

JOINT STATEMENT

**Without proper funding for specialist services,
no government plan to end gender-based
violence will succeed.**

To Australia's Governments - federal and state,

Right now, across every Australian jurisdiction, government decisions mean that many women cannot access domestic, family, or sexual violence support services they need when or where they need them.

For those who are able to access it - support from specialist, community-led, culturally-safe services can be life-changing and life-saving.

But current government funding decisions are creating an untenable situation, where:

- Many women and children in crisis are not able to receive the timely support they need to achieve safer futures;
- Those reaching out for early support are instead facing escalating harm, as services are forced to prioritise those who need them most;
- Those who have been harmed have to be put on waiting lists, compounding and intensifying the impacts of harm.

Governments alone hold the responsibility for ensuring proper access to domestic, family and sexual violence services.

Governments make choices about where they invest and that investment reflects what they really value. When funding doesn't match the scale of need, women miss out, and the consequences are serious.

Right now, government funding decisions force services to make impossible choices between who gets access to support now, and who doesn't. The decision not to properly resource services is a decision to leave women in danger, and to leave victim-survivors and their loved ones carrying the costs of recovering from horrific abuse.

Governments have shown they can find the resources for major investment in areas that are *true* priorities. We've seen it with the amounts allocated to fuel subsidies, to sports stadiums, and to submarines.

It's time all governments stepped up their investment in addressing gender-based violence - and treated it as a *true* national priority.

Women can't afford to wait. Those in need of service support need it now. They can't afford to wait for the next Action Plan or budget cycle.

We call on all governments to urgently and drastically scale up their investment in action to address gender-based violence across all four pillars of the *National Plan* - prevention, early intervention, response, and healing and recovery - and increase investment in self-determined and grassroots solutions for First Nations women through the *Our Ways, Strong Ways, Our Voices* Plan.

That means a major, long-term increase to resourcing for specialist, accessible, community-led and culturally-safe services - **so that every woman impacted by domestic, family, or sexual violence can access the specialist support she needs - where she needs it, and when she needs it.**

Signed,

This letter is endorsed by

