First Action Plan  
2023–2027

Activities Addendum

**Under the National Plan to End Violence  
against Women and Children 2022–2032**

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# Activities under the First Action Plan

**The actions detailed in the First Action Plan will be implemented through specific activities undertaken by the Australian, state and territory governments.**

Activities under the actions are not inclusive of all activities that are being undertaken to end gender-based violence. While many of the activities listed are funded by the Australian, state and territory governments, we recognise that there are also collaborative and innovative examples of work underway to improve services and systems that are not funded by governments. Governments will also be progressing joint activities under each action.

A number of activities established under previous action plans are ongoing. New initiatives are also being developed and implemented, integrating lessons learned through evaluations of previous Action Plans, emerging research and data, and consultations with stakeholders.

# Action 1

## Advance gender equality and address the drivers of all forms of gender-based violence, including through initiatives aimed to improve community attitudes and norms toward family, domestic, and sexual violence.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 1.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Work together through the Women and Women’s Safety Ministerial Council to explore appropriate targets to increase gender balance across the labour market.
* Work towards greater collaboration in developing prevention strategies and seek to align efforts in prevention planning, investment, and initiatives. This could include developing consistent messaging in education campaigns including addressing sexual violence and violence against women in online settings.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Demonstrate national leadership towards advancing gender equality by developing a National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality.
* Support people of all ages to develop safe and healthy relationships, shift community attitudes, and challenge the condoning of all forms of violence through awareness raising and educational initiatives, including:
  + $46 million for a fifth and sixth phase of the Stop it at the Start campaign.
  + $32.2 million for a national consent campaign.
  + $104.4 million from 2022–23 to 2026–27 to support Our Watch, Australia’s national leader for the primary prevention of gender-based violence, to continue its work.
  + $3.8 million over 2 years for Teach us Consent to support development and distribution of social media resources on consent, and a youth-led expert advisory group.
  + $15.1 million over 4 years to implement the new prohibition on sexual harassment in the workplace and enable the Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Ombudsman to deal with disputes alleging workplace sexual harassment.
* Improve women’s economic security through new legislation and a greater understanding of gender equality performance in Australian workplaces by:
  + Making gender equality a central objective of the workplace relations system and strengthen the Fair Work Commission’s ability to order pay increases for workers in low-paid, feminised industries.
  + Legislating the 10 days of paid family and domestic violence leave entitlement.
  + Providing $3.4 million over 4 years for the Small Business Assistance package to support small businesses implementing paid family and domestic violence leave.
  + Conducting a statutory review of the operation of the 10 days’ paid family and domestic violence leave entitlement, to commence as soon as practicable from 1 February 2024.
* Report public sector workforce data to the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA). Commonwealth public sector agencies with 100 employees or more must report to WGEA for the first time in 2023. WGEA continues to work with state and territory governments to report voluntarily.
* Fund $10 million for the Preventing Tech-Based Abuse of Women Grants Program to develop primary prevention initiatives that address the drivers of technology-facilitated gender-based violence.
* Provide $83.5 million to the Consent and Respectful Relationships Education (CRRE) measure over 6 years from 2022–23 to invest in high quality, evidence-based, age-appropriate consent and Respectful Relationships Education in Australian primary and secondary schools. Of this, $77.6 million will be provided to states and territories and non-government school systems to support their investment in delivering expert developed Respectful Relationships Education.
* Develop a range of supporting resources to help promote and implement the National Principles to Address Coercive Control in Family and Domestic Violence, including an Easy Read version and language translations, short explainer videos and fact sheets, and a practical resource for health care professionals to help them recognise and respond to coercive control.
* Provide education and awareness campaigns targeted at veterans and their families to:
  + Improve education of family and domestic violence risk factors amongst the veteran community, and collective awareness of funded services and supports.
  + Provide opportunities for eligible persons impacted by family and domestic violence, or at risk of being impacted by family and domestic violence, to access funded services and supports.
  + De-stigmatise FDV within the veteran community as a barrier to seeking help.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Provide funding of $933,000 over 4 years for the development of a long-term Prevention Plan to change the attitudes and behaviours that drive family, domestic, and sexual violence in response to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee’s final report *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal*.
* Work in partnership with non-government organisations, businesses, and the broader community towards gender equality for all ACT women through the *ACT Women’s Plan 2016*–*26*. The plan outlines priority areas for action and a structure for how work will be progressed to enhance the economic status, social inclusion, safety, and wellbeing of ACT women, particularly groups of women subject to multiple layers of discrimination. This plan is supported by 3 action plans that will take place over 3 years which include women’s safety as a priority focus area for action.
* Continue to deliver Respectful Relationships Education in schools to develop students’ skills and attitudes towards understanding gender inequality and respectful, equal, and non-violent relationships.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Address the causes and drivers of family, domestic and sexual violence through the development of the NSW Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Strategy (the Strategy).
* The Strategy is an action under the Prevention Pillar of the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022–2027* and *NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022–2027*. The Strategy will complement, build on, and strengthen the significant work and reforms that are underway nationally and in NSW to prevent and respond to family, domestic, and sexual violence.
* Implement age and culture-appropriate education in early childhood settings on safe, healthy, and respectful relationships, addressing the drivers of gender-based violence, including:
  + The ‘All In’ project in partnership with the Women’s and Girls’ Emergency Centre, that adopts a whole-of-service approach by engaging educators, early childhood centre leaders, parents/carers and children in training workshops, gender equity assessments, age-appropriate activities, and providing supporting resources.
* Implement the *NSW Women’s Strategy 2023–2026* to address the gendered drivers of family, domestic and sexual violence. The Strategy provides a whole-of-government and whole-of-community policy framework to help improve the economic, social, and physical wellbeing of women and girls across NSW.
* The vision of the Strategy is that women and girls in NSW: Live and work in a safe and fair society where they are treated with respect and dignity and have equitable access to services, resources, opportunities, and protections that enable them to thrive. The strategy identifies 3 priority areas for action:
  + Economic opportunity and advancement
  + Health and wellbeing
  + Participation and empowerment.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Continue to implement the *Northern Territory Gender Equality Action Plan 2022–2025* and *Gender Equality Statement of Commitment*. The Action Plan lays the foundations for improved gender equality across 5 focus areas:
  + Community engagement
  + Health and wellbeing
  + Safety
  + Economic security
  + Leadership and participation.
* Implement Respectful Relationships Education in educational settings through implementation of Version 9 of the Australian Curriculum, HPE for birth to year 12 including collaborations with identified Northern Territory not-for-profit organisations or relevant Northern Territory Government partner organisations, to ensure educators have access to culturally appropriate resources and professional learning.
* Continue to expand the Safe, Respected and Free from Violence Primary Prevention Grant Program.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Progress implementation of the *Queensland Women's Strategy 2022–27* to strengthen and support the rights of Queensland women and girls, and work towards achieving a gender-equal Queensland.
* Enhance Respectful Relationships Education for children and young people by:
  + Making the strengthened Respect Program available to all Queensland state and non-state schools.
  + Building Respectful Relationships Education capability for state school teachers.
  + Working with youth service providers to ensure young people who are not engaged in formal education have access to respectful relationships-informed information.
  + Continuing work to implement Respectful Relationships Education in Queensland youth detention centres.
* Develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated Primary Prevention Plan (PPP) to address violence against women in Queensland. The PPP will be a foundational strategy piece that seeks to address the gendered drivers of violence, tailored to the Queensland context whilst building on current state and national initiatives. The PPP will guide and inform prevention efforts that seek to keep women and girls safe and provide measures to monitor the desired outcomes under the plan.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Continue to implement South Australia’s *Women’s Equality Blueprint 2023–26* which comprises a roadmap summarising the state’s current and future policies and practices that will guide a fairer and more representative society.
* Launch a new state-wide strategy that includes actions from a range of agencies to respond to family, domestic and sexual violence. This strategy will align with and support the delivery of actions under the National Plan and the *National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–2027*.
* Educate the community about preventing violence against women and children through public awareness and education campaigns targeting the prevention of violence against women and children, including:
  + A FIFA Women’s World Cup 2023 broad public campaign to shift attitudes and behaviours that drive violence against women and children, which will also feature a more targeted education program delivered through football clubs aimed at promoting the importance of gender equality within a sporting context.
  + The See the Signs campaign to broaden the understanding of coercive control in the community. The first iteration is targeted at young people (13-24) who may be experiencing or using coercive behaviours.
  + A campaign to be run by the Legal Services Commission of South Australia to raise awareness about the ability to seek intervention orders for coercive control including targeted legal education and engagement with Aboriginal, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
* Develop a Gender Equality bill that aims to improve women and girls’ economic and leadership participation by requiring agencies to take a range of positive actions to advance gender equality.
* Deliver the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC). This provides the foundational and fundamental skills for children and young people to recognise abuse and report it. KS:CPC includes all the concepts that children and young people need to know to be able to understand, recognise, and respond to all forms of abuse including gender-based violence.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Progress implementation of *Equal Means Equal: Tasmanian Women’s Strategy 2022–27*, with actions aimed at improving outcomes for women and girls in Tasmania and achieving greater gender equality.
* Continue to effectively embed Respectful Relationships and Consent Education in Tasmanian schools and develop a suite of resources informed by key stakeholders, children and young people that builds understanding of consent, coercive control, and grooming in the Tasmanian community.
* Establish Tasmania’s first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council. The Council will establish an ongoing voice of victim-survivors to the government, informing and shaping the Tasmanian Government’s living *Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan, Survivors at the Centre 2022–27*

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Continue to demonstrate leadership towards evidence-informed primary prevention, and deliver community engagement, research and evaluation activities through Respect Victoria. These activities aim to understand and shift community attitudes and social norms that lead to violence against women including behaviour change campaigns, research, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, and sector coordination.
* Support primary prevention initiatives in key settings and across pivotal life stages through:
  + Victoria’s *Free from Violence Second Action Plan* (2022–2025) which provides the foundation for emerging priorities including preventing sexual violence, community education about affirmative consent, engaging boys and men in prevention, and scaling up work in key settings such as local government, universities and TAFEs, and sport settings.
  + Providing Family Violence Prevention Training for justice frontline workers and staff to build awareness of the drivers of gendered violence and empower bystander action if violence is witnessed.
* Continue to build community engagement and awareness about the drivers of family violence and deliver activities to challenge attitudes and beliefs that enable violence to occur through:
  + A new gender equality strategy, *Our Equal State: Victoria’s Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2023–27*, which will build on Victoria’s first strategy *Safe and Strong* to achieve whole-of-community change by challenging entrenched gender norms, and expanding and embedding existing reforms.
  + Delivery of the Enhancing Online Safety of Women project and Women’s Health Victoria’s Gender Equality in Advertising project, to address sexism and the condoning of violence against women online and address the drivers of violence against women in advertising settings.
* Support schools and early childhood settings to promote and model respect, positive attitudes and behaviours, and teach children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence through:
  + Continued support to all Victorian government schools and participating Catholic and independent schools to implement and embed Respectful Relationships.
  + Embedding consent education in all Victorian government schools.
  + Continuing to deliver Respectful Relationships professional learning to early childhood educators in Victorian Government funded kindergarten programs.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Continue to support and implement primary prevention programs such as those focused on healthy, respectful relationships and gender equality, across settings and cohorts, including:
  + Developing and delivering a Respectful Relationships Program for the sport and recreation sector that will strengthen awareness of, and responses to, family and domestic violence as a critical foundation for preventing violence against women and help to address the gendered drivers of violence.
  + The program will run as a pilot over a 2-year period and will be a bespoke version of the current Western Australian Respectful Relationships Teaching Support Program which is delivered in public schools with operational support from the Department of Education.

