

Second Action Plan 2013-2016

Moving Ahead

***Of the National Plan to Reduce Violence
against Women and their Children 2010-2022***

Safe and free from violence

An initiative of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

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Foreword

All Australian governments are strongly committed to reducing the alarming rates of violence against women and their children in this country.

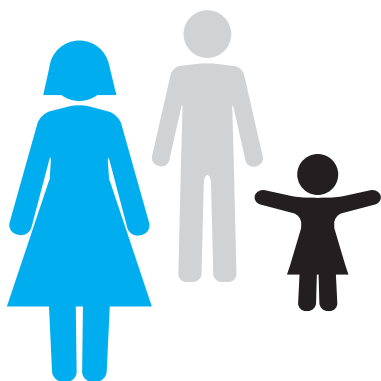
Commonwealth, state and territory governments are working together, with the community to implement the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan). The National Plan is a 12-year strategy with a vision that *Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities*.

This is the Second Action Plan of the National Plan. It runs from 2013 to 2016 and contains 26 practical actions that all governments agree are critical if we are to move ahead in improving women's safety.

The First Action Plan laid a strong foundation for the changes we want to see in the future by establishing essential national infrastructure and innovative services.

The Second Action Plan will build on this by increasing community involvement in actions that will prevent the violent crimes of domestic and family violence and sexual assault. It will focus on women and communities that have diverse experiences of violence, on strengthening and integrating services and systems, and on improving responses to perpetrators across the country. Governments will also continue to work together to build and improve the evidence base around violence against women and their children, and to bring together and disseminate research that can inform policy and practice.

Reducing violence against women and their children is a community issue - it needs effort from us all. Living free from violence is everyone's right, and reducing violence is everyone's responsibility.



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Introduction

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan) was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and released in February 2011. It brings together the efforts of Commonwealth, state and territory governments and the community to make *a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children*. The National Plan has, and will continue to, build on reforms being driven in individual jurisdictions. It provides an overarching mechanism to improve the scope, focus and effectiveness of actions by all governments to create safe communities.

The National Plan targets two main types of violence against women – domestic and family violence and sexual assault. These are violent crimes; they are wrong, and they disproportionately affect women. The National Plan has a strong focus on stopping violence before it occurs in the first place, and on changing community attitudes around both gender equality and violence against women and their children, in order to effect long-term change. It also focuses on ensuring that services meet the needs of women and their children who have experienced violence, holding perpetrators to account, and improving the evidence base.

The statistics on violence against women in Australia are shocking. The 2012 Personal Safety Survey (PSS), conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows that, since the age of 15, around one in three women in Australia has experienced physical violence, and almost one in five has experienced sexual violence. It also shows that an estimated 17 per cent of women in Australia have experienced violence by a partner.¹ A 2013 Australian Institute of Criminology report shows that one woman is killed in Australia every week by a current or former partner.²

We know that this picture is worse for some groups of women. Indigenous women are 31 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults than other women.³ Women with disability are more likely to experience violence and the violence can be more severe and last longer than for other women. A recent survey of 367 women and girls with disability found that 22 per cent had been affected by violence in the previous year.⁴ Women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and new and emerging communities who experience violence can also face significant difficulties, including a lack of support networks, language barriers, socio-economic disadvantage, and lack of knowledge of their rights and Australia's laws.

Violence against women not only affects the victim themselves, it also affects their children. Growing up in an environment of domestic and family violence can have profound effects on a child, impacting on their capacity to learn, future relationships, health and emotional wellbeing and engagement in work and community life.

Along with the tragic impact that violence has on the individual lives of women and their children, it also has community and economy-wide impacts. A study commissioned by the Australian Government in 2009 found that violence against women and their children was estimated to cost the Australian economy \$13.6 billion in 2008-09. Without appropriate action to address the issue, an estimated three quarters of a million Australian women will experience and report violence in 2021-22, costing the Australian economy an estimated \$15.6 billion.⁵

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012, *Personal Safety Survey*, Cat. No. 4906.0, Canberra.

2. Australian Institute of Criminology, 2013, *Homicide in Australia: 2008-09 to 2009-10 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report*, Canberra.

3. Productivity Commission, 2011, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011*, Canberra.

4. University of New South Wales, 2013, *Stop the Violence: Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Australia*, Sydney.

5. KPMG, 2009, *The Cost of Violence against Women and their children*, Safety Taskforce, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Australian Government.

The National Plan sets out a platform for action until 2022. The National Plan's first three year Action Plan: *Building a Strong Foundation 2010-2013* laid an important foundation for long-term change. It established some critical, national-level infrastructure to inform future policy and service delivery and engage the community in reducing violence against women and their children, such as Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children (the Foundation), and *The Line* social marketing campaign. Innovative national services were also set up to support women who have experienced violence, such as 1800RESPECT: Australia's first professional national telephone and online counselling service for women experiencing, or at risk of, domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

Over the period of the First Action Plan, we also saw an increased energy and commitment across the Australian community to prevent, respond to and speak out against violence against women. Through its 26 practical actions, the Second Action Plan gives us an opportunity to harness this drive and, based on what we have learnt under the First Action Plan, move ahead in our efforts to reduce violence against women and their children.

Key statistics about violence against women and their children in Australia

The nature and extent of violence

The Personal Safety Survey collects information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15, including men's and women's experience of current and previous partner violence. In 2012 the Personal Safety Survey⁶ reported that, since the age of 15:

- Around **one in three** women has experienced physical violence and almost **one in five** has experienced sexual violence.
- Around **one in six** women has experienced violence by a partner.
- An estimated **25 per cent** of women have experienced emotional abuse by a partner.

Attitudes towards violence

The 2009 National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women⁷ highlights contemporary attitudes held about violence against women and seeks to understand factors leading to their formation. It reports that:

- Since 2005, **community perceptions** of what constitutes domestic violence have broadened to include physical and sexual assault, threats of harm to family members, and psychological, verbal and economic abuse.
- However, **34 per cent** of people surveyed believed that 'rape results from men being unable to control their need for sex' and roughly **one in six** agreed that a woman 'is partly responsible if she is raped when drunk or drug-affected.'

6. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012, *Personal Safety Survey*, Cat. No. 4906.0, Canberra.

7. VicHealth, 2009, *National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women*, Victoria.

Indigenous women and children's experience of violence

According to the Productivity Commission's *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report⁸, Indigenous women and girls are **31 times more likely** to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults than other Australian women and girls.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey⁹ reported that:

- An estimated **25 per cent** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women had experienced **one or more incidents of physical violence** in the previous 12 months.
- **94 per cent** of these women knew the perpetrator of their most recent incident.

8. Productivity Commission, 2011, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011*.

9. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009, *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey*, Cat. No. 4714.0, Canberra.

The National Plan and Second Action Plan

What is the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children?

The National Plan is working towards a vision that by 2022 *Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities* and a target of achieving a *significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children*.

Creating this change takes a long time. It requires attitudinal and behavioural change at societal, institutional and individual levels, as well as ongoing and highly complex reforms to systems and services. The Second Action Plan is a critical part of this approach.

The National Plan sets out six overarching National Outcomes for all governments to work towards over its 12-year lifespan.

Each Outcome has an accompanying Measure of Success that sets out how the Outcome's success will be measured over the life of the National Plan.

Table 1. National Outcomes and Measures of Success

National Plan Outcome	Measure of Success	Data Source
1. Communities are safe and free from violence	Increased intolerance of violence against women	National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women
2. Relationships are respectful	Improved knowledge, skills and behaviour of respectful relationships by young people	National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened	Reduction in the proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities and neighbourhoods	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
	Increased proportions of Indigenous women who are able to have their say within community on important issues including violence	
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence	Increased access to and responsiveness of services for victims of domestic/family violence and sexual assault	Personal Safety Survey and administrative data

National Plan Outcome	Measure of Success	Data Source
5. Justice responses are effective	Increased rates of women reporting domestic violence and sexual assault to police	Personal Safety Survey and administrative data
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account	A decrease in repeated partner victimisation	Personal Safety Survey and administrative data

The National Plan is also supported by ‘Foundations for Change’ – essential elements that underpin our capacity to work together and achieve lasting change. The Foundations for Change are:

- strengthen the workforce
- integrate systems and share information
- improve the evidence base
- track performance.

For information about the structure of the National Plan, including National Outcomes and Foundations for Change, and a summary of the First Action Plan’s key achievements, see **Appendices 1 and 2**.

What is the Second Action Plan about?

The Second Action Plan: *Moving Ahead 2013-2016* represents an important step forward for the National Plan. It is a critical part of the National Plan’s long-term approach to reducing violence against women and their children. Building on the First Action Plan, the Second Action Plan will channel efforts towards ongoing and new priorities, and engage with more sectors, groups and communities in order to prevent and reduce violence against women and their children.

Second Action Plan National Priorities

National Priorities are joint areas of work that all governments agree are critical to focus on over the three-year period of the Second Action Plan if we are to move ahead in reducing violence against women and their children.

They are:

National Priority 1: Driving whole of community action to prevent violence

National Priority 2: Understanding diverse experiences of violence

National Priority 3: Supporting innovative services and integrated systems

National Priority 4: Improving perpetrator interventions

National Priority 5: Continuing to build the evidence base

Under these five National Priorities the Second Action Plan identifies 26 practical actions that all governments – state, territory and the Commonwealth – agree are important to pursue over the next three years. These actions are designed to drive national improvements and most involve efforts of all governments. They will not all necessarily be progressed by all jurisdictions, or in the same way. Jurisdictions will focus on local priorities and delivery approaches.

The following chapters outline the critical actions to be delivered under each National Priority of the Second Action Plan, along with how these actions contribute to achieving the National Outcomes. Examples of work being undertaken in each jurisdiction are also included.

