30 April 2026

Response to WA Government sexual violence funding uplift

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing welcomes the Western Australian Government's $3.7million budget investment in specialist sexual violence services, marking a significant investment in victim-survivors and frontline services.

Reports of sexual assaults to WA Police increased by more than 34 per cent since 2017 and specialist sexual violence services have strained to meet growing demand. This significant funding uplift demonstrates the WA Government's commitment to supporting victim-survivors with access to timely, safe and specialist support.

The sexual violence sector and lived experience advocates have long called for greater recognition of sexual violence, alongside sustainable investment to ensure specialist services can meet rising demand and unmet need no matter where a victim-survivor lives in the state.

The WA Government announcement today acknowledges both the historic advocacy and the serious consequences of sexual violence as an issue that requires urgent attention.

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing commends the WA Government in taking the critical first step toward ensuring victim-survivors can access the life-saving and life-changing support when and where they need it. This is particularly important for people in regional and remote communities who have historically faced limited or non-existent access to specialist support.

This investment sends a strong message that Western Australia is beginning to take meaningful steps toward improving responses to sexual violence, driving real and meaningful systemic change, which has been front of mind during the month of April – Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Importantly this welcome investment is the beginning of the long-term system reform required to address sexual violence in Western Australia. Sexual violence is not inevitable. It is preventable, and meaningful reform requires both immediate investment in specialist responses and sustained structural change.

Freedom from sexual violence for all Western Australians requires shared and continued commitment to transforming attitudes, strengthening service systems, and addressing the gender and structural inequality and abuse of power that underpins sexual violence.

We look forward to working with Government to ensure this momentum continues and that the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy delivers comprehensive, long-term

reform needed to create a safer Western Australia where all victim-survivors are believed and supported.

Dr Alison Evans, CEO of the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing, states:

"Today's announcement marks a significant investment in victim-survivors and specialist sexual violence services across Western Australia.

"This investment recognises the profound consequences of sexual violence, particularly in regional and remote communities where access to specialist support has too often been limited or non-existent."

"Every victim-survivor deserves access to timely, safe, and specialist support, no matter where they live. This uplift helps move us closer to that reality."

"Victim-survivors deserve to be believed and supported, and this investment is an important step toward building a safer and more equitable Western Australia. We look forward to working with Government to build on this momentum to deliver the long-term change needed."

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Media enquiries
Jessica Murray
0478 214 619