



**NATIONAL PLAN TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
AND THEIR CHILDREN 2010-2022**

**EVALUATION PLAN**

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**HEALTH OUTCOMES INTERNATIONAL**

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## Executive Summary

Evaluating the National Plan is critical to ensure that what is being delivered is improving the safety of women and their children in Australia. This Evaluation Plan sets out how the success of the National Plan will be evaluated over its 12-year lifespan.

Considerable investment is being made under the National Plan to build the evidence base around violence against women and their children and to track progress. This includes the establishment of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), regular national surveys, including the Personal Safety Survey, to measure the prevalence of violence against women and national community attitudes surveys, as well as work to improve National Data Collection and Reporting.

This Evaluation Plan outlines an approach that leverages off existing work and investment as much as possible, in order to minimise red tape. It is important that evaluation under the National Plan is both effective and does not detract from the critical work outlined in the National Plan.

This Evaluation Plan sits above significant evaluation activity that is already being done of individual activities, programmes and reforms that are being delivered as part of the National Plan. It also sits above, and draws on, the considerable programme of work to build the evidence base on violence against women and their children.

The Evaluation Plan is underpinned by the key elements of the National Plan – including its high-level Indicators of Change, National Outcomes and corresponding Measures of Success, and Foundations for Change – all agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2011. It further identifies a planned series of questions that future evaluations will seek to answer in assessing the National Plan's effectiveness.

The success of the National Plan cannot be measured by a single evaluation activity. This Evaluation Plan sets out a range of activities:

1. Reviews of three-yearly Action Plans: these will reflect on the success of the previous Action Plan to inform the development of the next Action Plan.
2. Annual progress reporting: these are a key monitoring, accountability and communication activity under the National Plan.
3. Evaluation of flagship activities: this involves the evaluation of key national initiatives under the National Plan.
4. Underpinning evaluation activities: this includes analysis of the considerable and increasing amount of data available to measure women's safety, including the Personal Safety Survey and National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women.

With these evaluation activities, governments and the community will be able to measure the effectiveness of the National Plan every three years and at the end of the National Plan's 12-year lifespan.

## Introduction

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan) was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and released in February 2011. The National Plan is a long-term, 12-year strategy for achieving a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children.

### Evaluating the National Plan

The National Plan includes a commitment to conduct an evaluation over its 12-year lifespan, with smaller scale three-year evaluations informing the long-term evaluation. Health Outcomes International was engaged to develop an evaluation plan, to assess the progress of the National Plan in reducing violence against women and their children. The purpose of evaluating the National Plan is to determine its effectiveness as an overarching policy on an ongoing basis, to inform the focus of future directions of the National Plan and remain responsive to emerging priorities.

It is unlikely that evaluation will show an immediate impact in the early years of the National Plan. Achieving a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women is a long-term endeavour, requiring ongoing work to improve reporting and drive generational cultural and attitudinal change. A cumulative approach will be taken to build the evidence base for adjustments and enhancements to the National Plan over time. The evaluation will commence with a review of the National Plan's Foundation Stage (2010-2013) to inform baseline data, then subsequent evaluations in the Short Term (2013-2016), Medium Term (2016-2019) and the Long Term (2019-2022).

This evaluation plan includes underpinning principles, evaluation methodology, key evaluation questions and measures of success identified in the National Plan.

***Specific key evaluation questions are outlined in Chapter 4 - Evaluation Matrix. Overarching key evaluation questions include:***

- What have been the added benefits and efficiencies from taking a national approach? How has the National Plan influenced and been influenced by state and territory plans, and how has it supported sharing of good practice across jurisdictions?
- How has each action plan contributed to the overall target of reducing violence against women and their children?
- How effective are the governance, advisory and communication mechanisms established to implement the National Plan in terms of facilitating appropriate involvement of a broad range of stakeholders?
- How effective has the plan been in engaging and creating linkages with civil society and other relevant groups to take ownership and action?
- How effective has the National Plan been in engaging with, and supporting groups of women who have diverse experiences of violence or can be more vulnerable, such as Indigenous women, CALD women and women with disability?

- How well does the National Plan link with, influence and inform other plans of government e.g. closing the gap, homelessness, protecting Australian children?
- How does the implementation of the National Plan align with Australia's responsibility under international agreements?

The evaluation plan is based on:

- An independent review of the National Plan, the National Implementation Plan for the First Action Plan, the National Plan Progress Report to COAG and other related documentation.
- Analysis of other Australian and international cross-jurisdiction policies.
- Consultations with Commonwealth, states and territory governments' senior officials including a joint workshop and individual phone interviews.
- Work undertaken by the National Plan Implementation Panel, including guiding principles to developing an evaluation.
- Consultations with key stakeholders and experts from civil society.

