



Pre-Budget Submission from Australian Women Against Violence Alliance

The Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) is one of the six National Women's Alliances funded by the Government to bring together women's organisations and individuals across Australia to share information, identify issues and their solutions. AWAVA's role is to ensure that women's voices are heard by Government.

AWAVA's focus is 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 inequity in all sectors of society and must be addressed by promoting women's empowerment.

AWAVA is able to provide supporting information, or provide contacts for further discussion, on any of the issues or suggestions within this submission, as well as on other issues relating to violence against women. Please contact Amy Blain on 0418574018 or email: pm@awava.org.au

The submission proposals are endorsed by AWAVA's Member Organisations: Association of Women's Educators (AWE), Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AIRWA) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA)

“Violence against women is not inevitable; it can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated”¹

Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, the office that works for gender equality and the empowerment of women, July 2011

If we are serious about ending violence against women then we need to look at the root cause and recognise that this violence is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. The Government acknowledges in its National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children that there needs to be a strong focus on prevention, and emphasises *“working to increase gender equality to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.”²*

We know that the cost of violence against women to the Australian economy was estimated at \$13.6 billion in 2009 and that, without action, this will rise to an estimated \$15.6 billion by 2021-22.³ Without action, an estimated three-quarters of a million Australian women will experience and report violence in 2021-22.⁴ Violence against women in particularly vulnerable groups – immigrant and refugee women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women – are estimated to cost the economy over \$4 billion and \$2.2 million respectively by 2021-22⁵. From a Government looking to reduce barriers to economic and productivity growth, and to bring the budget into surplus; one that wants to provide the necessary social protections for the most vulnerable in our community and ensure that our nation is prepared for long-term challenges; and which has committed to giving *‘momentum’* to prevention in the first National Plan 3-year Action Plan, AWAVA expects significant funding to be invested in prevention of violence against women in the upcoming and future budgets. The time for action is now.

AWAVA provides ideas and project proposals in this submission for the 2012-13 budget, based on a need to invest-to-save. Ending violence against women *“is a long-term project that involves transforming gender relations”⁶*. Sustained investment is required across communities and schools to improve understanding and implementation of prevention activity, for example educating children and their teachers about gender equality. AWAVA has collaborated with the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) on a joint submission which identifies and promotes women’s empowerment as a means of ending violence against women (appended at Annex A). That submission advocates for primary prevention events to encourage service providers to genuinely focus on primary prevention activities and a responsible media reporting project in recognition of the critical role of the media in shaping societal attitudes.

AWAVA emphasises the scale of prevention work needed to impact on current levels of violence against women, and is well-positioned to assist the Government by driving change through its networks. We need to work with Government to:

- Promote a whole-of-government, integrated approach to addressing violence against women
- Help communities to understand, prepare, and to implement, primary prevention initiatives
- Drive attitudinal change through key influencers, including the media, and encourage a whole-of-community response

- Strengthen primary prevention projects in schools to ensure they adopt a whole-school-approach, and through professional development training are sustainable longer term
- Raise awareness and drive prevention activity responsibly; making sure that the services are able to cater for increased demand, with additional refuge, shelter and other crisis beds and additional specialist domestic/family violence and sexual assault staff being funded alongside prevention initiatives
- Ensure equity of access to services for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women from immigrant, refugee and non-English speaking backgrounds

AWAVA is aware that the safety of women and children must not be compromised and recognises that increasing awareness and prevention activities for violence against women will increase demand for services. We do not want to see a situation where women and children are turned away from services unable to cope with the numbers seeking help. The Government needs to invest in refuge, shelter and crisis housing alongside investment in primary prevention to address this. There is already a current turn away rate for shelter beds and specialist support, and waiting lists for sexual assault counselling. One in two people who request immediate accommodation are turned away each night due to high demand and under-resourcing.

Primary prevention activities in the short term will increase demand for support and shelter and consequently, without additional resources, will increase turn away further, resulting in increased risk for women and their children. Extra shelter beds must be supported by additional specialist domestic and family violence workers. Extra sexual assault counsellors and advocates to reduce waiting lists, and to ensure waiting lists are not lengthened, are also needed. It is not acceptable to champion primary prevention without making sure that women and children currently affected by violence are safe.

