



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander plan to end family, domestic
and sexual violence 2026–2036



Easy Read version



Acknowledgement of Country



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples of Australia.



They have always looked after Country.

Country means the land, water, sky and everything within them.



We respect the important connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with Country.



And we respect their Elders from the past and now.

How to use this document



We are the Australian Government
Department of Social Services.

We worked with Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander peoples
to create this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page [23](#).



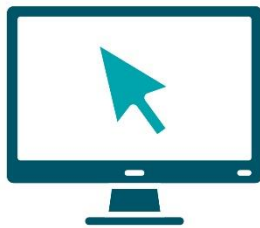
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/our-ways-strong-ways-our-voices

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About the plan



The Australian, state and territory governments have agreed to a plan.

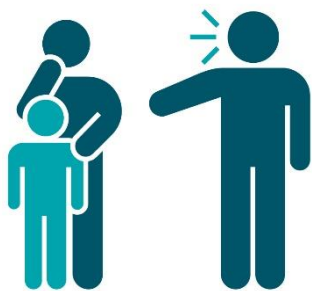


The plan is called 'Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence.'

The plan

We also call it the plan.

Family and domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



- your partner, like your boyfriend or girlfriend
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
- someone you live with.



Sexual violence is when someone hurts you in a sexual way.

For example, if someone does something sexual to you that you don't want them to do.



We made the plan to help stop these types of violence happening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



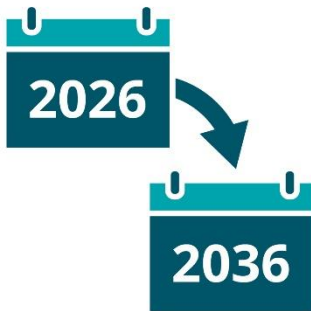
The plan includes actions to change supports and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will lead these actions.



The plan will also support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to work together with governments and the community.



We will use the plan from 2026 to 2036.

How we made the plan

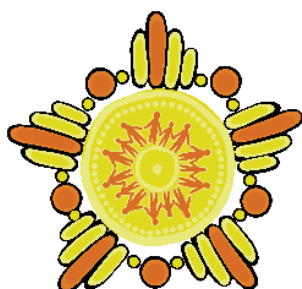


Different organisations worked together to make the plan.

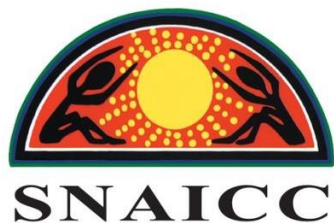
This included:



- Australian, state and territory governments



- Our Ways Steering Committee



- SNAICC – the National Voice for Our Children.

This also included:



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups



- Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations.



We also heard ideas from people in the community.



This includes women who have experienced violence.

What we need to do



There are 5 important areas that the plan will focus on.

1. Support people to choose how they want to live



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should make decisions that affect their lives.

This includes respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:



- voices



- leaders.

2. Respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ideas



Governments should respect how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations support mob.



This includes respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's **cultures**.



Culture is the way a group of people live and what they believe.



Supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be run by people from this community.



Supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should focus on their strengths.



Supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should look for ways to stop violence before it happens.



Supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should help people with **trauma**.



Trauma is a very bad experience that can affect how someone feels or behaves for a long time.

3. Change services to make them work better



We need to improve areas that are meant to keep people and families safe.



This includes the **justice system**.

The justice system makes sure everyone is treated fairly and follows the law.



The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.



This also includes services for:

- health care
- housing
- education
- child protection.



These services should do more to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be safe from:

- family and domestic violence
- sexual violence.



For example, providing support that meets the needs of each person.



These services should also provide training for staff to help them understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:

- culture
- trauma.



These services should make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a say in decisions that affect their supports.

4. Collect more data that respects culture



We need more **data** about the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Data includes information and facts we collect to help us learn about something.



The data we collect should respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

This means the data:



- is collected in the right way



- is only shared when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples say it's ok



- meets the needs of communities.

5. Provide safe housing and fair opportunities



There should be safe housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children who experience:

- family and domestic violence
- sexual violence.



For example, housing shelters.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women should have fair opportunities to learn and work.



This also includes services that help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with their money.

More information



You can visit our website for more information.

www.dss.gov.au/our-ways-strong-ways-our-voices

Support for you



If you or someone you know is in danger,
you should call the police.

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There are also services you can call for support.

13YARN



You can call 13YARN if you feel:

- worried
- no good.



No shame.

No judgement.

Just a safe place to yarn.



You can call 13YARN any time.



You can visit their website.

www.13yarn.org.au

1800RESPECT



1800RESPECT supports people who experience:

- family and domestic violence
- sexual violence.



You can call 1800RESPECT any time.

1800 737 732



You can visit their website.

www.1800respect.org.au

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Culture

Culture is the way a group of people live and what they believe.

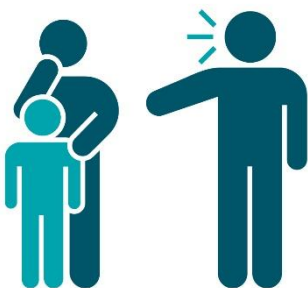


Data

Data includes information and facts we collect to help us learn about something.

Family and domestic violence

Family and domestic violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



- your partner, like your boyfriend or girlfriend
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
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Justice system

The justice system makes sure everyone is treated fairly and follows the law.

The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.



Sexual violence

Sexual violence is when someone hurts you in a sexual way.



Trauma

Trauma is a very bad experience that can affect how someone feels or behaves for a long time.

Contact us



You can call us:

- 8:30 am to 5 pm Sydney time
- Monday to Friday.

1300 653 227



You can send us an email.

enquiries@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

Family Safety – Department of Social Services

GPO Box 9820

Canberra ACT 2601



You can visit our website.

www.dss.gov.au



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