

Reviews

Our current reviews, as at 30 June 2026, are:

Review of Carer Payments and Supports

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
The project is an activity under the Safe and Supported First Action Plan 2023-2026 (Action Plan) Action 6: Review 1: - assess carer payments for adequacy, consistency and accessibility and explore opportunities, including assessing taxation and employment related barriers, to grow family based care (including professional carers) - assess the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers - explore opportunities for working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in some jurisdictions) to support carers - identify opportunities to improve awareness of and access to financial supports for carers - explore ways that government can take national action to improve carer recruitment. Review 2: - assess the needs of First Nations carers without a formal care order - explore ways that governments can take action to better meet the needs of First Nations carers without a formal care orders - explore opportunities for working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in some jurisdictions) to support First Nations carers without a formal care order.	Australian Institute of Family Studies	N/A	\$1,045,886.27 (GST inclusive)	\$1,045,886.27 (GST inclusive)	July 2024	Review 1 Completed November 2025 Review 2 expected completion is June 2027

Review of jurisdictions' implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
The Department of Social Services is funding SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, to conduct annual reviews of State and Territory compliance with the five elements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles: Prevention, Partnership, Participation, Placement, and Connection for 2024-2026. This project aligns with Commonwealth strategies: <i>National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031</i>, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-2026. - Closing the Gap Target 12 (reducing over-representation in out-of-home care) and aligns with Priority Reform 4 (improving access to relevant data).	SNAICC – National Voice for our Children	N/A	\$686,794.20 (GST inclusive)	\$218,426.58	February 2026	30 June 2027

Evaluation of the Community-Led Sexual Violence Prevention Pilot (also known as the Partners in Prevention of Sexual Violence Project) model for evidence gathering

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
The evaluation will examine the effectiveness, cost-efficiency and appropriateness of the Community-Led Sexual Violence Prevention Pilot (the Pilot) in delivering clear, outcomes-based, empirical evidence for sexual violence prevention. These insights may then be used to support future project design, particularly for social policy areas where little to no evidence on the effectiveness of interventions exists.	ARTD Group	N/A	\$335,781 (GST inclusive) \$305,256 (GST exclusive)	\$128,907.11 (GST inclusive)	22 November 2024	30 June 2027

Evaluation of the Improving Multidisciplinary Response Program

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
To undertake an independent program evaluation and provide grantees evaluation support to co-design their individual project evaluation approaches with the local community, including defining measures of success, data collection methodologies and the narrative around the data and project outcomes.	Arney Chong consulting	N/A	\$554,834.00 (GST exclusive)	\$234,834 (GST exclusive)	Nov 2023	June 2027

Evaluation of the Child and Family Intensive Support Services (CaFIS)

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
The government committed to an independent program evaluation by a provider who can demonstrate the requisite cultural competency in engaging with First Nations communities. The evaluation will provide evidence on the impact and value of this program.	Social Ventures Australia and Ebony Allen Consulting	N/A	\$424,375.60 (GST inclusive)	\$384,225.60 (GST inclusive)	September 2025	30 September 2026

Independent evaluation of the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
The purpose of the independent evaluation is to assess the impact, effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of HIPPY, building on previous evaluations of the program.	Parenting Research Centre and the Australian Centre for Evaluation (Department of the Treasury)	Parenting Research Centre: \$972,193.20 (GST inclusive) Australian Centre for Evaluation: \$894,000 (GST not applicable)	\$1,719,000 (GST inclusive)	\$1,719,000 (GST inclusive)	June 2024	31 July 2026

Evaluation of the National Consumer Protection Framework for online wagering (NCPF)

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
Evaluation to: • assess the effectiveness of the NCPF measures in achieving outcomes • detect unintended consequences • identify weaknesses in the regulatory framework • inform ongoing refinements to the measures.	Australian Gambling Research Centre, Australian Institute of Family Studies	N/A	\$1,649,997.30 (GST inclusive)	\$1,649,997.30 (GST inclusive)	June 2024	30 June 2027

Be Connected Program Evaluation 2025-2027

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
To assess the appropriateness, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Digital Literacy for Older Australians Program (publicly known as Be Connected) over the 2024/25–2027/28 period. The evaluation will inform continuous improvement, future design, and decision-making about the Program’s direction and sustainability post June 2028.	Verian Group Australia Pty Ltd	N/a	\$708,924.29 (GST inclusive)	\$363,639.29 (GST inclusive)	February 2025	26 March 2027

Evaluation of the Investment Strategy – Innovation Fund Grant Opportunity

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
A First Nations evaluator will evaluate outcomes from the Innovation Fund as well as provide evaluative capacity building for funded organisations. Outcomes from the Innovation Fund will inform the broader implementation of the upcoming National Child and Family Investment Strategy.	Murawin Pty Ltd (Murawin)	N/A	\$503,590 (GST inclusive)	\$366,751.14 (GST inclusive)	June 2025	September 2027

Evaluation of the Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Activity

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
An Evaluation was undertaken to inform future reforms and program improvements to the Strong and Resilient Communities Inclusive Communities (SARC – IC) activity. The purpose is to understand and assess the extent to which the Commonwealth’s investment in the program supported its intended objectives; complemented related programs funded by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments; and identified opportunities for continuous improvement.	Nous Group	N/A	\$555,162 (GST exclusive)	\$282,878 (GST exclusive)	June 2025	July 2026

Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Workforce Survey

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
The National FDSV Workforce Survey aims to strengthen understanding of the workforce that prevents and responds to family and domestic violence and sexual violence across Australia. The study will identify workforce characteristics, key challenges, capacity and capability constraints, and the factors that support workforce effectiveness, wellbeing and sustainability. Its findings will provide an evidence base to inform policy, planning and investment decisions that enhance workforce capacity, improve service accessibility and quality, and support a sustainable and effective national response.	Social Research Centre	N/A	\$1,392,000.00 (GST exclusive)	\$1,392,000.00 (GST exclusive)	May 2024	July 2026

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
To assess ANROWS' effectiveness in delivering its constitutional objectives, supporting government policy and program development, and translating evidence into practice, and to identify opportunities to strengthen its future impact and operations. The review is being conducted in accordance with Commonwealth–state and territory MoU that jointly funds ANROWS' core operations.	Australian Government Consulting (AGC) at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)	n/a	\$294,000 (GST exclusive)	nil	22 June 2026	30 September 2026

National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 mid-term review

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
To measure the overall impact of the National Plan, two evaluations are being conducted – a mid-term evaluation by the end of 2026 and a final evaluation by 2031–32. *As a part of mid-term review the department engaged AIFS, ANROWS and AIHW to review research, data and evaluation evidence related to the National Plan. The report will inform on the effectiveness of the National Plan and identify emerging insights, evidence gaps, and areas of promising practice.	Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) supported by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)	AIFS - \$274,913 (GST exclusive) AIHW - \$325,530 (GST exclusive)	\$600,443 (includes budget for AIHW and AIFS)	\$350,330	December 2025	30 September 2026

Review of Keeping Women Safe In Their Homes

Purpose of the review	Reviewer(s)	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Commencement date	Expected completion date
The evaluation seeks to understand outcomes for the current program, the data that exists to support these and to refine program logic.	Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)	\$515,321.26 (GST inclusive)	\$515,321.26 (GST inclusive)	\$154,596.38 (GST inclusive)	May 2026	TBD

Reviews completed/released from 1 March 2026 to 30 June 2026

National Model of Care (NMoC)

Purpose of the review	Who is undertaking review / Name or names of reviewers	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Date due to be completed	Date Completed	The date the review was provided to the Department	Date to Minister	Date to Minister's Office
The NMoC is designed for governments and community sector organisations to guide how services can deliver the desired experience, as defined by children and young people, to more effectively support the safety, recovery, healing and long-term wellbeing of children and young people with experiences of family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV). It is a practical tool for services that can be applied across universal, specialist and community settings to identify and support children and young people impacted by FDSV.	Nous Group	N/A	\$1,914,000 (GST inclusive)	\$1,778,405.43, (GST inclusive)	30 June 2026	29 June 2026	5 June 2026	TBC	23 July 2026 (as part of briefing for CYP Deep Dive currently scheduled for 27 July 2026)

1800RESPECT Digital Assets Refresh Project Discovery Phase 2

Purpose of the review	Who is undertaking review / Name or names of reviewers	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Date due to be completed	Date Completed	The date the review was provided to the Department	Date to Minister	Date to Minister's Office
The Department and Telstra Health undertook a project to research and consult on the improvements to the 1800RESPECT's existing website (including the service directory) and the digital applications (the Sunny and Daisy apps) including areas surrounding usability, accessibility and inclusivity.	Versent, in collaboration with the Department and Telstra Health (the provider of 1800RESPECT)		\$396,000 (GST inclusive)	\$396,000 (GST inclusive)	20 May 2026	19 May 2026	19 May 2026	N/A	N/A

Joint Evaluation of Family and Relationship Services (FaRS) and Specialised Family Violence Services (SFVS)

Purpose of the review	Who is undertaking review / Name or names of reviewers	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Date due to be completed	Date Completed	The date the review was provided to the Department	Date to Minister	Date to Minister's Office
The Department of Social Services has commissioned an independent evaluation of the Family and Relationship Service (FaRS) and Specialised Family Violence Service (SFVS) Programs. An evaluation of both programs, with findings relevant for each, will provide the Government with evidence on the impact of these programs, and inform future policy decisions.	Allen + Clarke Consulting	N/A	\$998,891.03 (GST inclusive)	\$998,891.03 (GST inclusive)	30 April 2026	30 April 2026	Evaluation Report (Phase 1): 1 September 2025 Modelling Report (Phase 2): 06 March 2026	Phase 1: 5 December 2025 Phase 2: N/A – internal use only.	5 December 2025 Minister agreed to publish on 12/12/2025

Evaluation of the Paid Parental Leave (PPL) Scheme – Phase 2

Purpose of the review	Who is undertaking review / Name or names of reviewers	Remuneration for each of the reviewer(s)	Budgeted cost of Review	Amount spent to date	Date due to be completed	Date Completed	The date the review was provided to the Department	Date to Minister	Date to Minister's Office
A multi-year evaluation is underway to assess the impact of reforms to the PPL scheme from 1 July 2023. Phase 2 was designed to assess the reach and equity of the PPL scheme; establish a baseline of parental leave-taking behaviours; examine the interactions between PPL and employer-funded leave; and assess knowledge about, and support for, the PPL scheme.	Australian National University	N/A	366,485.00 (GST inclusive)	366,485.00 (GST inclusive)	30 September 2025	17 March 2026	17 March 2026	N/A	N/A

Internal reviews were completed between 1 March 2026 to 30 June 2026.

Nil.