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## New money for domestic and family violence a step in the right direction

*All comments to be attributed to Law Council President, Dr Jacoba Brasch QC.*

“The announcement that the government is providing \$416.2 million over four years to support women and families experiencing family and domestic violence, is a step in the right direction in the fight against abuse.

These new initiatives include:

- \$85 million over three years from 2022-23 in additional funding for enhanced social supports under the Family Advocacy and Support Services and for 26 new locations, including in regional areas;
- \$101.4 million over four years from 2021-22 to increase access to Children’s Contact Services for families across Australia who are unable to safely manage arrangements themselves for the contact and changeover of their children;
- \$60.8 million over four years from 2021-22 to enable the family courts to implement a new approach to Family Law Case management;
- \$29 million for a new initiative called the National Strategic Framework for Information Sharing between the Family Law and Family Violence and Child Protection Systems;
- \$129 million over four years from 2021-22 for increased legal assistance funding to help women access justice;
- \$4.7 million over two years to strengthen criminal justice responses to sexual assault, sexual harassment and coercive control; and
- \$6.3 million in additional funding in 2021-22 to facilitate increased justice for victims of sexual assault.

These measures are important initiatives that will help Australian families interacting with the courts system.”

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