

# END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## ELIMINATING GENDER INEQUALITY

**Violence against women is preventable, and gender equality is the core of the solution, along with funding our vital front line services.**

**Everyone has a right to live safely and free from fear. But family violence is at crisis levels. One woman is killed every week in Australia by a current or former partner.**

### THE GREENS PLAN WILL PROVIDE

- A broad program for gender equality.** Primary prevention to challenge the deeply ingrained attitudes, social norms and gender inequalities that give rise to men's violence against women.
- A holistic whole-of-government approach to tackling family violence.** Implement all 49 'Safe State' recommendations of the NSW Women's Alliance – including decriminalising abortion by abolishing Division 12 of the Crimes Act (see our plan to decriminalise abortion here).
- Immediate and ongoing support for those experiencing violence.** Provide an additional \$30 million per year for specialist women's legal services and Community Legal Centres. Double federal funding to \$500m/year and double NSW's commitment to match it.
- Specialist services for women from different backgrounds.** Provide \$310 million over four years for specialist domestic and family violence services – including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD women and children, LGBTIQ people and children, and women and children with disability – and state-wide crisis services.

### A BROAD PROGRAM FOR GENDER EQUALITY

#### THE BEST WAY TO STOP VIOLENCE IS BEFORE IT OCCURS

Gender inequality and harmful attitudes towards women underlie the vast majority of incidents of family violence.

The Greens are committed to a broad program for gender equality led by government, but involving everyone across business, civil society and communities.

#### We will work to:

- Develop programs with schools to implement gender equality and respectful relationship education.
- Ensure access to affordable, appropriate housing to address the growing trend of homelessness and housing stress among women, and particularly older women. Implement a 'Housing First' approach to provide permanent, supported housing and invest in 30,000 new social housing dwellings every year.
- Boost women's workforce participation by providing publicly-funded training opportunities and accessible and affordable early childhood education for children.
- Address the drivers of violence against women in the media, popular culture, advertising and in leisure activities.
- Amend the definition of consent in section 61HA of the Crimes Act to require active, affirmative and ongoing sexual consent and invest in primary prevention programs of sexual consent education.

## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TACKLING FAMILY VIOLENCE WITH A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

The Greens endorse all 49 'Safe State' recommendations of the NSW Women's Alliance, an interlinked package of reforms for implementation across multiple levels of government and aspects of society. We join their call in demanding that NSW should be a place where women can be free and live safe from violence.

## SUPPORTING THOSE EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING SUPPORT FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

Due to the high number of people who face sexual assault and domestic violence in NSW, crisis response services and legal centres are unable to meet the demand. Every person who has experienced violence should receive the immediate and ongoing support they need to be safe and heal and to access justice safely.

### **The Greens will push for:**

- Additional \$30 million per year for specialist women's legal services and Community Legal Centres.
- Funding for crisis and transitional housing provided by specialist domestic and family violence services and Specialist Homelessness Services (see our Housing for All package).
- Additional funding for pets to be housed and cared for so that women don't delay leaving violent partners because of concerns for their pet's welfare.
- Extended mandatory domestic violence and gender equality police training to ensure NSW police officers respond to domestic violence incidents in an informed, culturally safe and disability-aware way.

## SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR ALL WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS & COMMUNITIES

Mainstream services can lack the specialist understanding and sensitivity required to adequately address the needs of women in the LGBTIQ community, CALD women and/or women with a disability.

### **The Greens will push for:**

- Provide additional funding for specialist domestic and family violence services, including \$310 million over 4 years for specialist domestic and family violence services (including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD women and children, LGBTIQ people and children, and women and children with disability) and state-wide 24/7 crisis service responses.
- Empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to develop and lead a long-term strategy to prevent violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children in NSW.
- Provide additional funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations with specialist expertise in sexual, domestic and family violence to expand their services for Aboriginal women and children.