Figure 1. The Second Action Plan at a glance

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

Vision: Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities

Target: A significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children

National Outcomes

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Communities are safe and free from violence | 4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence |
| 2. Relationships are respectful | 5. Justice responses are effective |
| 3. Indigenous communities are strengthened | 6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account |



Foundations for Change

Strengthen the workforce | Integrate systems and share information | Improve the evidence base | Track performance

Second Action Plan Consultation

To reflect on the First Action Plan and to inform the development of the Second Action Plan, national roundtables were held in Adelaide and Canberra in February 2014. These roundtables were chaired by the Commonwealth Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services, Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells. Around 100 people attended the national roundtables, including: a number of State and Territory Ministers; representatives from the women's sector and women's services sector; representatives from primary prevention organisations; academics; representatives from community sector peaks; child and family organisations and human rights organisations; representatives from the business sector; representatives from Indigenous organisations and disability peak bodies; people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities; and government officials.

In addition to these roundtables, over 50 written submissions were received and states and territories undertook local-level engagement.

These consultations: considered achievements and gaps under the First Action Plan; identified key initiatives that should be continued in the Second Action Plan; identified the groups and communities that need increased attention in the Second Action Plan; and considered ways to involve more people in reducing violence against women and their children.

Key issues raised in the consultations included:

- the need to embed the work of the Foundation into the Second Action Plan;
- the need for gender equality to continue to underpin primary prevention efforts;
- the importance of engaging with groups of women who have diverse experiences of violence, or who can be more vulnerable to violence;
- the importance of continuing to build the evidence base, along with the ongoing need for nationally consistent data collection;
- the need to engage broader groups in the implementation of the National Plan and on the issue of violence against women, including the media, larger numbers of men and businesses;
- the importance of developing and building on holistic and integrated service responses for women and their children who have experienced violence, including providing women and their children with wrap-around support, and better integrating programmes for victims and perpetrators of violence;
- the need for a national domestic violence order (DVO) scheme; and
- the need to continue to strengthen justice responses, particularly in relation to perpetrator interventions.

An assessment of progress made under the First Action Plan, including feedback provided in these consultations, is documented in the Progress Review – www.dss.gov.au/nationalplan.

Linking with other National Initiatives

Domestic and family violence and sexual assault do not occur in isolation from other challenges faced by individuals and communities. Through its focus on involving more individuals, sectors and policy areas in reducing violence against women and their children, the Second Action Plan will strengthen linkages with other significant national reforms.

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020

The 2012 Personal Safety Survey¹⁰ reported that 31 per cent of women who experienced current partner violence and 48 per cent of women who experienced previous partner violence stated that their children had seen or heard the violence. Being exposed to, or experiencing, domestic and family violence can have a profound effect on a child, impacting on future relationships, health and emotional wellbeing and engagement in work and community life. Research is also increasingly recognising exposure to domestic and family violence in childhood as a form of child abuse.

The Second Action Plan recognises the strong links between the National Plan and the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*, and the work being done through the National Framework to meet the needs of children who are exposed to or experience violence and to break intergenerational cycles of violence. The priorities being advanced through the National Framework will support the actions under the National Plan.

Homelessness

Domestic and family violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children in Australia. Addressing domestic and family violence related homelessness requires a long-term, integrated approach from Commonwealth, state/territory and local governments.

Under the 2013-14 *National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness* (NPAH), around 180 homelessness initiatives receive funding to assist both those who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness across Australia. Of these 180 homelessness initiatives, 39 contribute to support services for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

On 30 March 2014 the Commonwealth Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, announced that the Commonwealth Government will provide up to \$115 million, to be matched by states and territories, to ensure that critical homelessness initiatives continue to support some of Australia's most vulnerable people. This funding reinstates homelessness service delivery under the NPAH for another year, providing much needed certainty for homelessness service providers.

The 2014-15 NPAH will give the Government time to look at what improvements can be made to more effectively respond to the causes of homelessness and achieve lasting reductions in the number of homeless Australians.

10. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012, *Personal Safety Survey*, Cat. No. 4906.0, Canberra.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

Housing is a key contributor to the Commonwealth Government's priorities of getting children to school, adults in to work and providing for safe communities where the rule of law applies. The *National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing* (NPARIH) commenced in 2008 and includes all states except the Australian Capital Territory. The National Partnership aims to reduce severe overcrowding, homelessness and poor housing conditions in remote Indigenous communities.

Under the NPARIH, funding is provided for capital works, specifically new and replacement houses, and the refurbishment or rebuild of existing public housing.

The Commonwealth Government is now working with the individual states and the Northern Territory to strengthen bilateral agreements under the NPARIH to ensure it is better delivering the long term fix that is needed in remote Indigenous communities.

Resetting the focus of the NPARIH is essential to allow the partnership to deliver on key priorities such as increasing Indigenous home ownership, improving access to public housing for those seeking to move from remote areas for employment and education, and prioritising new house allocations where land tenure provides for home ownership.

Income Management

The Commonwealth Government is working in partnership with state and territory governments to deliver income management to help meet the needs of, and protect, vulnerable people and children. For example, in numerous locations across Australia, child protection authorities can refer child protection clients to income management. In Western Australia, the Western Australian Department for Child Protection and Family Support provides income management for child protection. This is available in the Perth metropolitan, Peel, East Kimberley and West Kimberley regions, and was introduced into the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and Laverton Shire in 2013, to help people meet their or, if they are a parent, their child's basic needs.

Income Management helps to keep money available for life's essentials and helps people stabilise their lives so they can care for their children and join or return to the workforce. Findings from evaluations and a review have shown that income management can help ease financial stress, offer protection from financial harassment, and contribute to the health and wellbeing of children.

Many income management participants in Australia are women, and evidence shows that income management can help women have more control of their money and reduce financial harassment. In Indigenous communities, financial harassment, namely 'humbugging', is the practice of demanding money from relatives. There are many reports of women being made to give their money to their partners and other family members to buy alcohol and/or drugs, often with violence against the women resulting from the consumption of the alcohol and/or drugs.

In the recent Review of Child Protection Income Management in Western Australia 2014¹¹, child protection staff indicated that the programme can help to balance the control of the family income, with one staff member in the Kimberley region commenting: "[Previously] blokes got the card [bank card] and controlled the money but now women are getting financial control". The Review also indicated that income management, in some cases, allowed participants to leave abusive relationships. The Northern Territory Emergency Response: Evaluation Report 2011¹² also found that, for vulnerable groups, particularly women, income management can reduce humbugging, resulting in less family tension.

11. Department of Social Services, 2014, *A Review of Child Protection Income Management in Western Australia*, Canberra.

12. Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 2011, *Northern Territory Emergency Response Evaluation Report*, Canberra.

National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework 2009-2015

The *National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework 2009-2015* is a national approach to addressing the serious and complex issues that mark the interaction between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the justice systems in Australia. The strategies and actions in the Framework are intended to be flexible rather than prescriptive to enable implementation that is responsive to local needs and consistent with jurisdictional priorities and resource capacity.

The Framework has five inter-related goals, key amongst which is ensuring that Indigenous people feel safe and are safe within their communities. Under this goal sit three objectives, which are to reduce the incidence and impacts of all forms of family violence within Indigenous families, including sexual abuse; recognise and strengthen Indigenous community responses to justice issues to support community ownership of safety and crime prevention; and provide the necessary support to heal and empower Indigenous victims of crime, particularly women and children.

National Disability Strategy

Agreed by the COAG in 2011, the *National Disability Strategy* provides a 10-year national policy framework for all levels of government to improve the lives of people with disability. The Strategy seeks to drive a more inclusive approach to the design of policies, programmes and infrastructure so that people with disability can participate in all areas of Australian life. Improving access to buildings, transport, social events, education, health care services and employment will contribute to ensuring that people with disability have the opportunity to fulfil their potential as equal citizens. The Strategy is also an important mechanism for ensuring that the principles underpinning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are incorporated into policies, services and programmes affecting people with disability, their families and carers.

An important policy direction within the Strategy is to ensure that people with disability are safe from violence, exploitation and neglect. This is of particular significance to women with disability. Not only are people with disability more likely to be victims of crime, research indicates that women with disability face an even greater risk. Under the Strategy, a key action area designed to reduce violence, abuse and neglect of people with disability is to ensure that the National Plan and the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* have priority actions to improve the safety and wellbeing of women and children with disability.

As a key element of disability reform related to the NDS, the *National Disability Insurance Scheme* (NDIS) is being rolled out across Australia. The NDIS provides funding for long-term, individualised support that is reasonable and necessary to meet the needs of people with permanent disability, where it significantly affects their communication, mobility, self-care or self-management. This will address some of the barriers women with disability face in economic and social participation.

The fundamental design of the NDIS puts individuals in control, being able to choose the supports that suit their individual goals and preferences, and the providers of those supports. This will help women with disability to take more control over the supports they use and assist them in setting and achieving the goals to live the lives they want. It will provide a strong foundation to support women with disability in understanding, identifying and speaking out about instances or risks of violence. In addition, the NDIS will undertake community engagement activities to help build awareness, in Australian communities, of the issues facing people with disability.

The scheme will be refined as it is progressively rolled out based on the trial experience of people with disability, their families and carers and service providers.

National Settlement Framework

The *National Settlement Framework* is currently being developed by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association. The Framework will be a structural blueprint for all levels of government to work in partnership to effectively plan and deliver services that support migrants' settlement in Australia. The Framework sets out focus areas for the three tiers of government to regularly engage and work together in partnership, and to collaborate with stakeholders. It will be finalised later in 2014.

Settlement services and women refugees

Settlement services have a strong focus on providing effective settlement support for women refugees and humanitarian entrants. Under Australia's Humanitarian Programme, over 14,500 vulnerable women and their children have been settled in Australia through the Women at Risk (subclass 204) visa category since it was established in 1989.

Settlement services give a high priority to ensuring these visa holders are settled close to any existing links in Australia and that they have access to settlement service providers with expertise in meeting their specific needs and access to other necessary support services.

