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Focus on women's safety welcome in Budget but more needed: National Women's Safety Alliance

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The focus on women's safety and health measures in the Budget are crucial but more is needed to tackle the national crisis in domestic, family and sexual violence.

National Women's Safety Alliance CEO Dr Renee Hamilton said the scale and nature of the challenge will need larger commitments and long-term investment to make sure every woman and every member of the LGBTIQ+ community is safe.

"Five women tragically lost their lives in Australia just last week – we are living through a national crisis in domestic, family and sexual violence. We need to meet the scale of this crisis now," Dr Hamilton said.

"Gender-based violence is preventable – but this Budget could have done more to meet the national violence crisis and address the drivers of this violence."

"Continued investment in and expansion of the Escaping Violence Payment, changes to Paid Parental Leave, more resources for early intervention, counselling and response and greater funding for violence prevention are all a step in the right direction."

"But the Escaping Violence Payment needs to be doubled to reflect the true cost of leaving an abusive relationship – women need resources quickly to leave and establish a new life safely."

"We also need more investment than what is outlined in this Budget to take Respect@Work forward so women are truly safe from violence in the workplace."

Dr Hamilton welcomed the additional funding for counselling but noted the National Women's Safety Alliance would work with government to ensure this support is trauma-informed.

"We have a historic opportunity to do more to address the drivers of gender-based violence – if we act now we could see this kind of violence end in one generation."

Welcome measures:

✓ \$203.6 million over six years for prevention, including funding for Our Watch and prevention and consent campaigns



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✓ \$100.0 million over five years for trauma-informed counselling services to support victim-survivors and families

✓ \$87.9 million over four years to make the family law system safer, including expanding the safety risk screening and specialised case management through the Lighthouse project

✓ \$67.2 million over four years to pilot a new model of care, delivered through Primary Health Networks, for people who have experienced family, domestic or sexual violence

✓ \$4.1 million over five years to deliver national training for law enforcement to identify and support victim-survivors of all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence

✓ \$19.0 million over five years for ANROWS to support data collection to better target services and policies to meet the needs of victim-survivors

Budget gaps:

✗ Not enough to make childcare more affordable and increase women's workforce participation

✗ No extension of National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses to boost state and territory funding of frontline services and make funding longer-term

✗ Not enough to address the gender pay and superannuation gaps

✗ Paid Parental Leave should be further expanded and reformed

✗ More investment needed to fund Respect@Work recommendations and end gender-based violence in the workplace

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](#).

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