



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

## **Tragedy highlights urgent need to invest in Specialist Aboriginal-led family violence services**

The tragic death of another woman at the hands of an ex-partner in New South Wales is a stark reminder of the need for adequate resourcing of specialist Aboriginal-led family violence services, according to the national peak body for the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLS) sector.

First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV) Chief Executive Officer Kerry Staines said, “We are deeply saddened by the passing of the young mother in Lake Cargelligo last week. No one should lose their life to domestic and family violence.

“Violence of this kind is an all-too-common reality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Indigenous women are five times more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Indigenous women. This is not inevitable. It is the result of systemic failure in prevention, protection, and investment,” Ms Staines said.

“This must be a turning point. The NSW government must invest properly in its FVPLS services and fund in line with population, risk, and need. Aboriginal women’s lives depend on it.

“We do not need a royal commission to tell us what is already clear; we need direct funding for our specialist frontline services, she said.

“New South Wales has the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the country, yet funding for specialist Aboriginal-led family violence services is grossly disproportionate to need. The result is significant unmet demand, particularly in rural and regional communities where risks are highest and services can be the hardest to access.” Ms Staines said.

FVPLSs are frontline specialist services with decades of proven experience keeping Aboriginal women and children safe. They deliver outcomes in the toughest conditions, yet remain chronically underfunded and stretched beyond capacity. In NSW, FVPLSs do everything they can with inadequate resources. They save lives. But without sustained jurisdictional investment and National dedicated funding for early intervention and prevention, these services cannot maintain the outreach needed to educate, support and protect women and children in regional and remote areas.

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For further information:

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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), is a self-determined, community-controlled national peak body representing Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) across Australia.

FNAAFV advocates for culturally safe, holistic legal and community responses to family and sexual violence affecting First Nations people, particularly women and children, and provides national leadership, policy advice, and law reform advocacy to advance their rights, safety, and self-determination.

FNAAFV is committed to achieving real progress on Outcome 13 of Closing the Gap: ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children are safe, with the goal that by 2031 the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against them is reduced by at least 50% as progress towards zero.