DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELIGION

PRESS RELEASE

NGBVS Completes Third Regional Safe House SOP Consultation in the Highlands

The National Gender-Based Violence Secretariat (NGBVS), under the Department for Community Development and Religion (DfCDR), successfully completed its third regional consultation on the development of Papua New Guinea's National Safe House Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in Mt Hagen on 27th August 2026.

The consultation brought together government representatives, Safe House operators, frontline service providers, and key stakeholders from across the Highlands Region to review and provide technical feedback on the draft SOPs. The engagement formed part of NGBVS's nationwide consultation process aimed at strengthening the quality, consistency, and accountability of Safe House services throughout Papua New Guinea.

During the consultation period, the NGBVS team and lead consultants also conducted learning visits to Safe Houses and support service providers in Western Highlands and Jiwaka Provinces, including Jiwaka Voice for Change, Kyokonda Safe House, and St. Mary's Home for Vulnerable Children. These visits provided valuable insights into service delivery practices, challenges faced by providers, and community-based approaches to supporting survivors of gender-based violence and vulnerable children.

The team further engaged with the Jiwaka Provincial Administration, Provincial Health Authority, and Family Support Centre to strengthen coordination and support for GBV response services at the provincial level.

The Highlands consultation followed earlier regional engagements in Port Moresby and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and marked a significant milestone in the development of Papua New Guinea's first nationally endorsed Safe House SOPs. Insights gathered throughout the consultations will help inform the final framework and guide survivor-centered service delivery nationwide.

NGBVS acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through PNG Women Lead, as well as the contributions of provincial administrations, Safe House operators, frontline workers, civil society organizations, and community partners who participated in the consultation process.

The development of the National Safe House SOPs supports the Government of Papua New Guinea's commitments under the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV) and Pillar 2 of the National GBV Strategy 2026-2035, which focuses on strengthening survivor-centred response and support services.

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Approved for Immediate Release

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[PICTURE ATTACHED]



Caption: *Stakeholders participate in the National Gender-Based Violence Secretariat's Third Regional Consultation on the National Safe House Standards and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in Mt Hagen, Western Highlands Province.*