

Press Release

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Sustained focus needed to address violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

National advocacy organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights - ANTaR, today welcomed announcements from all parties on violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, but called for sustained, longer term investment.

National Director Andrew Meehan said that following the release of the Coalition's policy today of \$25 million, all parties have now made announcements to address violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Mr Meehan noted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are at the epicentre of the crisis of violence against women and the issue required significant investments over the long term.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised from family violence and 10 times more likely to die of violent assault than other women. This is now at epidemic levels, and without long term investment, tailored in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, will cost the nation \$2.2 billion by 2021-2022," he said.

"The moral cost of lives lost and communities destroyed is unimaginable, and the issue requires unwavering commitment from decision makers as a national priority for action."

"The goal of all parties should be to close the gap in the disproportionate rates of violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and end violence against women once and for all."

Mr Meehan welcomed Labor's commitment of funding for Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, the Liberal government's announcement of \$25 million to address violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and the Greens comprehensive package to address the issue.

"The initiatives must be developed and delivered in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their representatives, including Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Services," he said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have the solutions and their views must be at the centre of the change.

About

ANTaR is the only incorporated non-Indigenous organisation dedicated solely to supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working to educate the wider community, shape public opinion and speak up for justice, rights and respect for Australia's First Peoples