



## MEDIA RELEASE

### ***Next Steps for Addressing Violence Against Women - National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: Implementation Plan Released***

The Australian Women Against Violence Alliance welcomes the release of the Australian *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (National Plan)* first stage Implementation Plan.

*“Commitment from all Australian governments is fundamental to the success of the National Plan,”* highlights Julie Oberin, Chair of AWAVA, continuing by emphasising the need for governments to demonstrate leadership on addressing violence against women:

*“We need strong leadership from federal, state and territory governments, close collaboration with the preventing violence against women sector and real drive behind the National Implementation Plan. We are pleased that ending violence against women is a key priority for the Government and to see the commitment given to sharing information and good practice, and working together across jurisdictions and sectors”*

The Australian Government released today the National Implementation Plan for the First Action Plan of the *National Plan - Building a Strong Foundation (2010-2013)*. This is the first of four three-year implementations plans to deliver the 12-year *National Plan*.

Julie Oberin, both Chair of AWAVA and National Plan Implementation Panel Commonwealth Non-Government Appointee, welcomes the strong focus on primary prevention, working to increase gender equality to prevent violence from occurring in the first place, driving attitudinal change and building a solid evidence base:

*“AWAVA is working closely with the community sector and Government to ensure that the National Plan is a success. The prevention of violence against women service providers are vital in the implementation of the National Plan - to make sure women and children are safe, and to be able to respond when our communities start to break the silences surrounding violence against women.*

*We need our service providers to be well supported and funded to deliver specialist responses for the diverse needs of all women. These services need to be equipped and ready to help their communities to respond to violence, but also to find solutions to prevent violence from happening in the first place. AWAVA looks forward to improvements in service delivery so that this can all be achieved as demand for services increases”*

Evaluation of the *National Plan* will be critical to determine the impact of the implementation plans and AWAVA embraces agreement from the Government to work with community partners to develop a framework, methodology, data and information requirements for the evaluation of the *National Plan*, at all levels. Julie Oberin wholeheartedly agrees with the acknowledgement in the *National Plan* that, *“no government or group can address this problem alone,”* stating *“we need to work together to end violence against women.”*

The National Implementation Plan is available at:

[http://fahcsia.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/09\\_2012/imp\\_plan\\_25092012.pdf](http://fahcsia.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/09_2012/imp_plan_25092012.pdf)

**Minister Collins Media Release:**

<http://www.juliecollins.fahcsia.gov.au/node/250>

**Background**

The Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) is one of six National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government. AWAVA's focus is addressing all forms violence against women, to ensure that all women and children are able to live free from all forms of violence and abuse. The Alliance recognises that gender violence is both a consequence and cause of gender inequality in all sectors of society and must be addressed by promoting women's empowerment.

The ***Stopping Violence Against Women Before it Happens: A Practical Toolkit for Communities*** - developed by two of the National Women's Alliances the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC – project lead) and AWAVA, in partnership with the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research (QCDFVR), CQUniversity - supports communities to implement the *National Plan*, explaining the concept of primary prevention and how communities can lead change in societal attitudes. The Toolkit was funded by the Office for Women, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and can be downloaded from: [www.nrwn.org.au/stopping-violence-against-women-before-it-happens-a-practical-toolkit-for-communities/](http://www.nrwn.org.au/stopping-violence-against-women-before-it-happens-a-practical-toolkit-for-communities/)

**For further information:**

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