

National Association of Community Legal Centres

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MEDIA RELEASE

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NACLCLog welcomes the Federal Government's announcement on family violence, but there's so much more to do

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLCLog) welcomes the \$100m package of measures to respond to family and domestic violence announced by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull and the Minister for Women, Michaelia Cash today.

"It is fantastic to see that in his first days in office, the Prime Minister has chosen to take action against family and domestic violence. He and his government have listened to the voices of domestic violence advocates such as Rosie Batty, who have repeatedly called for adequate funding for Community Legal Centres in their work keeping women and children safe from domestic violence," said Rosslyn Monro of the NACLCLog Board.

As part of the \$100m package of measures, the Attorney-General, Senator Brandis announced that \$15m would be used to establish 12 new specialist domestic violence units and fund five health justice partnerships within existing legal assistance services located in domestic violence "hot-spots."

"This funding means that fewer women and children will need to be turned away from legal services areas serviced by these new units, but what about the women and children living in other regions?" said Ms Monro.

"It is great to see the recognition given to those Community Legal Centres that have developed specialist units and health and justice partnerships as an innovative response to family and domestic violence," said Ms Monro.

"We are unclear however how the Government will determine which legal assistance services will receive this funding, or how it impacts on the recently settled National Partnership Agreement for Legal Assistance Services. We are also extremely concerned at the absence from the broader \$100m package for increased funding for Indigenous Family Violence Legal Services to expand their holistic legal and support services to Indigenous woman in rural and regional Australia," said Ms Monro.

"NACLCLog renews calls on all levels of government to commit the additional \$200 million per year identified by the Productivity Commission as being required to adequately fund all legal assistance services in Australia" concluded Ms Monro.

For further information or to arrange an interview contact:

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NACLCLog acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Australia and particularly the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, traditional owners of the land on which the NACLCLog office is situated. We pay deep respect to Elders past and present.