# Action 2

## Improve the national evidence base by working towards consistent terminology and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and by strengthening collection and sharing of data and evidence.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 2.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Consider opportunities for greater consistency of terminology, to improve data and information-sharing, national monitoring, and data collection through the Women and Women’s Safety Ministerial Council, the Data and Digital Ministers Meeting, and other relevant inter-governmental bodies.
* Work together to consider and agree further numerical targets across each of the four domains of the National Plan over the life of the First Action Plan.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Build the evidence base on experiences of gender-based violence, including for diverse communities and populations by:
  + Providing $23.3 million for a national priority research fund to support Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) to continue its work.
  + Delivering an LGBTIQA+ National Sexual Violence Prevention Survey, and other research and evaluation activities for LGBTIQA+ communities, to fill gaps in understanding on experiences and prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence in LGBTIQA+ communities.
* Improve the national evidence base through:
  + Funding the Australian Bureau of Statistics to conduct the Personal Safety Survey.
  + Supporting the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to strengthen family, domestic and sexual violence data and reporting, including developing an integrated data system.
  + Investing in community-led data capture initiatives that support the creation of a local, culturally informed data and evidence eco-system, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
  + Working with the Australian Institute of Criminology to continue to build our understanding of homicide and perpetrator data.
  + Investing $8.3 million into Community-Led Sexual Violence Prevention Pilots that will design, deliver, and evaluate multiple small-scale trials to improve evidence for sexual violence of primary prevention and early interventions.
  + Working with the Australian Institute of Family Studies evaluating the Children’s Contact Service Activity, to facilitate the supervision of parenting time and changeover for families who require a safe and neutral venue to enable contact to take place.
* Work with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, and community organisations to promote coordinated and consistent monitoring and evaluation frameworks through the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission.
* Provide $5 million in additional funding to strengthen the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission’s program of engagement activities and to deliver evidence-based advice to government, including annual reports to the Parliament measuring progress against the National Plan.
* Provide $1 million to establish an advisory group to ensure engagement with victim-survivors throughout the life of the First Action Plan, to provide valuable insights from people with lived experience.
* Provide further research funding with research partner Phoenix Australia to extend various bodies of work to develop a veteran-specific evidence base, such as an intimate partner violence research project focusing on non-physical forms of intimate partner violence.
* Remain actively engaged in government and non-government agency led stakeholder family and domestic violence and intimate partner violence Community of Practice, to adopt collaborative approaches which includes investigating best practice, and knowledge and data sharing.
* Develop and enable a family and domestic violence screening tool to improve service offerings and gather data on family and domestic violence in veterans and their families.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Establish the ACT Domestic Violence Death Review as part of implementing amendments to the *Domestic Violence Agencies Act 1986*. A secure database has now been established to enable the ACT to collect agreed data as well as undertake specialised appropriate reviews of family and domestic violence deaths or incidents of serious harm.
* Collect and code data in relation to deaths and incidences of serious harm as part of the ACT Domestic and Family Violence Death Review.
* Continue work towards improving information sharing mechanisms to help prevent, intervene earlier and respond in cases of family and domestic violence, including through the Family Violence Safety Action Program for people at high risk of harm.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Develop a NSW cross-agency *NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Data Strategy (DFSV Data Strategy)* to guide data collection, performance monitoring, and reporting.
* Establish a New South Wales Women’s Safety Commissioner to provide expert advice to government, strengthen cross-government and cross-sector collaboration, and advocate for continuing improvement to women’s safety in NSW by elevating voices of victim-survivors and the sector.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation, and accountability plan for the *Northern Territory’s Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018–2028* and action plans.
* Regularly publish family, domestic and sexual violence data for the Northern Territory through the release of an annual family, domestic and sexual violence data snapshot.
* Establish a systemic Family and Domestic Violence Death Review process.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Develop and implement a new whole-of-government monitoring and evaluation framework to measure and monitor family, domestic and sexual violence prevention and response outcomes achieved through implementation of the recommendations of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce.
* Develop a data quality strategy and embed agreed data collection standards across all agencies for family, domestic and sexual violence, including as it relates to target population groups.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Continue work towards improving information sharing mechanisms for data collected by the government and community organisations, to help prevent and intervene earlier in cases of family and domestic violence. This will be progressed through multi-function agencies and the development of data collection systems, particularly for people at high risk of harm.
* Commission ANROWS to build the South Australian evidence base and align data collection to the *National Plan Outcomes Framework* through formally evaluating current partnership programs funded to expand the capacity of the family, domestic and sexual violence sector.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Develop and implement a program of measurement, evaluation, and learning through *Tasmania’s Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan Centre 2022–2027* which will be formalised into an Outcomes Framework.
* Expand the scope of the Safe Families Coordination Unit to undertake the whole of government data coordination and integration for family and sexual violence.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Continue work on *Victoria's Family Violence Outcomes Framework* with a focus on strengthening the existing set of measures and development of new measures.
* Build the evidence base through improving monitoring and commissioning evaluations of significant programs and policies. This assists in building the evidence base for interventions and includes:
  + Respect Victoria building a state-wide monitoring and evaluation system that enables ongoing learning about primary prevention progress and impact across Victoria, supported by a statewide Theory of Change and an impact framework.
  + Evaluation and monitoring projects, including Longitudinal Evaluation of Men's Behaviour Change Programs, to improve evidence of the effectiveness of these programs in driving long-term behaviour change.
  + Delivering the Family Violence Research Agenda and Research Program throughout 2021–2024 which will deliver, translate, and embed research evidence in partnership with Victorian universities, the FDSV sector, and those with lived experience of family violence to support practice improvement, service innovation, and long-lasting change for victim-survivors.
  + Expanding the Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network to build the capacity of frontline family violence and sexual assault practitioners to deliver evidence-based interventions by providing access to key information, resources, and learning and development activities that are known to improve outcomes for victim-survivors, via funding through the *National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–2023*.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the *Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy and Path to Safety: Western Australia’s strategy to reduce family and domestic violence 2020–2030*. These will align with and support reporting requirements for the National Plan Outcomes Framework.

