



# Djirra Key Calls

National Summit on Women's Safety September 2021

## **Establish a separate, dedicated National Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children**

*Despite having a National Plan, the rates of violence continue to rise for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. A dedicated National Plan will ensure that self-determined solutions to eliminate violence will be invested in.*

## **Increase investment into early intervention and prevention**

*Investing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations to deliver holistic, wrap-around support is key to addressing the high rates of violence experienced by our women and children. Early intervention and prevention programs that build on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's resilience must be prioritised.*

## **Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's economic security**

*Abolish ParentsNext and other punitive social security programs that drive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, especially women, deeper into poverty.*

## **Establish a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering/Summit**

*Investing in self-determination by supporting the sharing of knowledge, promotion of leadership, building of networks and relationships, and identifying priority issues for change is essential.*

## **Government must fully implement all of the recommendations in the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report**

*This ground-breaking report must be implemented by Government to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are visible and heard.*

## **Women in prison must not be forgotten in this National Plan**

*Family violence is both a cause and consequence of increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's incarceration.*

## **Funding decisions should be determined by need, not geography**

*Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is a national emergency. The Federal government must prioritise funding to specialist Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services to address this crisis in all areas - urban, rural and remote.*

## **Reinstate a dedicated funding stream with increased, long-term and secure funding for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLSs)**

*To ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing family violence have access to holistic, culturally safe, specialist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services in urban, rural and remote areas.*

## **Establish a nationally consistent, mandatory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection notification and referral system**

*To reduce family violence driven child removal by facilitating culturally safe and holistic legal assistance for mums and their kids.*

## **The National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) Forum must be represented on the advisory groups informing the National Plan**

*It is essential that the National FVPLS Forum is included in the development of the National Plan. This will ensure the diverse and unique experiences of the National FVPLS Forum's 14 member organisations working on the front-line with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women across Australia are visible and heard.*

## **Self-determination – Solutions by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women**

*Self-determination is a necessary foundation to end violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.*

## **Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty**

*Data collection must be culturally safe. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations must be resourced to collect, control, and analyse their own data. This is self-determination.*

## **Housing must be included as a focus area of the National Plan**

*Family violence is a key driver to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women becoming homeless and a major factor preventing women from leaving violent relationships. Many women are forced to choose violence over homelessness.*

## **Expand geographical reach of fourteen existing Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLSs)**

*Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is a national emergency. Every woman and child, regardless of where they live, must have access to Aboriginal Community Controlled specialist Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services.*

## **The conversation around coercive control must be broadened beyond criminalisation**

*Early intervention and prevention is the solution. Instead of putting money into the criminal justice system, invest in community led responses that we know work to keep women safe.*

## **The National Plan must ensure the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with disabilities are addressed**

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are at a disproportionate risk of family violence, and often face structural barriers to safety. This inequality is felt even more acutely by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with disabilities, who face discrimination based on their gender, disability and racial identity which can make services and safety inaccessible.*



Sharing stories, finding solutions