

Relationships Australia welcomes Government's investment in Family Violence Prevention

September 7, 2024

Relationships Australia welcomes the Government's announcement of a \$4.4 billion investment towards the prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence, announced following National Cabinet on Friday, 6 September 2024.

Nick Tebbey, National Executive Officer of Relationships Australia, acknowledged the significance of the funding package and its alignment with the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.

"This investment is a welcome boost for the critical work that is being done across the country. It recognises the variety of responses that are required if we, as a nation, are to bring an end to the scourge of family, domestic and sexual violence," Mr. Tebbey said.

Relationships Australia particularly welcomes the announcement of an \$80 million package to enhance and expand child-centric, trauma-informed supports for children and young people who are victim survivors of family violence. Mr. Tebbey said: "The additional support for children who have experienced family violence is vital. Children are victim survivors in their own right, with their unique perspective on what is happening. Trauma-informed, child-centric approaches are essential for supporting young people's recovery and resilience, as well as disrupting intergenerational patterns of violence, trauma and other harms."

Mr. Tebbey also highlighted the government's focus on developing national, evidence-based standards for men's behaviour change programs. "This is a crucial step forward," he noted "and will provide a significant evidence base from which best practice in perpetrator interventions can be ensured."

"For this to succeed, however, requires significant additional investment. Effective interventions aimed at changing behaviours and breaking cycles of violence must be a priority for future funding allocations under the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses between the federal government and the states and territories."

Relationships Australia has long advocated for increased attention and resources in these areas. We stand ready to work with all Australian Governments and other stakeholders to implement these initiatives effectively.

"For this investment to reach its true potential, it is critical that there is collaboration across all Australian Governments, community organisations, and other service providers to translate this funding into meaningful supports and services which can create lasting change," Mr. Tebbey said. "Together, we can create safer families and communities across Australia."

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Relationships Australia is a leading provider of relationship support services for individuals, families and communities. We aim to support all people in Australia to achieve positive and respectful relationships. We are a community-based, not-for-profit Australian organisation with no religious affiliations.