



**NATIONAL
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
AND LEGAL SERVICES
FORUM**

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, April 29, 2024

For Immediate Release

Sector calls for immediate action on national epidemic

The impressive showing of support for the weekend's 'No More National Rally Against Violence' events across the country is testament to the need for immediate action to address a national epidemic.

"What we witnessed on the weekend was a growing presence of our leaders and men joining the conversation – fathers, brothers, sons - all standing in solidarity for what is without a doubt a national epidemic," National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum CEO Kerry Staines said.

"This is not a women's issue this is a whole of community issue and it will take a whole of community response to address this epidemic," Ms Staines said.

"Well done to the What Were You Wearing team for your courage and determination in aid of ours and many other's efforts to bring this critical message to the streets," she said.

"The time for talking is done. We need immediate action and funding for solutions that we know work and that save women's lives.

"As the only national peak body funded to address domestic, family, and sexual violence experienced by First Nations communities, it is vital that our sector is recognised for their work, skills, and expertise, that investment is immediate to deliver critical and culturally appropriate support to our communities. Our members have the solutions.

"We request an immediate investment of \$100 million into our sector because with no additional funding for FVPLS we have no ability to reach all families in need and as a result, a huge gap in support remains with devastating impacts for communities."

Violence against women leads to one woman's death every four days, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. This figure is more pronounced for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, who are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised and 10 times more likely to die from violent assault than other women.

"Now is the time to get real about investing in community-controlled organisations that are already on the ground delivering services that have a proven track record in making a difference, specifically regarding early intervention, prevention, crisis response and recovery and healing."

FVPLSs provide critical frontline legal and non-legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence in areas including intervention orders, victims of crime assistance, child protection and family law.

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About the NFVPLS Forum

The National Family Violence Prevention & Legals 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.

The NFVPLS Forum 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.