



## How the Second Action Plan helps *Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women*

### What is the National Plan?

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*, also called the National Plan, is a long-term plan agreed by all Australian governments. The National Plan's vision is that:

**Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities.**

We know that different groups of women have diverse experiences of violence. Some are more vulnerable than others and some may come from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Women who have come to Australia as migrants, refugees and international students can face unique challenges. This can include not having enough money, not being able to get the support they need if they are experiencing violence and not feeling like they can escape violence. This may be made more difficult by a new language, culture and laws.

### What is the Second Action Plan?

The Second Action Plan is the second of four stages of the National Plan. It runs from 2013 to 2016 and contains 26 practical actions that all governments agree are important for improving women's safety.

During the First Action Plan, important foundations were put in place to stop, respond to and learn more about violence against women. But there's much more to be done.

We are keen to understand how we can better prevent violence against women from CALD backgrounds and support CALD women who are affected by violence. The Second Action Plan has a strong focus on women and communities that have diverse experiences of violence, including CALD women, and how we can improve the support available across services and systems.

We need to explore the diversity of CALD women's experiences and learn more about violence against women from CALD communities.

With your help we can learn about what works in your community to help protect the women and girls you know. Reducing violence against women and their children is a community issue – it needs effort from all of us.

### What's happening under the Second Action Plan to help CALD women?

In the next three years we'll be helping CALD women and their children by:

- **Providing additional funding for White Ribbon to increase engagement** in both CALD and Indigenous communities.
- **Developing resource materials to inform and support women on an overseas spouse visa** that will include information about important services and emergency contacts in Australia.
- **Seeking additional information disclosure** by Australian husbands or fiancés applying for an overseas spouse visa.
- **Funding the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children** to strengthen the focus on CALD women and communities and deliver a CALD-specific primary prevention project.
- **Continuing to work with *The Line* to create special resources** for CALD young people and communities.
- **Funding Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety to research 'what works'** for stopping violence against CALD women and their children.
- **Responding to harmful cultural practices affecting women and their children**, such as female genital mutilation, forced and servile marriage and trafficking.
- **Developing a communications strategy to improve access to information and resources for CALD women and communities** and to show what **opportunities there are for participation and leadership**.



## What have we done so far to help CALD women?

Together, over the past three years, we've:

- **Funded community action grants** to help CALD communities to work on a range of primary prevention activities, such as violence prevention taskforces and workshops, community conversations and healthy relationships workshops.
- **Launched materials for different communities and language groups under *The Line***, a campaign that helps young people build healthy relationships where men and women are equal.
- **Funded a national telephone counselling service** for people to get support when they're experiencing, or are at risk of, family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault. **1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)** is free, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and all information is kept private.
- **Provided training to nurses and health workers** to help them recognise and respond to women and children experiencing family violence.

## Do you need help?

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic and family violence or sexual assault, get help by calling:

- **000** if you, a child, or another person is in immediate danger
- **1800 RESPECT – 1800 737 732**
- **Relationships Australia – 1300 364 277**
- **Mensline – 1300 789 978**

## Want to know more?

The National Plan and the Second Action Plan are available online at [www.dss.gov.au/nationalplan](http://www.dss.gov.au/nationalplan)

