Australian Government
Department of Social Services

500 Workers Initiative

Jurisdictional high-level status as at 31 October 2026

Notes:

- Data is as at 31 October 2026and is subject to regular changes.
- Due to individual jurisdictional contractual arrangements with service providers already in place, not all state and territory data is updated monthly.
- States and territories have requirements to receive Commonwealth funding including annual reporting obligations to the Commonwealth under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Federation Funding Agreement.
- Use of the word 'commenced' in the below table means workers who have started in their roles and are working with victim-survivors.
- The 500 Workers Initiative has a phased approach, with 352.43 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers committed to by 30 June 2024, 462.61 FTE workers by 30 June 2025 and 500 FTE workers by 30 June 2026.

Jurisdiction	Commenced Workers	Commenced FTE	Next Steps
New South Wales (NSW)	165	147.4	The recruitment of new workers is progressing in line with NSW's plan: • NSW has awarded contracts to 82 service providers to deliver 148.4 FTE. • A total of 165 workers (147.4 FTE) are now delivering domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) services across NSW.
Victoria	107	101	• Victoria has now met its total target under the 500 Workers Initiative, with 107 new workers recruited, equating to 101 FTE under two tranches. • Tranche 1 is complete with 65 people (total 59 FTE) recruited. • Victoria has now recruited 42 workers (total 42 FTE) for Tranche 2. • The filled roles include: ○ 20 case managers at multicultural agencies. Collectively, they speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Ukrainian and Russian, as well as all speaking English. • 3 workers employed at an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation.
Queensland	131	112	Queensland has now allocated all funding and FTE and has over-delivered on its target of 111.6 FTE, with funding allocated for a total of 113 FTE workers.

Jurisdiction	Commenced Workers	Commenced FTE	Next Steps
Western Australia (WA)	50	50	Western Australia has successfully completed its recruitment plan with 50 FTE employed across 13 organisations in metropolitan, regional and remote areas of the State.
South Australia	49	36.8	South Australia has now met its total target under the 500 Workers Initiative, with 36.8 FTE commenced, equivalent to 49 workers across 36 services.
Tasmania	33	24.6	Tasmania has now met its total 500 Workers Initiative target of 24.6 FTE commenced workers across 13 services.
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	8	7.6	The ACT has delivered its total 500 Workers Initiative FTE target of 7.6 FTE. • 4 workers (4.0 FTE) have commenced with Canberra Rape Crisis Centre. • 2 workers (2.0 FTE) have commenced with YWCA. • 1 worker (1.0 FTE) has commenced with Multicultural Hub. • 1 worker (0.6 FTE) has commenced with Domestic Violence Crisis Service.
Northern Territory	20	20	Recruitment has increased with 20 commenced workers, including: • 12 FTE Children's safety workers • 3 FTE non legal support workers, and • 5 FTE co-responder pilot victim-survivor case manager
TOTAL	**563**	**499.4**	