


# Safe State



**Acting to End Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence**

[safensw.org.au](https://safensw.org.au)



# **Safe State** Acting to End Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence

## **1. Create cultural change to prevent violence and promote gender equality**

- a. Establish an independent statutory body for the primary prevention of gender-based violence
- b. Make prevention of gender-based violence a key priority in NSW secondary schools
- c. Become a member of Our Watch to drive cultural change to prevent gender-based violence
- d. Provide respectful relationships education to women with disability
- e. Provide community education and bystander interventions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people
- f. Develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people led strategy to prevent violence
- g. Support culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women to prevent violence in their communities
- h. Establish a Gender Equality Unit to promote gender equality through policy and law change
- i. Ensure women have the equal right to autonomy and health by decriminalising abortion in NSW

## **2. Provide immediate and ongoing support for people experiencing violence**

- a. Increase funding for specialist domestic and family violence services and crisis response services to support women experiencing domestic and family violence
- b. Fund Women's Health Centres to provide specialist health and therapeutic programs to women experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence
- c. Fund Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services to provide case management support to women experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence
- d. Increase funding for the NSW Rape Crisis Centre to support women experiencing sexual violence
- e. Fund support during pregnancy and for the first 1000 days after birth for women at risk of experiencing domestic and family violence
- f. Support women with disability to leave violence by meeting their crisis disability support needs
- g. Ensure women with disability can access sexual, domestic and family violence services
- h. Provide support to LGBTIQ people experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence
- i. Make mainstream and domestic and family violence services safe for LGBTIQ people
- j. Increase CALD women with disability's understanding of sexual, domestic and family violence
- k. Research CALD women with disability's experiences of sexual, domestic and family violence
- l. Ensure children and young people who have experienced violence receive their own specialist support
- m. Support men who use violence to change their behaviour

## **3. Ensure people experiencing violence have a safe home**

- a. Give people experiencing violence the choice and support to remain safely in their home
- b. Ensure all women and children experiencing domestic and family violence can immediately access crisis and transitional housing
- c. Ensure women on temporary visas experiencing violence and their children can access a safe home
- d. Ensure people experiencing domestic and family violence can access social housing
- e. Support people experiencing domestic and family violence to secure private rental housing
- f. Enable a person who is experiencing domestic and family violence to end their tenancy immediately without penalty
- g. Prohibit the blacklisting of tenants who have experienced domestic and family violence and hold perpetrators of violence accountable for any damage they cause to rental property



#### 4. Ensure people experiencing violence can access justice safely

- a. Provide legal and social support to women experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence
- b. Make courts safe for people who have experienced sexual, domestic and family violence
- c. Establish specialist domestic and family violence courts
- d. Improve access to recognition payments and financial support for people who have experienced sexual, domestic and family violence
- e. Ensure ready and easy access to brokerage funding for all people experiencing domestic and family violence
- f. Establish additional domestic and family violence forensic units across the state
- g. Train NSW Police officers to respond appropriately and consistently to breaches of Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- h. Train NSW Police officers on how to identify a person who is the predominant aggressor of domestic and family violence
- i. Train NSW Police Officers and prosecutors to identify attempted strangulation

#### 5. Enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to lead change to end violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children

- a. Establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Advisory Group and specialist unit on Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence to inform whole of NSW government
- b. Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experiencing sexual, domestic and family violence can access specialist, culturally specific and culturally safe support

#### 6. Be accountable to specialist workers and the wider community

- a. Move the responsibility for sexual, domestic and family violence to a central government agency
- b. Implement all recommendations of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team
- c. Reform the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council
- d. Reform the NSW Domestic and Family Reforms Delivery Board
- e. Establish a taskforce focused on improving the criminal justice response to sexual violence
- f. Improve regional governance to support coordinated local decision-making
- g. Develop and implement a whole-of-system workforce strategy to ensure high quality responses to sexual, domestic and family violence in a trauma-informed way
- h. Train specialist, mainstream, and government workers, legal practitioners, judicial officers and court staff to respond to sexual, domestic and family violence in a trauma-informed way
- i. Train specialist, mainstream, and government workers, legal practitioners, judicial officers and court staff to work in a culturally safe and disability aware way with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, CALD and LGBTIQ people and people with disability



# Safe State

The NSW Women's Alliance was established in 2012 by a number of NSW peak organisations and state-wide service providers responding to and working to prevent violence against women. It meets monthly to discuss policy and legal issues relating to sexual, domestic and family violence. The Alliance developed this policy platform for A Safe State in the lead up to the 2019 NSW Election to call on all political parties to act to end sexual, domestic and family violence. It builds upon the Alliance's previous platform for A Safer State developed in the lead up to the 2015 NSW Election.

## Current members:

- Domestic Violence NSW (co-convenor)
- Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia (co-convenor)
- Women's Health NSW
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service NSW
- Women's Legal Services NSW
- Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service
- Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW
- People With Disability Australia (NSW)
- ACON
- Multicultural Disability Association of Australia (NSW)
- No To Violence
- NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)
- WESNET
- Youth Action