National work to address female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation is recognised by the United Nations and other international organisations as a human rights violation. The Commonwealth Government is supporting women and girls affected by female genital mutilation at home and overseas by providing information for Australian travellers on female genital mutilation laws and training materials for consular officers posted overseas, to better support women and girls affected by this practice and to ensure reporting of possible cases.

The Commonwealth Government also conducted a review of Australia's legislative framework to consider whether existing legislative provisions are effective in comprehensively criminalising the practice of female genital mutilation.

Through the Commonwealth Department of Health, 15 projects have been funded, aimed at raising awareness, increasing training for health professionals, and building the evidence and research base on female genital mutilation in Australia. Working with affected communities and providing support and education is essential to achieving change from within and ending the practice of female genital mutilation.

National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery

Work on the *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery* (National Action Plan) is being led by the Commonwealth Minister for Justice. The National Action Plan will be finalised and launched in 2014 and will set the strategic aims of Australia's whole-of-community response to human trafficking and slavery including measures to quantify the impact and effectiveness of our collective efforts to combat these crimes.

The National Action Plan will recognise that while men and boys are also affected, women are over-represented as victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices, such as forced marriage and servitude and forced labour in intimate relationships. The National Action Plan will set clear goals and action items for preventing human trafficking and slavery and protecting and supporting the victims.

Second Action Plan National Priorities

National Priority One: Driving whole of community action to prevent violence

Violence against women and their children is an issue that impacts the whole community. There is strong momentum building in the Australian community to reject inequality and violence and to drive a change in attitudes and behaviour to ensure women and their children are safe.

The National Plan has a strong focus on preventing violence by raising awareness, engaging the community and building respectful relationships in the next generation. To date, significant work has been undertaken to establish strong foundations that will drive primary prevention over the life of the National Plan. This includes establishing the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children, delivering and evaluating respectful relationships education, and delivering *The Line*, an innovative social marketing campaign aimed at changing young people's attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence. The Second Action Plan will harness this work and take it to the next level.

Actions

1. Support **communities** to prevent, respond to and speak out against violence, through local government, businesses, community and sporting groups, schools and key institutions.
2. Improve **media** engagement on violence against women and their children, and the representation of women experiencing violence, at a national and local level.
3. Take the next step to reduce violence against women and their children by promoting **gender equality** across a range of spheres, including women's economic independence and leadership.
4. Support **young people** through *The Line* campaign and by addressing issues relating to the sexualisation of children.
5. Build on the findings of the **respectful relationships** evaluation, to strengthen the design and delivery of respectful relationship programmes, and implement them more broadly.
6. Incorporate **respectful relationships** education into the national curriculum.
7. Enhance **online safety** for children and young people.

How will these actions be achieved?

Action 1 - Supporting communities

The Foundation was established as a partnership between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments in July 2013, with the Northern Territory joining in mid-2014. Its mission is to drive, at a national level, cultural and attitudinal change to prevent violence against women and their children

from the ground up through community engagement and advocacy. It will involve more people across the Australian community in reducing violence against women, build community leadership, and bring together and support good practice primary prevention work.

Victoria and the Commonwealth

Primary Prevention Framework

The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) in partnership with the Victorian Government has a rich history in leading Victorian, national and international good practice in primary prevention of violence against women efforts. The VicHealth Framework: *Preventing violence before it occurs: A framework and background paper to guide the primary prevention of violence against women in Victoria* has underpinned the primary prevention efforts of the Victorian Government's significant investment over a number of years in prevention initiatives. VicHealth will be partnering with the Foundation to develop a national framework that will further focus understanding of the evidence base, build increased awareness of the causal factors, and guide next generation practice.

Building on the Victorian Framework developed by VicHealth, the national framework will guide prevention policy and practice on a national scale.

The Foundation and VicHealth will also work with ANROWS to develop the national framework and to enhance the evidence base, to build gender equality between men and women in families, communities, organisations and society.

The work being done to prevent violence against women and their children across the country – including by community and sporting groups, business groups, local governments, schools and other key institutions – will continue to be supported by governments. This work responds to local needs, including initiatives for rural and regional communities, capacity building in primary prevention for service organisations, and community education to prevent harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation.

Northern Territory

'No More' public education campaign

The 'No More' public education campaign began in 2009 to promote the mandatory reporting of domestic violence. Using the Australian Football League (AFL) to open the conversation, the campaign encouraged men across the Northern Territory to stand up and protect the women and children around them.

A unique aspect of this campaign was the focus on asking men to unite against violence and abuse within the family. Previously most public education campaigns had focused on the victim.

The campaign's symbolic action of men linking arms and walking or standing together in silence and solidarity was initiated by child protection advocate and ABC's Territory Grandstand presenter Charlie King, who had noticed that, although many Indigenous men wanted safe, secure and harmonious communities they were not being included as part of the solution.

The campaign addressed this by working directly with men to bring home the important message that men need to stand up and say 'No More'. In 2013 the call for action widened to include all sporting clubs.

South Australia

Violence Against Women Collaborations

Established as part of the South Australian Governments' 'A Right to Safety Agenda', *Violence Against Women Collaborations* provides an opportunity for the development of local regional responses to women experiencing rape and sexual assault, domestic and family violence, and homelessness due to violence. The primary purpose of *Violence Against Women Collaborations* is to build community capacity to prevent and reduce the incidence of violence against women in local regions by working to create cultural and attitudinal change within the community, addressing the underlying causes of the violence. Twelve collaborations have been established to date and each identifies the key issues and priorities in their own regions. For example the Western Adelaide *Violence Against Women Collaboration*, which commenced in May 2012, has held successful White Ribbon events in 2012 and 2013 and has now developed a partnership with Adelaide United Football Club to deliver White Ribbon activities throughout 2014. The first activity was at the Adelaide United final home game on 4 April 2014. The game had a theme of White Ribbon. Collaboration members attended, giving away White Ribbon promotional materials and were available to talk to people attending the game. Survivors of family violence tossed the coin at the start of the game after a brief message about violence against women.

Action 2 - Improving media engagement

The media has an important role to play in changing community attitudes and behaviours when it comes to violence. Based on work done by states and territories in the First Action Plan, a national approach to engaging positively with the media around violence against women will be implemented in the Second Action Plan.

The Foundation has been funded to implement this national approach through:

- establishing national media awards, building on the Victorian Eliminating Violence Awards (EVAs), to recognise excellence in journalists' reporting of violence against women, as well as to recognise news media contributions to the prevention of violence against women;
- building on work done in New South Wales with journalists about the representation of victims of violent crime;
- developing a national website and resources for the media to use; and
- supporting survivors to feel safe and confident in sharing their experiences and engaging with the media by becoming media advocates and building on the Victorian Media Advocates programme.

States and territories will continue to work with the media at a local level to enhance media engagement around violence against women and their children.

Australian Capital Territory

Audrey Fagan Violence Prevention Projects

The ACT Women's Grants include a special category aimed at supporting projects that contribute to a reduction in violence against women and children. The grants provide up to \$15,000 per project and have been used to advance our understanding on what works well in reducing violence and supporting those who experience violence.

In 2012-13, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service received funding to undertake research into issues and solutions to support women to stay safe in their homes after experiencing family violence. The Women's Centre for Health Matters received funding to undertake a project to highlight the importance of accurate and appropriate reporting of violence against women and children in the media in the ACT.

The Canberra Rape Crisis Service received funding to deliver a comprehensive audio-visual online media campaign about sexual violence and respectful behaviour for the Summer of Respect project to promote community awareness of, and conversations about sexual violence and respect.

Women's Centre for Health Matters received funding from Justice and Community Services to produce an anti-sexual violence poster campaign targeting men, which was used in conjunction with the audio-visual material for the Summer of Respect project.

Action 3 - Promoting gender equality

Achieving gender equality is critical if we are to stop violence from happening in the first place. During the First Action Plan, evidence continued to emerge that work to improve women's safety will not be successful without continued effort to change the way individuals, communities, and society as a whole view the roles of men and women.

In the Second Action Plan, gender equality will be advanced through:

- national schemes to improve women's economic independence, such as paid parental leave and access to child care;
- national and local efforts to support women's leadership in government, business and the community; and
- male champions and leaders speaking out against domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and promoting the broader principles of gender equality.

The National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (National Research Agenda) developed by ANROWS will strengthen efforts to drive primary prevention and gender equality.

Commonwealth

Paid Parental Leave Scheme

The Australian Government is committed to improving women's workforce participation and financial security, including through the new national Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme.

The PPL scheme helps to reduce inequality between women and men by promoting women's workforce participation, financial independence, maternal health and wellbeing, and work-family balance.

From 1 July 2015, the Australian Government's proposed new national PPL scheme will provide eligible working mothers with 26 weeks of payment at a rate based on their actual wage (capped at \$100,000 a year) or the national minimum wage (whichever is greater). The new PPL scheme will include superannuation paid at the compulsory superannuation rate on the Parental Leave Pay amount. The inclusion of superannuation will address the long-term financial concerns about the depleted retirement savings of working mothers, improving the retirement savings of PPL recipients.

Around 167,000 families with newborns and newly adopted children are expected to be eligible for the new PPL scheme each year.

Tasmania

Family Violence – Workplace Provisions for State Service Employees

In recognition of the effects of family violence within the workplace, where employee performance, productivity, health and safety may be compromised, the Tasmanian Government as the State Service employer is committed to workplace provisions that support its employees experiencing family violence.

These provisions ensure that such employees have access to personal leave entitlements, flexible work arrangements and Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) to accommodate any legal, financial, health, housing and child care needs.

Further provisions safeguard the personal information of employees experiencing family violence, and ensure that training for key agency staff and human resource managers to support employees is appropriate. Provisions also exist to assist workplace managers to deal with the risks to health and safety of both employees experiencing family violence and their co-workers.

