**Election 2019 – Reducing violence against women and their children**

# Why is this an issue for women?

* Violence against women is widespread – [1 in 3 Australian women have experienced physical violence and 1 in 5 have experienced sexual violence](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main%2Bfeatures12016).
* [An estimated 25% of women have experienced emotional abuse by a partner including financial abuse, isolation from family and friends, continual humiliation, threats against children or being threatened with injury or death](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main%2Bfeatures12016).
* [By 2021-22, domestic violence and sexual assault perpetrated against women will cost the Australian economy $15.6 billion in that year, if extra steps are not taken](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/vawc_economic_report.pdf).
* The Commonwealth Government led development of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against women and their children 2010-2022, a comprehensive long-term strategic approach aimed at delivering “a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women by 2022”.

**Election commitments**

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| Full implementation | Partial implementation | No or negative response |

The table below sets out how fully parties’ current election commitments address NFAW recommendations:

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| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| A specific measurable Commonwealth Government commitment to reducing violence against women by which progress can be judged, for example *to deliver a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women by 2022*. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | Budget measures focus on, and are described in terms of, inputs – not results. It is not identified how each measure, individually and together, will contribute to a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children by 2022. |  |
| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| A comprehensive national strategy setting out a pathway, goals and processes aimed to achieve reductions across Australia, which may require a Royal Commission to develop. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | While the Budget signified the largest ever Commonwealth spending commitment to reduce violence against women and their children, it has not been identified how this particular package to fund the Fourth Action Plan will deliver the objective of the National Plan – to achieve a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children. |  |
| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| An independent audit of areas of the Commonwealth to identify all Commonwealth agencies which impact on violence against women (for example, Health, Attorney-General’s, Indigenous Affairs) and develop fully funded coordinated strategies for each portfolio. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | This Budget package increases the number of Commonwealth agencies and programs involved in delivering the Commonwealth response. While this is welcomed, there is scope for additional portfolios, such as Defence, to play a productive role in developing and implementing policies aimed at reducing violence against women and their children. |  |
| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| National leadership to maximise joint work across state and territory borders, using all the levers available to the Commonwealth through COAG to maximise collaborations, plus increase Commonwealth funding support for national work and to institutions such as ANROWS, Our Watch, 1800RESPECT, data, research, and joint national work on perpetrators. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | It has not been explained how the specific package of measures maximises collaboration with State and Territory Governments. Instead it appears to be a Commonwealth-only exercise driven by existing Commonwealth initiatives and programs. |  |
| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| A focus on supporting women who have experienced violence and those with greater needs by *doubling the levels of support for women escaping violence within 2 years*, including women’s refuge and crisis accommodation, long term housing, family violence leave, etc, and a strong focus on CALD and Indigenous women, and women with disability. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | While there has been a marginal increased the level of support for women escaping violence, it is still minimal and well below that required. An additional $75.4 million to continue the Keeping Women Safe in their homes program and to provide emergency accommodation for women and children escaping violence is welcomed. However the proposed amalgamation of the Community Legal service and Aboriginal Legal Service could potentially reduce the level of informed advice and support to aboriginal women and children experiencing family violence. |  |
| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| Improve help and support for children who have experienced the trauma of family violence including trauma counselling, extra support at school, priority access to health screenings, and training for teachers to deal with traumatized children. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | There are small investments including additional support for children who witness and/or experience domestic and family violence in up to 16 Specialised Family Violence Services sites, the delivery of training to General Practice staff, and additional support for the Esther Foundation which includes counselling to assist with domestic violence. |  |
| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| Provide detailed independent annual public reports on progress nationally, with a specific focus on progress of state and territory and Commonwealth government actions. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
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| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| A National funding commitment which recognises the Commonwealth’s responsibility to ensure all women across Australia have a right to be safe – no matter where they live. To deliver this, the Commonwealth must incentivize state and territory government efforts, and support critical cross border work by matching the combined funding of all the state and territory governments. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | Although the funding in the Budget is the Commonwealth’s largest contribution to the National Plan, it is still significantly less than the individual financial contribution of either of the larger states – let alone matching the combined contribution of all States and Territories. The funding level and strategy does not represent a credible plan for a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children. |  |

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| OTHER ELECTION COMMITMENTS |
| Commitment | **Party** | **Comments** |
|  | Choose an item. |  |
|  | Choose an item. |  |
|  | Choose an item. |  |

Authorised by Kate Gunn, Sydney.