

NATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICES

WORKING TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED JUSTICE OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Media Release

24 APRIL 2019

Welcome commitment to safety of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence

The National FVPLS Forum has welcomed the Federal election commitment from Labor to increase funding to Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLSs). Phynea Clarke, Deputy Convenor praised the commitment to increase and provide funding beyond June 2020, which has been long called for.

“I am extremely pleased that Labor have committed to \$21.5 million in additional funding for FVPLSs, something we have long been calling for. The commitment provides funding beyond end of June 2020, when our current funding is due to end”, Ms Clarke said.

“All our services are having to turn away clients as a regular occurrence. This increase in funding will mean our services can build their capacity to support more clients and expand their geographic reach”.

Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women devastates communities and destroys families. In comparison with other women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised from family violence and 10 times more likely to be killed as a result of violent assault.

“FVPLSs provide legal and non-legal supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim/survivors of family violence. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly women and their children, are missing out on culturally safe, holistic, specialist support that FVPLSs provide. This is because we don’t have the resources to meet the demand and because there is no FVPLS where they live”.

“We hope all parties in this Federal election will commit to long-term and increased funding to FVPLSs so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence, in particular women and their children, can feel safe and supported”.

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