Employees experiencing family violence are supported to remain in employment, maintain financial independence and continue to work safely and productively.

Action 4 - Supporting young people

Supporting and educating young people to build respectful relationships is paramount to preventing domestic and family violence and sexual assault in the future.

Successful social marketing campaigns, including *The Line*, have been able to support young people to change their attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence. The Commonwealth Government will extend funding of *The Line* social marketing campaign until 2017 to ensure young people continue to have a safe place to discuss and debate relationship issues and form their own conclusions about what sort of behaviour crosses the line. To maximise the effectiveness and engagement with young people at this stage in the campaign, the Foundation will take responsibility for delivery and management of *The Line* from July 2014. This will allow *The Line* to expand its reach to a broader audience, foster innovation, and forge closer connections with other primary prevention initiatives across the country.

The Foundation will also deliver a national project that addresses the issue of the sexualisation of children. This project will respond to concerns about the impacts of the sexualisation of children on body image, self-esteem, cognitive and emotional development, health and wellbeing, and conceptualisation of gender and sexual roles.

Queensland

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and 'Make The Call' social marketing campaign

May is designated Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month (the Month) in Queensland to raise awareness and to support communities in speaking out against domestic violence.

On the first Wednesday in May, candle lighting ceremonies are held across the State to remember those killed as a result of domestic and family violence. Small grants are also allocated through the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to facilitate events and activities that bring communities together to show their intolerance of domestic and family violence.

In 2013, the Queensland Government launched the *Make The Call* social marketing campaign in support of the Month. The campaign speaks to people such as family members, friends, work colleagues and neighbours who may be concerned that someone they know is experiencing domestic and family violence. The campaign recognises that many victims of domestic violence will approach people they

know in the first instance rather than contacting formal agencies such as the police and that these people can play an important role in helping someone to be safe.

The *Make The Call* campaign specifically highlights the risks associated with non-physical forms of domestic violence, such as stalking, jealous, controlling and obsessive behaviours. The focus on third parties and non-physical forms of abuse directly responds to recommendations made by the State Coroner following a domestic violence death review process that highlighted the dangers of controlling, manipulative and obsessive behaviours, even in the absence of physical violence and the importance of supporting third parties to act on their concerns.

Facebook is successfully used to engage the community in discussion around domestic and family violence issues, as well as the *Make The Call* ambassador programme, which involves high profile members of five sporting codes who have come on board to spread the violence prevention message.

Action 5 - Strengthening respectful relationships programmes

Schools and organisations deliver a range of respectful relationships programmes in a number of different ways. Under the First Action Plan, we explored and evaluated the effectiveness of different approaches to respectful relationship education in school and non-school settings.

Under the Second Action Plan, governments will work together to develop and test a suite of good practice tools and resources to strengthen and support the delivery of high quality respectful relationships education in schools, homes and communities. This will build on findings from the evaluation of the First Action Plan's national Respectful Relationships programmes.

The Foundation is funded by the Victorian Government to undertake a Respectful Relationships in Schools project across selected areas in regional and metropolitan Victoria. The project will be evaluated to document best practice examples to be used across jurisdictions.

Action 6 - Incorporating respectful relationships education into the national curriculum

Following endorsement of the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education by Education Ministers at the Standing Council for School Education and Early Childhood, states and territories can commence incorporating respectful relationships education into their local curricula and syllabi, building on work already undertaken by states and territories in this area.

Tasmania

Relationships and sexuality education in Tasmanian Government schools Strategy 2012-2014

Respect and relationships are two of the key values of *Learners First*, the Department of Education's schools strategy. This strategy was developed to promote respectful relationships and incorporate gender issues in sexuality education.

The strategy supports a shared responsibility, positive behaviours and safe and inclusive environments for the development of attributes that assist everyone in maintaining healthy and fulfilling lives.

An important initiative is a collaborative project with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop the Relationships and Sexuality Education Providers List. The list is a ready reference of key government and non-government agencies that provide evidence based services and programmes to schools.

Schools are required to consider how they can best provide guidance and support for students to gain knowledge, skills and behaviours to make informed decisions, develop responsible behaviours and attitudes and model appropriate ways to respond to diversity that demonstrates respect and value of difference.

The dynamic web-based resource provides leaders and teachers with up to date information to support them in making determinations about programme or service selection that supports teaching and learning in their local context.

Action 7 - Enhancing online safety

The internet and social media are becoming more dominant in the lives of children and young people. While being online provides young Australians with an array of skills and opportunities, increasing instances of cyber-bullying are highly concerning.

Online safety for children and young people will be enhanced through the following measures:

- Establish a Children's e-Safety Commissioner to take a leadership role in online safety for Australian children.
- Implement an effective complaints system for the fast removal of material harmful to a child from large social media sites and determine whether a new, simplified cyber-bullying offence is required.
- Work with industry to improve safety options on smartphones and other internet-enabled devices to shield children from harmful content.
- Strengthen the online safety component of the National Safe Schools Framework and provide \$7.5 million to assist Australian schools to deliver accredited online safety programmes for their students.
- Establish an advice platform with guidelines for parents about the appropriateness of media content for children, and provide funding for Australian-based research and information campaigns on online safety.

National Priority One - Links with National Plan Outcomes and Measures of Success

Key Outcomes this National Priority will help to achieve	How success will be measured
1. Communities are safe and free from violence	An increase in the community's intolerance of violence against women (<i>National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women</i>).
2. Relationships are respectful	Improved knowledge, skills and behaviour of respectful relationships by young people (<i>Evaluation of respectful relationships education projects and Commonwealth social marketing campaign The Line</i>).
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened	Reduction in the proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities and neighbourhoods; and Increased proportions of Indigenous women are able to have their say within community on important issues including violence (<i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i>).

National Priority Two: Understanding diverse experiences of violence

The National Plan acknowledges that women have diverse experiences of violence. Available data tells us that Indigenous women, women from CALD backgrounds and women with disability can face an increased risk of violence and additional challenges in accessing services and support. Learning more about violence against these groups of women is critical if we are to make violence against all women stop.

The first three years of the National Plan set a strong foundation for reducing violence against women and their children. However, more needs to be done to reduce violence against particular groups of women. The Second Action Plan focusses on deepening our understanding of diverse experiences of violence, including the experiences of Indigenous women, women from CALD communities, and women with disability. We will also work with diverse communities to prevent violence and meet the needs of women who can be more vulnerable to violence, recognising that these women may require a range of targeted responses.

While this National Priority focuses specifically on violence against diverse groups of women, violence against Indigenous women, CALD women, and women with disability is considered across all National Priorities in the Second Action Plan.

Actions

8. Meet the needs of **Indigenous women and their children** through improving access to information and resources, and providing avenues for advocacy and leadership.
 9. Improve outcomes for **Indigenous Australians** through building community safety.
 10. Gain a better understanding of 'what works' in improving **Indigenous community safety**.
 11. Work with **culturally and linguistically diverse communities** to reduce violence and support women and their children, particularly those who can be most vulnerable.
 12. Deliver awareness raising, training and prevention activities and responses to violence that are tailored to meet the needs of **women with disability**, based on outcomes from the *Stop the Violence* project, as well as continuing to build the evidence base.
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How will these actions be achieved?

Action 8 - Improving Indigenous women's access to information and resources

Given that Indigenous women and their children experience alarmingly high levels of violence, and can face unique difficulties in accessing information and support, it is critical that Indigenous women have avenues for their voices to be heard at a local and national level. Consultation with Indigenous women and communities – including through organisations like the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance, the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council and state-based groups – will help to ensure that Indigenous women's voices are heard throughout the implementation of the Second Action Plan. National Plan communications will also have a focus on providing accessible and translated information and support.

The Foundation will work with Indigenous communities as part of its broader national primary prevention efforts, and continue to develop specific resources for *The Line* to reach young Indigenous people.

Action 9 - Building community safety in Indigenous communities

The Commonwealth Government is committed to ensuring that the ordinary law of the land applies in Indigenous communities, as it does in other communities, so that Indigenous women and children are able to enjoy the protection that the law, in principle, should provide. At the December 2013 COAG meeting, the Commonwealth agreed to establish a permanent police presence in some larger remote Indigenous communities. This work is ongoing with decisions on which Indigenous regions and communities will benefit from the increased investment in police resourcing expected to be made in the latter half of 2014.

Under the Second Action Plan, local initiatives to improve community safety will be further developed, including safety planning, infrastructure, and behavioural and attitudinal change initiatives across Indigenous communities.

Action 10 – Learning about ‘what works’ in Indigenous community safety

Over recent decades, considerable work has been done in Indigenous communities to reduce violence against Indigenous women and their children.

To inform improved policy and service delivery in the future and share good practice across the Australian community, a national picture of ‘what works’ to make Indigenous families safer will be developed under the Second Action Plan. In particular, attention will be paid to understanding ‘what works’ in a remote Indigenous context, where language and geography are key factors impacting on the success of work to reduce violence against women and their children.

The National Research Agenda developed by ANROWS acknowledges that research efforts need to focus on the needs of Indigenous women across all of its four strategic research themes. ANROWS will work closely with bodies that are already working to increase information sharing about ‘what works’ in Indigenous communities such as the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.

Western Australia

Western Australian Kimberley Family and Domestic Violence Project

Data demonstrates that in regional areas, particularly the Kimberley, the rate of reported family and domestic violence per head of population is significantly higher than the metropolitan area.

The aim of this project is to develop an across government and community sector plan that is focused on improving responses to family and domestic violence in the Kimberley region with a view to the plan being applicable to other regional and remote areas across the state.

Information will be gathered in relation to three key areas:

1. the prevalence, nature and impacts of family and domestic violence in the Kimberley;
2. existing service provision to address family and domestic violence and the relevance and appropriateness of current service delivery models; and
3. using the Signs of Safety three column process, identify current strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improving the coordination of service delivery, the effectiveness of service delivery models, and capacity for prevention and early intervention.

