

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

20 June 2016

Investment to reduce violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women a welcome priority under the Third Action Plan

The National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum (National FVPLS Forum) today welcomed the Coalition's commitment to deliver \$25m in funding to address family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children. The commitment is drawn from the Coalition's additional \$100m investment to implement the Third Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence to Reduce Violence Against Women and their children announced in the Budget 2016.

"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," said Antoinette Braybrook, Convenor of the National FVPLS Forum.

"Sadly the disproportionate impact on our women is to often relegated to the margins so it is fantastic too see such a large focus of the Third Action Plan will be on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives."

It is essential this investment includes building the capacity of Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLSs) who provide essential services for safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence and deliver early intervention prevention programs to break the vicious cycle of violence."

By acknowledging the disproportionate impact of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, as well as the need for targeted investment to disrupt the intergenerational impacts of family violence, the Coalition's announcement is a step forward.

"Today's commitment of funding by the Coalition is welcome however 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. In light of this, further investment is needed to address service gaps to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women regardless of their geographic location can access our services for safety."

The fourteen member organisations of the National FVPLS Forum are frontline services and know only too well the unquantifiable moral cost of this crisis, which sees lives lost and communities destroyed. We look forward to working with the Government on the implementation of the Third Action Plan.

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

Media Release