

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY LAWYERS WELCOME GREENS PLAN TO ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) today welcomed the announcement by the Greens of their plan to address family violence, including through funding for legal assistance services.

The policy '*Confronting Our Domestic Violence Crisis: Enough is Enough- Funding Our Front Line Services*' was released by Greens spokesperson Senator Larissa Waters. It includes a \$5 billion plan over ten years to increase investment in front line services to address and respond to family violence.

"We welcome the Greens acknowledgement of the family violence crisis in Australia and the need for significant investment to address that crisis" said Daniel Stubbs, NACLC National Spokesperson.

"We also welcome the Greens acknowledgement of the need to reverse the funding cuts to community legal centres (CLCs), implement the Productivity Commission's recommendations and invest long-term in the legal assistance sector" said Mr Stubbs.

"We are disappointed that there was no specific funding for CLCs included in the package announced today, however the Greens have indicated that they will make further specific funding commitments for CLCs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and Legal Aid Commissions in the coming weeks and we look forward to hearing more" added Mr Stubbs.

"An important part of the package is the specific funding for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) of \$144 million additional funds over 4 years. The FVPLS provide vital services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing family violence and it is vital that these community controlled services receive the funding they need" added Mr Stubbs.

"We are also pleased to see that the package includes \$60 million to implement the recommendations made as part of the Safety First in Family Law Campaign being run by one of NACLC's National Networks, Women's Legal Services Australia. The Campaign outlines five steps to creating a family law system that keeps women and children safe and is a vital part of any national response to family violence, so reform consistent with these steps as well as associated funding is very welcome" concluded Mr Stubbs.

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