



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Protecting women and children with disability

Disability Lens on the First Action Plan 2023–2027



Easy Read version



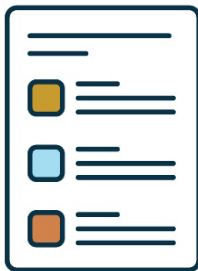
How to use this document



The Australian, state and territory governments wrote this paper together.

When you read the word 'we' it means:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page [30](#).



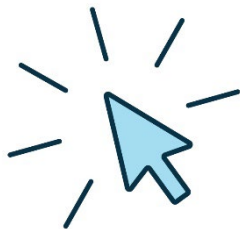
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this plan
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another plan.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other plan on our website.

<https://www.dss.gov.au/national-plan-end-gender-based-violence>

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The National Plan



We wrote the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*.

We call it the National Plan.

Violence is when someone:



- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

It can also be called abuse.



The National Plan explains what we will do to help end violence against women and children.



But other people also experience this violence.

And they experience this violence in different ways.

About this document



This document supports our First Action Plan 2023–2027.



Our First Action Plan explains the actions we will take to stop violence against all women and children.



This document is about:

- the National Plan
- the First Action Plan.



It is a guide to how these plans help women and children with disability.

We call it our Disability Lens.

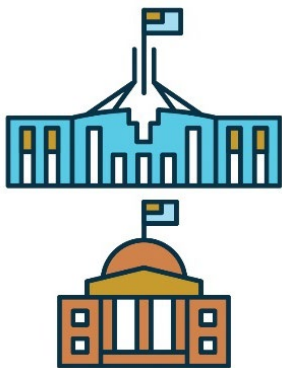
Our actions



Our First Action Plan has 10 actions.

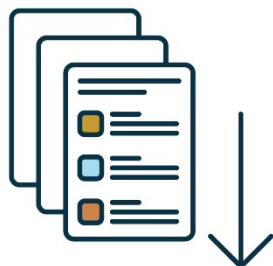


Governments want to use these actions to make sure new rules and services work well for everyone.



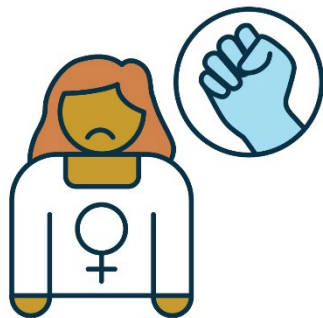
This includes:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.



We explain each action on the following pages.

Action 1



Some people use violence against people because of their **gender**.



Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.



We want to find out why violence happens because of someone's gender.



We will make sure laws and rules are fair for women and children with disability.



We will help people understand that hurting women and children with disability is wrong.



We will also help people learn about the different types of violence.



This will help them see when violence is happening.



We will listen to ideas from women and children with disability about how to stop violence.

Action 2



We want better information in the National Plan about violence against women and children with disability.



We will make sure we collect information in ways that are:

- easy to understand
- the same every time.



We will link information from different services. This will help us understand how disability and violence are connected.



We will look at how violence affects people with disability from different communities. For example, people from different backgrounds.



This will help us support people in ways that work for them.



We will collect information about people's experiences.

This includes people who:

- have a disability
- don't know that they have a disability.



We will keep this information private.

This means it won't include personal information, like names.

Action 3



We want workers and services to have the right skills to support women and children with disability who experience violence.



We also want **accessible** violence support services for women and children with disability.

When services are accessible, they're easy to:



- find and use



- move around.



We will find ways to make it easier for women and children with disability to use services.



We will keep training workers to understand:

- how violence affects women and children with disability
- how to support them.



We will bring together ideas from different areas.



This includes:

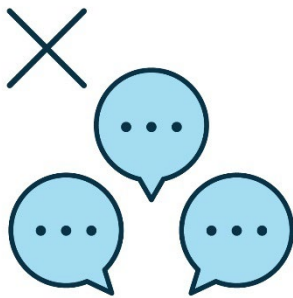
- disability services
- health services
- schools.

Action 4



We want services to work together to support women and children with disability who experience violence.

We will make sure services work together so people:



- don't have to tell their stories again and again to different people

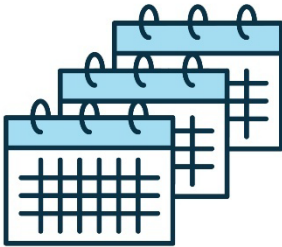


- get the help they need quickly.

We will support services to:



- hire and train skilled workers



- keep people working for them for a long time.



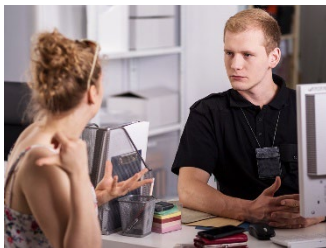
This includes workers who know people need support in different ways.

For example, First Nations people.

Action 5



We want violence against women and children with disability to stop.



We will make it easier for women and children with disability to report violence.



We will do this by making sure people can report violence in a way that works for them.

We will focus on:



- stopping violence early



- teaching carers and workers how to stop violence from happening



- making sure support is safe for people from different backgrounds



- making sure support fits the needs of people with disability.

