# Investing in a future free from gender-based violence in Australia

Under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032

A joint Australian, state and territory government investment report as at 30 June 2025



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# Help and support

Violence against women and children can be hard to discuss and reading this document may cause distress.

1800RESPECT is the national domestic, family, and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family or sexual violence, call **1800 737 732**, text **0458 737 732** or visit **1800respect.org.au** for online chat and video call services.



# Our commitment to ending gender-based violence

Under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan), all governments have made a commitment to ending gender-based violence in Australia. All women and children should live free from fear of violence and be safe in their homes, workplaces, schools, in the community, and online.

This will only happen if all governments work together in partnership, recognising the different and complementary roles played by each government. It requires ongoing focus and investment to make this a reality.

When it comes to preventing violence against women and children, our work is never done. But there is a lot of work happening across all governments to address this. As a reflection of the importance of this work, addressing gender-based violence is one of the six current <u>National Cabinet priorities</u>.

The First Action Plan 2023-2027 Activities Addendum Update and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025 Update outlines the activities governments are doing to implement the National Plan and its Action Plans. This report highlights funding for these activities.

When reading this document, please note the investment details:

- Have been provided by the Australian, state and territory governments.
- Are from the commencement of the National Plan in 2022 to 30 June 2025.



## Australian Government investment

The Australian Government has invested over \$4 billion into the delivery of the National Plan from October 2022 to 30 June 2025. This includes a \$262.6 million investment in the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025.

The investment represents new funding for family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) activities, through the annual Federal Budget and the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. In addition, departments may contribute additional funding on top of these figures.

Investments range from how we support critical frontline services, target perpetrators, stop violence from escalating, support women leaving violent relationships and breaking the cycle of violence with a stronger focus on children and young people who experience trauma.

Investment spans across the National Plan's four domains: prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery and healing.

#### Key investments include:

#### **Prevention**

- \$83.5 million for consent and respectful relationships education.
- \$55.3 million to deliver Stop it at the Start phase 5 and 6 primary prevention campaign.
- \$1.3 million to the <u>Rapid Review of Prevention</u>
  <u>Approaches</u> to violence against women.

#### **Early Intervention**

- \$34.8 million to establish a national early intervention trial supporting young men and adolescent boys aged 12-18, who present with adverse childhood experiences and are at risk of perpetrating FDSV.
- \$23.2 million for delivery of seven place-based, trauma-aware and culturally responsive healing programs aimed at early intervention and recovery, and supporting families.
- \$6.5 million to develop an age assurance pilot to protect children from harmful online content.
- **\$4.1 million** to develop education and training for law enforcement in FDSV.

#### Response

- \$925.2 million to deliver the <u>Leaving Violence</u>
   <u>Program</u> so those escaping violence can receive financial support, safety assessments and referrals to support pathways.
- \$21.8 million to deliver prevention, early intervention and response services to First Nations communities.

- \$162.5 million for the <u>Safe Places Emergency</u>
   <u>Accommodation</u> and capital works program which
   funds the building, renovation or purchase of
   emergency accommodation for women and children
   experiencing family and domestic violence.
- \$57.9 million for <u>Keeping Women Safe in their</u> Homes and Safe Connections.
- **\$21.4** million to strengthen justice systems responses to sexual violence.
- **\$23.1 million** to deliver specialised support for visa holders experiencing domestic and family violence.
- \$28.6 million to strengthen system responses to high-risk perpetrators to prevent homicides through focused deterrence models and Domestic Violence Threat Assessment Centre pilots.

#### **Recovery and Healing**

- \$67.2 million to undertake the <u>Supporting Recovery</u> <u>pilot program</u> to provide trauma-informed recovery care for victim-survivors of FDSV.
- \$52.4 million to maintain protection against cross-examination by family violence perpetrators.
- \$48.7 million to <u>support health system navigation</u> for victims of sexual violence.
- \$41.4 million to support Community-led Men's Wellness Centres for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- \$25 million to establish and operate a <u>Women's</u> Trauma Recovery Centre.
- \$6 million to trial <u>trauma-informed local outreach</u> <u>healthcare</u> in crisis and temporary accommodation and services to support women and children.

For more information on the Australian Government's investment in ending gender-based violence, see National Plan to End Gender Based Violence | Department of Social Services.

# Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Federation Funding Agreement investment

The Australian Government is partnering with state and territory governments to provide funding for frontline services. As part of the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Schedule under the Federation Funding Agreement (Agreement), the renewed 5-year Agreement commenced on 1 July 2025 and will expire on 30 June 2030.