In addition to the project proposals in the ERA submission (attached) we recommend:

Proposal 1: No Fear – Respectful Relationships Program for Primary Schools

This program strongly focuses on the perceptions and understandings of teachers and will support professional development in how to address issues of gender and all forms of violence against women and girls through the mainstream school curriculum. It responds to research which supports integrated curriculum and pedagogical approaches in the early years for embeddedness and long term sustainability. This program model complements and enriches the model of the current government-funded Respectful Relationships programs which are primarily delivered by outside organisations to students in high schools.

A 2 ½ year program project, piloted in Queensland and run by the Association of Women Educators, will involve years 4-7 teachers and students in 10 primary schools, in a comprehensive professional learning program to:

- increase understanding about gender and violence against girls and women, and
- develop and implement a whole-school-approach to the development of respectful relationships

All school staff will participate in a conference, and a core group of up to 5 key teachers from each of the 10 schools will be intensively involved in 10 days of professional learning and support for action research projects involving their students. Over the 2 years of the

program, this group will share their learnings and resources, leading and supporting wider and more comprehensive implementation across management and teacher practice, involving the whole school community, including early years' teachers, administrators, curriculum leaders and guidance officers.

Funding requested: \$500,000, which we would recommend is funded from within the education and teacher training portfolio.

Proposal 2: Community Leaders: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women Against Violence Against Women

In response to Outcome 3.3 (1) of the National Plan we propose to work jointly with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliances (NATSIWA, see endorsement letter, p.6) to improve the cultural competence of mainstream and specialist services. This is critical to ensure that Violence Against Women Services respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children. Under the Family Safety Program this project would engage community leaders in addressing violence against women in their communities, focussing on educating service providers, including the police. AWAVA would be the content experts on violence against women issues and NATSIWA would work with AWAVA to provide the culturally relevant content. Key outputs would be the development of a series of education and training resources, including manuals and a set of service standards, and promotion of these resources in indigenous communities. This project would also foster Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's participation in policy and program development design to reduce violence against women.

Funded requested: in the region of \$200,000, but would need to be fully costed; we would recommend this is funded from within the Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs

Proposal 3: Cultural training and education on violence against women for interpreters

AWAVA will work closely with the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AIRWA) to develop training materials for interpreters on sensitive and culturally appropriate responses to disclosures of violence against women. We would work with a training body to include a module on handling disclosures, including role play sessions and the importance of upholding confidentiality, particularly within small communities.

Funding requested: we suggest that funding for this project is provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. A fully costed proposal can be submitted.

Proposal 4: Additional crisis refuge, shelter or crisis beds with additional support workers and additional sexual assault counsellors and advocates to respond to increased demand from prevention and awareness-raising activities

Increased prevention activities results in raised community awareness of the issue and services available, resulting in increased demand for services. This demand for service occurs when women and their children are fleeing violence and are most at risk. The women's domestic and family violence sector has had no growth funds in two decades

despite increasing demand leading to turn away. Sexual Assault services have waiting lists due to lack of staff and resources. Priority needs to be given to the housing needs of women experiencing all forms of violence: domestic, family and sexual violence. Access to services must be equitable; the safety accommodation needs of particular groups such as refugee and immigrant women that have been sexually abused outside of a family/domestic context for example, also needs investment.

Any prevention and awareness activities need to involve the violence against women service providers to prepare them for an increase in clients. Providers do not want to be in a position where they are turning women and children away. It is unjust that women and children seeking shelter from violence or support are turned away or put on a waiting list.

AWAVA will work closely with WESNET and NASASV to advise Government on strategic allocation and monitoring of this injection of funding.

Funding: Refuges, shelters and crisis properties and staff are currently funded through the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NaHa). Domestic and family violence is one of the major structural drivers of homelessness in Australia. An injection of additional funds targeted towards specialist women's domestic and family violence services is urgently required as there is current turn-away. Prevention activities will increase demand, thus further increasing turn-away.

Additional specialist sexual assault counsellors and advocates are needed to address lengthening waiting lists arising from increased demand on services.

