



Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

Backgrounder

The Third Action Plan outlines what we can do together to reduce violence against women and their children, intervene early, and better support survivors, both immediately and over the long term, to recover.

The issue

The extent of violence

Violence against women and their children is a serious issue in Australia.

In 2015, media reported that 80 women were killed by violence in Australia, with approximately three quarters killed by a current or former partner.

One in six Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15 by a current or former partner.¹

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence-related assaults than other women.²

This is unacceptable and we need to continue work to make a change.

Economic impact

Experiencing violence has significant implications for victims, their children, families, friends, employers and co-workers.

The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia report by KPMG found the total cost of this violence in Australia to be as much as \$22 billion in 2015–16. Of this:

- survivors of domestic violence are said to bear 52 per cent of the total costs at \$11.3 billion
- governments bear 19 per cent of the total cost at \$4.1 billion
- the remaining 29 per cent is borne by the community, children of women experiencing violence, the perpetrator, employers, friends and family.

¹ PSS: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012, Personal Safety, cat. no. 4906.0, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats%5Cabs@.nsf/0/0556FBD355B2719BCA2571C50074ABF2?Opendocument>

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Unpublished) National Hospital Morbidity Database, 2012-13



Third Action Plan 2016-2019

Taking into account women who are under-represented in the statistics may add a further \$4 billion in 2015-16.

The true impact of domestic violence – how it affects victims, their families, friends, workmates, and our whole community – can't be measured.

The National Plan

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* brings together governments, key organisations, the community sector and individuals to drive lasting change.

The National Plan takes an integrated approach to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence, setting out six national outcomes to work towards over 12 years:

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.

These outcomes are being delivered through four three-year action plans.

The Third Action Plan 2016-2019

The *Third Action Plan (2016-19)* is the halfway point of the National Plan.

The Third Action Plan sets an ambitious agenda for achieving change over the next three years.

The Plan draws on:

- the Council of Australian Government's Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children
- recent senate inquiries and royal commissions across the country
- progress reports on the First and Second Action Plans and the evaluation of the Second Action Plan
- national workshops with over 400 non-government organisations, academics and businesses.

The Third Action Plan sets out 36 practical actions to be undertaken over the next three years, across six priority areas. They are:



Third Action Plan 2016-2019

1. Preventing and intervening early to address the attitudes and practices that excuse, justify and promote violence against women and children.

Key actions include:

- driving nation-wide change in the culture, behaviours and attitudes that lead to violence against women and their children, including support to help bystanders reinforce positive attitudes where it is safe to do so
- developing targeted resources to support local communities to promote action against violence
- increasing men's involvement in gender equality and reducing violence, including through the use of influencers and role models
- embedding gender equality in workplace culture.

2. Improving responses and supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children through partnership approaches.

Key actions include:

- providing community-driven, trauma-informed support that give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women choice
- working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to develop an Indigenous resource to sit alongside *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence*
- co-designing and developing primary prevention activities with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men
- trialling new treatment services to better support perpetrators to change their behaviour
- conducting a study in remote, regional and urban communities to improve our understanding of how to reduce domestic, family and sexual violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

3. Providing greater support and choice for women and children leaving or trying to leave family and domestic violence.

Key actions include:

- improving the quality and accessibility of services for women with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- developing a national workforce agenda to improve frontline service responses to violence against women and their children
- strengthening accommodation options and support for women and children escaping violence
- enhancing family law systems for families experiencing violence
- developing and implementing national principles for risk assessment for victims and perpetrators of violence.



Third Action Plan 2016-2019

4. Sharpen the focus on sexual violence as a key component for women's safety.

Key actions include:

- supporting frontline services to better recognise and respond to women and their children who have experienced sexual violence
- improving training and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to respond to, and prevent sexual violence in their communities
- delivering an evidence-based community initiative to understand and counter the impact of pervasive pornography
- broadening the categories of health workers who can collect forensic evidence
- developing a national portal to assist women in the removal of intimate images that are distributed online without their consent.

5. Responding to children living with violence to help them feel safe at home and to recover from their experience.

Key actions include:

- enhancing the capacity of the family law system to identify and respond to domestic violence
- improving interactions between the family law and child protection systems
- building the capacity of specialist and mainstream service providers to recognise and respond to the impacts of violence on children
- improving children's safety through emerging technology by developing information for children who are exposed to, or at risk of, violence.

6. Holding perpetrators accountable across all systems, and targeting responses that work to change their behaviour.

Key actions include:

- implementing the *National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions* to drive long term change
- improving the outcomes from perpetrator interventions by strengthening the evidence base
- improving ways to refer perpetrators to appropriate interventions early, based on individual risk factors
- progressively designing, trialling and evaluating innovative models of perpetrator interventions across community and correctional settings to understand what works.

More information

Visit the [National Plan website](#) for more information on the Third Action Plan, *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2010-2022)*, statistics and research.