The renewed agreement will deliver over \$700 million in new matched investments from the Commonwealth and states and territories. This includes a Commonwealth contribution of \$365.8 million, with an additional \$1 million for an evaluation.

This funding is a key element of the collective commitment to support service providers in delivering critical frontline services to meet demand and support those who need it most. This will support specialist services for women and children impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) and men's behaviour change programs. It also provides long-term funding certainty to ensure service providers can continue their vital work in supporting victim-survivors and improving the safety of women and children.

The Commonwealth has provided \$985.8 million from 2021 to 2030 to states and territories. This has been allocated as follows:

NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
\$290.8m	\$226.8m	\$201.7m	\$111.0m	\$72.1m	\$29.0m	\$18.9m	\$35.5m

Key Commonwealth investments to support each state and territory include:

- \$164.9 million committed over 4 years from 2022 to 2026 and ongoing funding for 500 new FDSV frontline and community service workers.
- \$26.9 million over 5 years from 2022 to 2027 for innovative responses to address perpetrator behaviour.
- \$1 million for an evaluation to measure outcomes and enhance transparency.

For more information on the Agreement see

Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses

2021-30 | Federal Financial Relations.



# Australian Capital Territory investment

The ACT Government is committed to preventing and responding to domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) in our community and continues to invest in DFSV responses to ensure the safety of victim – survivors, hold perpetrators of violence to account, and make the ACT a safer place for everyone.

#### 2024-25 Budget

The 2024-25 Budget provided a total of **\$12.2 million** in new investment towards DFSV initiatives over the four years to 2027-28, including a significant funding boost for frontline services. This new investment includes:

- Frontline DFSV services: \$7.8 million
- Frontline responses to sexual violence: \$2.6 million
- Continuation of the Death review: \$267,000
- Responding to coercive control: \$375,000
- Strengthening Health Responses to Family Violence: \$233,000
- Domestic and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme: \$350,000
- Initial Response to the Sexual Assault (Police) Review: \$380,000
- Specialist gender responsive health information for women with lived experience of gender-based violence: \$233,000.

This new funding, in addition to existing commitments, brought the total investment in domestic, family, and sexual violence to **\$94.8 million** from 2024-25 over four years. Further information is available in the 2024-25 Budget factsheet at <u>Budget 24-25 DFSVO Factsheet</u>.

#### 2025-26 Budget

The 2025-26 Budget announced on 24 June 2025, committed \$37.3 million over 4 years from 2025-26 to 2028-29. This new investment, together with existing commitments brings the ACT Government's total investment in responding to domestic, family and sexual violence to \$137 million over four years to 2028-29. Further information is available in the 2025-26 factsheet available at <a href="Domestic, family and sexual violence budget factsheet">Domestic, family and sexual violence budget factsheet</a> 2025 to 2026.



## New South Wales investment

To reduce gender-based violence, strengthen the justice system, support victim-survivors.

Addressing domestic and family violence, as well as sexual violence, is a top priority for the New South Wales (NSW) Government.

The NSW Government has made significant investments to reduce domestic violence since the launch of the National Plan. The National Plan aligns with NSW's own *Domestic and Family Violence Plan* 2022-2027 and the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027.

Between 2022 and 2026, the NSW Government has made significant investments in initiatives aimed at enhancing women's safety. This funding supports the expansion of services, improves women's economic independence and security, enhances access to medical support, provides affordable housing and social security payments, strengthens the justice system, and promotes primary prevention programs.

These funding commitments include:

#### 2023-24

- \$52.7 million for 48 new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and medical and forensic officers.
- \$39.1 million to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence and support victim safety.

#### 2024-25

- \$245.6 million, including funding for an Emergency Package to improve the response to DFV through primary prevention, early intervention and crisis response measures. This funding included:
  - \$48 million to roll out the Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) program state-wide and to expand the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service (IDFVS).
  - \$45 million to improve bail laws and justice system responses to domestic violence.
  - \$38 million to implement NSW's first dedicated Primary Prevention Strategy, Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2027.

#### 2025-26

- \$272.7 million over 4 years to address domestic, family and sexual violence that will continue delivery of critical services to support victim-survivors and begin long-term system reform. This includes:
  - Over \$80 million to continue time-limited programs for a further two years.
  - \$9.3 million to implement Serious Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders, which will ensure high-risk domestic violence offenders are subject to strict monitoring and supervision, with courts able to impose any condition it considers appropriate.
  - \$11.2 million to begin long-term reform of NSW's domestic and family violence response system, including investments in workforce, data and service delivery.
  - A contribution of Commonwealth funding from 2025-30 FDSV Federation Funding Agreement.

