

MEDIA RELEASE

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Embolden Responds to National Cabinet's announcements on domestic, family, and sexual violence

Embolden welcomes the National Cabinet's ongoing prioritisation of domestic, family, and sexual violence as a national emergency. We commend the recent announcement of \$3.9 billion in funding for frontline legal services over five years, including a vital focus on women's legal services. Legal support is essential for victim-survivors navigating their pathway to safety and rebuilding their lives. It's critical that people experiencing violence, no matter where they are in South Australia, have access to culturally safe legal services.

While the \$700 million matched investment from the Commonwealth and state and territories is a positive step, Embolden remains concerned that this commitment may fall short of meeting the community's needs in South Australia. Our state currently lags behind others in funding for frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services. To be effective, this funding must cover specialist services for women, children and men using violence, and address the high costs of service delivery in regional and remote areas.

We also stress that South Australians experiencing violence, including sexual violence, cannot wait until the new National Partnership Agreement begins in July 2025. There is an urgent need for an immediate injection of funding into existing frontline services. Without this, we are putting women, children, and others at risk now.

Embolden remains committed to advocating for greater resources to support those affected by violence in South Australia and will continue to work towards ensuring that the needs of victim-survivors are met, right across South Australia.