# Action 3

## Increase and strengthen the capability of mainstream and specialist workforces to deliver quality services, activities and programs across the four domains, including those that are tailored to respond to the unique experiences of all victim-survivors.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 3.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Consider opportunities and forums across jurisdictions to share workforce resources, research, learnings, initiatives, and strategies to build the capacity and capability of the workforce.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Fund education and training on family, domestic and sexual violence for community mainstream workers, health professionals, and the justice sector including accredited training to support mainstream workers engaging with victim-survivors and capacity-building training for judiciary and legal practitioners. This includes:
  + $0.2 million for the continued maintenance of the National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book.
  + $0.2 million for the continued delivery of the Family Violence in the Court training program.
* Improve access to services that are responsive to the needs of diverse groups, including:
  + Development of resources to drive a reduction in violence against women and girls with disability and improve responses when violence occurs.
* Support workforces to access training and information to build their ability to deliver evidence-based and trauma-informed services to victim-survivors and perpetrators through:
  + $39.7 million for Lifeline Australia to continue to deliver DV-Alert, a training program for health, allied health, and community frontline workers to better understand and identify family and domestic violence, and improve their referral and support skills.
  + Delivering Lessons in Disaster training to first responders and service providers to help them better recognise and respond to family and domestic violence in a disaster.
  + Training frontline workers by eSafety to recognise and respond to technology-facilitated family and domestic violence.
  + Continuing funding for a pilot program within Services Australia to enhance service delivery for victim-survivors and provide a more integrated response (until June 2024).
* Improve workforce capability to deliver quality services to veterans and their families through:
  + Investigating screening tools to enhance early intervention and the specialist workforce.
  + Developing capability tools for Outreach Program Counsellors to increase confidence in managing intimate partner violence and family and domestic violence concerns.
  + Educating the Veteran Health Provider Network through a series of presentations to inform health providers on the exclusive ways in which veterans and families experience family and domestic violence.
  + Updating Health Provider website resources outlining service offerings for Veterans and family members experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family and domestic violence.
  + Developing and enabling robust FDV screening tools to improve service offerings.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Continue delivering family, domestic and sexual violence training to all staff. This training equips staff with the skills they need to recognise and respond to colleagues and clients experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.
* Continue to build whole-of-government and sector capacity through the joint development of a Domestic and Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework. Formal rollout of the Framework and ongoing work is progressing to develop further training and resources to drive more integrated and consistent understanding of and responses to family and domestic violence.
* Continue to support the Health Justice Partnership Services to address the heightened risk of experiencing family and domestic violence by women and their children during pregnancy or early parenthood. The Services provide women with free and confidential legal advice by embedding lawyers in health care and family settings to reduce barriers to accessing legal services.
* Invest in strategic and coordinated sector capability building to drive more integrated and consistent understanding of and responses to family, domestic and sexual violence to stop violence escalating early.
* Work with the community and the Education Centre Against Violence to deliver additional training to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the family, domestic and sexual violence sector.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Support the capability of the family, domestic and sexual violence sector to intervene early and respond to sexual violence in priority populations through the Sexual Violence Project Fund.
* The NSW Government, with support from the Australian Government, is committing $10 million of grant funding to projects of up to 2 years duration focused on sexual violence early intervention or response strategies for high priority groups. Funded projects are expected to start mid-2023.
* The objectives of the Fund are to:
  + Improve the capacity of the system to intervene early and respond appropriately to high priority groups.
  + Increase delivery of early intervention and response projects to communities across NSW and high priority groups informed by co-design principles.
  + Improve outcomes and effectiveness of service delivery and improve integration through stronger coordination, collaboration, and information sharing.
* Conduct a baseline survey to better understand the capacity of the specialist and broader workforce to respond to family and domestic violence, and develop a 10-year family and domestic violence workforce development strategy for the specialist workforce. This will involve:
  + A survey of the NSW family and domestic violence workforce including the specialist, prevention, and broader intersecting workforce to obtain baseline data and an evidence base on worker demographics, role requirements and satisfaction, employment conditions, supervision, training and confidence, health and wellbeing, and future intentions.
  + Development and implementation of a 10-Year Workforce Development Strategy for the specialist NSW family and domestic violence workforce to improve attraction, recruitment, and retention of a highly skilled and diverse workforce with a focus on improving working conditions across the sector.
* Continue to enhance the skills, capabilities, and confidence of the NSW Health workforce through the ongoing implementation of the *Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence, Abuse and Neglect Framework,* and progress of the implementation of Phase 2 of the NSW Health Violence, Abuse and Neglect (VAN) Redesign Program which strengthens integration between NSW Health VAN services and the broader health system.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Establish a family, domestic and sexual violence resource centre to develop, broker, deliver and coordinate family, domestic and sexual violence training across the Northern Territory for government and non-government workers, and to build consistent workforce capability tailored to local needs.
* Continue to deliver the bi-annual Sharing and Strengthening Our Practice conference for the Northern Territory’s family, domestic and sexual violence workforce and sectors. The conference will align with workforce development needs and prioritise a skills-based focus.
* Continue to deliver training in family and domestic violence risk assessment and management to workers across the specialist, universal, and statutory service sectors.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Develop an evidence-informed, culturally appropriate Training Framework to promote consistency in the way that family and domestic violence training is delivered across government and community agencies. The Training Framework will address the issue of coercive control and support service delivery that is trauma-informed.
* Establish a domestic and family violence peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services including shelters and perpetrator intervention services that will support the integration of and access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services that focus on culture as a preventative and healing factor.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Work towards consistency in the state system for family and domestic violence leave and bring into effect amendments to the *Fair Work Act 1994 (SA)* to improve access to paid domestic and family violence leave for the public sector and local government employees. This will enable employees who are experiencing family and domestic violence to do things such as attend court proceedings, go to counselling, or relocate without incurring financial penalty or jeopardising their employment.
* Develop workforce training resources to build mainstream workforce competence in delivering trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and safe family, domestic and sexual violence services for LGBTIQA+ people, people living with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and First Nations people.
* Partner with Flinders University to co-design and implement a specialist domestic violence training package for child protection workers that is being rolled out across the Department for Child Protection (DCP) and the broader sector.
* Partner with the University of South Australia to:
  + Offer the Graduate Certificate in Child Protection to specific positions across DCP.
  + Offer fee-free the Professional Certificate in Understanding Childhood Trauma to DCP staff and staff across the sector.
* Deliver the *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum* for young people to recognise and report sexual harassment in the workplace. This will be included in the new edition year 11-12 book to be released in 2024.
* Enhance access to Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service, and Cedar Domestic and Family Violence Health Service.
* Ensure access to trauma-informed training in assessing and responding to sexual assault, and domestic and family violence for health care providers.
* Ensure access to sexual assault forensic training for nurses and doctors in regional areas.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Continue to develop standardised risk assessment processes across government and non-government family, domestic and sexual violence services.
* Investigate the Safe and Together Model including providing professional learning on the model for legal professionals, community sector workers, and government officers.
* Deliver funding for community-based projects to support inclusion, access, and equity to support diverse Tasmanians who experience barriers to accessing support for family and sexual violence.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Enhance workforce development for the family and sexual violence workforces and build capabilities for all workforces intersecting with family violence by:
  + Progressing efforts to support workforce supply and retention, capability building, leadership and health, safety and wellbeing through the next *Building from Strength: 10-Year Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response Rolling Action Plan 2023–26*.
  + Building the pipeline of new workers including increased participation of workers from priority cohorts to better reflect service mutuality.
  + Facilitate training to enhance capability uplift for Victims of Crime Helpline workers when engaging with victim-survivors of family violence and build understanding of the nuances involved in engaging with male victims of family violence.
* Work with people who have lived experience to shape a system that meets the needs of the people that use it. This will be done under the Family Violence Lived Experience Strategy by:
  + Strengthening workforce capacity by supporting staff to engage meaningfully and respectfully with people with lived experience of family violence.
  + Stewarding best practice for evolving lived experience work across the government and sector.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Continue to build specialist and mainstream workforce capability and capacity to identify and respond effectively to family and domestic violence, including:
  + Expansion of sector-recognised family and domestic violence training to an additional 3,000 St John Ambulance first responders (triple zero call takers, paramedics, and volunteers) to build service capacity to recognise and respond to the needs of patients who may be experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.