# Northern Territory investment

Addressing domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) is a priority for the Northern Territory Government. The Northern Territory Government continues to invest significantly in the prevention of and response to DFSV, in alignment with the National Plan.

This funding supports the expansion of services for victim survivors, improves responses to people using violence, enhances primary prevention and early intervention initiatives, and strengthens the justice system.

#### 2022-23 Budget

- \$2 million over 4 years to boost the primary prevention grants budget.
- \$4 million over 4 years to establish the first early intervention grants program working with young people exposed to or showing signs of using DFV.
- \$4 million over 4 years to maintain wraparound supports for DFV services, including counselling and outreach support, and to support staff supervision and practice management.

#### 2023-24 Budget

- \$2.5 million to expand community-based programs for people using DFV.
- \$1.9 million to expand programs in correctional settings for people using DFV.
- \$0.5 million to provide culturally-safe gender-specific, trauma-informed DFSV counselling and healing for women in prison.
- **\$1.6 million** to strengthen the specialist DFV court in Alice Springs and provide specialist DFV prosecutions and witness assistance supports.
- \$0.4 million to fund Aboriginal community-led prevention grants.
- \$0.5 million to strengthen the Family Safety Framework.
- \$0.3 million to embed a specialist DFV outreach worker at visitor accommodation.

#### 2024-25 Budget

- \$2.5 million to expand community-based programs for people using DFV.
- \$1.9 million to expand programs in correctional settings for people using DFV.
- \$0.5 million to provide culturally-safe gender-specific, trauma-informed DFSV counselling and healing for women in prison.
- \$1.4 million to strengthen the specialist DFV court in Alice Springs and provide specialist DFV prosecutions and witness assistance supports.
- \$3.8 million to boost frontline DFSV services.
- \$0.4 million to fund Aboriginal community-led prevention grants.
- \$0.5 million to strengthen the Family Safety Framework and expand to Wadeye.
- \$0.3 million to embed a specialist DFV outreach worker at visitor accommodation.
- \$1.1 million to develop a co-responder program in Alice Springs where police, child protection and specialist DFSV workers can respond to DFV incidents together as an early intervention response.

# Queensland investment

The Queensland Government is committed to addressing domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV), with a focus on protecting victims sooner and holding persons using violence to account.

Over the life of the National Plan to 30 June 2025, Queensland has made significant investments in targeted initiatives to address DFSV in line with the intention of the National Plan. This included a total of \$588 million announced in 2022 in response to recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.

Funding announced since the October 2024 State Election includes:

#### 2025-26 Budget

- \$379 million funding allocation for the delivery of DFSV initiatives including:
  - \$75.8 million in total over 5 years from 2025–26, to contribute to the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2025–30, with matching funding provided by the Australian Government.
  - \$31.3 million over 4 years from 2025–26 to double both Womensline and Mensline capacity to help more victims of domestic and family violence and deliver a new North Queenslandbased hub.
  - \$28.5 million to support the rollout of GPS trackers for high-risk DFV perpetrators.
  - \$4.5 million over 5 years from 2025–26 and \$1 million per annum ongoing to expand Hope Hub recovery centres to 3 additional sites, providing integrated support services for women and children rebuilding their lives after domestic and family violence, including counselling, legal and housing advocacy, financial counselling, and employment-focused programs.
  - \$2.5 million over 4 years, to Protea Place Women's Support Centre in Toowoomba, a crucial service that provides advocacy and referrals for women experiencing or recovering from domestic and family violence, as well as those at risk of homelessness, or struggling with mental health and other health issues.
  - o **\$1 million** over 4 years from 2025–26 to WillowTree 37, which provides critical, urgent and ongoing assistance to vulnerable women to assist in meeting immediate needs and support access to services in both Warwick and surrounding communities.
  - \$1 million over 4 years to support the collection, repair, and distribution of free, repurposed mobile phones to DFV victims in Queensland, helping protect them from digital abuse.
  - \$150,000 for Miracle Mum's Movement Inc. to provide peer support and workshops for women who have been affected by family and domestic violence in Redcliffe and Moreton Bay.

The initiatives outlined above is in addition to core government funding provided to non-government organisations to deliver prevention, early intervention, crisis, healing and recovery responses.

