

Saturday 20 April 2024



National crisis talks into murdered and missing women in Australia

The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission is convening national crisis discussions into the devastating rates of murdered and missing women in Australia.

The national roundtable will bring together people from across the country to develop a cohesive, cross-sectoral approach to advancing the objectives of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

Vitaly, it will amplify the voices of people with lived experience, including Amani Haydar, Tarang Chawla and Alison Scott, who all lost female family members to gender-based violence.

“These conversations must include the perspectives of people who have been bereaved by domestic violence related homicides,” Ms Amani Haydar said. “One more death is one too many.”

Ms Micaela Cronin, the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner said the rates of women dying as a result of family violence – women who are murdered, missing, or dying as a result of suicide – in this country is a crisis, and requires urgent, national attention.

“Women are going missing and being murdered at horrendous rates in this country. Too many women are taking their own lives following their experiences of family violence. We must all take urgent, targeted action to accelerate the objective of the *National Plan* – to end violence against women and children,” Ms Cronin said.

“This is a national crisis. We know it is a complex problem which requires an integrated, multi-pronged approach. We need to break down the silos and bring people together from across the country to address this complex issue.”

Muriel Bamblett, CEO of Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), said we need urgent attention on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

“We need urgent system reform, real action on really obvious red flags. Aboriginal women deserve to be seen and heard,” Ms Bamblett said.

“It’s time to make men accountable for their actions. All accountability is placed on the woman’s shoulder, and the system is designed to make them feel that they are the person in the wrong and have to prove themselves to all services.”

“We must find solutions to this pressing issue, which includes the crucial role men play in addressing the prevalence of violence against women, since men are the majority of people committing it,” Tarang Chawla said.

“We need to discuss the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women – it is a direct result of colonisation,” Alison Scott said.

“We have been controlled for a very long time, not only by perpetrators but also by systems. It’s a complex issue but change is possible if we all work together.”

The national crisis talks into missing and murdered women will take place in the nation’s capital on Tuesday 7 May 2024. Following, the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission will publicly distribute a statement of the outcomes.

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*Muriel Bamblett is Co-chair National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan steering committee.

If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family or sexual violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, chat online via www.1800RESPECT.org.au, or text 0458 737 732 .

Feeling worried or no good? No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn. Speak to a 13YARN Crisis Supporter, call 13 92 76. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are concerned about your behaviour or use of violence, you can contact the Men’s Referral Service on 1300 766 491 or visit www.ntv.org.au.