

Safety advocates slam launch of “horrifying” survey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This afternoon Minister Ruston announced a national women’s safety summit for July, and the launch of [a national online survey for any member of the public to ‘have your say’](#) to help “develop a strategy for reducing and preventing family, domestic and sexual violence”.

Safety advocates Fair Agenda and End Rape on Campus Australia have slammed the survey as horrifying, and harmful.

“We don’t need a strawpoll on whether or not survivors get the best quality support and reform. We need leadership.” said Renee Carr, Executive Director of Fair Agenda.

“The Government is asking everyone to rate the most important things needed by a victim-survivor who is likely dealing with patterns of abuse and complex trauma - including whether or not it’s relevant they have safe housing, a ‘response from authorities which is compassionate, informed and does not cause additional trauma’, and/or specialist trauma informed counselling. It’s staggering.” Ms Carr added.

“What message does the Morrison Government think it’s sending to survivors, when it’s running a popularity poll on what support they should have as victims of serious crimes.” said Sharna Bremner, Founder of End Rape on Campus Australia.

The questions all members of the public have been invited to respond to include: what they consider the major issues for victim-survivors, what ‘useful responses’ they have seen in prevention, and their recommendations of priorities for the national strategy.

Everyone is invited to rate whether or not it’s relevant that “services meet the needs of people experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence’, ‘Indigenous communities are empowered to strengthen their own responses to family, domestic and sexual violence’, ‘understanding individual experiences of violence across diverse groups and individuals’, and ‘perpetrators are held to account’.

“It looks a lot like, instead of listening to experts, the government is asking the electorate to tell them which policies will be popular - instead of focusing on what the evidence requires.” added Ms Bremner.

“Experts have laid out actions that are required in this moment. There is a clear pathway to a safer future for all of us. What’s lacking is the commitment to delivering it. Women and survivors can’t wait for yet another meeting. We need meaningful, systemic change now - and that must include action on: prevention, proper resourcing of services and accountability mechanisms, law reform and action to address workplace sexual harassment.” said Renee Carr, Executive Director of Fair Agenda.

“The conversation that our communities are having is the result of brave women speaking out about sexual violence. We need our national government to be leading action that prevents and improves responses to all forms of gender-based violence, including rape.” added Ms Bremner.

The four action asks are further detailed in a [joint statement available here](#), that has been signed by Fair Agenda, Australian Women Against Violence Alliance, NATSIWA, Harmony Alliance, End Rape on Campus Australia, Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia and 60 other organisations.

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