

# FECCA statement on Senate Domestic Violence report

The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee recently released its report on domestic violence in Australia. FECCA made a submission to the inquiry and appeared before a public hearing of the committee to highlight the prevalence and impact of domestic violence in Australia as it affects women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

FECCA welcomes the committee's recommendation that the Australian Bureau of Statistics, along with Commonwealth, state and territory bodies involved in the development of the Personal Safety Survey consider the concerns raised during the inquiry about the adequacy of sampling sizes of particular subgroups within the community, such as women with a disability, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, immigrant and refugee women, and Indigenous communities and endeavour to address these issues prior to the conduct of the next Survey. The committee also recommends that the Commonwealth Government lead and coordinate the work to facilitate data collection pursuant to the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework.

FECCA has highlighted the needs for comprehensive data collection – disaggregated data collection and report is required to understand how CALD women are affected by domestic violence and to develop appropriate response strategies.

The committee also recommends that the Commonwealth Government ensures that the work undertaken by COAG to develop a set of national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions use standards which are robust and sufficiently specific to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions and the standards are demonstrably effective in breaking the cycle of violence. This work should consider the particular needs of ATSI, CALD and LGBTI perpetrators as well as those in regional areas.

Other recommendations include:

- implement domestic violence leave provisions across the private and public sector;
- that the Prime Minister table an annual report to Parliament on progress in the effect to eliminate family violence;
- school based education across all age groups on respectful relationships and responses to domestic and family violence;
- that sufficient resources are available for any increased demand for crisis services following specific campaigns; and
- that the Commonwealth Government take a lead role in the provision of affordable housing solutions in Australia.

FECCA welcomes the publication of the committee's report and looks forward to the Government's response to these important recommendations.

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