

FAIR AGENDA

PM urged: don't leave women with nowhere to turn

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 23 September 2015, 7:30pm AEST

Family violence survivors, experts and dozens of community groups have signed onto an open letter calling on Prime Minister Turnbull not to leave women fleeing family violence with nowhere to turn.

The letter – launched on The Project and penned by community campaigning group Fair Agenda – has been signed by Australian of the Year Rosie Batty; survivor advocates Dr Ann O'Neill, Rachel Kayrooz, and Michelle Deshong; and Michael Costigan, Uncle of Tara Costigan; along with more than 40 organisations and prominent women.

They jointly call for the new Prime Minister to urgently commit the federal funding needed to ensure everyone reaching out for help to escape abuse can get it; and to fully fund services and programs to stop and prevent abuse.

The letter states that thousands of women attempting to escape their abusers will be left without access to services that should help keep them safe because of inadequate federal funding.

A Fair Agenda report released alongside the open letter shows that the federal government is currently inadequately funding: specialist domestic and family violence services, legal assistance services, family support services, specialist services for women from marginalised communities, men's behaviour change work and prevention programs.

"The Abbott-led government left women in danger – by not adequately resourcing family violence services." Says Renee Carr, Executive Director of Fair Agenda. "We urge Prime Minister Turnbull to commit the funding needed to ensure everyone reaching out for help can get it; and to support the services working to stop and prevent more abuse in the future."

"Fair Agenda's report outlines where inadequate federal funding is leaving women without access to services they need to stay safe. We urge Prime Minister Turnbull to make stopping this horrifying reality his top priority." Added Ms Carr.

You can sign onto the open letter at <http://www.fairagenda.org>.

MEDIA CONTACT

Renee Carr, Executive Director of Fair Agenda, 0435 597 976

Also available for comment:

- Antoinette Braybrook, Executive Director Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, via 0457 544 591.

NOTE: If you cover this story, or any story regarding violence against women and children, please include the following tagline:

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit 1800RESPECT.org.au. In an emergency, call 000. Men can access anonymous confidential telephone counselling to help to stop using violent and controlling behaviour through the Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491.