



DESTROY THE JOINT

SUBMISSION TO

CONSULTATION ON THE SECOND ACTION PLAN (NATIONAL PLAN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN 2022–2032)

INTRODUCTION

Destroy The Joint is an online feminist page run by a small group of volunteers and supported by over 110,000 followers dedicated to shining a light on Violence Against Women (VAW) in Australia. Ref: <https://www.facebook.com/DestroyTheJoint>

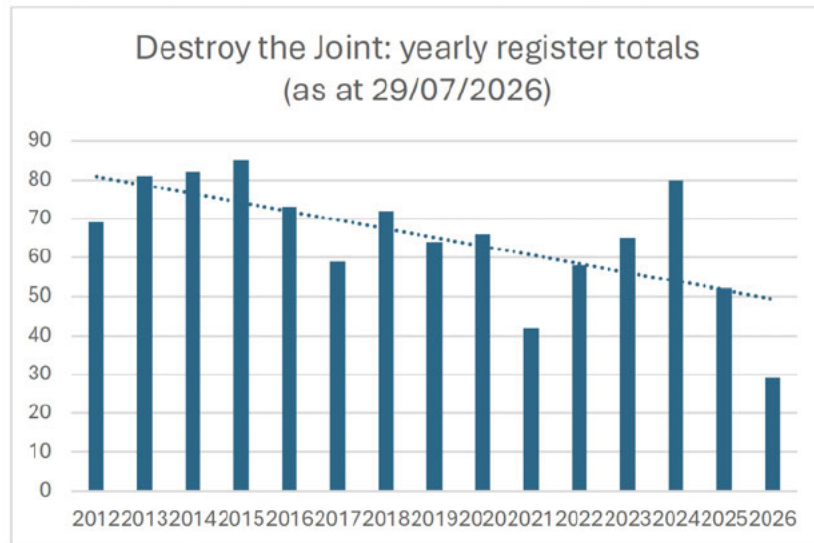
Since 2012 our Counting Dead Women Australia campaign has been calling on all levels of government to institute a national, unified system for investigation, analysis and response to Violence Against Women to make a safer world for women and their children.

In support of that aim we undertake our solemn task of maintaining the most credible and substantiated broadly available record of women killed by targeted violence in Australia. Our count is based on police reports and press statements, coronial records, or reports from reputable news organisations with strong evidentiary basis for publication. We publish only when charges are laid or when it is clearly reported that police intend to lay charges. We are careful not to register any allegations or publish any information which is not reliably attested in the public record. As a small, minimally resourced group we are obviously limited in our research efforts, and we rely heavily on reputable openly available reporting.

Women from all backgrounds are counted but we make no assumptions about a woman's culture, lifestyle or circumstances. Our campaign counts all known, verified deaths involving targeted Violence Against Women. In at least 75% of the cases reported, the victim knew her alleged killer. But we do not confine our count to those murders traditionally attributed as Domestic or Family Violence – we include intentional deaths of women killed in the course of other crimes. We also may count cases of active neglect, and cases of claimed 'assisted suicide'.

We add updated information to our annual registers as soon as it is received and confirmed. We maintain a separate register of 'Undetermined' deaths which we continuously monitor until a verifiable outcome is known. For reasons of privacy and legal responsibility this register is not made public.

Our yearly counts of women killed by violence in Australia are constantly updated as police, court and missing persons reports are updated. Our current register totals are shown in the chart below:



Ref: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063733051461>

We at Destroy The Joint call on the federal government to acknowledge that Australian women need the safety of a truly national Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children *which cuts across state and territory borders to ensure real reform*. Informed by our online group of supporters and survivors, we identify major baseline reforms including:

- Nationally agreed definitions to identify VAW
- Nationally coordinated data collection and reporting
- Nationally corresponding legislative and judicial approaches to DVOs (however named), bail and sentencing
- Reform of family court processes to include guaranteed representation for women and true centring of children's needs and wishes
- An accessible, national database of offenders
- Nationally mandated VAW training for police and justice officers
- Accessible safety housing for women and their children impacted by VAW
- Guaranteed, ongoing resourcing to maintain these basic necessities into the future.

IN SUMMARY

As a non-aligned, volunteer advocacy group, we welcome this opportunity to contribute to the Consultation on the Second Action Plan (National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032).

We have not included research evidence citations, as we know that sufficient evidence exists in governmental, academic and lived experience sources and is already well-circulated in public arenas and cited in previous governmental inquiries. We believe that there is sufficient evidence collected, collated and analysed over decades, by advocacy groups, research institutions and government bodies to support trans-border government engagement to move swiftly and decisively on the actions recommended here.



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