



NATSILS

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER LEGAL SERVICES**

MEDIA RELEASE

21 June 2016

NATSILS welcomes the focus on funding family violence prevention

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) welcomes the renewed focus on family violence policy with the Coalition's announcement of \$25 million to address violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities yesterday.

"It is encouraging to see this focus from the Coalition on family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities" said Wayne Muir, Co-Chair of NATSILS.

The Hon. Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs yesterday announced additional funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to disrupt intergenerational cycles of violence, dysfunction and disadvantage. While details of the funding are yet to be confirmed, the Coalition's media release stated that the funding would contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of services available to those experiencing or at risk of domestic and family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"We look forward to sitting down with the Government to discuss the important work that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services do in providing assistance to families experiencing violence"

"NATSILS supports the development of wrap-around services to ensure that we are addressing the underlying causes of dysfunction and disrupting the cycles of violence for affected communities."

NATSILS has called on all parties to urgently address unmet family law needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by immediately injecting \$25 million per annum into the Indigenous Legal Assistance Program to develop new specialist family law units.

Media Contact: Karly Warner on kwarn@vals.org.au or by phone 0423 610 587.