

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Sexual Assault Network Inc. responds to Queensland Government funding commitments**

The Queensland Sexual Assault Network Inc. (QSAN) welcomes the Queensland Government's commitments to provide additional funding to specialist sexual assault services. This commitment is a first step towards adequately funding specialist Queensland sexual violence services.

Further work is needed to ensure that this funding is maintained as core funding. Funding gaps in sexual assault counselling and support service delivery across Queensland need to be identified and funded. All people impacted by sexual violence have the right to access responsive, timely, and flexible counselling and support.

QSAN services have received a continued and sustained increase in demand for specialist sexual assault counselling and support services over a number of years. Services have been inundated with referrals following the extensive media coverage of sexual violence and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. QSAN services are managing long waitlists for counselling and support services as current service demand greatly outstrips human resources. QSAN expects that the demand on services will continue to rise.

QSAN is committed to continuing to work with State and Federal Governments to support those impacted by sexual violence and to support our communities to appropriately respond to sexual violence.

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