## South Australia investment

The South Australian Government invested approximately \$26.8 million in 2024-25 to ensure system responses and specialise family, domestic and sexual violence services as well as dedicated initiatives aimed at prioritising the areas of focus within the National Plan. This includes the following:

#### 2022-23 Budget

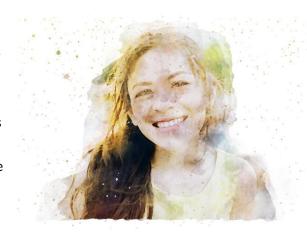
- \$1 million over three years to deliver the Domestic Violence Hubs to support and empower women and raise community awareness of domestic and family violence.
- \$2 million over four years funding for Victims Support Services to deliver programs including Court Companions and Safer Places (now referred to as Safer Spaces), which provides safe, free and confidential support to victim-survivors of crime and abuse.
- \$800,000 over four years to restore funding to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service.

#### 2023-24 Budget

- \$3 million over two years to establish the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence to recommend policy, legislative, administrative and structural reform. The findings of the Royal Commission will inform future investment.
- \$7.4 million over four years to extend crisis accommodation and perpetrator response programs.

#### 2024-25 Budget

- \$3.3 million in 2024-25 to ensure the continuation of several innovative domestic violence pilot programs, including holistic support for Aboriginal families, earlier and trauma-informed assistance for survivors, wellbeing and recovery services for survivors, and preventative education and behaviour change programs for perpetrators.
- In addition to the \$3 million allocated to conducting the Royal Commission, a further \$1.5 million over two years for a central response unit to address and coordinate information requests and cross-government efforts associated with the Royal Commission.



Additionally in December 2024, the South Australian Government announced additional funding for family, domestic and sexual violence services, including:

- \$5.7 million over two years to continue specialist domestic, family and sexual violence programs and associated program support.
- \$880,000 per annum funding for the Domestic Violence Crisis Line to boost staffing levels and call response capacity to victim-survivors.
- \$180,000 per annum to enable an additional 120 people to access the Personal Protection App.

# Tasmania investment

Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027 continues the Government's long-term commitment to the Tasmanian community for a Tasmania free from all forms of family and sexual violence.

In addition, the Government continues its funding to increase capacity for service providers supporting victim-survivors following the release of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Reponses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings in 2023.

From October 2022 until 30 June 2025, the Tasmanian Government invested \$89 million in addressing family and sexual violence. The investment is guided by 4 key principles in Survivors at the Centre: Partnership and Transformation; Capacity Building; Prevention and Early Intervention; and Voice and Diversity.

Some of the significant achievements under this investment include:

- Three multidisciplinary centres that provide a safe and supportive environment for people
  affected by sexual harm resulting from sexual violence. These centres are known as Arch and
  have operated in Hobart and Launceston since 2023. A third Arch is expected to open in the
  North-West of Tasmania during 2025-26.
- The Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance established, as the new peak body representing the family and sexual violence sectors across the continuum of primary prevention, early intervention, response, and healing and recovery.
- The Family and Sexual Violence Victim-Survivor Advisory Council which provides an ongoing voice of diverse experiences of victim-survivors of family and sexual violence to the Tasmanian Government.
- Increased funding for specialist family violence service providers to continue to address an increasing demand for services.
- Continuing the Prevention, Assessment, Support and Treatment of Harmful Sexual Behaviours program to address and provide therapeutic support to children and young people exhibiting such behaviours.
- Funding to support men's behaviour change programs and referral services, including court-mandated programs.
- The placement of Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in selected Child and Family Learning Centres to deliver culturally appropriate support and engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal families to promote family safety and raise awareness of the impact of family violence.



## Victoria investment

The Victorian Government continues to invest significantly in preventing and responding to family, domestic and sexual violence to support the National Plan.

Victoria's Strengthening Women's Safety Package, announced in May 2024, committed **\$92.8 million** to accelerate efforts to address family violence and sexual violence at every stage – better responding to victims when violence occurs, delivering a stronger justice response that holds offenders to account, and continuing Victoria's world-leading prevention response.

The Strengthening Women's Safety Package builds on Victoria's significant investment to support victim survivors and keep women and children safe. This includes the following key investments:

#### From July 2022:

- \$43.4 million to support victim survivors of family violence, specialised interventions for children and young people, financial supports to assist victim survivors establish safety and security, women on temporary visas, and the state-wide 24/7 crisis service.
- \$69.0 million to expand the existing statewide family violence refuge and crisis response that supports victim survivors of family violence.
- \$33.3 million to improve services for victims of sexual violence and harm.
- \$30.1 million to deliver perpetrator interventions and contribute to the evidence about behaviour change and prevention.
- \$19 million to Respect Victoria to deliver statewide behaviour change campaigns and evidence based primary prevention activities.
- \$30 million to expand the impact of the statewide Central Information Point.