# Action 4

## Build the capacity of services and systems that support victim-survivors to provide trauma-informed, connected and coordinated responses that support long-term recovery, health and wellbeing.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 4.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Implement funding of $169.4 million committed in the October 2022–23 Budget to deliver an additional 500 frontline service and community workers to support women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.
* Negotiate and implement additional funding of $159 million committed in the 2023–24 Budget for the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses. This funding will continue to bolster frontline family, domestic and sexual violence supports to ensure women and children can access support when they need it.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Ensure victim-survivors are well supported to access recovery services through:
  + $48.7 million for the implementation of the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Primary Health Network Pilots to support people who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence and/or child sexual abuse, to navigate the health system and access services in all states and territories.
  + Development of nationally consistent sexual violence and child sexual abuse resources.
  + $67.2 million to trial the Supporting Recoverypilot program to provide trauma-informed recovery care for victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence.
  + Funding $25 million for the Women’s Trauma Recovery Centre to provide trauma-informed services to women who have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence in the Illawarra (New South Wales).
  + $40.4 million for Specialised Family Violence Services to deliver specialised services that support children, families, individuals, and couples who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family and domestic violence.
  + $0.5 million for an evaluation of the 1800RESPECT service in 2024–25. The evaluation will consider the extent to which the service is achieving its strategic outcomes with a focus on practical advice and recommendations that can be applied to improve the service.
  + $42.6 million to extend the Escaping Violence Payment Trial (EVP) and the Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (TVP) to 2025. This builds on $12.6 million for TVP to support eligible victim-survivors of family and domestic violence who hold a temporary visa in Australia through financial support and legal assistance, including migration support. The measure also builds on the $240.0 million investment over 3 years for EVP to assist eligible individuals to access financial assistance to establish a home free from violence as well as $39.6 million to improve service delivery capacity, support increased demand, and reduce access barriers.
  + $32.3 million over 2022–23 to 2026–27 for the Support for Trafficked People Program which provides assistance for people exploited by human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices.
* Allocate $8.9 million to expand the Family Violence Provisions to secondary applicants for most permanent visa subclasses and additional cohorts of partner visa applicants. This will enable visa applicants to remain eligible for the grant of a permanent visa even if their relationship with the sponsoring partner or the primary applicant ends due to family and domestic violence. This measure will involve changes to the *Migration Regulations 1994* and Department of Home Affairs’ systems, and is intended to be fully implemented in 2024.
* Allocate $1.1 million to extend funding for the Department of Home Affairs’ specialised visa support service for temporary visa holders experiencing family and domestic violence for an additional year.
* Continue funding for the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support program to build capacity and capability to identify and support migrant women in situations of family and domestic violence, and provide activities that advance their social and economic inclusion.
* Provide $0.5 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to 2025–26 to continue Anti-Slavery Australia’s My Blue Sky website and national service dedicated to forced marriage prevention and support.
* Continue and expand supports for victim-survivors through Services Australia, including:
  + Continuation of the Crisis Payment which is a one-off payment available to income support recipients who are in severe financial hardship and have experienced family or domestic violence.
  + Enact amendments to the Social Security Guide to make it clearer for Services Australia and other stakeholders that family and domestic violence should be considered when determining whether someone is to be assessed as a member of a couple.
* Review of access to and enablement of Defence, Veterans’ and Families’ Acute Support Package for eligible veterans and their family members where family and domestic violence is a primary concern.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Fund the Family Violence Safety Action Program to provide intensive case management, supervision, and engagement with victim-survivors including connecting them with support services and working closely with support services to ensure a collaborative case management response.
* Progress legislative reforms to establish a family and domestic violence information-sharing scheme for the ACT. These reforms are intended to strengthen information use and sharing arrangements relating to family and domestic violence to improve risk management and increase safety.
* Respond to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee’s final report *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* through:
  + $1.5 million over 4 years to establish Independent Sexual Violence Advisors in the ACT to provide on-the-ground expert advocacy, system navigation, and linkages to services and supports for victim-survivors of sexual violence.
  + $4.4 million over 4 years to establish and pilot the Multidisciplinary Centre which will co-locate specialist sexual violence response services in one place to improve ease of access for victim-survivors.
  + Fund $1.4 million over 4 years for an ongoing structured consultation program with victim-survivors of sexual assault to ensure that the lived experience and expertise of victim-survivors is central to driving and informing change.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Co-design, with the NSW family and domestic violence sector, a set of Service Quality Standards to ensure consistency and quality of service delivery to victim-survivors including children and young people. These Standards will apply to services funded by the NSW Government and will outline everyday practice expectations for people working in the family and domestic violence sector, reflecting the quality of service that the community can expect from the organisation.
* Expand access to specialist family and domestic violence case management services across the service sector for those who need it most, including:
  + Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV**):** The NSW Government has continued to expand the SHLV program following an investment of $32 million over 4 years in the 2021–22 NSW Budget. Supporting women and their children to remain safe after leaving a violent relationship, SHLV is an intensive case management program that provides needs-based support to women leaving violence with a strong focus on housing stability, immediate and longer-term safety risk assessment, and security upgrades. Over the last year, SHLV has successfully expanded from 33 to 84 locations across NSW, including 3 locations that are piloting a hybrid model of SHLV service delivery for clients in regional and remote areas.
  + Safer Pathway Expansion: The 2022–23 NSW Budget included an investment of $43.6 million over 4 years to expand and enhance Safer Pathway. This included $37.6 million over 4 years to deliver case management services to victim-survivors with complex needs and to expand referral pathways into the system. Prior to this investment, support available through Safer Pathway's statewide network of service providers, the Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services and Local Support Services, was limited to case coordination, information, safety planning and referrals. The expansion of case management services delivers more intensive, coordinated, and longer-term support for family and domestic violence victim-survivors with complex needs. As part of the Safer Pathway Expansion, the NSW Government is also undertaking a project to expand referral pathways into the system so that more family and domestic violence victim-survivors can access the support they need, including those who are less likely to approach the NSW Police Force.
  + DFV Case Management Mapping: The NSW Government is leading a project to build a comprehensive map of DFV case management and case coordination services across NSW. This project aims to improve understanding of the distribution, nature, availability, and accessibility of these services, and to identify any service gaps and opportunities for integration or expansion of existing services.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Provide specialist, culturally safe and trauma-informed family, domestic and sexual violence counselling and healing options for women victim-survivors in prison.
* Undertake a review of the family and domestic violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF) to assess the RAMF against emerging evidence on fatality risks and assess the implementation of the RAMF across both Information Sharing Entities and non-Information Sharing Entities.
* Implement the Northern Territory’s family and domestic violence RAMF across Northern Territory Government agencies that are also information sharing entities under the *Northern Territory’s Family and Domestic Violence Information Sharing Scheme*.
* Continue to provide specialist wraparound services to expand the supports offered by crisis accommodation services and include counselling, outreach, and flexible support packages.
* Strengthen and expand the Family Safety Framework, a multi-agency risk management response, to serious family and domestic violence risk.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Develop, implement, and embed evidence-based and trauma-informed family and domestic violence practice development frameworks to enhance existing education and training across the family and domestic violence sector, and justice and child safety systems, including funded services (where appropriate).
* Develop, implement, and monitor an integrated inter-agency response to support victim-survivors of sexual violence from the first point of contact with the service system throughout their engagement with the justice system and beyond.
* Review domestic and family violence information sharing guidelines to promote and enhance the use of the guidelines to support integrated approaches.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Ensure the development of integrated service delivery models by trialling partnership service pilots within the current family, domestic and sexual violence service sector, to expand the sector and incorporate the provision of:
  + Holistic family support services for First Nation people and families.
  + Community based responses to refugees and migrant communities.
  + Integrated early intervention, response, and recovery services for victim-survivors.
  + Coordinated community based services for people who choose to use violence.
* Fund ancillary support services to address financial recovery and economic empowerment through specialist services such as the Zahra Foundation.
* Provide statewide risk identification, assessment, and safety planning training to the South Australian government and non-government workforce providing multi-agency risk mitigation to high-risk victims of family, domestic and sexual violence through the *Family Safety Framework.*
* Establish 2 new metropolitan domestic violence prevention and recovery hubs to support and empower women experiencing family and domestic violence as well as help to increase community awareness.
* Continue to support victim-survivors of family and domestic violence via the Department for Correctional Services Victim Services Unit which ensures the needs of victims are addressed in Department for Correctional Services service delivery, policy and program development, and provides victims with timely and accurate information about offenders they are registered against that are under Department for Correctional Services supervision.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Pilot the establishment of 2 Multi-Disciplinary Centres in the north and south of the state to provide survivor-centred, holistic, and integrated responses to family and sexual violence.
* Establish a family and sexual violence liaison service within the Tasmanian Health Service which will provide Family Violence Liaison Officers statewide to support clients who identify as experiencing family and sexual violence to access services.
* Provide historic increased core funding to Tasmania’s specialist family and sexual violence services with 5-year contracts to enable funding certainty.
* Investigate the establishment of a Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Peak to improve coordination of family and sexual violence services, and advice on policy development and service design.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Deliver accessible entry points to family violence services and coordinate services and information to support effective risk assessment and a holistic response for client needs, including:
  + Continuing the development of services offered through the Orange Door Network including enhanced support through connections with legal and financial services.
  + Continue to support the ongoing role of safesteps as the 24/7 crisis service.
* Strengthen family violence services to provide trauma-informed and intersectional services to clients with diverse needs by delivering efforts through the 10-year *Everybody Matters: Inclusion and Equity Statement*, including (but not limited to):
  + Strengthening and expanding family violence responses to Victoria’s multicultural, faith-based and ethno-specific communities, supported by funding through the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–2023.
  + Delivering culturally specific flexible support packages for migrant and refugee women on temporary visas who have experienced family violence.
* Use the *Family Violence Lived Experience Strategy* to:
  + Trial a register of people with lived experience that are seeking opportunities to partner and collaborate on lived experience initiatives within the community sector and across government. The register would support the service system to better understand and respond to the complexity and spectrum of family violence experienced and perpetrated by people with a diverse range of social characteristics.
* Strengthen service and system responses to support victim-survivors of family and sexual violence to receive trauma-informed care by:
  + Implementing activities under the *Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework.*
  + Funding the Royal Women's Hospital to deliver 3 projects in collaboration with the University of Melbourne to strengthen hospital responses as part of the *National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–2023.*
  + Undertake a package of work to strengthen specialist family violence crisis and case management responses for adult and child victim-survivors of family violence, including designing and implementing a new crisis response model and case management program requirements, and improving access to motel type emergency accommodation for victim-survivors.
  + Respond to a continuing increase in demand through boosting case management capacity in the specialist family violence sector, supported by funding under the *National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence*.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Continue to ensure victim-survivors have immediate, early, and ongoing access to safety and are supported to recover, including:
  + Establishing and evaluating the new Broome and Armadale FDV One Stop Hubs which will provide a range of family and domestic violence services in one location, alongside other community services, prioritising ease of access for victims seeking help, assistance and support.