### **The National Plan**

The National Plan is a long-term, national approach that aims to make a significant and sustained reduction in levels of violence against women and their children. It recognises that a whole of government and community response is required to achieve a reduction in violence against women in Australia.

The National Plan has support across governments and brings together the efforts of Commonwealth, state and territory governments and civil society across Australia. The National Plan has a strong focus on stopping violence before it occurs in the first place, and on changing community attitudes about gender equality and violence in order to effect long term change. It looks to the long-term, focusing on building respectful relationships and changing attitudes and behaviours that enable this to happen. It also recognises that broader social policy initiatives that address gender inequality and improve the status of women, are critical to reducing violence against women and their children.

### **National Outcomes**

The National Plan sets a long-term platform for action until 2022. It sets out six **National Outcomes** for all governments to deliver during the 12-year term of the National Plan:

**1. Communities are safe and free from violence.**

Promoting community involvement, focusing on primary prevention and advancing gender equality will help foster positive and respectful community attitudes that are critical to Australian women and their children living free from violence in safe communities.

**2. Relationships are respectful.**

Changing and shaping attitudes and behaviours of young people is critical to preventing domestic and family violence and sexual assault in the future and the

National Plan will support individuals to develop more equal and respectful relationships.

**3. Indigenous communities are strengthened.**

The National Plan is focused on supporting Indigenous communities to develop local solutions to prevent violence. This includes encouraging Indigenous women to have a stronger voice as community leaders and supporting Indigenous men to reject violence.

**4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence.**

Specialist and mainstream services must be responsive and flexible in meeting the diverse needs of their clients. It is particularly important that there is improved collaboration between services so that women do not have to tell their story multiple times.

**5. Justice responses are effective.**

Under the National Plan, work will be undertaken to improve the legal response to domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and to promote responses from criminal justice agencies. Systems need to work together effectively to be responsive to women's safety and to prevent further violence.

**6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account.**

Preventing and reducing violence against women requires strong laws that are effectively administered and hold perpetrators to account. All governments recognise the evidence base for perpetrator interventions requires strengthening and are currently working to expand the range of perpetrator interventions in their jurisdiction.

### **Three Year Action Plans**

The National Outcomes are being delivered through a series of four three-year Action Plans. These Action Plans will support governments to work together to develop, implement and report progress within a coordinated national framework. The Action Plans have been designed as a series to be implemented over 12 years, with three-year cycles so governments can review the strategies and actions once they are implemented and design future efforts to be as effective as possible. Governments will respond to emerging priorities as new evidence becomes available and circumstances change.

Each Action Plan will be supported by the following four **Foundations for Change**:

**1. Strengthen the workforce**

There is a specific focus on strengthening the workforce and offering the right training and support to better respond to violence against women and their children.

**2. Integrate systems and share information**

The aim of this foundation is to create integrated service systems that share information, coordinate responses and track results for the benefit of women experiencing violence.

**3. Improve the evidence base**

There is a need to improve and coordinate the evidence base, including across affiliated areas of study, to help inform policy development and service delivery responses.

#### **4. Track performance**

The aim of this foundation is to measure the success of the National Plan by building a nationally consistent dataset and continuing the Personal Safety Survey and the National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women.

As each Action Plan is developed, governments will agree a new set of National Priorities. National Priorities are joint areas of work that are critical to focus on at that particular time in the National Plan's lifespan. National Priorities for the First and Second Action Plans are outlined in Figure 1, along with the purpose and expectations of each Action Plan, as identified in the National Plan. Evaluation phases outlined in Chapter 5 (Evaluation Processes) coincide with each Action Plan. **It is critical that the scope of each evaluation phase focuses on the corresponding Action Plan's strategies and deliverables.**

**Figure 1: Overview of the Action Plans**



## **Principles Underpinning The Evaluation**

The evaluation will be guided by four key principles. It will have a collaborative and cumulative approach; provide an overarching perspective; and leverage existing data sources.

### **Cumulative Approach**

Evaluation will recognise the long-term nature of the National Plan and immediate changes in prevalence data are not expected. An increase in reporting violence to police doesn't necessarily reflect an increase in the number of women experiencing violence overall. As awareness is raised about violence against women, it is expected that reporting rates will increase. A cumulative approach will be taken to build the evidence base for adjustments and enhancements to the National Plan over time. Evaluation will commence with a review of the National Plan's Foundation Stage (2010-2013) to inform baseline data, then subsequent evaluations in the Short Term (2013-2016), Medium Term (2016-2019) and the Long Term (2019-2022). Due to the long-term nature of the National Plan, evaluation will also need to remain flexible, as it is implemented over time. Targeted annual progress reporting and three-yearly reviews will feed into the evaluation of the National Plan.

