

MEDIA RELEASE



**National Women's
Safety Alliance**

Call to end gender-based violence in one generation: National Women's Safety Alliance

Wednesday 2 March 2022

The National Women's Safety Alliance (NWSA) today called for a cross-party commitment to end gender-based violence within one generation.

The NWSA brings together a diversity of voices, expertise and experience to inform and guide national policy on gender-based violence.

As part of consultations on the draft *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032* with its more than 120 members, the NWSA has said a cross-party pledge to end violence within the next 30 years would drive action beyond the life of the plan and short-term political cycles.

NWSA CEO Dr Renee Hamilton said: "The national plan will set the agenda for how Australia prevents and responds to gender-based violence – and it needs to aim higher."

"The national plan commits to end gender-based violence but it does not say when and it does not say how," Dr Hamilton said.

"Ending gender-based violence in a generation is not out of reach. It is preventable. We know what drives it, it's gender inequality."

"Much like targets for climate change or global poverty, a long-term target to end gender-based violence would drive action outside of the political cycle."

"Collective action and investment now from all levels of government, corporates, institutions and the broader Australian community would drive real change. It would mean the next generation would not live in a country where one woman a week is murdered by her current or ex-partner."

"No one should be unsafe just because of who they are. That's why ending gender-based violence is everyone's business."

"To get to this goal within the next 30 years, the upcoming action plans must focus on advancing gender equality at every turn."

Within the next decade the national plan must also set the following priority targets:

- a significant decrease in the number of women who experience domestic, sexual or family violence (over a 12-month period)
- four out of five Australians can identify early signs of violence
- nine out of 10 Australians understand violence against women

- nine out of 10 Australians disagree with attitudes that excuse, minimise or mistrust women's reports of violence or disregard sexual consent
- all perpetrators access and engage in accredited men's behaviour change programs
- all victim-survivors know where and how to access specialist support
- all victim-survivors have positive health, economic, and housing outcomes and positive experiences accessing legal help.

The NWSA is also calling for the draft national plan to:

- be more inclusive and more fully represent all victim-survivors of gender-based violence
- collect new data on:
 - unmet demand for services
 - victim-survivors' service experiences and recovery
 - family/relationship dynamics
 - perpetrator characteristics
- better link existing data, including better integrating current state and territory data
- increase the visibility of the LGBTIQ+ community in datasets
- have greater recognition and understanding of different expressions of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment.

The NWSA also recommends the new Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission is established as an independent statutory body and provide an annual report card to monitor performance of the National Plan and subsequent Action Plans.

The National Women's Safety Alliance has a growing membership of over 120 organisations, businesses, individuals and subject matter experts all with a commitment to ending gender-based violence. A summary of members and partners can be found [here](#).

Join the conversation using #in1generation and follow @nwsaau.

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