References

1. Viewed at: www.unwomen.org/2011/06/good-practices-and-remaining-gaps-in-the-prevention-of-violence-against-women/ on 25/1/12
2. Commonwealth of Australia (2011), National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, Canberra, page 15
3. The National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, (March 2009), The Cost of Violence Against Women and their Children, Canberra, page 4
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6. Viewed at: www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/PreventionViolenceAgainstWomen.aspx on 25/1/12
7. Viewed at
:[www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/UserFiles/File/Fact%20sheets/Fact%20Sheets%202011-12/Homelessness%20&%20Women%202011-12\(8\).pdf](http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/UserFiles/File/Fact%20sheets/Fact%20Sheets%202011-12/Homelessness%20&%20Women%202011-12(8).pdf)
Creating a Framework for Ending Homelessness, Homelessness and Women Factsheet
www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au



natsiwa
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

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Chairperson Dorothy Henry
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To Whom This Letter May Concern,

NATSIWA would like to endorse the Pre Budget Submission submitted by The Australian Women Against Violence Alliance(AWAVA) particularly in relation to proposal 2 of the pre budget submission which states;

In response to Outcome 3.3 (1) of the National Plan we propose to work jointly with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliances (NATSIWA) to improve the cultural competence of mainstream and specialist services. This is critical to ensure that Violence Against Women Services respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children. Under the Family Safety Program this project would engage community leaders in addressing violence against women in their communities, focussing on educating service providers, including the police. AWAVA would be the content experts on violence against women issues and NATSIWA would work with AWAVA to provide the culturally relevant content. Key outputs would be the development of a series of education and training resources, including manuals and a set of service standards, and promotion of these resources in indigenous communities. This project would also foster Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's participation in policy and program development design to reduce violence against women.

Should you require any further information or documentation in relation to support of this letter of endorsement please do not hesitate in contacting NATSIWA on the details provided above.

Sincerely,

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Pre-Budget Submission



1. Overview

This collective submission represents the combined views of Australia's largest networks advocating for the interests of women. These include Equality Rights Alliance (ERA), Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA), Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AIRWA) and Economic Security 4 Women (eS4W), four of the six National Women's Alliances funded by the Federal Office for Women. The submission also represents the views of the National Foundation for Australian women (NFAW), and the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA). Members of ERA endorse all or part of this submission (see Appendix One). It is also endorsed by the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Australia). The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA), one of the six National Women's Alliances, has also endorsed this submission (see Appendix Two).

ERA, led by YWCA Australia, is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, women's leadership and recognition of women's diversity. We bring together almost sixty organisations with an interest in advancing women's equality. To advance gender equality, ERA adopts a human rights framework and advocates for adherence to international human rights principles.

AWAVA's key area of focus is combating 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 inequity in all sectors of society and so it must be addressed by promoting women's empowerment.

AIRWA is a strong advocacy voice for Immigrant and Refugee Women. AIRWA's mission is to represent immigrant and refugee women across Australia, ensuring that their circumstances, views and concerns are brought to the attention of government in a timely manner and are included in government policy.

eS4W focuses on the promotion of lifelong economic well being for women. They believe that economic well being and financial security are essential ingredients to achieving equality for women and will enable women of all ages to have an equal place in society. Through advocacy and lobbying activities they aim to change policies which continue to have a negative impact on the long term economic security of all women.

NFAW is a feminist organisation working in partnership with other women's organisations to advance and promote the interests of Australian women, record and make accessible their histories, and ensure their achievements are handed on to future generations.

NCWA is a national non-government umbrella organization with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, which seeks to raise the awareness of women to their rights and responsibilities as citizens and to encourage the participation of women in all aspects of community life. NCWA links groups across Australia, each with diverse affiliates, in a federal structure and provides a forum for considered debate on policy matters brought forward by the constituent Councils.

Our submission outlines policy recommendations for consideration by the Government in the 2012-13 Federal Budget. Our submission proposes expenditure increases of \$470,000 in 2012-13 and \$1.0275b in 2013-14 for affordable housing, support for retirees on low incomes, increasing women's workforce participation, and preventing violence against women. We have also identified possible savings or revenue increases of \$1.02b in 2012-13 and \$750m in 2013-14 in tax reform and childcare benefits.

