DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELIGION

PRESS RELEASE

NGBVS Begins First Safe House SOP Consultation in NCD

7th August 2026

The National Gender-Based Violence Secretariat (NGBVS), under the Department for Community Development and Religion (DFCDR), has commenced its first consultation workshop in the National Capital District (NCD) to review and strengthen Papua New Guinea's Safe House Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The consultation brought together safe house service providers, frontline practitioners, and key partners working across the safe house sector in NCD to provide practical input into the development of a strengthened national SOP for safe house services.

It marks the first stage of a consultation process aimed at improving standards, strengthening operational procedures, and ensuring more consistent implementation support for safe houses throughout Papua New Guinea.

Speaking on behalf of the Department (DFCDR) Secretary Mr Jerry Ubase, NGBVS Director Ms Diane Kambanei said the consultation was a significant milestone and acknowledged the commitment of frontline workers and service providers who continue to support survivors of gender-based violence.

"Safe houses play a critical role in protecting and supporting survivors of gender-based violence. This consultation provides an important opportunity to strengthen the Safe House Standard Operating Procedures and ensure services are guided by clear, consistent, and survivor-centred standards. The contributions of service providers, practitioners, and partners will help shape stronger systems and better outcomes for survivors across PNG," Ms Kambanei said.

Facilitated by lead consultants Ms Ume Wainetti and Ms Rebecca Robinson, the workshop enabled stakeholders to contribute to a nationally endorsed framework aimed at strengthening the management and operation of safe houses across the country.

The NCD workshop is the first in a series of consultations to develop PNG's first National Safe House SOPs, providing a nationally consistent framework for safe house operations and survivor support.

NGBVS through DfCDR acknowledges the support and partnership of the Australian Government through the PNG-Australia Partnership, PNG Women Lead, NCDC, and all service providers and partners who contributed to the consultation.

Informed by the National Safe House Mapping Report 2025 and the FSVAC Guidelines for Safe Houses, the SOPs will strengthen safe house services and survivor support in the country. This initiative delivers on the Government's commitment under SPA 11 of MTDP IV and

advances Pillar 2: Survivor-Centred Services of the National GBV Strategy 2026-2035, contributing to the vision of a PNG free from GBV and all forms of violence.

Ends...

Approved for Immediate Release

.....

Media Contact:
Department for Community Development & Religion Kwalimu
Haus, Somare Circuit, Waigani
P.O. Box 7354, Boroko, NCD

[PICTURE ATTACHED]



Caption: *Participants of the National Gender-Based Violence Secretariat's Safe House Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Consultation Workshop pose for a group photograph in Port Moresby on 7 August 2026.*