



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Violence against Women: Research to stop repeat offending

The Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) commends the Commonwealth Government's investment of \$3 million to support research looking at ways to prevent perpetrators of violence against women from reoffending. AWAVA welcomes the initiative to develop national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions via consultation with the Australian women's sector. As the Commonwealth funded, issue based alliance on violence against women, AWAVA believes that the new funding awarded to the National Centre for Excellence is evidence of the Government's strong commitment to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children* and looks forward to working with the National Centre for Excellence in supporting this research. This is welcomed as an important part of a broader strategy to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls.

Julie Oberin, Chair of AWAVA and Commonwealth Non-Government appointee on the National Plan Implementation Panel says *"We are pleased that research involving perpetrator interventions is a priority for the Government. Creating an evidence base will contribute to a 'best practice' based national outcomes model"*. As part of our commitment to enhancing the safety of women and children, AWAVA member organizations have continued to work on and engage with perpetrator interventions. Since 1996, Women's Services Network (WESNET), AWAVA lead agency, has prioritized responding to the issue of perpetrator programs- *"This is an issue which has been of great interest and concern to the women's services sector in Australia. While there has been growth in programs and policies since the National Forum on Domestic Violence made a series of recommendations regarding perpetrator programs in 1996, policy on national outcomes has been slow moving"* said Ms Oberin.

Creating a robust evidence-base on the prevention of reoffending must include at its core a thorough causal analysis of perpetrator recidivism. Julie Oberin says that *"this must be in conjunction with evaluations of the effectiveness of perpetrator interventions including their ability to drive long term attitudinal change in men's attitudes towards women, increasing men's accountability regarding their use of violence against women, and ensuring the safety of women and their children. All of this is necessary for the successful implementation of the National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children"*.

AWAVA believes that research on perpetrator reoffending must harness the experience and expertise of the Australian women's sector by listening to service provider and survivor perspectives on what works and what doesn't in perpetrator interventions.

25 July, 2013

#### For Further Information:

Contact Point	Email/Telephone
Julie Oberin (Chairperson, AWAVA)	0419 539 346
Dr Trishima Mitra-Kahn (Acting Program Manager, AWAVA)	<a href="mailto:policyofficer@awava.org.au">policyofficer@awava.org.au</a> 0410 707 129