MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Up to $10 million to back boys and men as part of the solution to end violence against women and girls

Snow Foundation is committed to ending violence against women and girls. Today we open a national Positive Masculinities Partnership Round, funding organisations working to end violence by helping boys and men be part of the solution in eliminating violence and shaping safer communities.

Wednesday, 11 November 2026: National family philanthropic organisation Snow Foundation opened a new partnership round committing up to $10 million over five years to organisations that work with boys, young men and the adults around them to prevent violence before it starts.

The Positive Masculinities Partnership Round starts from a hopeful premise: most Australian boys and men reject violence and support gender equality. The Foundation will fund work that builds on those values, helping boys and men see they are not alone, giving them the skills and confidence to speak up, and influence the schools, sporting clubs, workplaces and online spaces that shape them.

The stakes are high. Almost one in four Australian women (23 per cent) has experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15, and the men who most strongly endorse rigid, dominance-based ideas about masculinity are far more likely to use violence.

Snow Foundation CEO Georgina Byron AM said boys and men were central to improving women's safety.

"Boys and men have a vital role to play in ending the violence that affects almost a quarter of women in Australia. Many already reject rigid ideas about masculinity and believe in respect and equality but can stay silent because they underestimate how many other men share their views.

"We want to support organisations that help boys and men recognise that they are not alone, giving them the confidence to speak up, challenge harmful attitudes and lead by example." Ms Byron said. Research demonstrates early adolescence is a critical window. Gender stereotypes take root between the ages of 10 and 14, and recent evidence shows platforms push misogynistic content to teenage boys within minutes of joining an app – even when they start out just watching fitness or gaming videos. Alarmingly, a 2026 University of Melbourne survey found one in four teenage boys agreed feminism was damaging to society and should be resisted with violence.

Stephen Byron, Snow Foundation Director and Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Airport and the broader Capital Property Group added:

"We are committed to change this. Boys are working out what it means to be a man in early adolescence, and much of that now happens on their phones, often through content they never went looking for. Fathers, coaches, teachers and friends have enormous influence. We want to help them model respect, and to bring more positive male role models into their lives and online spaces where boys spend much of their time," Mr Byron said.

The round will prioritise boys and young men aged 12 to 25 and the adults who influence them. Alongside grant funding, the Snow Foundation will support grantees with impact measurement and evaluation and bring them together to share what they learn. They are open to funding system-strengthening work: building the skills of people who deliver prevention programs, influencing policy and practice in schools, workplaces and platforms, and developing Australian measures of what works. Nationally validated Australian measures do not currently exist.

"Lasting change takes sustained effort. Many organisations are already doing great work in sporting clubs, schools, workplaces and communities, some without ever calling it violence prevention. We want to help them go further, learn together and build the evidence, so respect becomes the norm, women and girls are safer, and our communities are safer for everyone," Ms Byron said.

Key Details

Total commitment	**Up to $10 million over five years**
Grants and Support	7 to 12 organisations, up to $250,000 a year for 3 to 5 years In addition: support for impact measurement, evaluation, convening. We'll learn together to build the evidence for what works.
Who can apply	Charities, not-for-profits and for-profits with an ABN, annual revenue under $10 million in FY2025–26 and less than 50% from government. DGR and charity status not required. Collaborations welcome.
Priority groups	Boys and young men aged 12 to 25, and the adults who influence them
Applications open	Monday 9 November 2026
Applications close	Friday 11 December 2026, 5pm AEDT
Partners announced	May 2027
More information	www.snowfoundation.org.au/positive-masculinities/ positivemasculinities@snowfoundation.org.au Research Summary - https://www.snowfoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Research-Summary.pdf

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About the Snow Foundation

Snow Foundation is a family philanthropic foundation deeply committed to place, country and community. We aim to create lasting social change by building strong communities and forging fair systems. With trust and collaboration at the core, we take considered risks and embrace innovation — backing bold ideas, entrepreneurial solutions, and community-led approaches that create long-term, systemic change. Established in 1991 by brothers Terry and George Snow, and led by Georgina Byron AM since 2006, we have grown from Canberra roots into a trusted philanthropic leader with national reach.

We have been funding gender equity and women’s safety for many years, starting in 2002 with Karinya House in the ACT and growing to over 30 partnerships today, including organisations already working with boys and men. Our current gender work aims to improve women’s safety by preventing violence through two pathways: positive masculinities and women's economic empowerment.