Action 11 - Reducing violence against women in CALD communities

Under the Second Action Plan, governments will collaborate with CALD communities to prevent violence and foster leadership. This will be done through:

- the Commonwealth providing additional funding to White Ribbon Australia to specifically increase engagement in both CALD and Indigenous communities;
- Victoria funding the Foundation to undertake a CALD-specific primary prevention project with a view towards development of a range of tools and resources that could be adapted for use in other CALD communities and jurisdictions;
- expanding *The Line* to include targeted resources for CALD young people and communities;
- governments working with multicultural and CALD community groups to ensure the voices of CALD women are heard as the Second Action Plan is implemented; and
- the provision of accessible and translated information and support in National Plan communications.

During the First Action Plan, changes were made to the *Migration Regulations 1994* to improve the operation and accessibility of the family violence provisions. Following this, under the Second Action Plan, overseas spouses entering Australia will receive strengthened support by:

- requiring additional information disclosure by the Australian husband or fiancé applying for an overseas spouse visa; and
- development of resource materials to inform and support these overseas spouses, including information about essential services and emergency contacts in Australia.

Opportunities to assist women on other visas who are experiencing violence will also be explored further.

Commonwealth

Funding for White Ribbon Australia

White Ribbon Australia is a male-led primary prevention campaign. It works to develop a culture of gender equality and respect, create awareness about the positive role that men and boys can play in bringing about social change, and speak out against violence against women.

In November 2013, the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, announced \$1 million in funding for White Ribbon Australia to work with CALD and Indigenous and communities, including new and emerging communities.

White Ribbon Australia is working with organisations representing CALD and Indigenous communities to determine the best ways to engage men and boys, which may include developing new targeted resources and encouraging more CALD and Indigenous community leaders to become ambassadors.

Action 12 - Tailoring responses to meet the needs of women with disability

Women with disability are more likely than other women to experience domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and the violence is likely to be more severe and continue for longer. Women with disability can also face considerable challenges in accessing services and justice.

Under the First Action Plan, the *Stop the Violence* project, led by Women With Disabilities Australia, was established to investigate and promote good practice and improvements in service delivery for women and girls with disabilities who experience or are at risk of violence.

Under the Second Action Plan, governments will work with expert organisations including Women With Disabilities Australia to prioritise and implement key outcomes from the *Stop the Violence* project. This will include:

- bringing together and disseminating good practice information on preventing violence against women with disability;
- training for frontline workers to recognise and prevent violence against women and children with disability; and
- providing accessible information and support in National Plan communications.

National Priority Two - Links with National Plan Outcomes and Measures of Success

Key Outcomes this National Priority will help to achieve	How success will be measured
1. Communities are safe and free from violence	An increase in the community's intolerance of violence against women (<i>National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women</i>).
2. Relationships are respectful	Improved knowledge, skills and behaviour of respectful relationships by young people (<i>Evaluation of respectful relationships education projects and Commonwealth social marketing campaign The Line</i>).
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened	Reduction in the proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities and neighbourhoods; and Increased proportions of Indigenous women are able to have their say within community on important issues including violence (<i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i>).
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence	Increased access to and responsiveness of services for victims of domestic/family violence and sexual assault (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).
5. Justice responses are effective	Increased rates of women reporting to justice agencies domestic violence and sexual assault (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account	A decrease in repeated partner victimisation (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).

National Priority Three: Supporting innovative services and integrated systems

Services and systems need to work well together for women and their children to be protected and supported. This means fostering integration and working in new ways across a number of levels:

- women and their children who have experienced violence are likely to need a range of services, including one-stop and wrap-around support, regardless of where they live;
- service systems share information and are consistent in risk assessment in order to protect women and their children and respond to perpetrators; and
- governments work together to ensure violence against women is considered across all policy settings.

At a state and territory level, governments provide support to women and their children who have experienced violence through arrangements that meet local priorities and needs. The National Plan recognises that strengthening and exploring the way systems and services work together is a long-term, ongoing process.

Under the First Action Plan, national services 1800RESPECT and the Domestic Violence Response Training programme (DV-alert) were established and reformed to provide support to women who have experienced violence, as well as isolated and frontline workers in mainstream services. In the states and territories, there are different processes in place for risk assessment and information-sharing about victims and perpetrators across systems, including domestic and family violence and sexual assault services, child protection systems, other community services, police, and justice. Work was progressed under the First Action Plan to improve information sharing across jurisdictions, including through a commitment to implement a national domestic and DVO scheme.

Under the Second Action Plan, we will build on this work by looking strategically across systems and strengthening integration at a policy, service system and individual level.

Actions

13. Continue building **first stop support** for women and their children experiencing violence, based on 'what works', and develop national standards for telephone and online counselling services.
 14. Strengthen **systems and service integration** to ensure that specialist responses for identifying and responding to violence against women and their children are supported and effective, including through:
 - a. collaborative models of service delivery; and
 - b. information sharing protocols and risk assessment tools.
 15. Strengthen **systems integration and service delivery models**, including in remote and cross-border contexts, to meet the specific needs of **Indigenous women and their children** experiencing violence.
 16. Build support for **children** who have experienced, witnessed or been exposed to violence.
 17. Improve **information sharing** across court processes.
 18. Implement a **national scheme for family and domestic violence protection orders**.
 19. Drive continuous improvement in systems through **reviewing of domestic and family violence-related deaths and child deaths**.
 20. Continue to strengthen **pro-active policing**, highlighting and building on good practice.
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How will these actions be achieved?

Action 13 - Building first stop support for women experiencing violence

1800RESPECT, established under the First Action Plan, is Australia's first national telephone and online counselling service for domestic and family violence and sexual assault to be staffed by professional counsellors. 1800RESPECT provides counselling and referrals to people who have experienced violence, as well as those at-risk, and their family and friends. 1800RESPECT also offers support to isolated workers in domestic and family violence and sexual assault services and frontline workers in mainstream services who encounter people who have experienced domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

Funding for 1800RESPECT has been extended until 2017. In the Second Action Plan 1800RESPECT will introduce and expand innovative tools to enable women experiencing or at risk of violence, as well as their friends and family, to access information and help. It will also explore the best ways to appropriately support victims of complex forms of violence, including forced and servile marriage, with a particular focus on children and young people.

New South Wales

Aurora app

In May 2013, Women NSW launched the Aurora Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Smartphone Application (Aurora app) for people experiencing DFV and concerned friends and family members to quickly access information, support and services. The application was developed in recognition of the fact that the majority of violence against women and girls occurs in their homes, and that smartphone technology can be very effective in assisting people in this situation. The Aurora app includes comprehensive information about DFV, quick links to support options and services available in NSW, quick links to emergency services and an innovative 'message friends' feature which allows women to quickly text message selected friends or family members when they feel threatened or harassed.

The Aurora app serves as an effective response to an individual who may face danger from an abusive person. However, it is also considered to be an excellent prevention tool by providing individuals with helpful information about recognising violence and assisting people who might be at risk of abuse.

The Aurora app has undergone usability testing to help enhance its functionality and operation by end users. This work helps to ensure that the Aurora app continues to serve as a valuable public resource. The Aurora app provides an example of the NSW Government delivering innovative world-class technology to address domestic and family violence. The app has generated interest from jurisdictions across the country, and discussions are continuing to determine whether it can be developed into a national resource.

To help mainstream services respond better to women who have experienced or are at risk of violence:

- 1800RESPECT will continue to provide support to frontline workers, including those working in the mental health and drug and alcohol sectors; and
- nationally accredited training will be available to health and allied health workers to better understand, identify and respond to domestic and family violence through DV-alert, which will be extended until 2016. DV-alert includes specialist training for Indigenous workers and new training for culturally and linguistically diverse workers.

Governments will also explore how to better integrate and improve the quality of Commonwealth, state and territory services, including through the development of national standards for telephone and online counselling.

Victoria

Improving the safety of women in mental health care

The safety of women in mental health care has been a persistent concern for consumers, carers, families, communities, health services and government. In recent years, tackling and ensuring safety for women in mental health facilities has become a focus of change for health services and the Victorian Government.

Challenges in ensuring safety within inpatient facilities include: mixed sex environments combined with limited physical space both within facilities and on property grounds, the rising acuity of illnesses of patients, and the fact that typically more males than females are admitted.

Programmes implemented following the Gender Sensitivity and Safety in Adult Acute Inpatient Units Project (2008) include the development of policy frameworks, clinical leadership, the development and delivery of a statewide training programme, changes to inpatient specifications and a commitment of over \$6 million up to 2015 in capital investment to improve women's safety in mental health inpatient services.

Queensland

Victim Assist Queensland

Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ) provides an accessible and timely financial assistance scheme to support victims of personal violence, operating under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (VOCAA). Working together with specialist support services VAQ provides victims of violence, including women and children affected by domestic violence and sexual assault, with information, referral and financial assistance to aid their recovery. Financial assistance may include reimbursement of relocation expenses, change of name expenses and dental or medical expenses. VAQ also works collaboratively with government and non-government organisations to promote and improve service delivery to victims of crime.

The VOCAA delivers greater assistance for victims of domestic and sexual violence than the previous Queensland criminal compensation scheme. Under the previous scheme, a conviction in the Supreme or District court was required before criminal compensation could be ordered. Whereas within the VOCAA legislation, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are eligible if they have suffered a physical and/or emotional injury and have reported the violence to the police (or as a special primary victim to a doctor, counsellor or psychologist).

Action 14 - Strengthening systems and service integration

Women and their children who have experienced, or are at risk of violence need a range of supports and services in order to be protected and rebuild their lives. Common risk assessments and information sharing protocols are essential for intervening early, and minimising the number of times women need to tell their stories to various service providers. These processes need to have safeguards in place so that information is handled correctly and women and their children are kept safe.