# Action 5

## Strengthen systems and services to better hold people who choose to use violence to account, and provide opportunities to support people who have used violence, or are at risk of using violence, to change their behaviours, with the aim of protecting the safety and wellbeing of current and potential victim-survivors.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 5.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Work together to pursue greater national coordination, collaboration, and sharing of current and innovative approaches for interventions with people who use violence. The Australian government will provide $27.0 million from 2022–23 to 2026–27 through the National Partnership Agreement to partner with states to apply innovative approaches to address family, domestic and sexual violence perpetrator behaviour.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Provide $8.5 million from 2023–24 to 2026–27 for initiatives to support people who have used violence, or are at risk of using violence, to change their behaviours, including:
  + Development of an online national perpetrator referral database of services for people using, or at risk of using, violence to support behaviour change, enhance accountability and stop violence from escalating.
  + Development of a National Perpetrator Risk Assessment Framework for service providers to support them in consistent identification and management of risks posed by perpetrators.
  + Extension of the MensLine Changing for Good service to 2025–26 which is a national telephone service that provides counselling support to reinforce and maintain behavioural and attitudinal change in men who have completed a men's behaviour change program.
* Provide $10.8 million from 2022–23 to 2025–26 to continue funding No To Violence for a Men’s Referral Service offering confidential telephone counselling and referrals for perpetrators of domestic violence to help change their behaviour, and the Brief Intervention Service which provides multi-session telephone counselling to men seeking support to change their violence or controlling behaviour. This funding will also enable continued delivery of training to support frontline workers in their work with men using domestic violence, and an independent review of funded services.
* Support the expansion of evidence-based programs to work with people using violence.
* Provide funding of $1.9 million (2022–23 to 2024–25) for the Parents Beyond Breakup Program. This includes the ‘Dads in Distress’ (DID) Program, which offers in-community peer support groups for men experiencing relationship and family breakdown.
* Provide education and awareness campaigns for veterans and their families to provide opportunities for eligible persons who choose to use violence, or are at risk of using violence, to access funded services and supports.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Fund the Room4Change Program, a residential men’s behaviour change program that provides rental accommodation, programs, and case management service for perpetrators of family and domestic violence, and support for their families.
* Fund the Family Violence Safety Action Program which includes a Perpetrator Response Advisor whose role assists with the coordination of service system responses and intervention with high-risk perpetrators.
* Undertake a suite of family, domestic and sexual violence law reforms, including:
  + The *Sexual Assault Reform Legislation Bill 2022* introduced by the ACT Attorney-General on 13 October 2022 to, amongst other things, implement the first stage of law reform proposals from the *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal Report.* The amendments will seek to improve how ACT laws respond to sexual violence with an aim of improving victim-survivors’ access to justice and enhancing their safety.
  + The *Family Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2022* introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 10 February 2022 was debated and passed on 3 August 2022. This Bill aims to ensure family and domestic violence offenders are held to account, to improve access to justice, and to remove trauma for victims involved in court proceedings.
  + The *Crimes (Policing) Legislation Amendment Bill 2021* presented in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 1 December 2021 w passed on 23 March 2022. Part of this Bill included amendments to the *Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005* with the overarching objective of protecting the safety of children, and the aim to reduce the likelihood of child sex offenders re-offending through enforcing appropriate reporting obligations.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Support the development of Men’s Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) and other community-based interventions to meet the specific needs of perpetrators from diverse backgrounds. NSW is providing $1.6 million for the development of MBCPs to support the specific needs of First Nation communities, LGBTQIA+ communities, multicultural communities, and people living with cognitive impairment. Funding is available to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and providers who are registered, or intend to seek registration, under the *NSW Government Men’s Behaviour Change Program Practice Standards and Compliance Framework*.
* Develop, deliver, and evaluate targeted responses to young people who use violence. Youth Justice NSW will:
  + Continue to build workforce capacity across the agency to respond to young people who use violence in the home including Youth Officers, Case Workers, Psychologists, Convenors, and funded service providers.
  + Continue to implement, monitor, and evaluate use of its intervention for working with young people who have been identified as using violence in the home (Safe Space) and continue to build workforce capability to deliver this intervention given it builds on Dialectical Behaviour Therapy and Narrative Therapy.
  + Use Dialectical Behaviour Therapy across Youth Justice settings.
  + Provide capacity development opportunities to Specialist Housing Services who provide accommodation to young people who use violence in the home, and support funding for accommodation for those young people.
  + Identify opportunities to fund wrap-around culturally safe support for young people with Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) through ACCOs where appropriate.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Co-design and implement a cross-agency evidence-based framework for programs for people who have committed family and domestic violence. The Framework will support alignment and coordination between the programs provided in custody, and those delivered in community, to ensure that victim safety and accountability of people who use violence are the foundational objectives for all programs.
* Expand family and domestic violence programs in prison and Men’s Behaviour Change programs in community settings in line with the new Framework.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Develop and implement a stand-alone, system-wide strategy to strengthen responses to persons using domestic and family violence. The Strategy will outline the Queensland Government’s overarching approach to preventing and responding to persons using domestic and family violence in Queensland and will be informed by the findings and recommendations of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce.
* Develop a state-wide network of perpetrator intervention programs which will include:
  + a diversity of perpetrator interventions across a continuum of risk and need;
  + perpetrator programs specifically tailored to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and
  + an intersectional approach that meets the needs of people with disability, young people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people who identify at LGTBIQA+ in urban, rural, regional and remote locations.
* Progress legislative amendments to enhance the accountability of perpetrators in Queensland, including but not limited to:
  + Creation of a new offence to criminalise coercive control.
  + Creation of a new facilitation offence under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012.*
  + Introduction of an affirmative model of consent.
  + Review of defences and excuses in the *Criminal Code Act 1899.*
* Develop a perpetrator-centric risk assessment approach and tool for incorporation into family and domestic violence service practice standards.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Trial the Collaborative Intervention Partnership to deliver services to young First Nations men and boys moving through the juvenile justice system and men who are exiting remand or prison post-sentence, enabling earlier responses and community support on exit. The Women’s Safety Contact Program will also be extended to provide accountability to these behaviour change programs.
* Deliver evidence-based men’s behaviour change rehabilitation programs in South Australian prisons to address men’s use of violence.
* Provide a grant funded pilot program, Supporting Parents and Children’s Emotions which is an early intervention program for young parents (12-24 years) where there is active use or the risk of violence.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Deliver mandated behaviour change programs, including as part of a family violence order, and for sex offenders.
* Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention assessment and management services to respondents.
* Continue electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence offenders.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Deliver timely services to people who use violence, keeping them in view, identifying and managing risk they pose to victim-survivors, and supporting attitudinal and behaviour change, including:
  + Implementing the Accurate Identification of Predominant Aggressor MARAM Practice Guidance and tool.
  + Continuing to strengthen crisis and medium-term accommodation-based interventions for adults using family violence.
  + Enhancing piloting and evaluation of an intensive, coordinated response to serious-risk adults using family violence and the victim-survivors impacted by their violence.
  + Providing one-on-one support to individuals who are not suited for the Men’s Behaviour Change Program group session model (for example due to mental health conditions, cognitive disabilities, and behaviour management issues) through First Step, a Community Legal Centre working with people who perpetrate family violence.
  + Maintaining and improving current programs and services for adults using violence.
  + Expanding delivery of the Caring Dads program in Community Correctional Services to 4 additional sites across Victoria via funding through the *National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–2023.*
* Provide opportunities for perpetrators to change their behaviour, including engaging at-risk boys and young men early to prevent harmful attitudes and behaviours. This includes piloting an early intervention project targeting at-risk boys and young men between 12-25 who are disengaged from traditional settings, where existing early intervention initiatives can reach them.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Continue to connect people who choose to use violence with timely, evidence-based, culturally responsive, and culturally secure interventions to support accountability and behaviour change, including:
  + Establishing a Broome Aboriginal-led specialist family violence court based on the Barndimalgu Court in Geraldton, including a Family Violence Intervention Service for those who have been referred to the court

# Action 6

## Improve action to prevent and address sexual violence and harassment in all settings, across the four domains of the National Plan.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 6.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Work together to deliver high quality, age appropriate, evidence-based Respectful Relationships Education in Australian schools.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Help build awareness and understanding of sexual violence among mainstream services through education and training on family, domestic and sexual violence for health professionals and frontline workers, including $10.0 million for the continuation of the Monash University Accredited Training for Sexual Violence Response Program until 30 June 2027.
* Create safer, respectful, and more equitable workplaces across Australia by providing $42.5 million to fully implement all 55 recommendations of the Respect@Work report, including:
  + Providing $8 million per year ongoing from 2022–23 to establish and fund working women’s centres in every state and territory to provide free advice and assistance to women on workplace issues including sexual harassment, discrimination, and wage theft.
  + Amending the *Fair Work Act 2009* to expressly prohibit sexual harassment in connection with work from 6 March 2023, and providing $15.1 million in funding to support the Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Ombudsman in their new roles implementing the prohibition and resolving workplace sexual harassment disputes.
  + Legislating a new positive duty in the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* requiring employers to take reasonable and proportionate measures to eliminate sexual harassment and other forms of unlawful conduct as far as possible and empower the Australian Human Rights Commission to investigate non-compliance.
  + Ratifying the *International Labour Organization Convention 190 (Violence and Harassment Convention)*.
  + Establishing a central contact point within the Australian Human Rights Commission to provide victim-survivors of workplace sexual harassment with information about their rights, options for making a complaint, and referrals to support services.
  + Implementing the amendments to the model work health and safety regulations published by Safe Work Australia to provide clarity about how businesses are required to proactively manage psychosocial hazards, including sexual harassment. The Commonwealth amendments to the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011* came into effect on 1 April 2023.
  + Amending the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* to include sexual harassment, harassment on the ground of sex or discrimination as a gender equality indicator, and expand requirements for employer reporting on this indicator.
* Implementing government-led recommendations in the Set the Standard: Report on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary *Workplaces (2021)*, including:
  + Establishing a statutory Parliamentary Workplace Support Service by providing $51.7 million to provide human resource functions for parliamentarians and their staff, provide support to other Commonwealth parliamentary workplace participants, and support sustained improvement in the culture and safety of Commonwealth parliamentary workplaces.
  + Establishing an Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission to investigate complaints about breaches of codes of conduct for parliamentarians and *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* staff, and behavioural standards for Commonwealth parliamentary workplaces.
  + Raising awareness of the assistance and support available through the eSafety Commissioner for those affected by seriously harmful online abuse.
* Building awareness about managing workplace psychosocial hazards, including sexual harassment, by providing $2 million over 2 years (2023–25) for training to be delivered to the providers who train Health and Safety Representatives in the Commonwealth jurisdiction.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Continue implementing the recommendations of *the Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal Report* to improve the prevention of sexual violence and responses to victim-survivors. The recommendations cover a broad range of themes, including a long-term sexual violence prevention strategy, an ongoing consultation program with victim-survivors, enhanced workplace safety, improved data collection, and a governance model for the coordination of these reforms. Recommendations also relate to training and education including relationship and sexuality education, improved training on the dynamics of sexual violence, cultural competency of specialist workers and their organisations, and bystander training.
* Enforce the *Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2022*, presented in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 8 February 2022 and passed on 5 May 2022. This Bill forms part of significant holistic government reform to align with contemporary community understandings and expectations of consensual sexual activity. The amendments make it clear that consent must be given and cannot be assumed.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Expand the Make No Doubt consent campaign, an innovative community education campaign to help prevent sexual assault and raise awareness and understanding of sexual consent. The third phase targeted young people aged 16-24 years old and supports changes to sexual consent laws in NSW.
* Establish a Respect@Work Taskforce within SafeWork NSW focused on reducing sexual harassment and other gender-based harms in the workplace. The Taskforce will seek to:
  + Raise awareness that workplace sexual harassment is a work health and safety (WHS) issue and the responsibility of employers to eliminate or minimise.
  + Educate and equip workplaces to prevent and respond to workplace sexual harassment.
  + Drive better WHS regulatory outcomes for workplace sexual harassment.
* The Taskforce will focus on targeted high-risk industries and at-risk worker groups, and on broader work across the NSW and Federal Governments to ensure alignment and targeted action.
* Partner with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to develop, deliver, and evaluate an eLearning package that addresses workplace sexual harassment in the retail and hospitality industries. This project will support NSW commitments in response to the AHRC’s Respect@Work Report which highlighted the high rates of workplace sexual harassment in the retail and hospitality industries.
* Implement a program of work under the Equity and Respect Framework that will support the NSW public sector to prevent and address sexual harassment in the workplace. Key elements of the Equity and Respect framework include:
  + An interactive online information tool for the NSW Public Sector context where individuals can seek information and support on sexual harassment in the workplace.
  + Qualitative research to understand the high prevalence of reported sexual harassment amongst LGBTIQA+ employees.
  + Development of a pilot workplace sexual harassment prevention training package for managers. The training will educate managers on how to prevent sexual harassment in their workplaces and respond to sexual harassment in a trauma-informed, person-centred approach.
  + A model sexual harassment prevention policy for agencies to adopt and tailor to their workforce.
* Implement a sexual harassment policy that meets a number of minimum standards by 1 March 2024, as per a direction issued by the NSW Public Service Commissioner.
* Agencies will be encouraged to use the model policy as a template. Implementing the model policy across the sector supports best practice guiding principles and approaches to preventing and responding to sexual harassment in the workplace. The model policy provides guidance on the legislative environment and aligns with the new positive duty to eliminate workplace sexual harassment.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Establish a sexual harassment prevention officer in NT Worksafe to develop and implement initiatives on workplace sexual harassment in the Northern Territory, including providing information and support for workers and employers, and improving systems and data collection.
* Implement the Northern Territory relevant Respect@Work Report recommendations including a multi-agency implementation plan will be developed and progressed.
* Deliver sustainable and accessible training options for workers to respond to children, young people, and adults who experience sexual violence.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Implement a primary prevention-focused community education campaign to improve awareness and understanding about sexual violence and consent.
* Strengthen protections to combat sexual harassment and discrimination in communities and the workplace, through implementing the:
  + Queensland Government response to the Queensland Human Rights Commission’s Building Belonging Report.
  + Recommendations from the Respect@Work report as relevant to Queensland.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Introduce legislation criminalising coercive control to improve the legal system’s response to family and domestic violence.
* Review legislation on consent to sexual activity to ensure it protects victims of unwanted sexual activity and reflects community expectations.
* Increase funding to Yarrow Place to support provision of forensic medical services and counselling for victim-survivors of sexual assault in regional areas.
* Ensure sexual assault forensics are accessible in the following Local Health Networks: Eyre and Far North, Yorke and Northern, Flinders and Upper North, and Riverland Mallee.
* Develop a regional sexual assault procedure in collaboration with Yarrow Place and the regional Local Health Networks.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Provide funding to continue to deliver the Harmful Sexual Behaviours Program for children and young people up to 17 years who display harmful sexual behaviours and sexually abusive behaviours.
* Continue embedding Workplace Equality and Respect Standards in Tasmanian Government Agencies to ensure gender equality and respect are at the centre of all workplaces.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Support improved understanding, including by adolescents, of affirmative consent and raise awareness of sexual violence across the state by:
  + Embedding the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Sexual Offences and Other Matters) Act 2022* to introduce an affirmative model of consent and provide better protections for victim-survivors of sexual offences.
  + Piloting the Supporting Young People to Understand Affirmative Consent Program.
* Improve recognition, reporting pathways and responses to sexual violence by:
  + Developing a Victorian strategy to prevent and address sexual violence, abuse, and harm in response to the *Victorian Law Reform Commission's report on Improving Justice Responses to Sexual Offences*.
  + Designing an online reporting pathway model for victim-survivors of sexual violence in Victoria.
* Through the 2023–24 State Budget provide:
  + Funding for sexual assault support services to support victim-survivors of sexual assault and harm.
  + Funding for Aboriginal-led sexual assault support services.
  + Critical responses to children and young people including funding for the Sexually Abusive Behaviours Treatment Service.
  + Specialist support for women with complex needs, including those who have been harmed or exploited through the sex industry.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Collaborate across the service system and with community leaders to improve recognition of and responses to sexual violence, including:
  + Developing Western Australia’s first strategy for preventing and responding to sexual violence to improve outcomes for victims of sexual violence, focusing on primary prevention, support and recovery, and holding perpetrators to account.

