



**10<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**EVAWQ response to state government announcement of acceptance of WSJT recommendations.**

Ending Violence Against Women Queensland (EVAWQ) would like to acknowledge the Queensland's Attorney General, Shannon Fentiman and the Palaszczuk government commitment to creating a safer world for women and children to live in.

The voices of many survivors and experts were heard by the government, and we thank the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and Attorney General for their dedication to listening and driving improvements.

EVAWQ commends the government's commitment to a dedicated First Nation's strategy, which we look forward to seeing being created by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and supported with substantial funding for community owned initiatives.

EVAWQ welcomes the investment in the expansion of respectful relationships education and community education. The prevention of violence so that it doesn't occur in the first place and the changing of community behaviours should be a significant policy and funding priority of all governments.

Women experiencing violence receive mixed responses from police, a positive response can be incredibly powerful and support a woman's journey to safety, while a woman not being supported within systems, or mis-identified as a perpetrator can have devastating consequences. EVAWQ welcomes an investment in further police training and the Commission of Inquiry and looks forward to working collaboratively with QPS in a range of ways to ensure that victims of DFV are getting the best possible police response, including expansion of co-responder models.

EVAWQ urges significant government investment in solutions to lower the incredibly high incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. 80% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in prison have experienced abuse and 80% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in jails are mothers. We need to ensure our First Nation's women are at home with their families and thriving in their lives, not in jails. EVAWQ supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ownership of the solutions for their communities.

EVAWQ thanks the Taskforce, Attorney General and Palaszczuk government for their funding commitment to the sector and looks forward to working with government to create solutions that end violence against women and children in Queensland. Working together we can create change.

[Ending Violence Against Women Queensland](#) (EVAWQ) is a peak body that brings together the women's health, refuge, and domestic, family and sexual violence sectors to create a united voice working to end violence against women and children.

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