

# NATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICES

WORKING TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED JUSTICE OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

## Media Release

29 APRIL 2019

### **Welcome commitment to supporting Family Violence Prevention Legal Services**

The National FVPLS Forum has welcomed the Federal election commitment from the Greens to increase funding to Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLSs) and support the National FVPLS Forum – the FVPLS peak. Antoinette Braybrook, Convenor said the commitment from the Greens to both FVPLSs and the peak showed significant support for their vital work.

“The commitment from the Greens to provide long term and increase FVPLS funding by \$118m is significant and recognises the vital work that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander FVPLSs do to keep our people, in particular women and children, safe”, Ms Braybrook said.

“The announcement is based on the work of the Productivity Commission and The Law Council Justice Project both of which found significant gaps in funding for legal services across all areas, including FVPLSs”.

Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women devastates communities and destroys families. In comparison with other women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised from family violence and 10 times more likely to be killed as a result of violent assault.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are the most legally disadvantaged group in the country and the lack of access to justice for our women is a national shame”.

“FVPLSs provide legal and non-legal supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim/survivors of family violence. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly women and their children, are missing out on culturally safe, holistic, specialist support that FVPLSs provide”, Ms Braybrook said.

“Labor made a significant announcement to provide additional funding to FVPLSs and committed to our ongoing funding. The announcement from the Greens shows further support for the work we do. We want all parties in this Federal election to commit to keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women safe, and look forward to working with whoever is in government to make sure this happens”.

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