# Action 7

## Work in formal partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure policies and services are culturally competent, strengths-based and trauma-informed and meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, aligning with the goals of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 7.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Commit to building and strengthening structures and systems that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress against Closing the Gap.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Embed Priority Reform One of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Closing the Gap) in informing policies and solutions on family, domestic and sexual violence through working in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence to:
  + Provide advice and input into family, domestic and sexual violence policy development including through the development of the standalone First Nations National Plan for family safety.
  + Work with the Women and Women’s Safety Ministerial Council to meet the aims of Target 13 of Closing the Gap: to reduce all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children at least by 50 per cent, as progress toward zero.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Fund an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led organisation to establish a specific service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women where a range of legal, advocacy, practical and healing activities can be delivered to support the implementation of Recommendation 4 of the *We Don’t Shoot Our Wounded…* report.
* Commit $935,000 for consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure culturally-informed implementation, in response to the recommendations of the *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal Report,* to prevent and respond to sexual assault in the ACT.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Strengthen and support connections to established Aboriginal community and stakeholder DFSV advisory networks, to ensure Aboriginal leadership and lived experience insights guide decision making and design of initiatives and solutions to address domestic, family and sexual violence in Aboriginal communities.
* Deliver and implement the NSW Health Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention Strategy which sets a vision for Aboriginal peoples, families and communities to live free of violence, abuse and neglect.
* The Strategy is underpinned by the Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention Program which delivers services to Aboriginal peoples, families and communities to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and neglect.
* To support implementation of the Strategy, the following actions will be undertaken:
  + Expansion of the Finding Justice Our Way program through the *National Partnership Agreement for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–23*. This program supports Aboriginal women in the criminal justice system, many of whom have experienced family, domestic and sexual violence. The expansion will scale up the model developed by Waminda Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in Nowra, to meet increased demand and extend the program to additional locations.
  + Funding of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, through the National Partnership Agreement for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–23, to enhance and expand the Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention Program by:
    - Delivering men and women’s camps to raise awareness of family and sexual violence and to deliver programs for healing.
    - Implementing community development activities for prevention, awareness and response to family and sexual violence.
    - Developing local resources through women’s groups and men’s groups addressing family and sexual violence and their impact on families, communities, victims and children.
  + Development of the Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention Program Guidelines which will set out the model of care and workforce roles, responsibilities, and professional development requirements.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Establish and implement an Aboriginal led DFSV prevention initiatives fund to support the increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of healthy, safe and respectful relationships (including understanding non-physical forms of family, domestic and sexual violence) in remote communities and contribute to longer term prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence. The prevention initiatives will be designed, delivered and led by Aboriginal communities.
* Co-design a campaign to increase understanding of healthy and safe relationships and coercive control with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Aboriginal media outlets and Aboriginal communities.
* Support the new DFSV Aboriginal Advisory Board to advise the Minister for the Prevention of DFSV on DFSV policies and programs as they impact upon Aboriginal peoples, organisations and communities.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Continue to implement *Queensland’s Framework for Action: Reshaping our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic and family violence.*
* Develop a whole-of-government strategy and action plan for culturally safe services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who interact with the criminal justice system.
* Undertake an audit of critical areas of service delivery to determine the cultural responsiveness of services.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Trial a pilot to provide culturally appropriate support to Aboriginal families through a partnership called Kumangka /ACCOs Together. This will comprise an integrated ‘whole of family response’ providing holistic support through an intensive, long-term, cultural healing and recovery program. The partnership aims to meet the cultural and service needs of Aboriginal families and embed the priority reforms under Closing the Gap Target 13.
* Improve Aboriginal participation on the SA Health Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Executive Lead Network. Executives in the network have responsibility for ensuring the Local Health Networks, SA Ambulance Service and Drug and Alcohol Services are compliant with SA Health Policy Directives for SDFV.
* Continue partnering with Port Power to deliver Respectful Relationships Education to students enrolled in the Santos Aboriginal Power Cup through the expansion of the ‘Respectful Relationships’ program for boys and the ‘Empowered’ program for girls.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Take specific and significant action to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence in Aboriginal communities as outlined in Tasmania’s *Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan*.
* To achieve the intent of Target 13 under Closing the Gap, a specific position will be funded to work in partnership with Aboriginal organisations to collaboratively develop and mutually agree specific actions and strategies.
* Continue to support Aboriginal families through the Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in Child and Family Learning Centres.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Work in partnership with Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal services to ensure Aboriginal peoples, families and communities are stronger, safer, thriving and living free from family violence, including:
  + Implementing the *Dhelk Dja Second Three Year Action Plan 2023–2025*, the key Aboriginal-led Victorian Agreement to address family violence.
  + Establishing Aboriginal Access Points to complement the service model to work alongside The Orange Door. Aboriginal Access Points will provide a culturally safe referral pathway for Aboriginal peoples impacted by family violence.
  + Delivering the Strengthening Cultural Safety in The Orange Door project which aims to support the delivery of a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal peoples seeking services, and the Aboriginal workforce, through sustainable and locally driven implementation of a Cultural Safety Assessment and Action Plan.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Continue to work with Aboriginal peoples and communities to ensure actions to prevent and reduce family and domestic violence are flexible, culturally responsive and culturally secure to better meet the needs of Aboriginal peoples, including:
  + Managing the first stage implementation of the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy with a focus on healing, supporting men and boys, transforming service provision to drive local, sustainable, and culturally safe solutions, and using culture as the guiding frame for prevention and early intervention.

