

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

Released on: 27/10/2022

Contact: National FVPLS Forum

Phone: 0421 595 935

Email: eo-nfvpls@qifvls.com.au

Response to the 2022-23 Commonwealth Budget

The National FVPLS Forum is concerned about lack of funding in recent budget.

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) around Australia have not received any indexation for numerous years, and prior to 2019 had no increase at all to core Commonwealth funding for a period of 5 years. Yet despite this, they have been expected to deliver additional services and higher caseloads.

The National FVPLS Forum asks the Albanese Government to review and increase the funding of FVPLS services to support their essential work in reducing First Nations family violence and stopping the human rights abuses suffered by First Nations women.

“We acknowledge with appreciation the decision of the Albanese Government to restore funding to our Peak body, the National FVPLS Forum, to improve access to justice for First Nations people experiencing violence and support the Forum’s role in ensuring that the voices of First Nations women and children are heard.” – Wynetta Dewis. Chair of National FVPLS Forum

First Nations women in Australia suffer some of the highest homicide rates in the world. The brutal human rights violations faced by First Nations women in Australia have been highlighted by recent media coverage – women killed by men who have killed before, who are in breach of their parole, who are violating protection orders, and who have beaten them before – many, many times. Women who die in agonising pain, or who survive the attacks to live with brain injuries, PTSD, trauma, and are separated from their children, their families, and their country.

Ms Dewis adds, “We are extremely concerned that there is no specific funding identified in this week’s Federal Budget for our national Family Violence Prevent Legal Service agencies around Australia, who provide front-line legal and non-legal services to our First Nations women, children and vulnerable people affected by family violence. FVPLS services are community-controlled, trauma-informed, and have been operating for more than 20 years in communities, working every day to prevent abuse to our women and children, and to stop the avoidable separation of children into care.”