Victoria

FDSV Responses 2025-30 - Project Plan Summary



Victoria has positioned family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) as a central policy priority, guided by *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's 10-Year Plan for Change* (The Plan). Supported by three-year action plans, The Plan provides a long-term roadmap to strengthen system coordination, ensure victim-survivors are safe and supported and hold perpetrators accountable. Victoria's reform agenda is informed by evidence, lived experience and sector expertise, aligning with the national ambition to end violence against women and children within a generation. A key pillar of Victoria's approach is its commitment to Aboriginal self-determination through the Dhelk Dja Agreement; a long-standing, Aboriginal-led framework that builds on more than two decades of community-driven work to prevent and respond to family violence.

Victoria's efforts under both The Plan and Dhelk Dja contribute directly to the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*, ensuring strong alignment between state and national outcomes.

Under the *2025-30 Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses Federation Funding Agreement* (FDSV FFA), the Commonwealth and Victorian governments are investing $179.4 million in new matched funding. Over 2025-30, this funding will support the delivery of 17 essential activities spanning early intervention, crisis response, recovery and healing. These initiatives strengthen pathways to safety, enhance system capability and embed culturally informed practices, particularly for Aboriginal communities. Together, these investments support a comprehensive, whole-of-system approach that continues to evolve toward a safer and more equitable Victoria.

Programs 1 and 17 - Crisis Case Management

Funding: $25.724 million in Commonwealth Government funding and $25.57 million over three years in Victorian Government funding | **Service Type:** Direct funding for victim-survivors | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program gives urgent support to people experiencing family violence, helping them stay safe and start recovery.

It includes risk assessment, safety planning, referrals and advocacy to connect people with the right services. Case management providers will use the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) framework and information sharing schemes to support coordinated responses across the system.

It includes funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and culturally and linguistically diverse and LGBTIQA+ services.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- Closing the Gap targets and outcomes | Closing the Gap
  - Outcome 13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence against Aboriginal women and children is reduced by at least 50%, as progress towards zero.
- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.
  - Outcome 6: Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, political, cultural and social equality.

Program 2 - Improving access to crisis accommodation responses

Funding: $12.086 million in total of Commonwealth Government funding for Programs 2 and 3 | **Service Type:** Family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) services and helplines | **Location:** Victoria wide

Improving access to crisis accommodation responses aims to create safer short-term accommodation with wrap-around support for victim-survivors, with pathways into medium- or long-term housing solutions.

Funding will be awarded through a competitive process, including to test new, innovative models.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- Closing the Gap targets and outcomes | Closing the Gap
  - Outcome 13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence against Aboriginal women and children is reduced by at least 50%, as progress towards zero.
- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.
  - Outcome 6: Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, political, cultural and social equality.

Program 3 - Strengthening the sector's capacity to coordinate emergency accommodation for victim-survivors

Funding: $12.086 million in total of Commonwealth Government funding for Programs 2 and 3 | **Service Type:** Family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) services and helplines | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program aims to expand the Emergency Accommodation Management System to help services find safe accommodation for victim-survivors quickly in an emergency.

The database lists safety features, risks, room details and provider information to support safer placement decisions.

It also improves information sharing across services to keep victim-survivors safe.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- Closing the Gap targets and outcomes | Closing the Gap
  - Outcome 13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence against Aboriginal women and children is reduced by at least 50%, as progress towards zero.
- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.
  - Outcome 6: Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, political, cultural and social equality.

Program 4 - Activities to support Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way – Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families

Funding: $7.030 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Other generalist or specialist services | **Location:** Victoria wide

The Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum supports Aboriginal-designed and -led family violence prevention and healing activities.

Priorities will be set through the Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum and Koori Caucus, reflecting culture, leadership, community-led services, systems change and Aboriginal-led evidence.

This approach strengthens safety, healing and accountability while supporting Closing the Gap goals.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- Closing the Gap targets and outcomes | Closing the Gap
  - Outcome 13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence against Aboriginal women and children is reduced by at least 50%, as progress towards zero.
- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - All Outcomes to be determined

Program 5 - Responses with young people who are homeless due to family violence

Funding: $5.732 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Specialist support services for children | **Location:** Barwon Area and Western Melbourne Area

This program supports young people aged 15–21 years who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness because of family violence, recognising them as victim-survivors in their own right.

It provides youth-specific family violence responses, urgent intervention and safety planning.

It also includes referrals and advocacy so young people can access housing, education, counselling and other supports.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.

Program 6 - Early intervention program for at-risk young men

Funding: $3.529 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Prevention and early intervention activities | **Location:** across Victoria

The early intervention program helps boys and young men aged 12–25 years build healthy attitudes and behaviours to prevent violence.

It challenges harmful gender norms and teaches skills like emotional regulation and non-violent problem-solving skills.

The model builds on the Change Makers pilot to create sustained, community-based education.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 3: Community attitudes and beliefs embrace gender equality and condemn all forms of gendered violence without exception.
  - Outcome 4: People who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and are supported to stop their violent, coercive and abusive behaviours.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.

Program 7 - Strengthening Support for Family and Sexual Violence with Multicultural Communities

Funding: $5.982 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Specialist support service for diverse people and groups | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program improves access to culturally safe, inclusive and accessible services for people from multicultural communities experiencing family and sexual violence.

