



MEDIA RELEASE

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Decisive action must follow the release of landmark National Plan

First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV) welcomes today's launch of *Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026–2036*, recognising it as a landmark moment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

“As the national specialist peak body representing the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLS) sector, FNAAFV has continuously advocated for such a plan and is pleased to have contributed to its development, ensuring specialist frontline experience and community voices shaped its direction,” FNAAFV CEO Kerry Staines said.

“Our Chair and CEO of the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS), Wynetta Dewis, played a key role in informing the direction and intent of the Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices plan as part of the steering committee that developed it, so we are grateful to her for bringing the voices of the sector to this historic plan,” Ms Staines said.

Ms Dewis said, “This plan represents what’s possible when First Nations voices lead the conversation on safety. Being part of the Steering Committee has shown me the strength of community, culture and collaboration behind this work. Today’s launch is not the end point – it’s a commitment to continue working together to create safer, stronger communities.”

Ms Staines went on to say, “Our call now is for immediate and sustained government action to ensure the plan’s success. Long-term funding, strong accountability, and genuine partnership will determine this plan’s impact.

“This plan must be used to strengthen frontline DFSV specialist service capacity, particularly within the FVPLS sector. Our specialist expertise has been critical in drawing national attention to the disproportionate levels of DFSV that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experience,” she said.

“We have the answers, but our services are stretched. Investment must match the scale and urgency of the challenge to allow the FVPLS sector to continue to play its part in ensuring the safety of our mob.

“Communities cannot wait another decade for change.”

ENDS

For further information:

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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), 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.