

## Implementing the Fourth Action Plan 2019–2022

All governments — Commonwealth, state and territory — are working closely and collaboratively to make a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children.

Over the coming months, all governments will work together to develop a national implementation plan, to be published later in 2019. This plan will:

- set out how each government will work to address the national priorities of the Fourth Action Plan
- provide a full list of Fourth Action Plan initiatives
- describe in detail the key actions being delivered
- describe how their impact will be measured
- outline the approach for monitoring and reporting on implementation.

## Overview of key Commonwealth initiatives

The Commonwealth Government's first priority is to keep Australians safe and secure.

The Fourth Action Plan represents the single largest ever Commonwealth investment in the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* (the National Plan). On 5 March 2019, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced a \$328 million package as part of the Australian Government's contribution to the Fourth Action Plan. In addition to this, two further measures were provided in the 2019-20 Budget to support people affected by violence, bringing the Government investment in the Fourth Action Plan to \$340 million over three years.

The key Commonwealth Government initiatives under each of the priority areas of the Fourth Action Plan are described below.

### Primary prevention is key

A core focus of the Commonwealth Government's contribution is in prevention — changing attitudes to violence, and helping those who think violence is an option, to stop.

The Commonwealth is investing:

- \$3.9 million for the national primary prevention hub delivered by Our Watch to guide and lead primary prevention efforts in Australia, and support a range of projects to build expert primary prevention capability.
- \$16.7 million for the continuation of Stop it at the Start. This signature national primary prevention campaign aims to contribute to a reduction in violence against women and their children.
- \$8.6 million will be invested in new primary prevention activities. Activities will be community-led and have a focus on supporting diverse communities; and encouraging men to play a strong role in preventing violence.

- \$11.7 million for Our Watch to continue delivering community awareness and outreach prevention programs to increase understanding and acceptance of the drivers of violence against women, and shift community behaviours and attitudes that underpin this violence.
- \$1.4 million for the National Media Engagement Project, with Our Watch to work collaboratively with the media to improve the way the media report on and engage with victims and survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence.
- \$6.5 million for practical intervention programs to work with young and adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to develop positive and violence-free relationships.
- \$2.8 million to implement Respect Matters. This program aims to build the capability of teachers and schools to deliver respectful relationships education and provide families with resources to support conversations with children about positive, healthy relationships.
- \$3.4 million to continue The Line, a social media campaign to encourage healthy and respectful relationships among young people.
- \$2.0 million to work with governments, and non-government and industry partners to address financial abuse.

## Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children

The Commonwealth's investment in the Fourth Action Plan will tackle the drivers of violence and address the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This support includes:

- \$20.1 million to build on the success of Indigenous-led solutions funded under the Third Action Plan to keep women and their children safe from violence.
- \$13.5 million to provide greater support for Indigenous women and children in remote areas and areas of high need to access services that work with the whole family to address the impacts of violence. This will also provide increased support for Indigenous young people and adults to develop healthy, violence-free relationships.
- \$2.5 million to work with Aboriginal owned and staffed support organisations to co-create specialist materials and resources on technology-facilitated abuse. This will support women across the country.
- \$1.7 million to partner with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner to lead Stage 2 of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) project. This will elevate the voices of Indigenous women and girls.



## Respect, listen and respond to the diverse lived experience and knowledge of women and their children affected by violence

Family, domestic and sexual violence affects women from all backgrounds. That is why the Commonwealth is providing targeted support to meet their diverse lived experiences and needs.

This support includes:

- \$10.0 million to expand Specialised Family Violence Services with a focus on specialised services for children and young people, and diverse communities.
- \$1.5 million to work with the disability sector to co-create specialist resources on technology-facilitated abuse to effectively support women with disability.
- \$0.5 million to work with expert LGBTIQ organisations in the sector to identify service gaps for people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.
- \$4.9 million to better support former partners of veterans impacted by domestic violence. This will be achieved by removing an inequity between married and de facto partners by extending the Partner Service Pension for 12 months post separation to all former partners.
- \$3.8 million to extend the Support for Trafficked People Program to meet demand for support from victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices.

## Respond to sexual violence and sexual harassment

Sexual violence can be both a form of domestic and family violence and a standalone crime.

The Commonwealth is addressing the drivers of sexual violence by investing:

- \$4.5 million to develop and implement an accredited training package for sexual violence responses. This will build the capability and capacity of workers to recognise and respond to all people who experience sexual violence.
- \$2.6 million to develop national standards for sexual violence responses for victim and perpetrator programs. This includes a framework for reporting against these standards.
- \$9.4 million for an innovative, multi-phased sexual violence prevention campaign and resources to address the issue of sexual violence in Australia. This includes a roadmap to guide current and future communication activities focused on sexual violence.



## Improve support and service system responses

The Commonwealth is improving service responses to ensure women and their children have access to help when they need it. This support includes:

- \$26.2 million to continue the DV-alert accredited training program. This will support an estimated 18,500 frontline workers to recognise, respond and refer appropriately to domestic and family violence.
- \$64.0 million for 1800RESPECT, Australia's national sexual assault, domestic and family violence helpline. This will ensure services meet growing demand.
- \$60.4 million to provide new or expanded emergency accommodation facilities for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.
- \$18.0 million to continue the Commonwealth's investment in the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes program. This will provide safety planning and security upgrades so that women and children experiencing violence can stay in their own home, or a home of their choice, where it is safe to do so.
- \$7.8 million for dedicated men's support workers in all Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) to facilitate access to appropriate support services, including men's behavioural change programs.
- \$2.6 million to continue MensLine Australia's Changing for Good program. This is a free voluntary program to help men stop using violence in their families and relationships.
- \$9.6 million to work with Primary Health Networks to trial more locally integrated models of family violence identification, response and referral, and train up to 5,000 general practitioners and primary care workers across Australia to better respond and support family violence victims.
- \$11.0 million to co-locate state and territory child protection and other officials in family law court registries. This will improve coordination between the family law, child protection and domestic violence systems.
- \$8.7 million to build the national evidence base in partnership with Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and other key research partners. Work will include an evaluation of the National Plan.
- \$0.5 million to pilot a university-based learning and development program for students and faculties in professional services, such as health, law and education. This will develop the knowledge and skills needed to prevent and respond safely to violence against women.
- The Department of Human Services will review options to provide faster access to payments and supports for people affected by family and domestic violence.

*Figures are subject to rounding and may include departmental implementation costs.*