### **Collaborative Effort**

As stated in the National Plan, a whole of government and community response is required to reduce violence against women and their children. All stakeholders will contribute to and participate in the evaluation process, such as Commonwealth, state and territory government senior officials and non-government representatives with expertise and interest in reducing violence against women and their children. These may include national peak bodies, civil society, academics, subject matter experts and business leaders. The evaluation of jurisdictional initiatives, such as select state-based data sources, evaluation outcomes of jurisdiction-based strategies to reduce violence against women and other related evaluation activities, may also feed into evaluation of the National Plan.

### **Overarching Perspective**

Evaluation will assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Plan across its 12-year lifespan, with smaller scale three-yearly evaluations informing the long-term evaluation. Evaluation will focus on the overall approach of the National Plan, including how governments, the community sector and academics have worked together. Evaluation will not focus on the status of individual initiatives or on evaluating implementation of individual initiatives. Programme-specific evaluations will need to be done by the jurisdiction with responsibility for delivering the individual programmes. However, the delivery and any evaluation of these programmes may inform the broader National Plan evaluation.

### **Leverage Existing Data**

To minimise time and financial burdens and avoid onerous reporting, evaluation will use established data sources and leverage off other relevant evaluations. This will include a variety of data collections, such as the Personal Safety Survey and National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women. It will also be supplemented by jurisdiction-led evaluations of national significance and select flagship initiatives.

## Evaluation Measures

### Aims and objectives

The vision of the National Plan is that *“Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities”*, and to measure the success of this vision, governments have set the target of *“a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children”*.

The following high-level indicators of change will be used to assess progress:

- Reduced prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Increased proportion of women who feel safe in their communities.
- Reduced deaths related to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Reduced proportion of children exposed to their mother’s or carer’s experience of domestic violence.

### Evaluation Domains

Throughout the life of the National Plan, evaluation will assess the progress towards the National Plan target and high-level indicators of change. The evaluation domains will comprise of overarching arrangements and governance; National Outcomes; and Foundations for Change.

The **overarching arrangements and governance** domain recognises that a core strength of the National Plan is how it brings together efforts across jurisdictions, sectors and policy areas to drive national improvements in reducing violence against women and their children. How this collaboration drives change will be continuously monitored and evaluated over the course of the National Plan. Previous work done by the National Plan Implementation Panel has also been used as a basis to determine the following elements of how the National Plan is progressing towards its target:

- National Plan is effective and efficient in influencing directions/efforts at all levels of government.
- National Plan has effective governance, advisory and communication structures.
- Contribution of each Action Plan to overall target.
- Collaboration across jurisdictions, sectors and related policy areas.
- Alignment with responsibilities under international arrangements.

The National Plan sets out **six National Outcomes** for governments to deliver over the 12-year lifespan of the National Plan. This evaluation domain is consistent with the National Plan’s structure, existing reporting and implementation arrangements. The six national outcomes are:

1. Communities are safe and free from violence.
2. Relationships are respectful.
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened.
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence.

5. Justice responses are effective.
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account.

The National Plan identifies **four Foundations for Change** reflect that certain underpinning changes need to be made across jurisdictions to implement the National Plan effectively and are:

- Strengthen the workforce.
- Integrate systems and share information.
- Improve the evidence base.
- Track performance.

The hierarchy of evaluation measures is illustrated below.

**Figure 2: Measures of Progress**

<b>OBJECTIVE: Overall target of the National Plan</b>			
A significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children from 2010 to 2022.			
<b>PROCESS: Overarching Arrangements and Governance</b>			
National Plan is effective and efficient in influencing directions/efforts at state, territory and national levels of government		National Plan has effective governance, advisory and communication structures	
Contribution of each Action Plan to overall target	Collaboration across jurisdictions, sectors and other plans of government	Alignment with responsibilities under international agreements	
National Plan is effective in engaging with, and supporting groups of women who have diverse experiences of violence		Creation of linkages with civil society and other relevant groups to take ownership and action	
<b>IMPACTS: High Level Indicators of Change</b>			
Reduced prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault.	Increased proportion of women who feel safe in their communities.	Reduced deaths related to domestic violence and sexual assault.	Reduced proportion of children exposed to their mother's or carer's experience of domestic violence.
<b>OUTCOMES: Measures of Success for National Plan Outcomes</b>			
1. Increase in the community's intolerance of violence against women.	3.1 Reduction in proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities.	4. Increase in the access to, and responsiveness of, services for victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault.	
2. Improved knowledge, skills and behaviour for respectful relationships by young people.	3.2 Increase in the proportion of Indigenous women who are able to have their say within their communities on important issues, including violence.	5. Increase in the rate of women reporting domestic violence and sexual assault.	
		6. Decrease in repeated partner victimisation	
<b>CAPACITY BUILDING: Foundations for Change</b>			
Strengthened the workforce	Improved evidence base	Integration of systems and shared information	Improved tracking of performance

## Evaluation Matrix

The Evaluation Matrix maps out the evaluation domains, including possible evaluation questions and data sources. The Evaluation Methodology is at Chapter 5 and information on underpinning data sources is at Appendix 1.