Action 6



We want to find better ways to stop **sexual violence**.



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 also want to find better ways to stop **harassment**.

Harassment is when someone treats you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



We will share information in ways that are easy to understand.



This includes information about:

- how people must treat you
- where you can get help.



We will train people to know what **consent** might look like for people with disability.

Consent is when you say it is okay for someone to do something.

This includes:



- family and friends



- carers



- teachers.

Action 7



We want to make sure services work well for First Nations people.

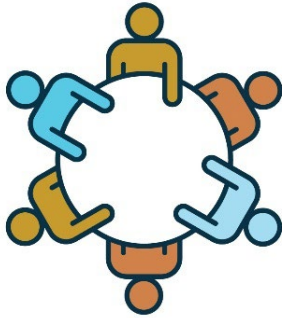


This includes making sure services are:

- safe
- accessible.



We will follow the Australian Government's plan to make sure services and rules support First Nations women and children with disability.



We will work closely with First Nations communities so their ideas can help us make new laws and services that work well.



We will train workers to understand and respect what First Nations people believe about disability.



We will support First Nations communities to think about how to stop violence in ways that work best for their community.

Action 8



We want to support children and young people with disability who experience violence.

We will make sure all children and young people with disability can learn about:



- consent



- how to stay safe



- healthy **relationships**.

Your relationship with someone is how you are connected to them.



We will train services how to know when a child with disability is experiencing violence.



This includes training workers to support children as soon as they can.



We will try to understand why some children with disability behave in a violent way.



We will also:

- support them
- treat them fairly.

Action 9



We want the **justice system** to better support people who experience violence.



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



The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.

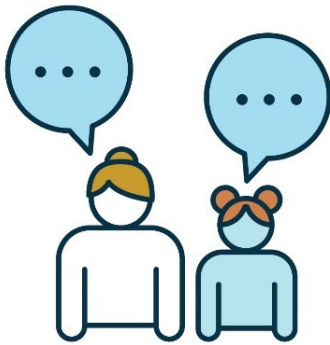


We will train workers in the justice system to understand disability.



This includes training on how to communicate with people in the ways they need.

We will make sure women and children with disability can use services that help them:



- have their say



- understand the justice system.

Action 10



We want women and children with disability to have a home that is:

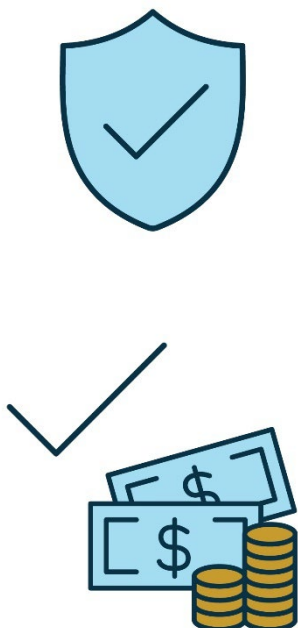
- safe
- accessible.



When a home is accessible it:

- supports people the way they need
- is easy to move around in.

We will find out how women and children with disability can get a home that:



- is safe
- doesn't cost a lot of money.



We will also work to improve homes where people with disability:

- live together
- get support.

We will try to make sure these homes:



- work well for people with disability



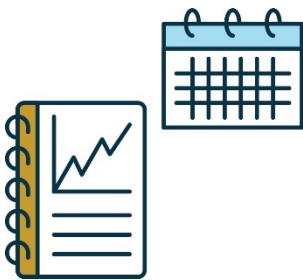
- keep people with disability safe from violence.

How we will make sure our plan works well



Governments will collect information to check how well the disability plan is working.

This includes information from services, like the NDIS.



We will write a report about what we find out every year.

This report will explain:



- what is working well



- what we need to improve.



Governments will use this report to make more changes to help end violence against women and children with disability.

Word list

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



Accessible

When services are accessible, they're easy to:

- find and use
- move around.



Consent

Consent is when you say it is okay for someone to do something.



Gender

Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.



Harassment

Harassment is when someone treats you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



Justice system

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

The justice system includes:

- prisons
- courts
- police.



Relationship

Your relationship with someone is how you are connected to them.



Sexual violence

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



Violence

Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

It can also be called abuse.

Contact us



You can call us from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm,

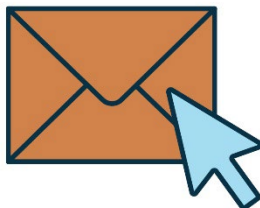
Monday to Friday.

Phone 1300 653 227



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can also call the National Relay Service.

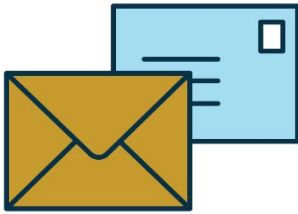
Phone 133 677



You can send us an email.

enquiries@dss.gov.au

You can write to us.

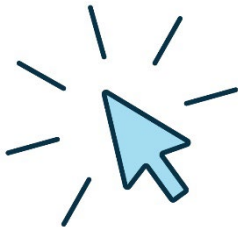


Department of Social Services

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You can visit our website.

www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence



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