



**National Women's
Safety Alliance**

MEDIA RELEASE

Domestic violence leave becomes Law

DATE: 27 October 2022

The National Women's Safety Alliance (NWSA) welcomes the introduction of 10 days of paid domestic violence leave to workers as an entitlement in the National Employment Standards into law. The amendment to the Fair Work Act guarantees 10 days paid leave to around 11 million workers, including casual workers regardless of who their employer is or the nature of their employment. The Bill was introduced by Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, The Hon. Tony Burke MP.

The campaign for paid domestic and family violence leave has been a 10-year campaign lead by frontline staff from women's specialist services who saw first-hand the difference the leave made to survivor recovery and wellbeing where it was available to them.

Katherine Berney, Director of the NWSA, says that "paid domestic and family violence leave is essential to help people who live with violence manage their lives, undertake routine tasks like setting up a new bank account, finding a new place to live or put in place a safety plan while not losing income. It will look different for everyone depending on their needs, but importantly it recognises that domestic violence doesn't discriminate based on how many hours you work or who your employer is. This reform will help save lives and contribute to alleviating poverty and homelessness among survivors of violence by keeping them connected to the workforce and their income"

"Leaving a violent relationship, statistically is the most dangerous time for a victim/survivors. It is a costly and traumatising experience. This leave will give survivors some space and time to plan and access vital services. No one should ever have to choose between personal safety and employment. The government must however ensure that employers are correctly supported with educational resources to ensure the scheme is delivered safely and effectively to any staff who access the program."

Victims/Survivor will have access to the leave from 2023, whether they are employed full or part time or casually.

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