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Federal Election RAISE YOUR VOICE

Next steps against domestic violence

There have been concerted efforts from state and federal governments over recent years to take action to address Australia's epidemic of domestic and family violence.

Every week an Australian woman is killed by a current or former partner, and one in four Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Stemming this epidemic of violence in Australian families must be a high priority for governments, service providers and communities.

The latest National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey (2017) showed improvements in many aspects of attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality.

However whatever progress has been achieved to date, it has not yet resulted in a decline in the incidence of domestic and family violence. In its third Personal Safety Survey in 2016, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported an increase in the number of both women and men who have experienced intimate partner violence since the first survey in 2005.

Increased demand for support services has been linked not only to the increase in the incidence of family and domestic violence but also to increased community awareness of domestic and family violence.

A recent report prepared by Australian Baptist Ministries revealed the results of a survey of domestic violence services in Australian communities. It makes three key recommendations to help meet a serious shortfall of support services for people escaping violent family situations.

- Build a comprehensive national database of family and domestic violence support services
- Increase investment in safe, secure, and affordable housing
- Immediately increase funding from state and federal governments to address shortfalls in crisis and short term accommodation.

We particularly want to see governments commit to providing 500,000 new social and affordable rental homes to provide secure accommodation for people leaving violent situations, and a national strategy to reach this goal.

About us

Baptist Care Australia works to bring equality and opportunity to Australian communities, advocating nationally on issues such as homelessness, aged care and domestic violence. We represent Baptist community service organisations and their clients in the national policy debate.

A core principle in our work is to make sure that the interests and voices of marginalised people are heard when decisions are made that affect them.

Baptist Care Australia [member organisations](#) are hard at work every day to build strong communities across Australia. From aged care to counselling, social housing to caring for children and young people, our members help people get back on their feet after hard times, or live independently with the right support. Members employ more than 9000 staff, work with 2500 volunteers and have an annual turnover of \$700 million.

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for hope

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