



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

09.05.2017

Men's family violence prevention sector implores the Prime Minister to face the facts about family violence in Australia

On September 24, 2015 Malcolm Turnbull stood next to Rosie Batty and described family violence as a "national disgrace." Police reports tell us these rates are rising, not falling.

Victoria isn't the only state that needs to hold perpetrators to account. This is a national issue that requires a national response. Victoria has the largest portion of Men's Behaviour Change Programs; approximately 39. New South Wales, with the second largest portion, only has approximately 12. Other states/ territories only have 1-2 programs. This isn't good enough. Family violence is happening at epidemic rates and the sector is not coping with the demand.

Quotes attributable to NTV/MRS CEO Jacqui Watt:

"We need strong leadership from the government in Canberra; the kind of leadership we caught a glimpse of during Mr Turnbull's first week in office. This will rightly cost Australian dollars, but without it, we risk finding innovative ways to end family violence and keep women and children safe. We risk under-resourcing initiatives, such as the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions, which tell us how to work with men best to stop them from harming women, children and other men.

"For years the family violence sector, and more specifically the men's family violence prevention sector, has been inadequately funded. We need significant prevention and service responses. Working with men requires a specialist workforce. If we're serious about holding men to account and encouraging them to make meaningful change in their lives, the men's family violence sector needs to be held to account. That means significant funding into research and service delivery; we desperately need to upskill and train our workforce to run quality-based MBCPs on a national scale."

To learn more about how the federal budget has affected the men's family violence prevention sector nationally, please follow us on Twitter today: [@NTVvic](https://twitter.com/NTVvic) and monitor our [website](#).

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Further interview and photo opportunities with Jacqui Watt available on request.