



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

First Action Plan 2023–2027

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Australian Government worked with the state and territory governments to write this document.

When you see the word 'we', it means all of these governments.



We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

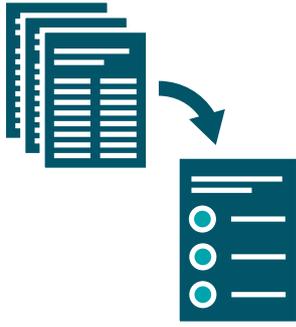
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



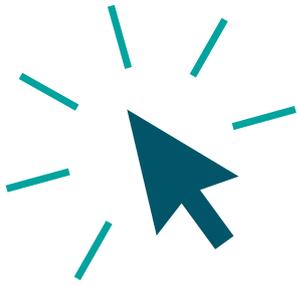
We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page [36](#).



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence



This is a long document.

You don't need to read it all at once.

You can take your time.



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.

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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 is a document that explains what we will do to help end violence against women and children.



Many women and children experience violence in their lives.

It will take a lot of work to end violence against women and children.



We need everyone to help us stop violence:

- before it starts
- from getting worse or happening again.



We also need everyone to help us support women and children:

- who experience violence
- to heal from violence.



Most of the violence we want to end is the violence men use against women and children.

We use the words 'violence against women' to talk about this problem.



But other people also experience this violence.

And they experience this violence in different ways.

About this document



We wrote **2** Action Plans to tell the community what we will do.



This document is our First Action Plan 2023–2027.

We call it our Action Plan.

It explains the actions we will take to stop violence against all women and children.



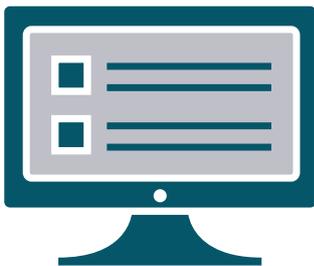
We will write an Action Plan every 5 years.



The other document is our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023–2025.



Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan explains how we will help support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children who experience violence.



You can find an Easy Read version of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan on our website.

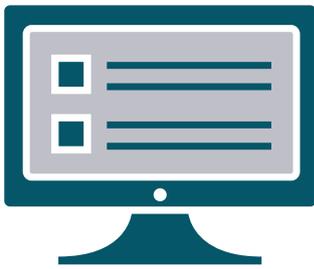
www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence

How we made our Action Plan



We wrote a document called Theory of Change 2022–2032 for the National Plan.

It explains how and why we want to make changes to end violence against women and children.



You can find an Easy Read version of our Theory of Change document on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence



We also wrote an **Outcomes Framework** for the National Plan.

Outcomes are the results of our actions.

A Framework is a plan for how things should work.



Our Outcomes Framework is a document that explains:

- what we will do
- what we want to achieve.



Our Outcomes Framework has **6** outcomes.

These outcomes will help us work towards the goals of the National Plan.



You can find an Easy Read version of our Outcomes Framework on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence



We asked the community questions about what they think.

This helped us make our Action Plan.



Over 3,000 people shared their ideas.

This included:



- governments



- services



- organisations



- businesses.

This also included:



- people who have experienced violence



- people who live in places far away from any cities or towns



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



- people from different **cultures** and backgrounds.

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.

This also included:



- the **LGBTIQA+** community



- people with disability



- young people



- older people.



The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.

The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQA+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.

Our actions

10

Our Action Plan has **10** actions.



All governments have its own list of activities to work towards for each action.



All governments include:

- the Australian Government
- state and territory governments.



There are also activities that all governments will work on together.



We explain each action on the following pages.

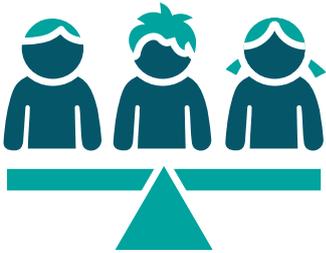
Action 1



We want to make progress with **gender equality**.

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

It isn't about whether your body looks male or female.



Gender equality is when people believe all genders are equal.



We also want to look into the reasons why violence happens because of someone's gender.

This includes looking at what people are doing to help change community **attitudes** that say violence is okay.



Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.