We understand the need to constrain additional expenditure during an unpredictable global economic climate. This is why our recommendations for additional expenditure focus on ensuring those in the lowest income brackets are able to meet their basic needs through access to affordable housing, improving workforce participation, and income support for those who are unable to work full time.

The community sector is committed to working towards improved security and independence for those in Australia who face difficulties during economic uncertainty. This is why some of these policy recommendations have been made in previous Pre-Budget submissions by community sector organisations, or in strategy documents or submissions to Government inquiries. In this submission, we have suggested new ways to fund these recommendations. We hope that these suggestions can be implemented before more women are impacted by violence, the critical shortage of affordable rental housing, difficulty accessing childcare that enables women to work, or retiring with little or no superannuation.

ERA is able to provide supporting information, or provide contacts for further discussion, on any of the topics within this submission, as well as on other issues affecting women. Please contact Emma Davidson on 02 6230 5152 or email era.projects@ywca.org.au

2. Affordable Rental Housing

Approximately one third of Australian households are renting. These households are concentrated in the bottom two income brackets. The 2010 National Housing Supply Council report shows that when affordability and availability are taken into account, there was a shortage of 493,000 dwellings in 2007-08. It is estimated that a further 90,000 social housing dwellings will be needed by 2012, and 150,000 by 2020ⁱ.

Research by Professor Judith Yates of the University of Sydney shows the impact of the lack of affordable housing may be felt disproportionately by women because of the high number of women in low paid jobs, women heading single parent families, and the higher rates of poverty among older women living aloneⁱⁱ. More information is needed on how women are impacted by the affordable housing shortage, such as gender disaggregated data on the outcomes of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), National Partnership Agreements, National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) and Social Housing Initiative. An Affordable Housing Growth Fund would assist in NAHA to grow affordable housing supplyⁱⁱⁱ.

Increased expenditure on affordable housing programs could be funded in part through increased revenue from capital gains tax. Capital gains tax exemptions encourage negatively geared property investment, which favours investment in existing high-rent housing rather than increasing supply of affordable housing. This is discussed in further detail in *Negative gearing for housing investments*^{iv}.

Recommendations

1. Develop an Affordable Housing Growth Fund to support the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

Funding for NAHA has not been able to grow the supply of public and community housing stock to meet current demand. The Affordable Housing Growth Fund proposed by the Affordable Housing Summit Group extends the capacity of NAHA and NRAS, in addition to State and Territory shared equity home ownership schemes, by providing support to households on very low incomes.

Estimated investment: \$750m in 2013-14.

2. Implement Recommendation 14 of the Henry Tax Review: reduce capital gains tax exemption.

For every 10% reduction in the capital gains tax exemption, tax revenue would increase by \$1b. Reducing the capital gains tax exemption from 50% to 40%, except in the case of affordable and social housing through approved entities, would support affordable housing investment. Making the change effective from the beginning of 2012-13 financial year would allow time for investors planning to sell assets to manage their tax obligations to best advantage, but the 10% reduction is unlikely to prompt large numbers of investors to realise capital gains before it takes effect.

Estimated revenue: \$1b increased tax revenue in 2012-13.

3. Increase funds for the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

Funding to NRAS should be increased in to provide an additional 50,000 affordable rental properties. This funding could be provided at the rate of \$1b per year, beginning in 2013-14.

Estimated investment: \$1b in 2013-14, continuing each year thereafter.

3. Tax Reform and Superannuation

Most women do not have adequate superannuation in retirement because the system is based on workplace earnings, impacted by caring responsibilities or other barriers to paid work. By 2019-20 women will hold \$600 billion, or one third of total projected superannuation assets of \$1,800 billion. ASFA quotes a projected real average superannuation balance for women of \$77,000 in 2019, and \$121,000 for men^v.

One issue is the Superannuation Guarantee Charge threshold. Participants in consultations by the NFAW in 2010 gave examples of women being employed by several different employers with each employer limiting the hours so that the worker remains under the monthly threshold^{vi}. Removing the \$450 per month limit would entitle all workers to some superannuation. However, this must be implemented in such a way that employers do not reduce wages for workers who already have low pay.

