

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Our plan to eliminate violence against women at home, at work, and in public

On average, one woman in Australia is killed each week by a current or former partner.¹

Around 40% of women have experienced workplace harassment, women as young as 12 have reported sexual harassment in public, and 1 in 3 women experience abuse in their lifetime.²

First Nations women, women from culturally diverse backgrounds, women in regional areas, older women, LGBTIQ women, and women with a disability are even more likely to experience violence.³

This is a national crisis, and the Greens will take action towards the elimination of all gendered violence.

THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Invest \$12 billion over 12 years to support the National Plan for Ending Violence Against Women and Children, and a standalone National Plan for First Nations Women**
- ▲ **Invest \$477 million over 4 years to support the national rollout of Our Watch's Respectful Relationships education in all public schools**
- ▲ **Support those fleeing abusive relationships** by providing 10 days paid domestic violence leave and \$10,000 Survivor Grants
- ▲ **Fund innovative safety initiatives:**
 - trial a national disclosure scheme to provide details of a partner's violent history
 - fund the Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre

¹ Australian Domestic and Family Violence Review Network. 2018. Data report 2018, Domestic Violence Death Review Team, Sydney; Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2017. Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016, ABS cat. no. 4906.0.

² Australian Human Rights Commission. 2018. *Everyone's Business: Fourth national survey on sexual harassment in Australian workplaces*, p.26

³ ABS. Personal Safety Survey 2016

- ▲ **Adopt all recommendations in the Respect@Work report**, including a positive duty to prevent sexual harassment and funding for Working Women's Centres
- ▲ **Adopt all recommendations in the Set the Standard report**, to ensure all staff working in parliamentary workplaces are safe and respected
- ▲ **Close the gender pay gap, address the housing crisis, and provide women with more economic security**

PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

Ensuring no one seeking help is turned away

Support services for victim-survivors are woefully underfunded and many services report regularly having to turn away people seeking help.⁴ More needs to be done to provide

specialist services for diverse communities of at-risk women.

The Greens will implement a 12 year National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, funded at \$1 billion per year to provide certainty for frontline response services in line with what the sector says is needed to meet demand.

This Plan will provide dedicated, secure, long-term funding for specialist family and

⁴ Curtis, K. "Incredible pressure: Thousands of women turned away from domestic violence legal services". Sydney Morning Herald, 22 September 2020.

domestic violence services across the country. The plan will deliver outreach, crisis response, crisis accommodation, legal and financial support, help to avoid surveillance by an ex-partner, advocacy and post-crisis support so that no woman seeking support is turned away.

We will ensure that all funding commitments in the 2022-23 Budget are maintained, with additional funding to be allocated in consultation with the sector. In particular, the Plan will:

- ▲ be responsive to the particular needs of LGBTIQ+ people, migrants, young people, older women, and disabled people, and ensure women on temporary visas can access support
- ▲ centre the voices and experiences of victim-survivors, and support recovery measures
- ▲ provide long-term secure funding to Our Watch and ANROWS to develop and evaluate national primary prevention and cultural change programs
- ▲ support targeted, best practice behaviour change and early intervention programs
- ▲ support workforce development of expertise in prevention and early intervention
- ▲ provide explicit measures for harassment (including street harassment), financial abuse, technology-facilitated abuse, and coercive control
- ▲ facilitate harmonisation of laws relating to consent, evidentiary burdens, and

definitions of domestic, family and sexual violence

Implementation of the plan will be supported by doubling funding for legal assistance services like Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, community legal centres, women's legal services, Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, and legal aid commissions. We will also support ongoing reform of the family law and criminal justice system, including training to ensure police and judges understand power dynamics, the signs of sexual, domestic and family violence, and the impacts of trauma.⁵

Safety for First Nations Women

The Greens will ensure there is a National Plan to End Violence Against First Nations Women and Children that is self-determined by First Nations women and their community-controlled services and organisations.

First Nations leadership, expertise and solutions must be prioritised at all stages of the development and implementation of the Plan, commencing with a First Nations Women's Summit.