#### From July 2023:

- \$77.1 million to deliver support for victim survivors and perpetrator intervention programs.
- \$22.8 million to provide specialist police prosecutors and legal support at Specialist Family Violence Courts.

#### From July 2024:

- \$41.6 million to continue delivery of perpetrator case management programs and funding to continue research to inform evidence-informed policy and program development to prevent family violence.
- \$72 million to provide specialist supports for victim survivors including children and young people, victim survivors on temporary visas, and families with complex needs, actions to ensure the safety of the victim survivors in their own homes and critical workforce supports.
- \$24.3 million for the continued operation of the statewide Central Information Point.
- \$39 million to the Respectful Relationships program, which aims to help prevent violence before it starts by teaching young people how to develop respectful and healthy relationships.
- \$6.8 million to deliver financial counselling services to family violence victim survivors facing financial stress.



## Western Australia investment

Since the release of the First Action Plan 2023-2027 and First Action Plan 2023-2027 Activities Addendum in August 2023, the Western Australian Government has invested over \$250 million in new initiatives for the prevention of family and domestic violence. In total, new State Government investment in family and domestic violence totals over \$420 million since 2021.

#### **Investment in Prevention**

- \$5 million over 3 years for a new education campaign to raise awareness of coercive control.
- \$1.5 million over 2 years to expand the Respectful Relationships Teaching Support Program, focusing on culturally appropriate online content for Aboriginal young people.
- \$12 million over 2 years for Family and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Grants and Aboriginal Family Safety Grants.

#### Investment in Services and Supports for Victim-Survivors

- **\$22.6** million over 4 years to replace Stirling Women's Refuge in Perth's northern metropolitan area, increasing crisis accommodation capacity.
- \$14.2 million over 4 years for a new one-stop hub at the Ruah Centre for Women and Children in Perth.
- \$8.2 million has been committed to design and pilot a range of therapeutic services to assist children and young people impacted by family and domestic violence.
- \$3.7 million over 2 years to increase counselling and advocacy services.
- \$6.6 million over 4 years for a new women's refuge at the Ruah Centre for Women and Children in Perth.
- \$4.9 million over 2 years to continue the therapeutic refuge, Munda Mia, supporting women and children with complex co-occurring needs.
- \$7 million over 2 years for flexible support packages.
- \$4 million over 4 years to expand two rapid rehousing programs, adding 8 transitional houses and emergency accommodation in Perth and a new safe house in Leonora, northern Goldfields.
- \$0.3 million over 2 years for Housing Families project to support victim-survivors in finding private rentals.
- \$3.1 million over 2 years to establish three new Safe at Home programs in Kalgoorlie, Kununurra, and Port Hedland.
- \$53.8 million over 4 years to expand the Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams to seven day per week operations, with increased funding for Coordinated Response Services, fast-tracking Family Safety Officer recruitment, and roll-out of 17 Community Corrections Officers.

#### **Perpetrator Intervention**

- \$11 million to boost family and domestic violence treatment programs to reflect current referral rates, holding perpetrators to account and changing behaviour.
- \$41.5 million to implement the Family Violence Legislation Reform Act 2024, including funding for additional police resources and Department of Justice staff to expand electronic monitoring of offenders and support victim-survivors.
- \$2.9 million to extend the family violence restraining order shuttle conferencing program supporting victimsurvivors engaging in the court process.
- \$4.5 million over 2 years to uplift the 'Breathing Space' men's behaviour change programs in Maylands and Calista.
- \$2.9 million over 2 years to extend the Hedland Breathing Space program.
- \$3.1 million over 2 years for three new men's behaviour change programs in Albany, Bunbury, and Northam.

#### **System Reforms**

- \$1.6 million over 2 years for initial work to design a Central Information Point and support information sharing among specialist family and domestic violence services.
- \$6.2 million over 4 years to design and establish a family and domestic violence workforce entity.
- \$1.9 million to establish and support the State's first lived experience advisory group.
- \$2.2 million over 4 years for first responder training on coercive control for the legal and justice sectors.
- 12 Investing in a future free from gender-based violence in Australia