Effective wrap-around support to women and their children who experience, or are at risk of violence is also very important. This means ensuring collaboration between the police, domestic and family violence and sexual assault services, housing and homelessness services, child protection, health and mental health services, income support and financial management support (such as income management), perpetrator interventions and programmes and, where necessary, cultural support services.

Similarly, services and systems responding to perpetrators, such as corrections, justice, police and community services, need to work effectively together and with services supporting women, to provide consistent responses to perpetrators.

Integrated Services and Systems

Different jurisdictions have different information sharing processes and service delivery models in place to protect women and their children and provide them with support. Given the complexity of delivering integrated systems and service responses, under the Second Action Plan governments will share good practice and learn from each other to inform continual improvement.

Commonwealth

Department of Human Services Family and Domestic Violence Strategy

The Commonwealth Department of Human Services (DHS) has developed a Family and Domestic Violence Strategy to establish a consistent framework to respond to customers and staff who are affected by family and domestic violence. The Strategy is currently being implemented, with the development and trial phases under way.

Key themes of the Strategy include improving information for both staff and customers (such as staff awareness training, brochures and guidelines), development of a risk identification and referral model, and development of a systematic approach to referring and connecting people affected by violence to appropriate support services.

DHS is testing a screening process which proactively identifies customers who have family and domestic violence concerns at key intervention points within the business. Where a customer is identified as having family and domestic violence concerns, they will be offered a referral to the department's Social Work Services, or to a specialist external service such as 1800RESPECT or local specialist services which supports collaboration between government and non-government service delivery.

Australian Capital Territory

Family Violence Intervention Program

The ACT Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) provides a coordinated criminal justice and community response to criminal family violence matters that come to the attention of the police and proceed to prosecution. The Memorandum of Agreement which brings together ACT Government agencies and the Domestic Violence Crisis Service and governs the operation of the FVIP was renewed in 2014. The overarching objectives of the Program are to:

- work cooperatively together;
- maximise safety and protection for victims of family violence;
- provide opportunities for offender accountability and rehabilitation; and
- work towards continual improvement of the Program.

New South Wales

[It Stops Here – The Domestic and Family Violence Framework](#)

In February 2014, the NSW Government launched *It Stops Here – The Domestic and Family Violence Framework* for reform. Under this Framework, new referral pathways are being established to ensure that all victims receive a consistent and effective response no matter where they live or how they first come into contact with the domestic and family violence system.

This new model for referring and responding to victims of domestic and family violence places victims at the centre of service responses. The key elements of the model will deliver threat assessment and review, case coordination and referrals of victims and their children, as well as safety action plans to support victims at serious threat. The coordinated service responses are designed to respond to the needs of women experiencing violence and their children.

Instead of requiring the victims to seek out the services they need, the system will identify victims at risk and ensure that they have access to support services. The model includes a specifically designed safety assessment tool to assess domestic and family violence risk of harm, a tool that will be mandatory for police to use when they have attended a domestic violence incident, and will be encouraged for use by other agencies. If a person is identified to be 'at threat' or 'at serious threat', the matter will be referred to a Central Referral Point (CRP), a 24/7 electronic, web-based platform that will manage and monitor referrals to a Local Coordination Point (LCP) as well as capturing real-time data on victims and their children.

The state-wide network of LCPs will concentrate on the safety of the victim: providing case coordination, risk assessment and review, and referrals to support services. The LCP will contact other services on the victim's behalf, reducing the trauma victims experience by having to repeat their story to multiple service providers. If a victim is identified as being at serious risk of further harm, the victim's particular circumstances will be brought to a local Safety Action Meeting where all relevant government and non-government agencies will sit together to identify what they can contribute to meet the victim's individual needs.

Northern Territory

[Alice Springs Family Safety Framework](#)

The Alice Springs Family Safety Framework (FSF) is an action-based, integrated service response for people at high risk of injury or death due to family or domestic violence. This crisis intervention response includes: a common risk assessment tool; interagency referral processes; information sharing protocol; and fortnightly family safety meetings.

The FSF is one component of the Alice Springs Integrated Response to Family and Domestic Violence which is co-lead by the NT Departments of Attorney-General and Justice, and Children and Families. The NT Police lead the implementation of the FSF as part of the local integrated response, and have a memorandum of understanding with 10 government and non-government agencies to guide its implementation.

The Family Safety Framework in Alice Springs commenced in July 2012. Within its first 20 months of operations 114 referrals were received, with only three re-referrals and over 354 frontline workers from across a range of sectors receiving FSF training.

[Alice Springs Integrated Response to Family and Domestic Violence](#)

The Alice Springs Integrated Response to Family and Domestic Violence (the Integrated Response) aims to increase the safety of women and children and improve accountability of men who use family and domestic violence and support them to change their behaviour.

The NT Departments of the Attorney-General and Justice, and Children and Families co-lead the project, with a local reference group of 15 government and non-government agencies. The Integrated Response consists of a number of components designed to deliver along a spectrum of prevention, crisis intervention, justice responses and behavioural and social change.

The project commenced in 2012 and is informing a Territory-wide integrated response to domestic and family violence. An independent evaluation of the Integrated Response commenced in January 2014 and will conclude in July 2015.

Queensland

[Interagency Guidelines for Responding to People who have Experienced Sexual Assault](#)

The Queensland Government Interagency Guidelines for Responding to People who have Experienced Sexual Assault outline a best practice framework for working with people who have experienced sexual assault. They are designed to promote whole-of-government interagency cooperation and service coordination to improve responses to victims. The guidelines outline the role and responsibilities of each agency in ensuring people have access to effective, timely and appropriate information, support, care and treatment following sexual assault and to prioritise the safety and welfare of the victim.

[Queensland Homelessness Information Platform](#)

Responses to women and children escaping domestic and family violence have been enhanced through implementation of the Queensland Homelessness Information Platform (QHIP). Under this initiative, referral agencies such as the statewide domestic violence helpline can efficiently locate refuge vacancies through the Vacancy Capacity Management System. A standardised domestic and family violence risk assessment and referral tool has been developed and domestic violence service providers, including refuge workers, have been trained in its use across the State.

South Australia

[Family Safety Framework](#)

The Family Safety Framework, an initiative of the 'A Right to Safety' agenda in South Australia seeks to ensure that services to families most at risk of violence are dealt with in a more structured and systematic way, through agencies sharing information about high risk families and taking responsibility for supporting these families to navigate the service system.

The Family Safety Framework involves Family Safety Meetings, held fortnightly at the local level focusing on individual high-risk cases and common risk assessment, to ensure consistency in the assessment and actioning of high risk cases. Initially trialled in the Holden Hill, Noarlunga and Port Augusta policing boundaries in 2007, since November 2013 Family Safety Meetings are held in 19 regions throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia on an ongoing basis:

- six locations across the metropolitan area (Holden Hill, Noarlunga, Elizabeth, Port Adelaide, Sturt and Adelaide Eastern); and
- 13 regional locations: Gawler/Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Limestone Coast, Murray Bridge, Berri, Port Lincoln, Coober Pedy, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, Ceduna, Whyalla and Fleurieu/Kangaroo Island.

Tasmania

Safe at Home Integrated Criminal Justice Response to Family Violence

Safe at Home Integrated Criminal Justice Response to Family Violence (Safe at Home) is the Tasmanian Government's integrated criminal justice response to family violence. It is underpinned by the *Family Violence Act 2004* and is delivered in partnership by the departments of Police and Emergency Management; Justice; Health and Human Services; Education; and Premier and Cabinet.

Safe at Home is founded on the principle of the 'primacy of the safety of the victim' and uses a pro-arrest, pro-prosecution strategy to realise this principle.

A key feature of Safe at Home is integrated case coordination, introduced in recognition that no one service can manage all of the risk and safety issues associated with a Safe at Home case. Integrated Case Coordination meetings are held on a weekly basis in each of the four police districts throughout the state. New and active cases of family violence are discussed to develop a cohesive and integrated approach to address the identified risk and safety needs of each case.

Victoria

Family Violence Strengthening Risk Management

Since 2011, the Victorian Government has funded two Strengthening Risk Management (SRM) demonstration projects. A key component of these projects has been the Risk Assessment Management Panels (RAMPs), a multi-agency approach which brings together relevant agencies on a regular basis to share information and plan around the safety of women and children at high-risk of serious injury and death. These also provide an important platform for information sharing and planning in relation to perpetrators, along with case management support and case planning for women and children. Key agencies alongside the family violence services include: Victoria Police, Corrections, child protection, housing, mental health services and Centrelink. The 2014-15 Victorian Budget provided funding to extend RAMPs across the state.

These projects build on the platform established in 2007 through the Victorian Government's Family Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRAF). More than 6,000 mainstream and family violence specialist workers have been trained in the CRAF, which provides a standardised, transparent approach and tools to identify family violence and manage risk to improve the safety of women and their children. The effectiveness of the CRAF as an early intervention platform will be further tested in a joint project between the Foundation and a major metropolitan and regional hospital beginning in 2014-15.

Western Australia

Family and Domestic Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework

The Western Australia Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) has developed and is implementing a Family and Domestic Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRARMF) across the state. With a focus on safety and accountability, the CRARMF provides a common language and a standardised approach to identifying, assessing and responding to family and domestic violence.

The framework strengthens an integrated service response to family and domestic violence by setting minimum standards for family and domestic violence screening as well as the assessment, management and monitoring of risk. The expectation is that all services, both generalist and specialist, will implement these standards into policy and procedure.

The first three year Implementation Plan (2010-2013) included comprehensive training aimed at practitioners representing generalist, specialist and statutory agencies. The next stage is the provision of a suite of resources guiding agencies in policy and procedure implementation, delivery of professional education and the introduction of further minimum standards for information sharing and referral. This will allow agencies to embed a higher awareness of, and a more holistic and accountable response to family and domestic violence into the day-to-day practice of staff and agency leadership.

