention:** Funding programs that identify and support at-risk families before violence escalates.
2. **Prevention Initiatives:** Strengthening community education and support services to address the root causes of violence.
3. **Holistic and Culturally Safe Services:** Ensuring our FVPLSs in the NT are empowered with the resources to meet the growing demand for legal and non-legal services.

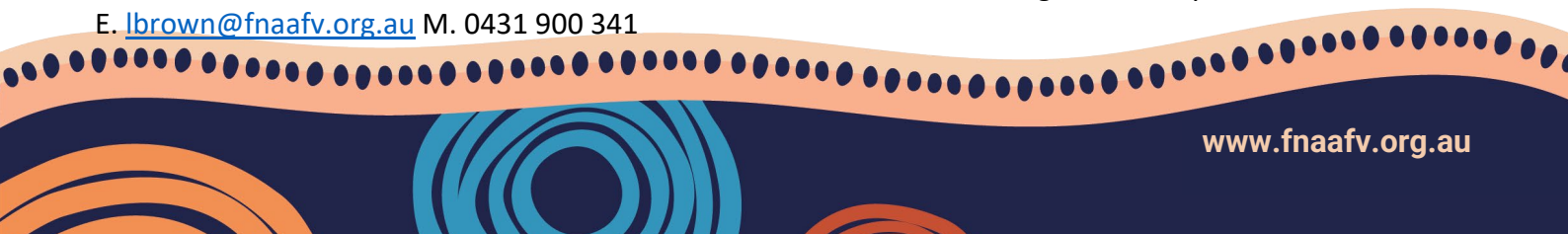
"The NT Coroner's findings are a wake-up call for all levels of government. This is not just a Northern Territory issue—it is a national crisis. First Nations women and children across Australia are overrepresented in family violence statistics, and their safety must be a national priority," Ms Staines said.

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For further information and media enquiries:

Lianne Brown, Senior Communications Officer - First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence

E. lbrown@fnaafv.org.au M. 0431 900 341





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.