Each three-year Action Plan under the National Plan will have a different focus, reflect different strategies and consider emerging issues. In line with this, it is anticipated that at each three-yearly evaluation, it would be appropriate to adapt the questions and determine specific key performance indicators that reflect these strategies and deliverables.

**Table 1: National Plan Overarching Arrangements and Governance**

<b>NATIONAL PLAN OVERARCHING ARRANGEMENTS AND GOVERNANCE</b>	
<b><i>Key Evaluation Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Data Sources</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What have been the added benefits and efficiencies from taking a national approach? How has the National Plan influenced and been influenced by state and territory plans, and how has it supported sharing of good practice across jurisdictions?</li> <li>• How has each action plan contributed to the overall target of reducing violence against women and their children?</li> <li>• How effective are the governance, advisory and communication mechanisms established to implement the National Plan in terms of facilitating appropriate involvement of a broad range of stakeholders?</li> <li>• How effective has the plan been in engaging and creating linkages with civil society and other relevant groups to take ownership and action?</li> <li>• How effective has the National Plan been in engaging with, and supporting groups of women who have diverse experiences of violence or can be more vulnerable, such as Indigenous women, CALD women and women with disability?</li> <li>• How well does the National Plan link with, influence and inform other plans of government e.g. closing the gap, homelessness, protecting Australian children?</li> <li>• How does the implementation of the National Plan align with Australia's responsibility under international agreements?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional initiatives</li> <li>• Consultations with Commonwealth, state and territory governments' senior officials</li> <li>• Consultations with key stakeholders from non-government sector</li> <li>• Literature review of other Australian and international cross-jurisdictional policies</li> <li>• International reports, including those developed by human rights institutions</li> </ul>

## National Outcomes

These Measures of Success reflect those in the National Plan.

### NATIONAL OUTCOME 1 - COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE AND FREE FROM VIOLENCE

**Measure of Success** - An increase in the community's intolerance of violence against women.

<b>Key Evaluation Questions</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effective has the National Plan been in working across jurisdictions and communities in preventing, responding to and speaking out against violence against women and their children?</li> <li>• How effectively has the National Plan maintained a strong focus on primary prevention?</li> <li>• How has the implementation of the National Plan reflected and incorporated the premise that addressing gender and social inequality is fundamental to addressing violence against women and their children?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Community Attitudes Survey</li> <li>• Work by the Foundation</li> <li>• Work by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)</li> <li>• Australian Gender Equality Indicators</li> <li>• National Data Framework</li> <li>• Personal Safety Survey</li> <li>• Analysis of media coverage</li> <li>• Other related evaluations</li> </ul>

### NATIONAL OUTCOME 2 - RELATIONSHIPS ARE RESPECTFUL

**Measure of Success** - Improved knowledge of, and the skills and behaviour for respectful relationships by young people.

<b>Key Evaluation Questions</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent have young people shown an improved understanding of the importance of respectful relationships?</li> <li>• How have adults been supported to model respectful relationships?</li> <li>• How effective have social marketing campaigns and other National Plan prevention strategies been in engaging a greater number and diversity of men to speak out against violence against women?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National evaluation of respectful relationships programmes</li> <li>• Evaluation of National Social Marketing Campaign, 'The Line'</li> <li>• Work by ANROWS</li> <li>• Work by the Foundation</li> <li>• Number of men engaged in White Ribbon campaigns</li> <li>• National Data Framework</li> <li>• National Community Attitudes Survey</li> <li>• Other related evaluations</li> </ul>

### NATIONAL OUTCOME 3 - INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ARE STRENGTHENED

**Measure of Success** - Reduction in the proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities and neighbourhoods; and increase in the proportion of Indigenous women who are able to have their say within their communities on important issues, including violence.

<b>Key Evaluation Questions</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has the enhanced leadership role for Indigenous women within communities and broader Australian society been fostered?</li> <li>• How has the National Plan supported communities to drive change through local solutions?</li> <li>• How has the National Plan facilitated improved access to appropriate services for Indigenous women and their children who experience violence?</li> <li>• How have the needs of Indigenous women and their children been considered across all outcomes of the National Plan?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of local, statewide and national initiatives in Indigenous communities</li> <li>• National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</li> <li>• National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey</li> <li>• Work by ANROWS</li> <li>• Work by the Foundation</li> <li>• National Community Attitudes Survey</li> <li>• National Data Framework</li> <li>• Other related evaluations</li> </ul>

**NATIONAL OUTCOME 4 - SERVICES MEET THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN**

**Measure of Success** - An increase in the access to, and responsiveness of, services for victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

