

# 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

16 June 2016

## **Further investment welcome but more is needed to end violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women**

The National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum (National FVPLS Forum) today welcomed the Australian Labor Party's commitment to invest a further \$4.5m into Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS). The announcement coincided with the release of Labor's Closing the Gap policy platform responding to last week's landmark 'Redfern Statement'.

"The Redfern Statement from national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies was born out of frustration and concern that the disadvantage faced by our peoples had been relegated to the margins. Today's response from Labor is an encouraging start," said Antoinette Braybrook, Convenor of the National FVPLS Forum. "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies and organisations have the solutions to the challenges in our communities. We are calling on whoever forms government to work with us."

Ending the disproportionate impact of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women should be a front and centre priority for the next Federal Government. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised from family violence and 10 times more likely to die of violent assault than other women. This is the epicentre of the national family violence crisis.

"Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is at epidemic levels. It will cost the nation \$2.2 billion by 2021-22. Its moral cost – which sees lives lost and communities destroyed - is unquantifiable."

"We welcome Labor's additional funding for FVPLSs, however further investment is needed to build the capacity of existing services and address service gaps to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women regardless of their geographic location can access our services for safety."

"We are also calling on the reinstatement of our National FVPLS Program with long-term funding to create certainty for our services across the country. This would be a tangible commitment to the services for safety we provide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence."

The National FVPLS Forum also welcomed Labor's commitment to hold a family violence national crisis summit with a specific focus on violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and an Indigenous leaders summit. The National FVPLS Forum will actively participate in these forums.

**Media Contact: Andy Gargett for Antoinette Braybrook, Convenor, National FVPLS Forum on 0457  
544 591 or [agargett@fvpls.org](mailto:agargett@fvpls.org)**

<http://www.nationalfvpls.org/>

Media Release