



**Aboriginal  
Justice Caucus**

## **National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Statement of Support**

The Aboriginal Justice Caucus wishes to express its disappointment in the Federal Government's decision to cut funding to the National Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services Forum (National FVPLS). This decision to cease funding of the National FVPLS in June 2020 will remove the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly silencing women in the family violence space. It also breaks community trust and confidence.

Since 2012, the National FVPLS Forum has advocated on behalf of the thirteen member organisations who work in family violence perpetuated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their children. Additionally, the National FVPLS is the only national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim and survivors of family violence and sexual assault most particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children.

The National FVPLS do important work and have established recommendations around the acknowledgement that reducing and eliminating family violence can only be achieved with genuine commitment to an evidence-based and integrated government approach. The funding cut to the National FVPLS goes directly against a recent independent evaluation conducted by Charles Darwin University that points to greater resourcing for their national work.

The decision to cut funding compromises self-determination by removing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's voices from critical national conversations around family violence.

The Aboriginal Justice Caucus urge the Federal Government to reinstate the funding for the National FVPLS. Sustained and long term funding will enable the National FVPLS to continue capacity building and national advocacy giving voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and survivors.

We extend our support to the National FVPLS and we hope to see their continued work.