Action 2



We want the information in the National Plan about violence against women and children to be better.

This includes:



- using the same words to describe and explain things every time



- using the information we have to make our plans better



- collecting and sharing better **data**.



When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
- information
- records.

Action 3

4

The National Plan has 4 areas that will help us stop violence against women and children.

We call them our domains.



Each of our domains has a list of goals.

And we want to reach these goals as part of the National Plan.



For each of our domains, we want **mainstream services** to provide good:

- activities
- programs.



Mainstream services are services for everybody in the community to use.



They include:

- health
- transport
- education.



For each of our domains, we also want **specialist services** to provide good:

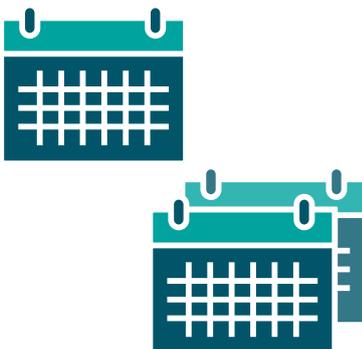


- activities
- programs.



Specialist services are services for:

- people who have experienced violence
- people who use violence.



They can provide:

- short-term services
- long-term services.

Action 4



We want to create more **capacity** for services and systems that support people who experience violence.



Your capacity is:

- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- knowing the right people who can help you.



We want these services and supports to focus on helping people who experience violence in the long-term.



This includes long-term:

- recovery
- health and wellbeing.

Action 5



We want to make sure people who use violence are responsible for their behaviour.



We want to improve the services and supports that help people who use violence.



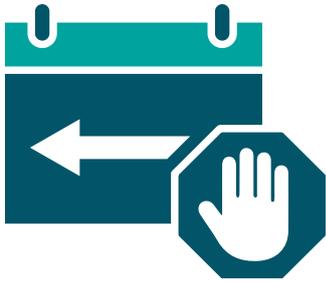
We also want to give people who use violence the choice to get support and change their behaviour.



We want this support to help protect the safety and wellbeing of:

- people who might experience violence in the future
- people who are experiencing violence now.

Action 6



Before it happens, we want to take better steps to stop:

- **sexual violence**
- **sexual harassment.**



Sexual violence is when someone:

- makes you do sexual things you don't want to do
- does something sexual to you that you don't want them to do.



Sexual harassment is when someone makes you feel uncomfortable when they:

- make sexual comments about you that you don't like
- act in a sexual way towards you.



We also want to take these steps for each of our domains in the National Plan.

Action 7



We want to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on plans and services to end violence against women.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples know the best way to:



- support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children



- work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



They also know the best way to provide services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We want to make sure these services:



- respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- focus on what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples do well.

We also want to make sure these services:



- understand how people who have experienced violence feel



- help people who have experienced **trauma** feel safe and supported

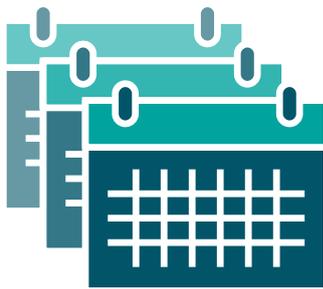


- support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan.



Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.



Trauma can affect you for a long time.



We also want to make sure these services meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

- peoples
- communities.

Action 8

Children and young people can experience violence when:



- it happens to them



- they see it happen to someone else.



We want to create programs for children and young people who experience violence.



We also want children and young people to tell us:

- how these programs can help them
- what we should include in these programs.

We want these programs to:



- use language and information close to the ages of children and young people



- understand and respect all cultures to help children and young people feel safe

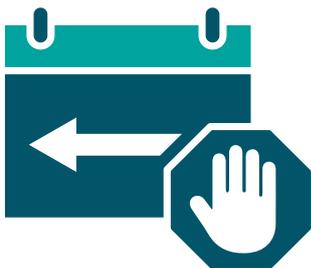


- cover each of our domains in the National Plan.

We want these programs to be about how to:



- support people who experience violence



- take early steps to help people before they start using violence.

Action 9



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

The justice system helps to make people who use violence responsible for their behaviour.

This includes police, courts, the law and prisons.



This includes how the justice system:

- responds to people who experience violence
- understands the needs of people who experience violence.

