**Election 2019 – Economic and financial abuse**

# Why is this an issue for women?

* Economic and financial abuse is a form of intimate partner violence. It aims to limit a woman’s access to finances or resources in order to control her behavior and undermine her economic independence.
* Economic and financial abuse is widespread. [Research](https://theconversation.com/revealed-the-hidden-problem-of-economic-abuse-in-australia-73764) suggests that 15.7% of women have experienced this type of abuse in their lifetimes. Some women are at greater risk; 63% of women who were experiencing high financial stress and 24% of women with a disability or long-term health condition had a history of economic and financial abuse.
* Older women are also particularly vulnerable. In 2014-15, the most commonly reported type of abuse to the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit helpline was financial abuse, accounting for 40% of reports ([AIFS, 2016](https://aifs.gov.au/publications/elder-abuse/3-what-known-about-prevalence-and-dynamics-elder-abuse)).
* Economic and financial abuse is highly likely to be present alongside other forms of abuse such as sexual and physical abuse. It can continue long after the relationship has ended, making it difficult for women to leave abusive relationships and/or to achieve financial security post-separation.

**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** |
| Leading work with state and territory governments, the Commonwealth needs to identify key national priorities and the most effective strategies to address the impacts of and issues relating to economic and financial abuse – prioritizing those associated with older women, women with disability, Indigenous and CALD women. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | The budget prioritised responses to domestic and family violence, and specifically mentioned addressing financial abuse: “$2.0 million for the Office for Women to support the development of strategies for the prevention of financial abuse.” There are also specific mentions of the needs of women with a disability and Indigenous communities pertaining to domestic and family violence. However, the commitment to addressing economic abuse is not linked to any tangible outputs, and the financial commitment appears low for a national strategy. |  |
| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| The Commonwealth to rigorously assess the risk of its own Commonwealth policies or programs contributing to the financial abuse of women through systems which are unsupportive of women facing economic abuse. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
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| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| The Commonwealth should undertake an expert, independent review of its activities to identify key points where Commonwealth policies and programs contribute to the financial abuse of women. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
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| **NFAW RECOMMENDATION** |
| Funding of community education programs focused on identifying, reporting and protecting elder abuse cases. |
| **PARTY COMMITMENTS** |
| **ALP** | **LNP** | **GREENS** |
|  | $18m for a national elder abuse hotline. |  |

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

Authorised by Kate Gunn, Sydney.