



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Safety Alliance welcomes new Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner

Friday 8 April 2022

The appointment of Catherine Fitzpatrick as the first Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner was welcomed today by the National Women's Safety Alliance.

The commissioner and the soon-to-be-established Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission will oversee the government's blueprint to end violence against women and children over the next decade.

National Women's Safety Alliance CEO, Dr Renee Hamilton said Ms Fitzpatrick – who is currently the Chair of the Alliance's Policy and Advocacy Advisory Committee and Director of Customer Vulnerability & Financial Resilience at Westpac – will bring a wealth of expertise to the new role.

"Ms Fitzpatrick will bring dedication and insight from years of supporting banking customers experiencing gender-based violence. We look forward to working with her and the new Commission to end this violence within one generation," Dr Hamilton said.

Ms Fitzpatrick is currently a member of the National Plan Advisory Group and NSW Attorney General's Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Corporate Leadership Group.

"The role of the new Commissioner is vital to ensure there is proper oversight – including monitoring and evaluation – of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children," Dr Hamilton said.

"The National Plan needs to be a living, responsive and iterative document that is informed and shaped by expertise and evidence over the next decade."

"We would like to see the National Plan Advisory Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council play an ongoing role in providing advice to the Commission over the life of the National Plan."

Currently, the National Plan Advisory Council will be dissolved on 30 June 2022, while the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council – which is leading work on the dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan – will be disbanded in 2024.

Along with overseeing the National Plan, the Commission's role is to develop policy, foster relationships with the sector and improve cooperation between the Commonwealth and states and territories.



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Dr Hamilton also welcomed the appointment of Moo Baulch OAM as the new Chair of Our Watch, Australia's national organisation for the prevention of violence against women and children.

"Ms Baulch brings over two decades of experience working with victim-survivors of gender-based violence to her new role," Dr Hamilton said.

"The work of Our Watch is critical in supporting all parts of our community to prevent violence against women and children".

"We look forward to continuing our work with Our Watch under Ms Baulch's leadership to stop violence before it starts".

Our Watch is funded jointly by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments.

The National Women's *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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