This also includes:



- when people who experience violence ask the police for help



- the justice system giving more support to people who experience violence.

We want the justice system to provide supports that:



- understand and respect all cultures



- use language that won't upset people who experience violence.



We want the justice system to provide supports that promote the safety and wellbeing of people who experience violence.



We also want the justice system to provide supports that make people who use violence responsible for their behaviour.

Action 10



We want to make housing for women and children who experience violence easier to find and use for any amount of time they need.



This includes housing for women and children who live in **institutions**.



An institution is a place that an organisation or government sets up.

For example:

- a hospital
- a prison
- a nursing home.



We also want to support women to stay in their own homes if they choose to.

What we will do



All governments must work towards the goals we want to reach in the National Plan.



They will have their own list of activities that come from both Action Plans.



All governments will also have a list of activities that they will work on together.



Different government organisations and groups will have their own **Terms of Reference**.

This is a document that will explain what they need to do to help work towards the actions in the National Plan.



All governments have things they must do as part of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

We call it Closing the Gap.



Closing the Gap explains how we can work together to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



We will publish reports about how well our Action Plan is going every year.



We want to make sure we do what we say we will.



And we want everyone to understand how things work.

How we will keep track



We want to keep track of how well our Action Plan is going.

To do this, we will make a plan.

It will include:



- our **6** outcomes



- our **10** actions that will help us achieve our outcomes



- information that explains how we will track how well we are going



- data.



We will keep working on finding new ways to track how well we are going.



We want to keep getting better at:

- the type of data we collect
- finding new ways to collect data
- how we use the data we collect.



We also want to keep getting better at finding new ways to create data projects with other people.



For example, working with organisations that aren't part of the government.



We will publish reports about our progress on the National Plan every year.



We will share updates about the actions we work on in our Action Plan every year.



We will also keep track of how well our Action Plan is going through information from other reports that are published every year.



For example, Closing the Gap.



The National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission will also share a report every year with the Australian Government.

We call it the Commission.



The Commission's report will include information about the progress we are making with the goals in the National Plan.

Word list

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



Attitudes

Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.



Capacity

Your capacity is:

- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- knowing the right people who can help you.

Cultures

Your culture is:



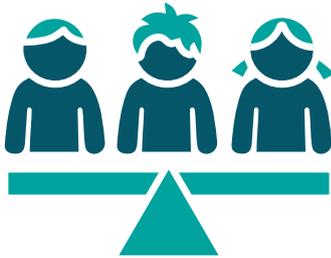
- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.



Data

When we talk about data, we mean:

- facts
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Gender equality

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Justice system

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This includes police, courts, the law and prisons.



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Mainstream services

Mainstream services are services for everybody in the community to use.

They include:

- health
- transport
- education.



Outcomes Framework

Outcomes are the results of our actions.

A Framework is a plan for how things should work.



Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is when someone makes you feel uncomfortable when they:

- make sexual comments about you that you don't like
- act in a sexual way towards you.

Sexual violence

Sexual violence is when someone:

- makes you do sexual things you don't want to do
- does something sexual to you that you don't want them to do.



Specialist services

Specialist services are services for:

- people who have experienced violence
- people who use violence.

They can provide:

- short-term services
- long-term services.





Terms of Reference

This is a document that will explain what they need to do to help work towards the actions in the National Plan.



Trauma

Trauma is the way you feel about something bad that happened to you.

For example, you might feel scared or stressed.

Trauma can affect you for a long time.



Violence

Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

It can also be called abuse.

Contact us



You can call us.

1300 653 227



You can call us from:

- 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
- Monday to Friday.



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

133 677



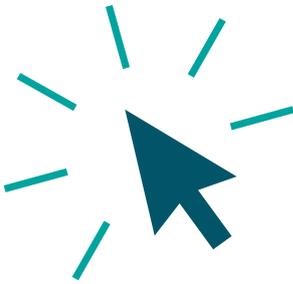
You can send us an email.

enquiries@dss.gov.au



You can write to us.

Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra
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You can visit our website.

www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence



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The background is a dark teal color. On the left side, there is a large, semi-transparent, light teal shape with rounded corners, outlined in a darker teal. On the right side, there is a white outline of a similar rounded shape. The overall design is modern and minimalist.

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