

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:30PM 29 May 2024**



## **Assistant Commissioner to the inaugural Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission appointed.**

**The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission has appointed Ms Jenna Roberts, proud Aboriginal woman, to the role of Assistant Commissioner.**

Following a competitive and rigorous process, Ms Jenna Roberts has been appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission.

In her role as Assistant Commissioner, Ms Roberts will work with the Commissioner to engage and work alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to oversee and report on the progress of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children – and as key elements of this, the first dedicated *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan* and the First Nations National Plan for Family Safety.

Ms Roberts joins the Commission following an extensive career working in rural and regional communities, across mental health, drug and alcohol services and the domestic, family and sexual violence sector.

Micaela Cronin, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner, welcomed Ms Roberts and recognised her demonstrated work with and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

“We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are disproportionately affected by domestic, family and sexual violence. If we are to reduce – and ultimately end – violence against women and children then we must ensure that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are central to these discussions,” Ms Cronin said.

“Ms Roberts will play an important role in the Commission’s work, ensuring that governments meet their targets to reduce the rates of violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.”

“Ms Roberts experience in regional and rural communities across the social service sector means she brings critically important, firsthand insights into the challenges and solutions needed to end violence against women and children in these communities.”

Assistant Commissioner Jenna Roberts, said that her priority will be listening and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people with lived experience, across the country.

“Having lived, worked and grown up in rural and regional communities, I am deeply committed to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are at the centre of our thinking, discussions and actions to end violence against women and children,” Ms Roberts said.

“We must shine a light on the alarming rates which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are affected by domestic, family and sexual violence – as Assistant Commissioner I will be doing just that.”

Ms Roberts joins the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission in May 2024. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms Roberts was Deputy Commissioner at the NSW Mental Health Commission, from November 2018 to April 2024. In this role she championed innovative approaches to mental health care and policy reform and was an advocate for equity and inclusion through codesign with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other marginalised communities.

Her previous roles reflect her diverse experience across leadership and governance, including serving as CEO of Tend Riverina (Wagga Wagga Family Support), where she led domestic and family violence programs in the Riverina region. Jenna's tenure as Service Manager at Stride Mental Health, Suicide Prevention Manager at Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, and Senior Project Manager at InforMH, NSW Health, further underscore her leadership and impact in the social services sector.

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*If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or visit [www.1800RESPECT.org.au](http://www.1800RESPECT.org.au)*

*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](http://www.ntv.org.au).*