Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Building a safer future for families, women and children

How we're taking action to end gender-based violence

Family, domestic and sexual violence, including child sexual abuse, causes serious and lasting harm. It affects people's safety, health and wellbeing – sometimes for generations.

The Australian Government is committed to ending violence against women and children through *The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*.

What we've achieved so far

Since the National Plan began in 2022, the Australian Government has invested more than $4.4 billion in services and programs to support women and children to be safer. Our national programs have funded at least 1,437 organisations and directly helped more than 449,266 people across Australia experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.

- Each year, around **3,000** women and children will receive housing support. There are more than **740** new Safe Places nationwide providing emergency accommodation.
- Over **100,000** victim-survivors received financial assistance to help them leave an abusive relationship through the Escaping Violence Payment trial. This was replaced by the permanent Leaving Violence Program in July 2025.
- Domestic violence response training has been delivered to more than **23,000** people, including frontline and healthcare workers.
- **58,000** safe phones have been distributed to help women leave a violent relationship without fear of being tracked.
- Since its introduction in 2010, 1800RESPECT has answered more than **2.6 million** contacts over calls, webchats, SMS and video.

We are taking action to:

- strengthen early intervention, safety checks and coordination across systems
- improve financial security, childcare access, affordable housing, and health and legal services to help families build stability and safety

- hold people using violence to account, provide support to prevent them from reoffending and improve protection for victim-survivors
- research what works and doesn't work by partnering with organisations like Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety to collect more data on family, domestic and sexual violence
- teach consent and respectful relationships in schools, helping change harmful attitudes.

What's next

We're working on action plans that will guide the next phase of national action.

Governments across Australia have made significant investments in national reforms to improve the safety and wellbeing of women, children, families and communities.

We are building on this strong foundation through **5 related action plans**. These plans are the:

- Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*. This builds on the work of the First Action Plan and will help guide national efforts from 2027.
- First Action Plan under Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026–2036.
- Second Action Plan and the Second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan under *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–2031*
- Second Action Plan under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2030*.
- Second Action Plan under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030*.

No single action plan, service or level of government can end violence on its own. Lasting change requires coordinated action across systems, sector and communities. Each of these plans address a different aspect of violence, safety and wellbeing. Together, they recognise the many ways people experience harm, recovery and support throughout their lives.

Developing these action plans together will ensure we have a connected response to violence. Aligned action means we can create a more connected system that reduces fragmentation, supports earlier intervention and improves safety, wellbeing and recovery.

Urgent action is being taken across governments

While the Action Plans are being finalised, Commonwealth and State and Territory governments have already agreed to urgent actions to improve safety and strengthen responses to violence.

A key reform is the development of a National Family and Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Framework. The aim is that people experiencing violence receive more consistent support, no matter where they seek help. Over time, this should mean that warning signs are recognised and acted on more consistently across services such as police, hospitals and general practice - regardless of where a person lives in Australia.

Governments have also agreed to:

- improve responses to sexual violence, including within the justice system
- ensure respectful relationships education in schools is effective
- finalise National Standards for Men's Behaviour Change Programs
- improve access to emergency accommodation
- implement the new risk assessment framework in health settings
- develop practice standards for supporting children who have experienced or been exposed to violence
- progress recommendations from the Senate inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children
- advance practical alcohol reforms that can help reduce harm
- develop new National Standards to improve the quality, consistency and accessibility of frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services, with progress to be reported back to National Cabinet by the end of 2026.

Our goal is simple: a future where there is no wrong door to support, where people can access help they need earlier, tell their story fewer times and communities can live safe and free from violence.

Support is available

We understand this content may be difficult for some readers. If this raises any issues or you need support, there are services available:

- 1800RESPECT is the national counselling, information and support service for people affected by domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV). This service is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It offers support by phone, text, web chat and video. Call 180 737 732 or visit 1800RESPECT.org.au
- 13 YARN is a support line for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping. It is available 24/7. Call 13 92 76 13 or visit 13yarn.org.au.