<b>Key Evaluation Questions</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How has the National Plan enhanced first point of contact for women to identify and respond to needs?</li><li>• How have specialist domestic and family violence and sexual assault services been supported to meet the needs of women who are marginalised and more vulnerable, as a result of issues such as age, culture, sexuality disability, prior victimisation or geographical location?</li><li>• To what extent have mainstream services been supported to identify and respond to needs?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of the 1800RESPECT telephone support line</li><li>• Evaluation of jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional initiatives</li><li>• National Data Framework</li><li>• Personal Safety Survey</li><li>• Other related evaluations</li></ul>

**NATIONAL OUTCOME 5 - JUSTICE RESPONSES ARE EFFECTIVE**

**Measure of Success** - An increase in the rate of women reporting domestic violence and sexual assault.

<b>Key Evaluation Questions</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To what extent has the National Plan helped improve access to justice for women and their children in the civil and/or criminal justice systems?</li><li>• Has the National Plan helped drive and combine directions/efforts at state, territory and national levels to reduce violence against women and their children?</li><li>• Has the National Plan helped build leadership in justice systems, and supported justice systems to work better together and with other systems?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of cross-jurisdictional initiatives</li><li>• National Data Framework</li><li>• Work by ANROWS</li><li>• Personal Safety Survey</li></ul>

**NATIONAL OUTCOME 6 - PERPETRATORS STOP THEIR VIOLENCE AND ARE HELD TO ACCOUNT**

**Measure of Success** - A decrease in repeated partner victimisation.

<b>Key Evaluation Questions</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has the National Plan built the evidence base about perpetrator interventions?</li><li>• Is there evidence of greater collaboration and information sharing across agencies and systems to reduce the risk of recidivism?</li><li>• Is there evidence of early intervention to prevent violence?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional initiatives</li><li>• National Data Framework</li><li>• Work by ANROWS</li><li>• Personal Safety Survey</li></ul>

## Foundations For Change

### FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE 1 - STRENGTHEN THE WORKFORCE

<i>Key Evaluation Questions</i>	<i>Data Sources</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent has the specialist domestic and family violence and sexual assault workforce been developed to enhance their role in preventing and/or responding to violence against women?</li> <li>To what extent has the mainstream workforce (for example, GPs, hospitals, alcohol and drug, education, homelessness, child protection) been equipped to undertake early identification and intervention or referral for women experiencing violence?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work by ANROWS</li> <li>Evaluation of jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional initiatives</li> </ul>

### FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE 2 - INTEGRATE SYSTEMS AND SHARE INFORMATION

<i>Key Evaluation Questions</i>	<i>Data Sources</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the National Plan promoted and supported the need for and development of coordinated approaches and responses to violence against women and their children and its prevention, across jurisdictions, sectors, related policy areas?</li> <li>How have system integration initiatives resulted in better outcomes for women and children?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional initiatives</li> <li>Work by ANROWS</li> <li>Evaluation of 1800RESPECT</li> </ul>

### FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE 3 - IMPROVE THE EVIDENCE BASE

<i>Key Evaluation Questions</i>	<i>Data Sources</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the National Centre of Excellence effectively performed its role in enhancing the evidence base in relation to interventions?</li> <li>Has the Foundation effectively performed its role in enhancing the evidence base in relation to primary prevention?</li> <li>What national research and data is available? Has this increased over the life of the National Plan?</li> <li>To what extent has the National Plan facilitated sharing of learning across jurisdictions?</li> <li>To what extent has the evidence been translated into more effective actions?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of ANROWS</li> <li>Evaluation of the Foundation</li> <li>Evaluations of jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional initiatives</li> <li>Work by ANROWS</li> <li>Work by the Foundation</li> </ul>