Tax concessions mean high income earners receive a substantial public subsidy to their retirement income. The top 12% of income earners currently receive more than 50% of at least \$15b in tax concessions on superannuation contributions, and the top 20% of income earners receive more in tax concessions over their lifetimes than they would have received if paid the maximum rate of Age Pension^{vii}. Retirees who have little or no super face difficulties in managing any extra capital costs. An extra funding system could be introduced to assist with small capital needs for these mainly female Age Pensioners. This should be funded by a superannuation surcharge. The superannuation surcharge of 10% on those with income over \$99,000pa raised revenue of \$1,289m in 2005-06^{viii}. A Fair Retirement Supplement program, funded by a superannuation surcharge on the top 12% of income earners, could deliver small grants to Age Pension recipients for capital expenses such as house repairs. This would provide some relief to retirees on low incomes, without reducing the incentive for most Australians to contribute to superannuation.

There have been many reports on the effect of affordable access to quality child care on women's workforce participation. Calculation of Child Care Benefit (CCB) entitlement and Child Care Rebate (CCR) is extremely complex, requiring consideration of income and work tests, type of care, number and ages of children. This complexity makes it more difficult for women to understand the financial net effect of returning to paid work. Combining CCB and CCR into a single benefit that takes into account the variable cost of child care in different areas will enable more women to participate in the paid workforce.

Recommendations

- 1. Remove the threshold below which employers are not required to make superannuation contributions, managed in a way that does not reduce the wages of low paid workers.**
- 2. A surcharge of 10% on the superannuation contributions of the top 12% of income earners to fund a Fair Retirement Supplement program.**

Estimated investment and revenue: \$750m in 2013-14 funded through superannuation surcharge.

- 3. Implement recommendation 99 of the Henry Report, combining CCB and CCR into a single benefit, without reducing child care benefits to low income households.**

The combined benefit must be work tested to prioritise access enabling parents to work, study, or attend training; and means tested to ensure that the contribution from low income families does not exceed 10% of the actual cost to the child care provider of providing care.

The combined benefit should take into account local variations in child care costs without encouraging fee gouging.

Estimated investment: Cost neutral. Administrative savings could be used to increase rates.

4. Violence Against Women

To stop violence against women and their children we need to address its root causes, and to understand the violence as a cause and consequence of gender inequality. The *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children* is the first plan to “focus strongly on prevention” and to emphasise “working to increase gender equality to prevent violence from occurring in the first place”^{ix}. AWAVA ran regional, rural and remote Community Engagement Events on implementing the National Plan in 2011. A key finding was that the majority of service providers have limited capacity and resourcing to concentrate on, and to fully understand, the causes of gender-based violence, and therefore very little genuine and effective primary prevention work focusing on challenging and redressing gender inequality is undertaken.

In addition to providing strong and effective responses for women and children experiencing violence, the focus at community level must shift to primary prevention work that aims to stop violence before it occurs. Communities need help in preparing for this shift towards focusing on primary prevention initiatives.

Overwhelming research evidence indicates a causal relationship between social norms and violence against women. Researchers internationally view the continuation of violence against women as founded on deeply entrenched cultural beliefs and attitudes. Media is key to influencing these attitudes. Australian researchers argue that media obscure the facts of violence while contributing to “the invisibility of domestic violence and its part in the perpetuation of stereotypes and myths of violence against women”, including blaming women and excusing perpetrators. Responsible reporting can significantly transform social norms and attitudes about gender relations, which can reduce violence against women and the community’s level of tolerance of it.

Recommendations

1. Primary prevention events on Violence Against Women extending AWAVA's National Plan implementation Community Engagement Events.

Events will be held in regional, rural and remote areas in every state and territory to train and educate service providers and communities on the meaning and value of primary prevention work, providing example activities. Events will provide a forum for service providers to network and collaborate. This proposal fits with the National Plan’s ambition for “creating momentum in primary prevention in the first three years” to “provide an essential platform” for future action plans.

