

AN END TO GENDERED VIOLENCE

SO EVERYONE CAN FEEL SAFE IN THE COMMUNITY AND AT HOME

Canberra is a place where everyone should feel safe and have equal opportunities in life, no matter our background, ability, gender, sexuality, income or postcode.

But too many people experience harassment, fear, violence and abuse in family or intimate relationships.

One in three women experience abuse in their lifetime, while 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. Around 40% of women have experienced workplace harassment and girls as young as 12 have reported sexual harassment in public.

Gendered violence is a national crisis. And our frontline community organisations are in such demand they have to turn away people seeking help.

The ACT Greens pledge to work to ensure everyone can live a life free of harassment, discrimination, violence and poverty. Our plan will provide more early intervention, rehabilitation, evidence-based prevention and genuinely back domestic, family and intimate violence support services.

THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Provide adequate and long term funding certainty for agencies that respond to sexual, domestic and family violence
- ▲ Fully deliver the recommendations in the Sexual Assault Police Review and the *Listen, Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report
- ▲ Explore banning non-disclosure agreements in sexual harassment claims
- ▲ Ensure domestic and family violence organisations have the same privileged communications with victim survivors as other frontline services
- ▲ Establish a pilot program to support young people at-risk of harmful sexual behaviours
- ▲ Fund Men's Behaviour Change programs
- ▲ Include early intervention education in primary and secondary school curricula
- ▲ Support first responders build the right skills to respond to domestic and family violence
- ▲ Examine criminalising coercive control, protect victims in private rental accommodation from property damage costs, and regulate online pornography and gambling
- ▲ Provide more funding to community legal centres
- ▲ Expand the Justice Housing Program for people on bail for domestic and family violence offences.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

The ACT Greens will deliver early intervention and prevention programs to promote respectful relationships and end domestic, family and sexual violence in Canberra.

As part of this, we commit to adequately resource the implementation of the recommendations in the Listen, *Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee.

AN ACT DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY

The ACT Greens will progress work already underway to develop the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy to eliminate gendered violence in Canberra. It will be developed in close consultation with services that respond to domestic, family and sexual violence and with victim survivors. We will also explore how to regulate damaging industries that exacerbate gendered violence, like gambling and pornography being easily accessed by young people online, including by lobbying the Commonwealth Government.

Our plan will examine criminalising coercive control in conjunction with people with lived experience and the community organisations that support them, including First Nations organisations.

We will also explore how to ensure that victim survivors of family and domestic violence in private rental accommodation can be protected from bearing the costs

of damage or debt incurred by people who chose to use violence.

Our plan will also explore banning non-disclosure agreements in sexual harassment claims so victim survivors have more agency and voice.

In addition we will also pass legislation and create training resources to ensure domestic and family violence organisations have the same privileged communications with victim survivors as other frontline and support services the person might be engaged with.

IN OUR SCHOOLS

The ACT Greens will allocate funding to standardise and include early intervention education on respectful relationships, emotional regulation and consent in primary and secondary curricula in Canberra.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAMS

The ACT Greens will provide dedicated funding for the delivery of Men's Behaviour Change programs for primary prevention, intervention and education services tailored for boys and men, with women and children's advocacy and support operating alongside. We will also fund services to support children that have been abused in other ways and are starting to repeat patterns they have been exposed to earlier in their lives.

A NEW PROGRAM FOR AT RISK YOUNG PEOPLE

The ACT Greens will establish a pilot program to support young people exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours to make safer choices.

It will address an existing service gap in the ACT for young people aged 11-17 with harmful sexual behaviours. Currently there are no services in the ACT for this cohort.

Harmful sexual behaviours by a child may be indicative of previous experiences of abuse, trauma, exposure to inappropriate sexual material, exposure to domestic and family violence or institutional violence. That's why this program will also support young people who have been abused and are starting to repeat patterns they have been exposed to growing up.

We will engage one or more community sector organisations with relevant experience to deliver this program, providing therapeutic support for at-risk young people to have safe and respectful relationships.

INVESTMENT:

- \$600,000 the at-risk young person pilot program
- \$1m for respectful relationships in schools, men's behaviour change programs and services that support children who have been abused in other ways.

GENUINE SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE SERVICES

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

The ACT Greens have already committed to providing longer term and adequate

funding certainty for agencies that respond to sexual, domestic and family violence, so they can support anyone who needs help. Right now they are under-funded and are struggling to support the increasing demand. Our plan to sustainably fund the sector, with priority for frontline services supporting domestic and family violence victim-survivors, will ensure organisations have enough resources to support anyone in need.

The ACT Greens have also already announced a plan to go further to improve access to justice by providing free legal assistance to more Canberrans. Private legal help can be expensive and experiencing domestic and family violence can complicate access to these services. That's why we will raise the income threshold for Legal Aid ACT grants eligibility. We will also provide adequate and long term funding certainty for community legal centres and Legal Aid ACT. This will ensure that services are accessible for those who need it, when they need it.

INVESTING IN FIRST RESPONDERS

The ACT Greens will ensure that first responders have the right training and skills to respond quickly and appropriately to instances of domestic and family violence, as outlined in the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Report.

The ACT Greens will provide sufficient funds to fully deliver the recommendations in the Sexual Assault Police Review. The recommendations of this review came from 684 cases of sexual assault that were reported to ACT Police and did not progress. We are committed to fully implementing these

recommendations to deliver justice and fairness to the impacted victim-survivors.

INVESTMENT:

- First responders support will be funded from Justice and Community Safety Directorate resources.

MORE HOUSING OPTIONS

EXPAND THE JUSTICE HOUSING PROGRAM

The Justice Housing Program provides accommodation for people in the justice system, who would otherwise have to remain in custody or be released into homelessness. It has been proven to help reduce recidivism and improves the wellbeing of those being released from custody and their families.

The ACT Greens have also already committed to expand the Justice Housing Program to provide additional beds for people on bail for domestic and family violence offences so they can, if assessed as appropriate, be accommodated away from the family home to minimise disruption to the rest of the family and to protect victims.

Often when male perpetrators of domestic violence have nowhere else to go, they are more likely to attempt to return to the family home, which may compromise the safety and security of women and children.

This expansion ensures people are not forced into homelessness or have no

choice but to return to the home of their alleged victims. It helps protect victims of domestic and family violence, allowing those accused to de-escalate and engage with rehabilitation, like behavioural change programs, without the distraction and distress of having nowhere suitable to live.

PATHWAY INTO A SAFE, SECURE HOME

A safe, secure and affordable home is one of the biggest challenges for victim survivors of domestic and family violence.

The lack of public housing to meet increasing demand means that too many people are either stuck in crisis accommodation, unsustainable private rental housing, or in a harmful relationship.

Our plan to [build and buy 10,000 public homes](#) over the next 10 years will support more Canberrans to have a secure, affordable home that meets their needs.

It will also ensure that people in crisis accommodation have a pathway out of that service to progress on their healing journey and provide a new place for someone else escaping domestic and family violence.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 131 444.

If you need help and advice, call:

- Canberra Rape and Crisis Centre: (02) 6247 2525
- Domestic Violence Crisis Service: (02) 6280 0900
- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Lifeline: 13 11 14.