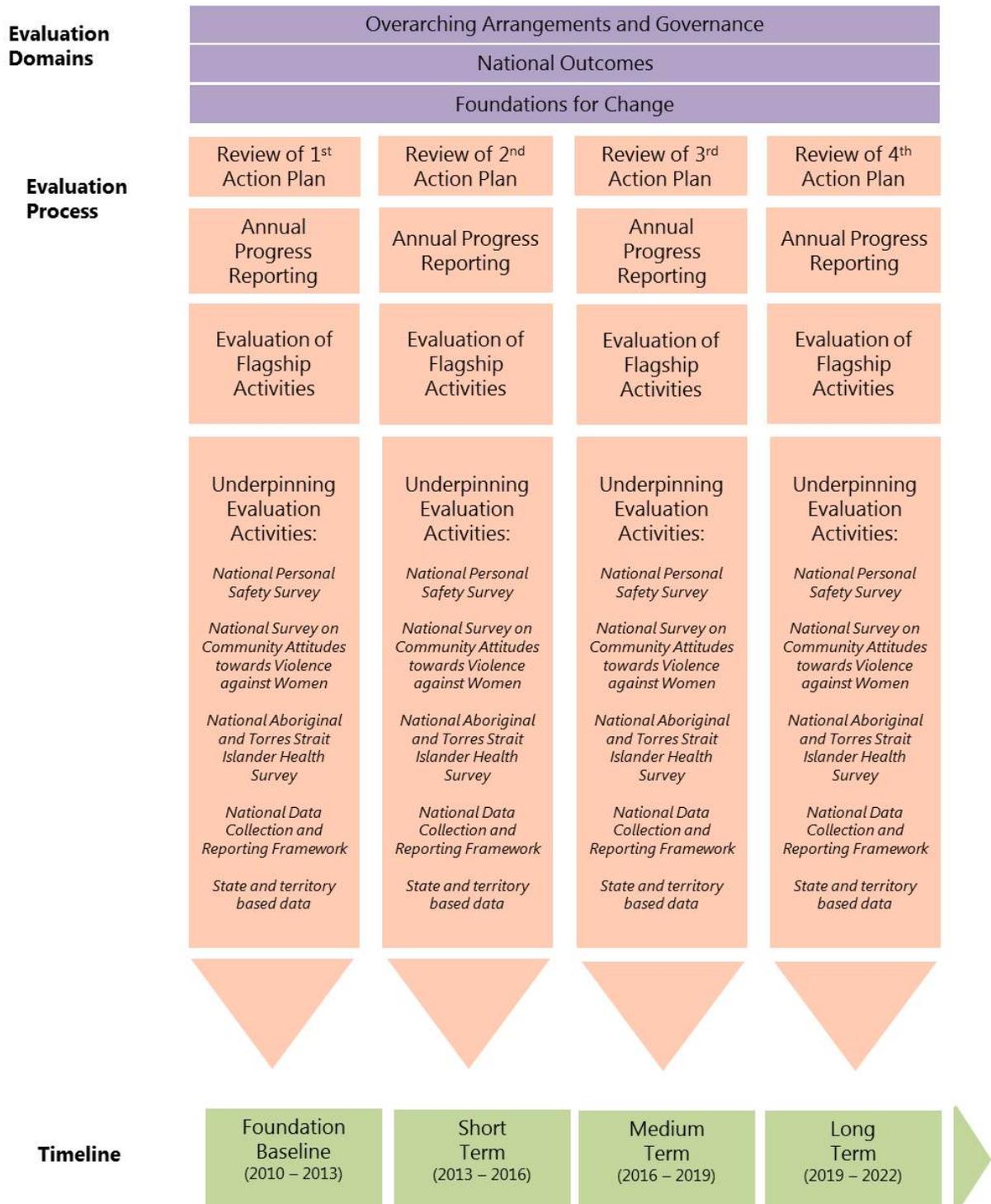
### FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE 4 - TRACK PERFORMANCE

<i>Key Evaluation Questions</i>	<i>Data Sources</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has the National Plan facilitated the development of a National Data Collection and Reporting Framework to enable consistent tracking of performance over time?</li> <li>Has there been progressive monitoring and evaluation of activity over time and has this led to improvements as a result?</li> <li>What more can be done to assess effectiveness of the National Plan?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of jurisdictional initiatives</li> </ul>

## Evaluation Methodology

This chapter addresses the evaluation methodology and provides a description of evaluation processes and guidelines to implementation. The proposed methodology is illustrated below.

**Figure 3: Evaluation Methodology**



## Implementation

There will be four evaluation phases and, as outlined in *Evaluation Processes* below. An indicative timeline is provided at **Figure 4**. At each evaluation phase, it is anticipated that the evaluation plan would be applied in the context of the purpose of the current Action Plan, emerging issues and government priorities. There would be analysis and adaptation of key evaluation questions and specific key performance indicators **if needed**, would be determined. This would be done through a collaborative approach between Commonwealth, state and territory governments, as well as consultations with key stakeholders.

## Managing the Evaluation

Commonwealth, state and territory governments are jointly responsible for managing the National Plan. A collaborative and dynamic approach to governance arrangements for the evaluation will ensure that high quality and expert advice informs decision-making and consideration of evaluation outcomes for subsequent applications of the National Plan.

Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for reducing violence against women will oversee the evaluation process and outcomes. Commonwealth, state and territory officials will be responsible for supporting Ministers, sharing information and providing input into the evaluation process. As well as collaboration between and within governments, there will also be an integrated approach to consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders.

## Evaluation Processes

An indicative timeline is outlined in **Figure 4**.

