



***National Alliance cautions against costly Royal Commission when frontline DFV services remain underfunded***

As the National Alliance of Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services, we are on the frontline of the fight against domestic and family violence in Australia. Our organisations and the organisations we represent work every day to support people experiencing violence.

We share the community's anguish and devastation about the family violence related murders of five women and one man already this year. Every one of those deaths is an unacceptable tragedy – a person whose life was taken from them by a perpetrator of violence.

We understand community calls for a Royal Commission into Family Violence, calls born from frustration and devastation that we continue to see intolerable harm and loss of life because of perpetration of domestic violence. We are clear however, that we don't need to nor can we afford to wait for another report.

Royal Commissions have an important role in the Australian system, including gathering compelling evidence when we have no other way to get to the root of a problem. That is not the situation here.

The evidence is clear. We know what needs to be done to prevent, respond to and help people heal from family violence. Victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and the specialist family violence sector have been calling for the changes needed for decades.

Australia has already invested millions in inquiries and reports. The Expert Panel in 2024, the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children and the Victoria and South Australia Royal Commissions have long lists of outstanding recommendations that need funding and ongoing commitments along with many other jurisdictionally commissioned reviews, reports and evaluations.

We need to get on with making the changes. Changes like adequately and sustainably funding chronically over-stretched specialist family violence services ensuring everyone who reaches out for a service can get a response. Like access to specialist therapeutic services for children, and adequate funding for First Nations community-controlled services, and services which specialise in risk assessment and supporting safety inclusive of the person's lived experience and identity.

We have seen moments like these before, when crowds of Australians join marches and call for justice for women and children whose lives have been lost. But inevitably, in a few days or weeks, the attention turns elsewhere and nothing



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changes on the ground. We are still unable to answer all the calls from people who need us, our expertise and calls for targeted action go unanswered. What we are doing right now is not working, but what we are doing is not being guided by expertise in the decisions being made about allocation of resources, about legislative reform and about sustained and targeted prevention efforts. We haven't tried resourcing the frontline to meet demand and the ever-evolving complexity of domestic and family violence in this country.

We need immediate government action to ensure that every Australian can live safe from violence. That means actual investment and meaningful resourcing to the work of prevention, early intervention, response, healing and recovery - *not* resourcing a Royal Commission.