# Action 8

## Develop and implement age appropriate, culturally safe programs across all four domains, informed by children and young people, that support recovery and healing from trauma, and intervene early to address violence supportive behaviours and support recovery and healing from trauma.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 8.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Explore mechanisms to better involve children and young people in policy, program and service development across the four domains of prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery and healing.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Provide trauma-informed services for children who have experienced the impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence, including:
  + $3.6 million for the Helping Children Heal initiative which aims to support children aged 6-12 years who are struggling to reach developmental, social and educational milestones due to family and domestic violence.
  + $2.8 million to review emergency accommodation services and their suitability for children.
  + $34.8 million from 2022–23 to 2026–27 for a national early intervention trial for young men and adolescent boys aged 12-18 who present with adverse childhood experiences including family and domestic violence, and who are at risk of perpetrating family, domestic or sexual violence.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Work with the Australian Childhood Foundation to pilot a new response for children aged 5-12 and their mothers who have experienced domestic and family violence. The service will also focus on strengthening and reconnecting the bond between the child and the non-violent parent.
* Continue to work in partnership with Canberra Police Community Youth Club to deliver the Solid Ground Pilot Program to support young people with experiences of domestic and family violence. Solid Ground focuses on mentoring, stronger connections to community, upskilling safe and respectful relationships, an informed understanding of unhealthy attitudes about relationships and gender-based biases, and an increase of emotional awareness and management.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Implement *Safety in Action 2022–2024* – the first action plan for preventing and responding to problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by children and young people, including supports for affected children and young people and their families, including *Children First 2022–2031* and *Talking About It*.
* Implement the Child Safe Scheme to require relevant organisations to implement Child Safe Standards through their systems, policies, and procedures.
* Provide coordinated and culturally appropriate support for young people interacting with the youth justice system who are using, experiencing, or at risk of using or experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence. Youth Justice NSW will, in addition to mainstream interventions for young people using or experiencing violence in the home:
  + Continue to deliver My Journey My Life and My Journey My Life (Yinnar) to young Aboriginal men and young Aboriginal women, respectively, who use violence in their interpersonal relationships.
  + Evaluate its Pasifika program for Pacific Island young people as a basis for considering its ongoing implementation with Pacific Islander young people who are using or experiencing violence in the home.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Deliver a new DFSV early intervention grant program to support young people who are starting to use violence, and change their trajectory through a therapeutic approach. The program will require partnership with Aboriginal community controlled organisations and a funded evaluation component will be included.
* Strengthen the response of specialist services towards child victim-survivors to reduce the impacts of DFSV, increase their safety, and assist recovery by supporting specialist services to offer therapeutic, child-centred supports to child victim-survivors to reduce the impacts of DFSV and help recovery.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Continue to implement the *Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework* which provides specific screening tools for children under the age of 13, and outlines signs of domestic and family violence in children, providing guidance on how to act on the information.
* Continue to implement and evaluate place-based responses to youth sexual violence and abuse in Toowoomba, Bundaberg and Yarrabah.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Support the development of age appropriate, co-designed early intervention programs, including:
  + Migrant Youth SA – Community Circles, coercive control program.
  + KWY Youth, My Journey program.
  + Respectful Relationships Education to young men in Year 10 across South Australia.
* Continue to deliver the regional safety hub program with 10 hubs located across 9 regions. The safety hubs provide a safe space for women to access information and assistance in their local community. Trained volunteers and staff provide an early intervention service for women experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence and raise awareness in the broader community.
* Continue to deliver the KIND Perpetrator Program, an early intervention program working with perpetrators of adolescent family violence and adolescent dating violence.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Provide an additional appointment for parents and children who identify as experiencing family violence through the Child Health and Parenting Service.
* Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program into a statewide program across the South, North and North-West to provide early intervention for adolescents who use violence in their families and with intimate partners.
* Continue the Family Violence Liaison Officer in the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line.
* Continue to provide increased counselling services for children and young people experiencing family violence through the Australian Childhood Foundation and the Family Violence Counselling Support Service CHYPP program.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Support child wellbeing and safety by addressing the system gaps in child and family services, by delivering on the *Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children Strategy* to transform the child and family system. It focuses on earlier intervention and prevention to reduce vulnerability and equip children and young people to reach their full potential.
* Through the 2023–24 State Budget, continue to embed and build evidence in responding to young people who use violence in the home, inclusive of:
  + Testing extended and after hours for young people and their families over the next 2 years.
  + Developing and testing a practice and service model for young people and their families from multicultural communities.
  + Evaluating the new Adolescent Family Violence in the Home early intervention Model of Care for Young people using family violence in the home.
* Address gaps in the service system through tailored supports to adolescents experiencing family violence or using violence, focusing on:
  + Supporting young people aged 15-19 who are victim-survivors.
  + Providing therapeutic interventions, including age-appropriate therapies, for children and young people.
  + Funding 4 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations until June 2025 to design and deliver adolescent family violence in the home responses.
  + Developing child and young person focused MARAM Practice Guides and tools to provide comprehensive guidance on assessing and managing risk and wellbeing.
* Continue to implement the Youth Justice Case Management Framework which uses a trauma-informed lens when assessing and managing young people and includes assessing family violence risk and implementing supports to address responsivity needs.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Support the long-term recovery and wellbeing of children and young people who have experienced family and domestic violence, including:
  + Establishing and monitoring a counselling program for young people who have experienced family and domestic violence with one regional and one metropolitan-based service.

# Action 9

## Improve police responses and the justice system to better support victim-survivors through the provision of trauma-informed, culturally safe supports that promote safety and wellbeing, and hold people who choose to use violence to account.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 9.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Seek to take actions individually and collectively under the *Standing Council of Attorneys-General Work Plan to Strengthen Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault 2022–2027*, under its 3 priority areas:
  + Strengthening legal frameworks to ensure victims and survivors have improved justice outcomes and protections.
  + Building justice sector capability to better support and protect victims and survivors.
  + Supporting research and greater collaboration to identify best practices, and to ensure actions are supported by a sound and robust evidence base.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Provide $6.5 million over 4 years for strengthening and harmonising sexual assault and consent laws, including:
  + Establishing an Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry (ALRC) into justice responses to sexual violence with a focus on law reform proposals to strengthen sexual assault laws and improve the outcomes and experiences of victim-survivors in the justice system.
  + Hosting a ministerial-level roundtable on addressing sexual violence, bringing together victims and survivors, the service and advocacy sectors and other experts, and state and territory ministers to drive nationwide, cross-sector collaboration and inform the terms of the ALRC Inquiry.
  + Convening an Expert Advisory Group to support the ALRC Inquiry and advise Government on implementation of its recommendations.
  + Driving nationwide efforts to strengthen criminal justice responses to sexual assault, including implementing the *Standing Council of Attorneys-General Work Plan to Strengthen Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault 2022–2027*.
* Embed trauma-informed and culturally safe response models to support victim-survivors through the family court and justice systems, including:
  + Investing $4.1 million on a national training and education package to enhance police responses on a series of family, domestic and sexual violence matters, including increasing general awareness of coercive control and indicators to identify subtle abusive behaviours.
  + Providing $87.9 million for an extension of the Lighthouse Project, an innovative approach taken by the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia to screen for and manage risk, with a primary focus on improving outcomes for families involved in the family law system, to all 15 primary family law registries. This includes $24.2 million to legal aid commissions to increase their capacity to support this expansion.
  + Engaging additional Indigenous Family Liaison Officers across the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children engaging with the family court system.
  + Investing $1.2 million for a national justice sector education and training package on the nature and impacts of sexual assault, commencing in 2023.
  + Providing $8.4 million for greater access to specialised and trauma-informed services for victim-survivors of sexual violence through a pilot of a new legal service model for victim-survivors of sexual assault. The pilot sites are expected to commence in late 2023.
  + Strengthening legislative procedural protections for vulnerable witnesses including victim-survivors of child sexual assault in criminal proceedings.
  + Providing $2.1 million to conduct a scoping study on alternative reporting mechanisms for victim-survivors of sexual assault who may not wish to engage directly with police or formal justice processes.
  + Providing $0.4 million to conduct a scoping study to explore the merits of establishing a Commonwealth witness intermediary scheme to support witnesses to give their best evidence in Commonwealth criminal proceedings.
  + Undertaking a comprehensive national review and comparative analysis of criminal law frameworks, including definitions, offences, and defences, relating to sex assault and child sexual abuse.
  + Undertaking a review of specialist approaches to managing sexual assault cases, including specialist lists and courts, and specific procedures, case management practice, support services and arrangements for complainant safety.
  + Providing $0.9 million to engage an appropriately experienced provider to develop and deliver continuing professional development (CPD) training for legal practitioners on coercive control.
* Progress changes to improve safety in international child abduction matters under the *1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (the Convention), including investing $18.4 million over 4 years to deliver:
  + A new Legal Financial Assistance scheme from 1 January 2024 for eligible parents who are defending against a Hague return application (respondent parents), so that both respondent parents and requesting parents seeking the child’s return have access to funding for legal representation in Hague Convention cases heard in Australia.
  + Funding to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia from 1 January 2024 to deliver new alternative dispute resolution programs and child assessments that provide intervention pathways in Convention matters.
  + Enhanced social support services and counselling for parents, targeted training for alternative dispute resolution practitioners and improved capability to obtain evidence about family violence and administer the Convention.
* Investing $46.5 million in continuing and expanding two family law pilot programs to help vulnerable women achieve quick, safe, fair and affordable property settlements after separation, including:
  + $13.4 million for all legal aid commissions to continue a lawyer-assisted family law property mediation service which provides legal advice and mediation to help separated couples reach agreement about disputes involving small property pools from July 2023.
  + $33.1 million for the national expansion of the ‘Priority Property Pools’ program which provides separated couples dividing small property pools with access to expedited resolution through a streamlined court process. This program will be available throughout the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and in the Family Court of Western Australia in the second half of 2023.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Allocate $3.8 million to expand the ACT Policing Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team in response to the recommendations of the *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report.
* Commit $2.8 million for a *Sexual Assault (Police) Review*, in response to the recommendations of the *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal* report. Findings from the Review will form the broader consideration of the justice system reforms and inform responses for victim-survivors of sexual violence.
* Provide vulnerable witnesses with the opportunity to have their evidence recorded and used in a related proceeding such as a re-trial. This was enacted through the *Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (No 2)* passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly in March 2023. This Bill amended the *Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1991* to ensure that vulnerable witnesses who give their evidence in court are not unnecessarily re-traumatised in a subsequent proceeding by having to give their evidence in court for the subsequent proceeding.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Increase the accessibility of the Sexual Assault Reporting Option (SARO) and educate the community on options for reporting sexual assault to police, and police investigation of sexual assault through digitisation of the SARO form and making this available online in multiple languages on the NSW Police Force adult sexual assault page on the Community Portal. This online form provides opportunities for victims to report anonymously, nominate to be contacted if further victims are identified, or seek police contact.
* Future actions relating to educating the community on reporting options and police investigations include:
  + The development of SARO cards which will be placed at hospitals and community groups for victims who may wish to report their experience but not undergo a formal investigation or report in person.
  + A ‘Speak to an Officer’ program that will allow community members to request a phone call or video conference with an officer via an online form. This is an opportunity for police to explain to victims what their reporting options are and what happens during an investigation. Victims can then make an informed decision about their ongoing engagement with police.
* Trial Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service support for women victim-survivors in family, domestic and sexual violence related court hearings. The pilot will be expanded to cover all courts that regularly hear DFV matters from November 2023.
* The pilot aims to:
  + Reduce the stress and trauma associated with the court process for women victim-survivors.
  + Reduce the likelihood that women victim-survivors may disengage from the court process, either by failing to attend their hearing date or becoming an unfavourable witness.
  + Help women victim-survivors give accurate evidence.
  + Help women victim-survivors to obtain protection orders with appropriate conditions to ensure their safety.
  + Increase successful prosecutions for DFV charges.
* Continue to implement coercive control reforms (including the coercive control offence and a definition of domestic abuse) by June 2024 in response to the legislative reform recommendations made by the *Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control.* The Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce oversees implementation in consultation with sector-specific reference groups. The Taskforce reports to the Attorney General each six months during implementation and yearly thereafter until the third statutory review.
* Consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including Aboriginal peoples to inform the development of a Corrective Services NSW Domestic and Family Violence Framework to identify best practice strategies and programs for DFV offenders receiving correctional services. It will include strategies to support female offenders who are also victims of domestic violence, and strategies to support current partners and family of DFV offenders, as well as early intervention strategies for people at risk of escalating DFV offending.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Continue with the review of legislation and justice responses to domestic and family violence in the NT, including amendments to the NT’s Domestic and Family Violence Act and reforms to sexual offences legislative responses.
* Strengthen the Specialist DFV Court Model at the Alice Springs Local Court through additional investment in the DFV Registrar position, a legal education package, an evaluation, legal representation for protected persons and defendants, and non-legal support for victim-survivors.
* Implement a DFV Specialist Prosecutor and additional witness assistance supports to reduce the stress and trauma for victim-survivors of DFV arising through criminal proceedings and improving the capacity of the DPP to take a specialist approach to DFV prosecutions.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Develop a trauma-informed and intersectional strategy for Court Services Queensland and Community Justice Services.
* Progress various legislative reforms to improve the treatment of victim-survivors during court processes in Queensland. This includes (but is not limited to) amending the *Evidence Act 1977* to:
  + Introduce jury directions that address misconceptions about sexual violence.
  + Allow for evidence to be recorded and stored for use in any retrial.
  + Include examples of improper questions.
  + Introduce ground rules hearings for DFSV offences.
  + Allow for the admission of expert evidence about the nature and effect of sexual violence.
* Continue to roll out specialist domestic and family violence courts informed by the outcomes of the evaluation of the Southport Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court model.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Introduce legislation to make electronic monitoring a condition of bail for people charged with certain serious domestic and family violence offences. This will improve victim-survivors’ safety by reducing the likelihood that alleged perpetrators of serious domestic and family violence offences will approach alleged victims while released on bail.
* Progress a bill to amend the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA)* to include the experience of domestic and family violence as a ground of discrimination. This will make it illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis that they are being, or have been, subjected to domestic and family violence.
* Introduce legislation to criminalise coercive control to prevent and end this form of gender-based violence. Introduction and implementation of this legislation will seek to broaden community understanding of coercive control.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Provide next generation technology and instruments for forensic scientists to ensure higher quality evidence for court proceedings, and increase capacity for storage of evidence, including sexual evidence kits.
* Continue to provide legal assistance to people experiencing family and sexual violence.
* Continue to strengthen specialist police prosecution.
* Continue to ensure forensic medical examinations for adult victim-survivors of family and sexual violence is a statewide service.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Enhance the safety and improve court user experiences for victim-survivors, including:
  + Continuing planning to expand Specialist Family Violence Courts to an additional court by 2025 (there are 13 currently established across Victoria). Also progress capital works across 7 courts to enhance safety and improve court experience.
  + Enabling Court Mandated Counselling Orders to be made from 13 courts from 2023 upon finalisation of a Family Violence Intervention Order. This will be increased with the expansion of Specialist Family Violence Courts through to 2025. Planning to incorporate behaviour change programs for diverse cohorts is under consideration.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Work to improve responses to better support victim-survivors and hold people who choose to use violence to account through a coordinated approach involving police, justice and FDV Coordinated Response Services by:
  + Implementing and evaluating the rollout of the 34 new Family Safety Coordinators as part of the Enhanced Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT) Model (a partnership between the Department of Communities, Western Australia Police Force and FDV Coordinated Response Services) to provide intensive, culturally responsive services for victim-survivors at highest risk of harm.
  + Trialing the inclusion of the Department of Justice (Adult Community Corrections officers) as a core partner in 2 of the existing FDVRT locations (West Kimberley and Fremantle).