The four evaluation phases will be:

- Foundation Stage (2010-2013) with a review of the First Action Plan undertaken in 2014
- Short Term (2013-2016) with a review of the Second Action Plan undertaken in 2016-17
- Medium Term (2016-2019) with a review of the Third Action Plan undertaken in 2019-20
- Long Term (2019-2022) with a review of the Fourth Action Plan undertaken in 2022-23

It is anticipated an independent expert would be engaged at each evaluation phase, to collate data relating to the specific Action Plan. The consultant would collate existing monitoring and evaluation reporting, such as the Annual Progress Reporting and Underpinning Evaluation Activities. The consultant would also be expected to conduct a review of the specific Action Plan including consultations with key stakeholders; and evaluate flagship activities as agreed by senior government officials.

### ***Review of Action Plans***

Evaluation of each of the Action Plans will facilitate both monitoring and evaluation of progress against the National Plan. The review would be based on the evaluation domains, key evaluation questions and measures of progress outlined in **Chapter 4**. Consultations will be held with key stakeholders to analyse achievements and barriers from the development and implementation of the Action Plan, as well as identifying emerging issues and future considerations for the subsequent Action Plan. To ensure broad based consultations, mechanisms could include:

- national roundtable discussions
- stakeholder workshops
- online surveys
- written submission processes
- face-to-face interviews.

The range of stakeholders to be consulted through these mechanisms could include Commonwealth, state and territory government officials, the women's sector, domestic and family violence and sexual assault services, other civil society organisations, organisations working with perpetrators, business, local governments, educational institutions, the media and the broader community. These reviews should also be undertaken against the evaluation domains, where possible.

### ***Annual Progress Reporting***

Annual progress reporting feeds into both monitoring and evaluation. Commonwealth and state and territory governments and the non-government sector contribute to each report. The annual progress reports will be targeted and robust, highlighting specific initiatives and recognising that only a combined effort to reduce violence against women and their children will have an impact. The reports will also serve to acknowledge the vital role of the non-government sector in reducing violence against women and their children, and to communicate with the community more broadly about commitment and progress under the National Plan.

Annual progress reports will be made publicly available. They will be a key mechanism for governments to share key learnings, discuss barriers to implementation, identify gaps and emerging issues and to make necessary amendments to activities as required.

### ***Evaluation of Flagship Activities***

There are a number of activities in the National Plan that are national, cross-jurisdictional or are of national significance. For the purpose of this evaluation plan, these are known as 'flagship activities' and may relate to a National Outcome, a Foundation for Change or governance arrangements. At least four flagship evaluation activities will be undertaken over the course of the National Plan. Potential flagship activities for evaluation will include:

- Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety
- The Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children
- The National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service – 1800RESPECT
- Social marketing campaigns such as 'The Line'

- The Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children Victorian Prevention Projects

These initiatives will be evaluated in alignment with the Evaluation Plan in a way that is appropriate to the particular activities or programmes.

### ***Underpinning Evaluation Activities***

Evaluation will be underpinned by analysis of existing evaluation activities, including national and select state-based data sources, evaluation outcomes of jurisdiction-based strategies to reduce violence against women and other related evaluation activities. Critical data sources that will underpin the evaluation of the National Plan includes those listed below. Details are provided in **Appendix 1**.

- National Personal Safety Survey
- National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
- National Data Collection and Reporting Framework
- State and territory based data

