



# REDUCING THE RATE OF FIRST NATIONS FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Australian Greens will work with First Nations organisations to take urgent action to reduce the unacceptable rates of family violence experienced by First Nations peoples, especially women and children.

## OVERVIEW

First Nations women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family violence than non-Aboriginal women and 10 times more likely to die from violent assault. The Greens recognise the impact of intergenerational trauma on First Nations peoples and the need for trauma-informed approaches. We recognise the need for and support whole of government reform and ongoing investment in culturally safe and culturally appropriate services for First Nations women and children.

### ONE: CLOSE THE GAP JUSTICE TARGETS

First Nations peoples are now 13 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-indigenous people and First Nations women represent 34% of the female prison population<sup>1</sup>. The Greens will adopt national justice targets to close the gap in the rates of violence against First Nations peoples and the rates of imprisonment of First Nations peoples by 2031. To achieve meaningful change, these targets must be the responsibility of all levels of government. We will ensure justice targets are developed and implemented in partnership with First Nations communities and monitored and reported on through the Closing the Gap reports to Parliament.

### TWO: PRIMARY PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

The Greens are committed to significant investment in primary prevention and early intervention programs that address the root causes of family violence. We know there is significant underrepresentation of First Nations families in accessing targeted family support services and preventive services<sup>2</sup>. We need to ensure culturally safe, tailored programs are adequately resourced and provide appropriate coverage for First Nations families. As part of our broader plan on family violence, the Greens will increase and provide long-term secure funding to Our Watch and ANROWS, the national primary prevention and cultural change experts.

### THREE: SURVIVOR GRANT FUNDING

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<sup>1</sup> Change the Record, <https://changetherecord.org.au/get-the-facts>

<sup>2</sup> SNAICC, NFVPLS, NATSILS, Strong Families, Safe Kids Policy Paper 2017, p14, [http://www.nationalfvpls.org/images/files/SNAICC-NATSILS-NFVPLS\\_Strong\\_Families\\_Safe\\_Kids-Sep\\_2017.pdf](http://www.nationalfvpls.org/images/files/SNAICC-NATSILS-NFVPLS_Strong_Families_Safe_Kids-Sep_2017.pdf)

As part of our plan to stop the epidemic of family and domestic violence, the Greens will commit an additional \$200 million over four years to a Survivor Grant fund which would give up to 50,000 survivors grants of up to \$4,000.

The Greens are allocating a proportion of Survivor Grant funding to First Nations community-controlled specialist frontline services working with family violence survivors. We will ensure a number of survivor grant places are set aside for First Nations survivors and that grants are flexible to meet the needs of First Nations peoples living in remote communities.

#### **FOUR: A HEALTH AND HOUSING FIRST APPROACH**

First Nations women are 15 times more likely to access homelessness and crisis housing than non-Indigenous women<sup>3</sup>. The Greens will adopt a housing first policy by setting aside \$500 million per year to fund transitional housing and crisis services. We will work with First Nations organisations to ensure access to culturally appropriate crisis housing and long-term housing options for women and children experiencing family violence.

Family violence can have a significant impact on health and mental health outcomes for First Nations women, men and children. The Greens will boost First Nations health funding by restoring the \$500 million cut from First Nations organisations following the introduction of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. We are committed to working with First Nations organisations to achieve equality in health outcomes.

#### **FIVE: SUPPORT FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICES**

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services provide holistic, culturally safe legal and non-legal services including legal assistance, casework, counselling and court support for First Nations victims and survivors of family violence. They also undertake vital work around community legal education, early intervention and prevention. We understand these services are in a difficult position having been subject to funding cuts and freezes to indexation under a number of governments.

The Greens strongly support restoring and increasing investment in self-determined, community-controlled organisations providing frontline specialist services. The Greens will provide \$118 million to Family Violence Prevention Legal Services over the forward estimates. We will also reinstate Family Violence Prevention Legal Services as a standalone program with a direct allocation of funding, long-term secure funding agreements and CPI increases for all members.

In recognition of the important role the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum as a peak body, we will provide \$4.5 million to the forum to continue to advocate and build the capacity of the sector.

#### **SIX: EXPAND COVERAGE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICES**

There are currently 14 Family Violence Prevention Legal Services which collectively service an area that only covers around half of the First Nations population. We know there is significant

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<sup>3</sup> SNAICC, NFVPLS, NATSILS, Strong Families, Safe Kids Policy Paper 2017, p9, [http://www.nationalfvpls.org/images/files/SNAICC-NATSILS-NFVPLS\\_Strong\\_Families\\_Safe\\_Kids-Sep\\_2017.pdf](http://www.nationalfvpls.org/images/files/SNAICC-NATSILS-NFVPLS_Strong_Families_Safe_Kids-Sep_2017.pdf)