# Action 10

## Improve access to short-term, medium and long-term housing for women and children experiencing violence, including those living in institutional settings, and supporting women to stay in their own homes when they choose to do so.

The following outlines the activities that each jurisdiction will undertake to contribute to Action 10.

**Jurisdiction:** The Commonwealth, states and territories will:

* Continue the national Keeping Women Safe in their Homes (KWSITH) initiative until 2026–27. KWSITH is designed to undertake risk assessments, safety planning and security upgrades for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence so they can stay in their own homes, or a home of their choice, where it is safe to do so. This includes:
  + $41.72 million in Commonwealth funding over 5 years from 2022–23 to 2026–27.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Government will:

* Ensure women and children experiencing violence have safe and secure housing, from crisis accommodation to longer-term, sustainable social housing, through:
  + The $10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund which will build 30,000 new social and affordable housing properties in the first 5 years. Around 4,000 social housing dwellings will be allocated for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence. Once established, investment returns will also be used to fund social and affordable housing projects, including crisis and transitional housing options for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness. Legislation to establish the Housing Australia Future Fund is currently before Parliament (introduced in February 2023). Over the first 5 years, returns from the Housing Australia Future Fund is intended to fund $100 million for crisis and transitional housing options for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence, and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness. The Housing Australia Future Fund needs to be established before any returns are generated.
  + Funding $100 million over 2022–23 to 2026–27 to continue the Safe Places program, through the Safe Places Inclusion Round (Inclusion Round), which is a second round of funding under the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence. The Inclusion Round will focus on improving access to appropriate emergency accommodation for First Nations women and children, women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and women and children with disability.

**Jurisdiction:** The Australian Capital Territory Government will:

* Allocate $36 million to 57 programs across the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes $8.8 million to 11 programs for women with or without accompanying children. Programs include short term crisis accommodation, medium term transitional housing, domestic violence support, counselling, education and advocacy services.
* Commit to addressing homelessness by investing an additional $18 million over 4 years (2020–24) to expand the capacity of the specialist homelessness sector, under the Parliamentary and Government Agreement. In September 2021, the government announced a further $8.63 million over 3 years through the 2021–22 ACT Budget including programs commenced during the COVID-19 pandemic. This also involved an overall 12.7 per cent increase in funding across the specialist homelessness sector which incorporated a base funding increase of over 10 per cent and a CPI indexation increase.
* Continue working with community sector providers through a strategic partnership process on homelessness services. This commissioning process provided an opportunity to better understand service gaps and sector needs incorporating the lived experience of service users (including DFSV service users) to identify outcomes to plan and design effective service models. An Insights Report has been released capturing the entirety of the consultation learnings, informing the Homelessness Strategic Investment plan for the future of homelessness services in the ACT beyond July 2023.

**Jurisdiction:** The New South Wales Government will:

* Develop new strategies and approaches for homelessness and social housing that consider the needs of victim-survivors of family and domestic violence.
* Deliver and operate new women’s refuges and upgrade 8 existing refuges to the core and cluster model, including wrap-around and support services for victim-survivors, including children and young people and Aboriginal peoples.

**Jurisdiction:** The Northern Territory Government will:

* Fund a specialist DFV outreach worker to be embedded at visitor accommodation to support victim-survivors by conducting risk assessments, safety planning and case management, to enable earlier engagement of victim-survivors with specialist services.
* Improve intersections between Housing and DFSV Policies and Programs to better align the government’s housing and homelessness reform strategies and DFSV prevention and response strategies, and improve the integrated response to the housing needs of DFSV victim-survivors.
* Pilot and evaluate a DFSV Housing Pathways Transitional Accommodation program to support victim-survivors to access and maintain housing in the private rental market.

**Jurisdiction:** The Queensland Government will:

* Deliver enhanced housing service response for women and families experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence through a specialist response team, head leasing housing and flexible assistance packages.
* Continue to investigate and streamline pathways to safe, secure and affordable housing for people experiencing domestic and family violence.
* Ensure Queensland's rental laws continue to support renters experiencing domestic and family violence to ensure their tenancy agreements meet their safety and security needs.

**Jurisdiction:** The South Australian Government will:

* Work with the finance and real estate industries to ensure women do not bear the brunt of mortgages, loans and rent that go unpaid due to domestic and family violence to improve the financial and housing security of women experiencing domestic and family violence.
* Invest $7.4 million over 4 years to extend the Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP) and Perpetrator Response Program. The CAP provides women and children escaping family and domestic violence up to 4 weeks accommodation and case management support to secure safe and stable housing, including where possible, returning safely home.
* Continue to work towards housing security for older South Australian women to curb the trend of older women being the fastest growing cohort experiencing homelessness in Australia, through the Housing Security for Older Women Taskforce.

**Jurisdiction:** The Tasmanian Government will:

* Deliver the Safe Beds for Pets program that will establish a coordinated network of safe bed providers and fund safe bed places for Tasmanians at risk of, or experiencing family and sexual violence.
* Continue to deliver the Rapid Rehousing Program. This ongoing program provides supported housing options for families affected by family violence, allowing them access to safe and affordable rental homes.
* Continue to deliver Flexible Support Packages. This ongoing program supports a holistic response to people experiencing family violence by providing practical supports to enhance safety and wellbeing when leaving an abusive relationship.

**Jurisdiction:** The Victorian Government will:

* Provide a holistic approach to meeting victim-survivors’ short, medium and long term accommodation needs and reducing the risks of homelessness for victim-survivors, including:
  + Continuing the delivery of the Refuge Redevelopment Program to replace many existing communal refuges with ‘core and cluster’ style accommodation. This includes building new Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation refuges.
  + Providing more victim-survivors who are ready to leave refuges and crisis accommodation with medium-term temporary stable housing and coordinated family violence support, with the aim of supporting them to maintain their tenancy or obtain other independently managed housing.
  + Continuing to deliver the Big Housing Build which will contribute to housing victim-survivors and where 10% of all net new social housing dwellings will be allocated to Aboriginal Victorians.
  + Funding the Safe Steps and McAuley Community Services for Women collaborative crisis accommodation model for high-risk households with very high support needs, and the McAuley Community Services for Women and Good Samaritan Inn support for family violence victim survivors, including children, experiencing homelessness to access crisis accommodation.
  + Continuing delivery and development of accommodation-based interventions for perpetrators of family violence excluded from the family home due to family violence including: Men’s Accommodation and Counselling Service delivered by the Men’s Referral Service and the Medium Term Perpetrator Accommodation Service.
  + Trialing a pilot project delivering medium-term (up to 18 months) accommodation together with family violence and other universal and specialist services support program coordination to people who have experienced family violence, via funding through the *National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021–2023.*
  + Implementing the *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort; Every Aboriginal Person Has a Home – The Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework,* to support tailored housing and accommodation approaches to support victim-survivors.

**Jurisdiction:** The Western Australian Government will:

* Work to improve access to safe and stable housing for women and children escaping family and domestic violence, including:
  + Delivery of two Rapid Rehousing for Women Leaving Refuge programs enabling up to 40 eligible women (and their children) per scheme, per annum to access the private rental market. One of the programs will be designated specifically for supporting Aboriginal women and children.