Ending rape culture

In 2021, thousands of school students shared confronting stories of how common sexual assault is amongst young people.⁶ The highest

⁵ See Justice for All policy.

⁶ Contos, C. "Do they even know they did this to us?: why I launched the school sexual assault petition". The Guardian. 15 March 2021.

rates of sexual assault occur amongst 15 – 19 year olds.⁷

An alarming number of people still disbelieve or victim-blame survivors of assault.⁸ We live in a rape culture: one that normalises sexual assault as ‘boys will be boys’.

Nationally consistent Respectful Relationships Education is a key primary prevention program to try to dismantle this persistent rape culture and ensure everyone understands that anything less than informed and enthusiastic consent means no.

ACARA has confirmed that comprehensive consent education will be mandatory from prep to Y10 from 2023.⁹ The Greens will make sure that program is well-designed and well-delivered by allocating \$477 million over four years to roll out Our Watch’s proven age-appropriate, evidence-based, whole of school programs in all public schools.¹⁰

Survivor Grants

Too often, women stay in violent situations because they can’t afford to leave, or worry that they won’t be able to guarantee their safety, or the safety of their children if they leave.

Lack of resources should not prevent anyone from escaping violence.

⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2020. Sexual Assault in Australia.

⁸ Australia Talks survey data suggests only 55% of people agree that sexual assault allegations are almost always true.

⁹ Lisa Visentin & Natassia Chrysanthos, “[Education: Consent and coercion in sexual relationships to be part of national curriculum](#).” *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 February 2022

¹⁰ Our Watch. *Evidence paper: Respectful Relationships Education in Schools*.
<https://education.ourwatch.org.au/resource/evidence-paper-respectful-relationships-education-in-schools/>

The Greens will invest \$380 million over four years to strengthen the government’s Escaping Violence Payments to help survivors access immediate support to meet the costs of leaving an abusive relationship and starting a new life.

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be available to cover expenses such as relocation costs and bond, food and clothing, medical expenses, strengthening personal security, and re-training and recruitment costs.

Women’s safety initiatives

Disclosing past violence

Past violence is a key indicator of future risks, so having access to information about a partner’s history can save lives.

Based on the successful South Australian model, the Greens will invest \$2.6 million to support other jurisdictions to implement a one year trial of a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme providing information about whether an applicant’s partner has a history of violence, subject to confidentiality protections and support.¹¹

Even where a search shows no history of violence, the fact that a request was made can raise attention to risk factors. Anyone accessing the scheme will be supported with counselling and outreach services.

Illawarra Women’s Trauma Recovery Centre

Domestic and family violence is a complex issue. The resulting trauma can have long-term

¹¹ See <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/media/documents/forms/urls/domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme>

impacts for women and their families, even after they leave, including health, legal and financial difficulties and psychosocial challenges.¹²

The Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre will be Australia's first trauma recovery space dedicated to survivors of sexual, family and domestic violence.¹³

The complex needs of recovering victim-survivors include counselling, social support, parenting support, financial advice, health management, and legal support. These services are best provided in one safe, accessible place by a team of trauma-informed professionals.

The Greens will invest \$28.5 million for a five year pilot of the Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre to:

- ▲ demonstrate the effectiveness of an individualised and wrap-around service to assist victim-survivors
- ▲ support research into response strategies for domestic and family violence

Domestic and family violence leave

The existing right to five days of unpaid leave is wholly inadequate given the financial burden and emotional toll of leaving a violent relationship.

¹² ANROWS, 2020. *Constructions of complex trauma and implications for women's wellbeing and safety from violence*. Available at anrows.org.au

¹³ <https://womenstraumacentre.wordpress.com/>

The Greens will require employers to provide 10 days of paid leave to employees experiencing family and domestic violence so that no one has to choose between getting paid and being safe.