Family and Domestic Violence Response Team

The Family and Domestic Violence Response Team is a partnership between the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Western Australia Police and non-government domestic violence services. It is a co-located model, operating in 17 regions across Western Australia.

The purpose of the Family and Domestic Violence Response Team is to improve the safety of child and adult victims of family and domestic violence and increase perpetrator accountability through timely, early and coordinated intervention following a police call out to a domestic violence incident.

Governments and the community sector will test, trial and share lessons learnt and promising practice across jurisdictions to drive continuous improvement in supporting and protecting women and their children. This includes responses to harmful cultural practices affecting women and children, such as female genital mutilation and forced and servile marriage, with a particular focus on children and young people.

This work will be underpinned by research undertaken and promoted by ANROWS, which has identified 'systems' as a strategic research theme in the National Research Agenda in recognition that we need a better understanding of responses to violence against women within different systems and the impact of the intersection of these systems on the experiences of individuals, families and communities.

Victoria

Sexual assault reform

The Victorian justice system is engaged in a process of continuing reform in relation to sexual assault. Specifically, initiatives were designed to improve the deficiencies identified by the Victorian Law Reform Commission Report *Sexual Offences: Law and Procedure Final Report*, and create a system that:

- encourages people to report sexual assault;
- minimises the trauma and distress for complainants throughout the criminal justice process; and
- leads to a reduction in the incidence of sexual assault in the community.

Reform initiatives include: the establishment of Victoria Police Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Teams and three multidisciplinary centres, with another three to be operational by the end of 2015; the creation of a Child Witness Service; specialist sexual offences lists in the Magistrates' Court and the County Court; Specialist Sexual Offences Units within the Office of Public Prosecutions, a forensic nursing network, and an enhanced counselling service for victims of sexual assault and expanded crisis care responses.

Australian Capital Territory

Sexual Assault Reform Program

The ACT Government Sexual Assault Reform Program (SARP) is an outstanding example of how diverse government organisations and non-government agencies can collaborate to make a difference to how sexual assault victims experience the criminal justice system.

The SARP is designed to improve the response to investigating and prosecuting sexual offences. It has resulted in measures to reduce trauma for victims when giving evidence, including:

- remote facilities to enable a witness to give evidence from a different location;
- court technology which enables victims' evidence to be pre-recorded and re-played without requiring retrieval or appeal questioning; and
- protection and support for vulnerable victims and witnesses during interviews and when giving evidence in sexual and violent offence matters as well as vulnerable victims providing Victim Impact Statements.

The 2013 *Australian Institute of Criminology Evaluation of the ACT SARP: Final Report* noted that while the SARP reforms will take time to become entrenched within the ACT's criminal justice system, they appear to have been successful in improving the process for victim/survivors of sexual offences in a number of areas.

Action 15 - Strengthening systems integration and service delivery models for Indigenous women

Like all women who have experienced violence, Indigenous women and their children need a range of supports across systems and services. For Indigenous women, it is important these service responses are appropriate and responsive to community, family, cultural and locational contexts.

In the Second Action Plan, reform of wrap-around specialist services available to Indigenous women and their children will be strengthened, and guidance will be provided to mainstream services on effective responses to Indigenous women who have experienced violence. This includes through the DV-alert programme, which will develop a new Indigenous men's training programme and produce Indigenous-specific material for use in the mainstream programme.

Information sharing protocols and use of consistent risk identification and assessment methods across service and justice systems will also be expanded, including in cross-border contexts such as in Central Australia.

South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia

Cross-border Justice Scheme

Acknowledging the regional affiliations and mobility of people within the cross-border region of South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia known as the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands, systems and service integration have been strengthened across the borders to improve the safety of Indigenous women and children.

- The Cross-border Justice Scheme includes legislation introduced in 2009 to reduce the significance of borders on criminal justice responses to offending.
- Cross-border referral protocols for the Family Safety Framework (FSF) have been established between South Australia and Alice Springs (NT). The FSF aims to provide a timely, action-based, integrated service response to families experiencing family and domestic violence who are at high risk of injury or death.

- A Cross-border Intelligence Desk has been established to improve the health safety and wellbeing of families and children in the NPY Lands through improved intelligence and information sharing among South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory police and other agencies.
- NPY Women's Council Domestic and Family Violence Service provide crisis response, case work, advocacy and community education services to women affected by domestic violence in the region.
- Cross-border Family Violence programme conducts men's behaviour change programmes for offenders in the region.

Action 16 - Supporting children who have been exposed to violence

Under the First Action Plan, we explored linkages between violence against women and child abuse and neglect, including through the Child Aware Approaches initiative. In the Second Action Plan, governments will strengthen linkages across jurisdictions and at a local level to protect children and reduce violence against women. This includes work taking place within child protection systems, as well as community-driven work, such as the Child Aware Local Initiatives.

Research by ANROWS and other bodies, and lessons learnt from the Australian Centre for Child Protection's *Building Capacity, Building Bridges* project will support these efforts. Data will also be collected to better understand the link between childhood exposure to domestic and family violence, and involvement in domestic and family violence as an adult. This will inform the design of interventions seeking to 'break the cycle' of violence.

The Second Action Plan of the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* also recognises the strong links between domestic and family violence and child abuse and neglect.

Action 17 - Improving information sharing

In instances of domestic and family violence, there can be more than one court process underway either within or across jurisdictions. For example, child custody and contact proceedings may be underway in the federal family courts, while domestic and family violence or child protection proceedings are underway in state or territory courts.

Building on work initiated under the First Action Plan, governments will continue to explore and implement ways to improve collaboration and information-sharing between court processes, to achieve the best outcomes for women, children, and families.

Action 18 - Implementing a national family and domestic violence protection orders scheme

To enhance the protection for women who have experienced domestic violence in Australia who move or travel interstate, it is highly desirable that DVOs are recognised across jurisdictions. Under the First Action Plan, the former Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (now the COAG Council on Law, Crime and Community Safety) committed to introduce a National DVO Scheme. This included the development of model legislation for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs across Australia and the exploration of methods for information sharing.

Under the Second Action Plan, the development of a National DVO Scheme will continue to contribute to the protection of women who have experienced domestic violence in Australia.

Action 19 - Reviewing domestic and family violence-related deaths

Domestic homicide reviews identify the sequence of events leading to domestic violence related deaths. The learnings from these reviews can be used to identify possible gaps in system responses to develop more effective interventions.

Under the Second Action Plan, jurisdictions will share information and good practice from domestic homicide and child death reviews, and other review mechanisms. This will enhance review processes and drive improvements to the way Commonwealth, state and territory systems work together to identify and respond to women experiencing violence and, ultimately, prevent domestic violence homicides.

Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Processes

States and territories have a range of mechanisms and processes in place to review domestic and family violence-related homicides. These include standard coronial processes, reviews undertaken by Ombudsman's offices and specialist domestic and family violence death review units.

The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review (ADFVDR) Network was established in 2011. It brings together representatives from each operating specialist domestic violence death review unit to share information, data and improve knowledge about domestic and family violence deaths.

The overarching goals of the ADFVDR Network are to:

- improve knowledge of the context and circumstances in which domestic and family violence deaths occur, in order to identify practice and system changes that may assist in reducing these types of deaths;
- identify at a national level the context of, and risks associated with, domestic and family violence-related deaths; and
- identify, collect, analyse and report national data on domestic and family violence-related deaths.

The Network membership is comprised of the following specialist domestic and family violence death review units.

Queensland

Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit (DFVDRU) was established in the Office of the State Coroner (OSC) in 2011. The unit provides assistance to coroners in their investigations of domestic and family violence related deaths, by ensuring that information about the broader context within which the death occurred is gathered and examined. In conducting reviews, the DFVDRU considers a range of factors including the circumstances of the incident, prior interaction with services, potential points of intervention as well as the nature and history of the relationship between the deceased and perpetrator. The unit also assists with the identification of any systemic shortcomings and in the formulation of preventive recommendations for those matters that proceed to Inquest. The DFVDRU also maintains a data set of homicides identified as related to domestic and family violence to assist in the monitoring and identification of any patterns or trends in relation to these types of deaths. A review in 2012 found that the unit had successfully built a foundation for improvements to coronial and police processes and makes a valuable contribution to community safety.

South Australia

As part of the South Australian Government's 'A Right to Safety Agenda' in 2010, the Office for Women established a Senior Research Officer (Domestic Violence) position, in partnership with the South Australian Coroner's Office, to research and investigate open and closed deaths related to domestic violence. This position commenced in January 2011. The position identifies domestic violence issues, contexts and relevant service systems while investigating the adequacy of system responses. This advice forms part of the Coronial brief and builds the capacity of the Coronial Inquest to explore and inquire into system responses to domestic violence. It also recommends improvements with a preventative focus. As at 1 January 2014 this position has conducted file reviews and investigations on over 70 deaths reported to the Coroner. These reviews have contributed to three finalised Coronial Inquests with a domestic

violence context. All three of these Inquests have had findings and 20 recommendations released which relate to systemic improvements regarding responses to domestic violence. These include responding appropriately to disclosures of domestic violence and inter-agency information sharing including but not limited to the Family Safety Framework.

Victoria

The Victorian Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths (VSRFVD) was established in the Coroners Court of Victoria in 2009 pursuant to the *Coroners Act 2008 (Vic)*. The VSRFVD is led by the State Coroner and assisted by a reference group, comprised of government and non-government representatives. The core functions of the VSRFVD are to conduct in-depth case reviews of domestic violence homicide and to collect and analyse related data. Specifically, the VSRFVD examines the context in which these deaths occur; identifies associated risk and contributory factors; considers current systemic responses to domestic violence; and provides an evidence base to support the formulation of prevention recommendations. Recommendations are made by coroners in the context of their findings and are publicly available. Where recommendations target public statutory authorities or entities, a written response to these recommendations, specifying what action has or will be taken, is required within 3 months.