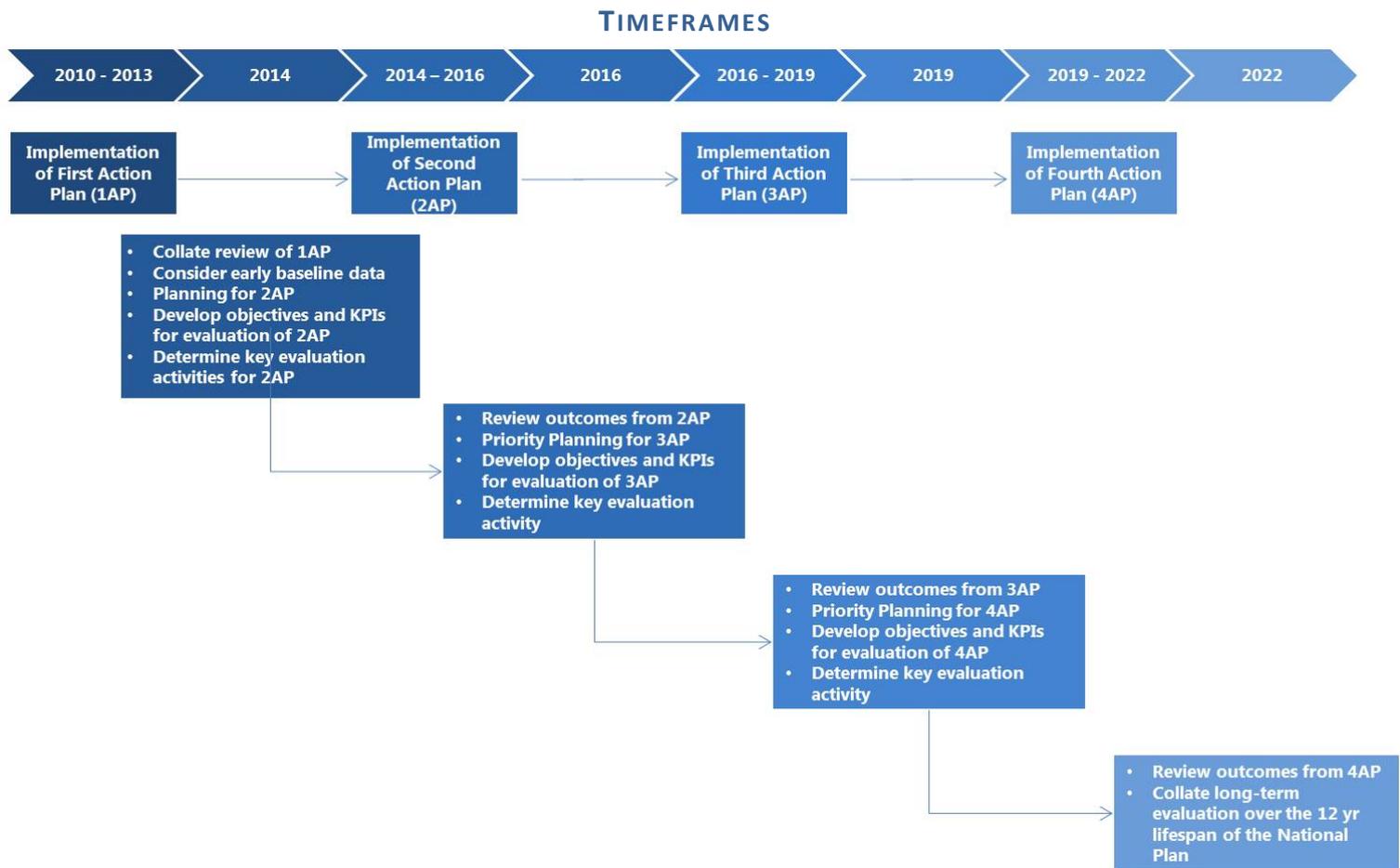
There may also be consideration of evaluations of state-based strategies and initiatives to reduce violence against women, such as:

- Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence against Women and Children 2010-2022
- Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women and Children - Everyone has a responsibility to act
- It Stops Here: Standing Together to End Domestic and Family Violence in NSW

Moreover, ANROWS and the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children were established to contribute to the evidence base and trial initiatives in preventing violence. As these organisations grow, their research and evaluation work may contribute to evaluating the National Plan.

The evaluation of other government initiatives and other data reports could also inform the monitoring and evaluation of the National Plan. Related areas include COAG partnerships and coordinated policy frameworks in children's policy, homelessness, drug and alcohol, Indigenous Affairs, disability, mental health, education and employment. In particular, underpinning evaluation activities may include work undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

**Figure 4: Indicative timeline of evaluation activities**



## **Appendix 1 | Underpinning Data Sources**

### ***Personal Safety Survey***

Conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Personal Safety Survey (PSS) provides information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women aged 18 years and over since the age of 15, including their experience of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. It also provides detailed information about men's and women's experience of current and previous partner violence, lifetime experience of stalking, physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15 and general feelings of safety. The PSS has been undertaken in 2005, 2012 and will be repeated on a rolling basis every four years over the life of the National Plan (2016, 2020).

### ***National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women***

Administered by VicHealth, the National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women (NCAS) establishes a benchmark against which changes in attitudes can be closely monitored over time. The NCAS was undertaken in 2009, 2013 and will be repeated every four years across the life of the National Plan. It builds on work by the former Commonwealth Office for the Status of Women which conducted surveys in 1987 and 1995.

### ***National Data Collection and Reporting Framework***

The National Data Collection and Reporting Framework for family and domestic violence and sexual assault (the data framework) is being developed under the National Plan. In its first phase, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has identified key information priorities, as well as the highest priority information needs, and is currently finalising the development of a collection framework to outline the work to be undertaken in the future. The data framework project will be rolled out in separate, shorter-term phases, extending over the life of the National Plan with the framework expected to operational by 2022.

### ***National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey***

Conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) provide information on a range of demographic, social, environmental and economic indicators, including personal safety. NATSISS was conducted in 1994, 2002 and 2008. Information from the 2008 NATSISS contributes to existing data on Indigenous people and the formulation of government policies and legislation.

### ***National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey***

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) is the largest health survey of Indigenous Australians conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This survey, which was conducted in remote and non-remote areas throughout Australia, was designed to collect a range of information from Indigenous Australians about health related issues, including health status, risk factors and actions, and socioeconomic circumstances.