



# Fourth Action Plan (2019-22) to reduce violence against women and their children

2019 Budget

The Government is committed to preventing and reducing the rates of domestic and family violence and sexual assault in Australia.

## What was announced in the 2019 Budget?

The Commonwealth Government is making its largest ever contribution to the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan).

The National Plan brings together the efforts of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to drive a real and sustained reduction in the levels of domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia.

As part of the Commonwealth's overall \$328 million investment in the National Plan, the Department of Social Services will provide a total of \$263.5 million to fund the following measures under the Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022.

## Prevention strategies

Preventing violence before it begins is a core focus of the Fourth Action Plan. Over the next three years, the Department of Social Services will spend \$63.5 million on a range of community programs, information campaigns and awareness-raising activities to stop violence before it begins.

The investment includes the development of Australia's first Prevention Hub, which will bring together government, experts, the community sector and corporate partners to coordinate efforts to stop violence.

The investment also includes \$16.7 million to continue the Commonwealth's contribution to the national campaign to reduce violence against women, *Stop it at the Start*, which is delivered in partnership with state and territory governments.

## Safe Places

Women and children cannot escape domestic and family violence if they have no place to go.

The Australian Government is providing \$78.4 million to provide safe places for people impacted by domestic and family violence.

This includes a \$60.4 million grants program to provide new or expanded emergency

accommodation facilities for those escaping family and domestic violence, and \$18.0 million to continue supporting the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes Program.

## Supporting frontline services

Australians experiencing domestic and family violence and sexual assault need to know that help is there when they need it. Under the Fourth Action Plan, the Government will provide \$57.6 million to improve and build on frontline services.

The Australian Government will provide \$10.0 million to deliver Specialised Family Violence Services in up to 16 additional sites. Specialised Family Violence Services provide counselling and support for families affected by violence, including help for children who witness and/or experience domestic and family violence.

Health and community workers across Australia will receive free training to better recognise and support people experiencing violence, with \$26.2 million allocated to DV-alert training.

The Support for Trafficked People program will receive an additional \$3.8 million to ensure those who have been victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices receive appropriate assistance.

The Government is also developing new national standards for sexual assault responses, including victim and perpetrator programs, and a framework for reporting against the standards.

## Funding for 1800RESPECT

Since its establishment at the start of the National Plan, 1800RESPECT has become an integral part of the service system supporting Australians impacted by, or at risk of, domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

Calls to the service have continued to rise significantly, with more than 98,000 telephone and online contacts answered in 2017-18 and double this expected to be answered in 2018-19.

1800RESPECT will receive \$64.0 million from the package, to support Australians impacted by, or at risk of domestic and family violence, and sexual assault.

## Key facts

- Department of Social Services measures to be funded under the Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022 include:
  - \$57.6 million for frontline services
  - \$63.5 million for prevention strategies
  - \$78.4 million to provide safe places for people impacted by domestic and family violence
  - \$64.0 million to support 1800RESPECT.

## More information

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services' Budget measures, visit the [Department of Social Services](https://www.dss.gov.au) website ([dss.gov.au](https://www.dss.gov.au)).

Find out more about the Fourth Action Plan by reading [Our Investment in Women's Safety](#).

For information about the 2019 Budget, visit the [Australian Government budget](https://www.budget.gov.au) website ([budget.gov.au](https://www.budget.gov.au)).