GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE AND PREVENTION SHOULD TOP $5 BILLION

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The Federal Government’s announcement today of a pitiful $2.4 million funding for men’s behaviour change programs to address domestic violence is a drop in the ocean and will not stem the tide of violence against women, the Greens say.

"This pitiful and belated amount shows the Government continuing to ignore women and experts on the scale of action needed to address domestic violence - instead they give Pauline Hanson an inquiry platform to call women liars," Greens Senate Leader and spokesperson on women, Senator Larissa Waters said today.

“We need an urgent investment of $5.3 billion for a new ten-year billion National Partnership Agreement on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women between state and Federal governments.

“Under the plan, perpetrator interventions including men’s behaviour change programs and early intervention programs would receive $128 million over four years.

“We must treat the number of Australians who survive or are killed by domestic violence as the national emergency that it is. No survivor should be turned away when they need help.

“This plan would give 10-year funding certainty for frontline response services and radically boost their funding by investing $2.2 billion over four years over the decade.

“As part of that 10 year funding commitment, we’d support increased, long-term funding for Our Watch and ANROWS (Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety), the national primary prevention and cultural change experts.”
“It would also be vital to provide grants directly to domestic violence survivors, helping about 1,000 survivors each month at a time when they need practical support to help re-build their lives.

“There have now been eight women killed by violence in 2020, after 61 were murdered last year.

“This can be the decade where we ensure women and children are safe in their homes, on our streets or wherever they are. But it won't happen unless we lift our ambition now and resource a comprehensive domestic violence plan,” she said.

**Background**

**Other commitments proposed under the National Partnership Agreement on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women**

- Fund a national peak body for specialist domestic violence services with $8 million over 4 years.
- Spend $100 million over 2 years on capital works for crisis accommodation to build more shelters, premises or other projects as required to make sure no-one is left without a place to stay.
- Commit to increased funding for legal assistance - Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, CLCs, Legal Aid and ATSILS.
- Support for specialist domestic violence courts
- $60 million package to implement the Safety First in Family Law plan from Women’s Legal Services Australia.
- Build long-term affordable housing to clear the bottleneck in the system, as part of the Greens’ National Housing Roadmap including immediate construction of 14,500 affordable dwellings funded by changes to negative gearing.
- Make our workplaces safe by providing 10 days of paid domestic violence leave as a right for every worker.
- A comprehensive plan for primary prevention of violence and gender equality.

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