



NWSA Statement on the Budget 23/24

The National Women's Safety Alliance (NWSA) welcomes the Albanese government's focus on improving the lives of Australia's women in the 2023/2024 Budget.

NWSA and its member organisations work together to prevent and reduce violence against women and have been advocating for new funding measures to address poverty, violence, economic participation, and housing insecurity. To this end, we welcome the government's 2023 Budget announcements in addition to the \$1.7 billion announced in October 2022:

- **\$14.7 million to strengthen the way the criminal justice system responds to sexual assault** and prevent further harm to victims through the justice process;
- **\$159 million over two years from 2023–24 to extend the Family and Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses National Partnership Agreement** with state and territory governments and to continue to address service gaps to and support frontline service delivery;
- **\$38.2 million to extend the current Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) and Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (TVP)** to January 2025;

- **\$194 million allocated to a dedicated action plan to improve First Nations women's safety and tackle family violence**, including funding for crisis accommodation services, Aboriginal Men's Wellness Centres, and expansion of the successful Boys Can Girls Can campaign;
- **Abolishing the ParentsNext program, and raising the single parent payment** is a step in not condemning women and children to live in poverty after leaving a DFV relationship, and;
- \$12.1 million over four years from 2023–24 to develop and distribute social media resources for young people on consent with advice from an expert advisory group and to support community-led sexual violence prevention pilots.

NWSA will always welcome any measures towards ending gender-based violence and supporting vulnerable women and children. This budget is a step in the right direction to support Australians who need it most. The reality is our frontline specialist services have unprecedented demand.

Nineteen women have been murdered this year. Frontline organisations are inundated with thousands of calls every week from victim-survivors.



Budget 2023–24

If, as a society, we want to end gender-based violence in one generation, then our frontline services need to have adequate funding, with long-term funding cycles of 5 – 10 years with indexation and ERO. This needs to include indexation for CPI, wage increases for the specialist workers and funding for intersectionality. A comprehensive workforce strategy will also be critical to ensure the sustainability of the sector.

NWSA has been involved with the evaluation of Escaping Violence Payment with our colleagues at the Harmony Alliance - this extension is welcome, and we hope that the recommendations made through this process will be included so access to this payment is a more empowering experience for Australians who need it.

Improving how the criminal justice system responds to sexual assault and preventing further harm to victim-survivors through the justice process is critical, but we are not going to see the

change we want unless this funding makes its way to the specialists on the frontline directly working with victim-survivors.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Katherine Berney

NWSA Director

+61 498 642 584

katherine.berney@nwsa.org.au



National Women's Safety Alliance

Level 3, 71 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City 2601 | P 02 6185 2000

| E policy@nwsa.org.au | W www.nwsa.org.au | Media Contact

61+ 498 642 584

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