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MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL CABINET MUST DELIVER ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RHETORIC

Women's Legal Services Australia is demanding all First Ministers commit to delivering the reforms and funding needed to meet the urgent needs of Australian women.

"If we, as a nation, are urging women to leave violent relationships, we sure as hell better make sure they can get the support they need when they do."

"We will not make progress unless every government steps up and delivers on the rhetoric we've been hearing for years."

Women's Legal Services Australia has welcomed the Minister for Women, Senator Katy Gallagher's strong commitment to frontline services and urges State and Territory Governments to also come to the table.

"Ending violence against women requires commitment and investment from all levels of government," said Ms Rosenman.

"The Commonwealth Government has shown leadership, promising a substantial package. This is a challenge that cannot be fixed by one government acting on its own," said Ms Rosenman.

The Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches found the provision of legal assistance to victim-survivors of DFSV is not only an access to justice issue, but a frontline service that can improve safety and reduce risk.

Ms Rosenman called on National Cabinet to end the crisis funding facing women's legal services and ensure today's investment included funding for these services.

"Specialist legal services for women are critical to changing the story for women and children facing violence in Australia."

"When women close the door on a violent relationship, we want to ensure our door is wide-open and offering the specialist legal support they need."

"We need a funding commitment from the National Cabinet, and a guarantee it will actually reach women who need the help of specialist services."



Separation is a period of heightened risk for violence, including lethal violence, against women and their children. Specialist legal services are a key point of intervention at this critical point for women and their children.

Women's Legal Services supports women to resolve immediate safety needs as well as advice and representation that can support women's longer-term recovery from violence.

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