# State of Origin Rugby Games Linked to Surge in Domestic Violence, Data Reveals



### Domestic Violence Spike Linked to State of Origin Games in Australia

During State of Origin rugby league games, there is a significant increase in domestic violence, according to recent data. Independent MP Zali Steggall highlighted the issue during a Question Time in the Australian Parliament, pointing out that domestic assaults rise by approximately 40% and non-domestic assaults by around 70% on these game nights. Steggall attributed part of this spike to alcohol and gambling activities associated with the games.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese responded by acknowledging the problem, stating, “There is nothing wrong with having a beer, but excessive consumption leading to violence is a societal issue that needs to be addressed.” He emphasized the role men must play in changing cultural attitudes that demean women.

The concerning statistics come from a study conducted over six years by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. This trend also correlates with increased aggressive behavior potentially fueled by alcohol and gambling. Various advocates, including White Ribbon's executive director Brad Chilcott, have urged fans to be mindful of their behavior and to look out for signs of aggression.

The first game of this year's State of Origin series is scheduled for 5 June in Sydney.