

# FUND THE FRONTLINE: SUPPORT FOR EVERY SURVIVOR

Every person who reaches out for help after experiencing domestic, family or sexual violence deserves fast, compassionate help. But in every state and territory, women and children are waiting months - even years - for help.

up to

**18**  
MONTH

wait for sexual  
assault support  
in WA

In ACT, Domestic Violence  
Crisis Service can only answer

**50%**

of the calls it receives

**3**

MONTH

wait for domestic  
violence refuge  
accommodation  
in NSW

up to

**12**  
MONTH

wait for  
sexual assault  
counselling  
in VIC

**9**

MONTH

wait for sexual  
assault support  
in QLD

**3**

YEAR

wait for specialist  
support for children  
impacted by family  
violence, 2 year  
wait for adults  
in TAS

**200**  
WOMEN

being turned  
away every  
month from  
one domestic  
violence  
service in  
Darwin, NT

In SA, sexual assault services  
are too far away for many  
survivors and domestic  
violence support. It has been  
described as:

**“A SYSTEM IN CRISIS”**

# HOW SERVICES SUPPORT VICTIM-SURVIVORS

## Domestic and Family Violence services

- 24/7 crisis hotlines and counselling
- Recognising coercive control patterns
- Risk assessment and safety planning (separation-related violence, systems abuse, impacts on children)
- Emergency and longer-term housing
- Short-medium-long term case management (safety, housing, financial security, legal protection)

## Sexual Assault Services

- Crisis support after an assault, including psychosocial, medical, and forensic care, police and legal engagement.
- Specialist therapeutic services, including
  - Longer-term recovery-focused specialist counselling
  - Specialist therapeutic services for children and young people exhibiting harmful sexualised behaviour
  - Ongoing legal advocacy and court support for victim-survivors
  - Early intervention
  - Prevention: Consent and respectful relationships education, community and professional education
  - Training health and community service workers

## WHY TIMELY ACCESS MATTERS

### BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

Prompt access can improve mental and physical wellbeing

### REDUCED REVICTIMISATION

Specialist support reduces the risk of violence recurring

### CYCLES DISRUPTED

Early intervention can prevent escalation – potentially saving lives

## WHAT IS NEEDED

1

Funding for specialist domestic and family violence services

2

Funding for specialist sexual assault services

3

Funding for women's legal services