



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Nine out of ten domestic, family and sexual violence services say demand has increased since COVID-19

Wednesday 4 May 2022

Nine out of ten domestic, family and sexual violence frontline services (93 per cent) say there has been an increase in demand for their services since the COVID-19 pandemic began – pointing to a national crisis in gender-based violence.

According to the survey run by the National Women's Safety Alliance (NWSA), to cope with the increase nearly half of the 27 frontline services surveyed (44 per cent) said they had extended their waitlists while one in five (22 per cent) said they reduced their services.

When asked what government actions would make the greatest difference to improve women's safety, those surveyed identified five priority areas: housing, funding for frontline services, consent education, legal support for victim-survivors, and training for people in the community to identify violence and respond compassionately.

Those surveyed were asked to vote on these priorities from a list of 20 actions proposed in the NWSA federal election statement *In One Generation*, being launched today.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made violence against women worse. Right now, calls are going unanswered, services are reduced, and already long waitlists are getting longer," National Women's Safety Alliance CEO, Dr Renee Hamilton said.

"Whoever wins government after 21 May must hit the reset button and drive action towards a new goal: to end gender-based violence in one generation," Dr Hamilton said.

"Getting to this goal in one generation is not out of reach. Gender-based violence is preventable – we know what drives it, it's gender inequality."

Dr Hamilton said the election statement *In One Generation* offers practical solutions and was developed with the domestic, family and sexual violence sector, people with lived experience, experts, community leaders and employers.

"These 20 actions – taken together – will bring us closer to preventing gender-based violence, intervening early before violence escalates and providing better support to those affected," Dr Hamilton said.

The release of the election statement and survey results coincides with National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day – where candlelight vigils are held across Australia in remembrance of those who have died due to domestic and family violence.



## MEDIA RELEASE

“Since the beginning of this year alone, 18 women have been killed by their current or ex-partner. We need to meet the scale of this crisis now.”

***Top five priorities for an incoming government and the next Australian Parliament:***

1. More affordable housing for people fleeing violence
2. Extend more funding – and over a longer period – to frontline services from the federal government through the National Partnership agreement
3. Provide experts to teach respectful relationships in schools
4. Establish independent advisors to help victim-survivors through the legal system
5. Train more people in the community to identify violence and respond compassionately

The [National Women's Safety Alliance](#) brings together a diversity of voices, expertise and experience to advise government on national policy to end gender-based violence.

Established in August 2021, we have a growing membership of over 120 organisations, subject matter experts and individuals, all with a shared commitment to ending gender-based violence.

You can sign up to join [the #in1generation pledge today](#) and follow @nwsaau.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Bella Counihan, [policy@nwsa.org.au](mailto:policy@nwsa.org.au), 0419212219**