Addressing the housing crisis

Chronic lack of capacity in domestic violence shelters, crisis and transitional housing and social housing is killing women. Without access to safe and secure housing, women are being forced to choose between staying in an abusive relationship or risking homelessness. No one should have to make that choice.

The problem is even worse in regional areas, and older women are particularly vulnerable.

The Greens will fund crisis and transitional accommodation under the National Plan for Eliminating Violence Against Women, and provide long-term affordable housing by investing in social housing to build 1 million new public and community homes.¹⁴

Financial security

The Greens will review the Commonwealth income support framework to make sure women can be assessed independently of an abusive partner once they leave.¹⁵

We also have a suite of measures to improve women's overall economic position so more

¹⁴ See 1 Million Homes policy

¹⁵ See Economic Justice Australia, *Debt, Duress and Dob-Ins: Centrelink compliance processes and domestic violence*, November 2021.

https://www.ejaustralia.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/EJA_Full-Report2021_DebtsDuressDobins-FINAL.pdf

women have financial security when making decisions.¹⁶

Safer workplaces

The National Sexual Harassment survey found that nearly 40% of women have been harassed at work, but many do not report the harassment for fear of reprisal or lack of confidence that any action will be taken.¹⁷

The Australian Human Rights Commissions' comprehensive report, *Respect@Work*, provides a roadmap towards safer, non-discriminatory workplaces, but the government has failed to act on all its recommendations.

The Greens will implement all 55 recommendations in full, including:

- ▲ A positive duty on employers to prevent sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination in their workplace
- ▲ Giving the AHRC powers to investigate systemic discrimination and harassment
- ▲ Allowing class actions for sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination
- ▲ \$8 million annually to fund Working Women's Centres in all States and Territories

To ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and sexual harassment is not swept under the carpet, we will also prohibit

non-disclosure agreements unless requested by victims and allow factual information about the outcome of harassment claims to be made public by the victim.

Taking harassment seriously

The Government has committed to conducting a national sexual harassment survey every four years to measure progress on making workplaces safer for all staff and identifying areas where further work is required.

In addition to supporting this survey, the Greens will require the Prime Minister and the Minister for Women to formally respond to the survey results to ensure national attention.

Parliamentary workplaces

A series of recent scandals and reports of past abuse have made clear that politicians aren't fulfilling their obligations to make their workplaces safe. The Australian Human Rights Commission's *Set the Standard* report lays out how to change that.

To ensure that the Australian Parliament is a model workplace, and somewhere women aspire to work, the Greens will:

- ▲ Implement all 28 recommendations of the *Set the Standard* report
- ▲ Lock in the new independent process for bullying and harassment complaints
- ▲ Mandate that all MPs undertake regular, comprehensive anti-bullying and harassment training

¹⁶ See Women's Economic Security policy

¹⁷ Australian Human Rights Commission. 2018. *Everyone's business: Fourth national survey on sexual harassment in Australian workplaces*

- ▲ Introduce an enforceable Code of Conduct for all politicians and senior staff
- ▲ Implement strong measures to facilitate more diversity and inclusivity amongst MPs and the parliamentary workforce

- ▲ Pushed for gender equality reporting to be extended to the public sector
- ▲ Called for the urgent implementation of the full suite of Set the Standards recommendations to make parliamentary workplaces safe.

HOW THE GREENS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR YOU

In the last parliament, the Greens:

- ▲ Moved amendments to the Respect@Work Bill to introduce positive duties on employers to provide safe and respectful workplaces
- ▲ Passed motions forcing regular acknowledgement of the rising number of women killed by violence, and regularly spoke about violence against women in the media and parliament
- ▲ Spoke up against Pauline Hanson's damaging Family Law inquiry
- ▲ Established a cross-party parliamentary group to advocate for action to reduce violence against women, and a consistent national approach to coercive control
- ▲ Called for an independent complaints process for parliamentary staff and an enforceable Code of Conduct for all politicians
- ▲ Pushed for an independent inquiry into allegations of sexual assault against Christian Porter

FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:

greens.org.au/platform