This program strengthens coordination across services, including through secondary consultation, case management and shared responses between multicultural and specialist family and sexual violence services.

Workforce development builds the capability needed to provide inclusive, tailored support.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.
  - Outcome 6: Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, political, cultural and social equality.

Program 8 - Family Violence and Disability Practice Leader

Funding: $4.359 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Specialist support service for diverse people and groups | **Location:** Metro and regional Victoria

This program improves responses to people with disability at risk of family or sexual violence.

Disability Practice Leaders located across regions provide secondary consultations, training and practical tools and resources that make services more inclusive.

Disability Practice Leaders also improve referral pathways, information sharing and coordination between services.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.
  - Outcome 6: Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, political, cultural and social equality.

Program 9 - Responses for persons using family violence

Funding: $3.763 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Perpetrator interventions and Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program delivers evidence-based interventions that help adults who use violence take responsibility and change their behaviour.

Support can include case coordination, risk assessment and safety planning with a whole-of-family focus.

Specific interventions will be guided by current data, evaluations and Victoria's Landmark Perpetrator Study.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 4: People who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and are supported to stop their violent, coercive and abusive behaviours.

Program 10 - Building family violence workforce leadership capability

Funding: $1.827 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Other generalist or specialist services | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program develops leadership skills in experienced practitioners so frontline teams are well led and safe practice is sustained.

It supports progression into team leader and management roles through the Fast Track leadership program delivered by Safe and Equal.

The training focuses on transforming practice experience into leadership capability and incorporates the values of intersectional feminism that are the foundation of family violence and primary prevention work.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.

Program 11 - Digital Antenatal Screening for family violence risk in multiple languages

Funding: $0.400 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) services and helplines | **Location:** across Victoria

This program introduces a digital screening tool in selected maternity hospitals to identify family violence risks early.

Women can complete a self-assessment in English or 33 other languages, with secure referrals to services like counselling, legal help and safe housing.

The platform links to medical records, is evaluated for impact, and includes e-learning for staff.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 6: Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, political, cultural and social equality.

Program 12 - Victims of Crime Helpline (the Helpline) Family Violence Practice Leads (FVPLs)

Funding: $2.430 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Other generalist or specialist services | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program funds specialist Family Violence Practice Leads within the Helpline to support complex cases and lift staff capability.

The specialists ensure screening, assessment and secondary responses remain fit for purpose.

The Helpline is also the main referral pathway for male victims of family violence, improving access and safety.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.

Program 13 - Victims Assistance Program (VAP) Family Violence Practice Leads (FVPLs)

Funding: $5.574 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Other generalist or specialist services | **Location:** across Victoria

This program funds specialist FVPLs within the VAP to assess and manage risk, support complex cases and upskill teams.

Help can include emergency housing, safety planning, counselling, court preparation and provide advice on applications for financial assistance.

The VAP is the only case management service for male victims of family violence and also provides support to female victim-survivors, particularly in areas where local demand is high.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan:
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.

Program 14 - First Step Legal – Perpetrator Accountability Program – One-on-one behaviour change intervention for perpetrators through Justice Partnerships

Funding: $9.467 million in total of Commonwealth Government funding for Programs 14 and 15 |
Service Type: Perpetrator interventions and Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) |
Location: Victoria wide

This program provides one-on-one behaviour change and legal support for men who cannot take part in group programs.

It helps men understand and follow intervention orders and address drivers of their behaviour.

By improving accountability and compliance, it strengthens safety for victim-survivors.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 3: Community attitudes and beliefs embrace gender equality and condemn all forms of gendered violence without exception.
  - Outcome 4: People who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and are supported to stop their violent, coercive and abusive behaviours.

Program 15 - Support for people at risk of experiencing family violence through Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs)

Funding: $9.467 million in total of Commonwealth Government funding for Programs 14 and 15
Service Type: Early intervention activities (inc. secondary and tertiary prevention) |
Location: Victoria wide

This program places community legal help in maternal and child health settings so women can safely get support early.

It offers legal advice and warm referrals in nine community legal centres alongside health care, creating a trusted entry point.

Early legal help can prevent violence from starting or escalating.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

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  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
  - Outcome 5: Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.

Program 16 - Evidence-based best-practice family violence interventions in Corrections Victoria

Funding: $1.780 million in Commonwealth Government funding | **Service Type:** Perpetrator interventions and Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program delivers proven interventions in prisons and for those subject to community orders for family violence-related offending to build readiness and support behaviour change.

Services include programs such as Diffuse and the Brief Intervention Service.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan:
  - Outcome 4: People who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and are supported to stop their violent, coercive and abusive behaviours.

Program 18 – Family Violence Core and Cluster Refuge

Funding: $27.34 million over two years in Victorian Government funding | **Service Type:** Family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) services and helplines | **Location:** Victoria wide

This program will support the delivery of core and cluster refuge accommodation. This refuge model comprises a 'core' building for onsite service provision and a 'cluster' of self-contained units.

It supports victim-survivors to rebuild independence, while also ensuring access to therapeutic support, both during refuge stays and through the transition to stable housing.

This program contributes towards the achievement of the following national outcomes:

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- National Outcomes Framework Performance Measurement Plan
  - Outcome 1: Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.
  - Outcome 2: Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.
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