Estimated investment: \$250,000 in 2012-13, possibly through the Safety Taskforce within the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

2. Preventing violence against women through responsible media reporting.

AWAVA will run a project building on three VicHealth programs, in a national context:

- Facilitating one day workshops for journalists in each capital city on violence against women.
- Developing a module on violence against women for University journalism courses.
- Providing one day media training workshops for victims of violence and spokespeople.
- Developing an online resource for media and community use, including a national guide to ethical and responsible reporting of all forms of violence against women.
- Scoping National Eliminating Violence Against Women Media Awards Project to reward ethical reporting.

This project supports the National Plan through “preventing violence by raising awareness” and promoting “attitudinal and behavioural change” at cultural and institutional levels.

Estimated investment: \$220,000 in 2012-13, possibly within the Attorney-General's portfolio.

5. Appendix One – ERA Members

- 2020Women
- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- Amnesty International Australia (National Women's Rights Team)
- Australasian Council of Women and Policing
- Australian Baha'i Community – Office of Equality
- Australian Centre for Leadership for Women
- Australian Council for International Development Gender Equity Working Group
- Australian Federation of Graduate Women
- Australian Federation of Medical Women
- Australian Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement
- Australian Womensport and Recreation
- Australian Women's Health Network
- Catholic Women's League of Australia
- Children by Choice
- COTA Australia
- Enlighten Education
- FECCA Women's Committee
- Fitted for Work
- Girl Guides Australia
- Homebirth Australia
- Human Rights Law Resource Centre
- Immigrant Women's Speakout Association NSW
- International Women's Development Agency
- JERA International
- Jessie Street National Women's Library
- Maternity Coalition Inc.
- Migrant Women's Lobby Group of South Australia
- Multicultural Women's Advocacy ACT
- National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence
- National Council of Churches of Australia Gender Commission
- National Council of Jewish Women of Australia
- National Council of Single Mothers and Their Children
- National Council of Women of Australia
- National Foundation for Australian Women
- National Union of Students (Women's Department)
- Project Respect
- Public Health Association of Australia (Women's Special Interest Group)
- Public Interest Law Clearing House (VIC) Inc
- Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia
- Soroptimist International
- Sisters Inside
- UN Women
- Union of Australian Women
- United Nations Association of Australia Status of Women Network
- Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition
- VIEW Clubs of Australia
- Women in Engineering Australia
- Women on Boards
- Women with Disabilities Australia
- Women's Economic Think Tank
- Women's Electoral Lobby
- Women's Environment Network Australia
- Women's Information Referral Exchange (WIRE)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Women's Legal Services
- Working Against Sexual Harassment
- YWCA Australia
- Zonta International District 24

6. Appendix Two – NATSIWA Endorsement



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To Whom This Letter May Concern,

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) would like to endorse the Pre Budget Submission submitted by the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA).

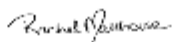
Although ERA has made recommendations within their pre budget submission with a holistic view regarding women, NATSIWA believes these recommendations include the rights and would assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women.

Should you require any further information or documentation in relation to support of this letter of endorsement please do not hesitate in contacting NATSIWA on the details provided above.

Sincerely,



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7. References

- i Equality Rights Alliance, *A National Strategy for Affordable Rental Housing*, p 6, downloaded 13 January 2012:
http://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/sites/equalityrightsalliance.org.au/files/docs/readings/a_national_strategy_for_affordable_rental_housing.pdf
- ii *ibid*, p 3
- iii Australian Council of Social Services, *2012-13 Budget Priority Statement*, pp 18-20, downloaded 27 January 2012:
http://acoss.org.au/images/uploads/2012-13_ACOSS_Budget_Priority_Statement_Final.pdf
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- vii Australian Council of Social Services, Submission to the Senate Economics Committee: Tax Laws Amendment (Stronger, Fairer, Simpler and Other Measures) Bill 2011 and reform of the tax treatment of superannuation contributions, p9, downloaded 13 January 2012:
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- viii Treasury, *Final Budget Outcome 2005-06, Part 1: Australian Government Budget Outcome – Revenue*, downloaded 13 January 2012: http://www.budget.gov.au/2005-06/fbo/html/02_part_1-02.htm
- ix Commonwealth of Australia (2011), *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children*, page 15