Western Australia

On 1 July 2012, the Ombudsman Western Australia commenced an important new role to review family and domestic violence (FDV) fatalities. A FDV fatality is a death that is caused directly or indirectly by a person who was in a family or domestic relationship with the deceased. The Ombudsman has a number of functions in relation to the review of family and domestic violence fatalities: reviewing the circumstances in which and why FDV deaths occur; identifying patterns and trends that arise from reviews of FDV deaths; and making recommendations to public authorities about ways to prevent or reduce FDV deaths. The Ombudsman also comprehensively reports on the undertaking of this role. The Ombudsman also recently commenced an own motion investigation that will examine issues associated with Violence Restraining Orders and their relationship with family and domestic violence fatalities. This investigation will be tabled in Parliament in early 2015.

New South Wales

On 16 July 2010, following recommendations made in 2009 by the Domestic Homicide Advisory Panel, the *Coroners Amendment (Domestic Violence Death Review Team) Act 2010* commenced, amending the Coroners Act 2009 by inserting Chapter 9A and thereby establishing the Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT). The DVDRT is convened by the NSW State Coroner and is constituted by representatives from 11 key government stakeholders, including law enforcement, justice, health and social services, as well as four representatives from non-government agencies. The core legislative functions of the DVDRT are to: review and analyse individual closed cases of domestic violence deaths (as defined in the *Coroners Act 2009*); establish and maintain a database so as to identify patterns and trends relating to such deaths; and develop recommendations and undertake research that aims to prevent or reduce the likelihood of such deaths. The DVDRT reports annually to the NSW Parliament.

Action 20 - Strengthening pro-active policing

Responding to domestic and family violence and sexual assault constitutes a significant proportion of work done by police forces around Australia. In recent years, there has been some very positive work in a number of jurisdictions to improve police responses to violence against women. This includes through enhancing police processes, changing recruit training, running internal and external programmes and working more effectively with other parts of government.

Under the Second Action Plan, the good work that has been done by police forces will be recognised and showcased, and further improvement will be driven through fostering leadership within the police forces and sharing 'what works'.

National Priority Three - Links with National Plan Outcomes and Measures of Success

Key Outcomes this National Priority will help to achieve	How success will be measured
1. Communities are safe and free from violence	An increase in the community's intolerance of violence against women (<i>National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women</i>).
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened	Reduction in the proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities and neighbourhoods; and Increased proportions of Indigenous women are able to have their say within community on important issues including violence (<i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i>).
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence	Increased access to and responsiveness of services for victims of domestic/family violence and sexual assault (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).
5. Justice responses are effective	Increased rates of women reporting to justice agencies domestic violence and sexual assault (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account	A decrease in repeated partner victimisation (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).

Second Action Plan – A snapshot

This diagram shows the inter-relationship between the 26 actions of the Second Action Plan and how much they contribute to achieving the National Plan's Outcomes and Foundations for Change. Wider bars show a greater contribution.

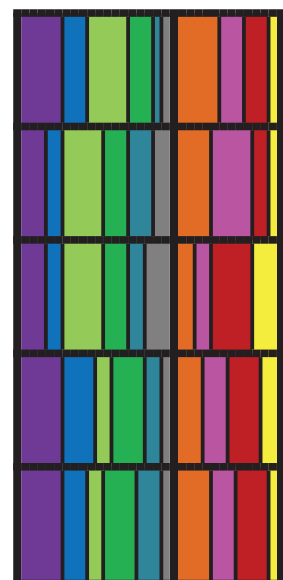
National Priority 1: Driving whole of community action to prevent violence

1. Support **communities** to prevent, respond to and speak out against violence, through local government, business community and sporting groups, schools and key institutions.
2. Improve **media** engagement on violence against women and their children, and representation of women experiencing violence, at a national and local level.
3. Take the next step to reduce violence against women and their children by promoting **gender equality** across a range of spheres, including women's economic independence and leadership.
4. Support **young people** through *The Line* campaign and addressing issues relating to the sexualisation of children.
5. Build on the findings of the **respectful relationships** evaluation, to strengthen the design and delivery of respectful relationship programmes, and implement them more broadly.
6. Incorporate **respectful relationships** education into the national curriculum.
7. Enhance **online safety** for children and young people.



National Priority 2: Understanding diverse experiences of violence

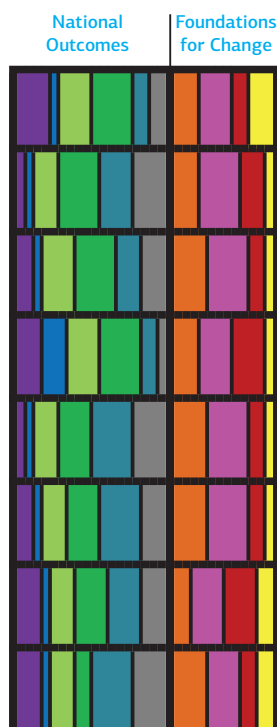
8. Meet the needs of **Indigenous women** and their children through improving access to information and resources, and providing avenues for advocacy and leadership.
9. Improve outcomes for **Indigenous Australians** through building community safety.
10. Gain a better understanding of 'what works' in improving **Indigenous community safety**.
11. Work with **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities** to reduce violence and support women and their children, particularly those who can be most vulnerable.
12. Deliver awareness raising, training and prevention activities and responses to violence that are tailored to meet the needs of **women with disability**, including based on outcomes from the Stop the Violence project, and continuing to build the evidence base.



National Outcomes

- Communities are safe and free from violence
- Relationships are respectful
- Indigenous communities are strengthened
- Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence
- Justice responses are effective
- Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account





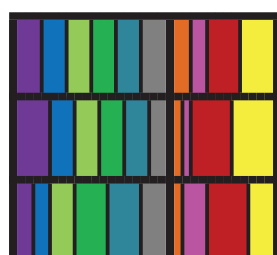
National Priority 3: Supporting innovative services and integrated systems

13. Continue **building first stop support** for women and their children experiencing violence, based on 'what works,' and develop national standards for telephone and online counselling services.
14. Strengthen **systems and service integration** to ensure that specialist responses for identifying and responding to violence against women and their children are supported and effective.
15. Strengthen **service delivery models and systems integration**, including in remote and cross-border contexts, to meet the needs of Indigenous women and their children experiencing violence.
16. Support for **children** who have experienced, witnessed or been exposed to violence.
17. Improve **information sharing** across court processes.
18. Implement a **national scheme for family and domestic violence protection orders**.
19. Drive continuous improvement in systems through **reviewing domestic and family violence-related deaths and child deaths**.
20. Continue to strengthen **pro-active policing**, highlighting and building on good practice.



National Priority 4: Improving perpetrator interventions

21. Improve the **evidence base on perpetrator interventions**, with a focus on reducing recidivism and a better understanding of high-risk groups.
22. Finalise and set **national outcome standards** for best practice perpetrator interventions.
23. **Build capacity** to implement national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions and improve the quality and quantity of perpetrator interventions.



National Priority 5: Continuing to build the evidence base

24. Expand the **quality and quantity of national research** on violence against women and their children through the implementation of the National Research Agenda.
25. Measure the **prevalence** of violence against women and their children and **community attitudes** towards violence through national surveys.
26. Build the **National Data Collection and Reporting Framework**.

Foundations for Change

- Track performance
- Improve the evidence base
- Integrate systems and share information
- Strengthen the workforce

National Priority Four: Improving perpetrator interventions

Domestic and family violence and sexual assault are violent crimes. These violent crimes are illegal and wrong, and people who perpetrate them should be held to account to the full extent of the law. The National Plan recognises that reducing violence against women and their children cannot be achieved without effectively responding to perpetrators.

Under the First Action Plan, there was extensive consultation on improving perpetrator interventions and a commitment to strengthen the evidence base in a way that enables all governments to implement high quality and consistent responses to perpetrators across systems.

The Second Action Plan focuses on improving the quality of and access to perpetrator interventions across the country. Ultimately, systems including police, justice, corrections, and community services need to work together in consistent and integrated ways to increase the effectiveness of perpetrator interventions and stop perpetrators reoffending.

Under the Second Action Plan, evidence about ‘what works’ in perpetrator interventions will also be increased, with a focus on reducing recidivism and on high-risk groups.

Actions

21. Improve the **evidence base on perpetrator interventions**, with a focus on reducing recidivism and a better understanding of high risk groups.
 22. Finalise and set **national outcome standards** for best practice perpetrator interventions.
 23. **Build capacity** to implement national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions and improve the quality and quantity of perpetrator interventions.
-

How will these actions be achieved?

Action 21 - Improving the evidence base on perpetrator interventions

There is still a lot to be learnt about the perpetration of violence against women and their children and what interventions are most effective, particularly in reducing reoffending. Early work to improve the evidence base on perpetrators and perpetrator interventions was undertaken under the First Action Plan.

The Commonwealth Government has committed \$3 million to ANROWS to develop a research stream in the National Research Agenda specifically on perpetrator interventions. This research will consider ‘what works’ and support the implementation of national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions.

Action 22 - Finalising national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions

A range of interventions for perpetrators of domestic and family violence and sexual assault are being delivered across Australia. These include community-based programmes and responses in the context of criminal justice processes, which are ideally linked in with services for victims and have a focus on keeping women safe from violence. Under the First Action Plan, Commonwealth, state and territory governments worked with key experts to consult broadly on the development of national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions.

Building on the considerable work undertaken in the First Action Plan, Commonwealth, state and territory governments will finalise and agree a set of best practice national outcome standards and begin to operationalise them in jurisdictions. In doing this, governments will be advised by experts across sectors, including police, justice, corrections and community services to ensure the standards are effective in driving change.

Action 23 - Improving the quality and quantity of perpetrator interventions

Implementation of national outcome standards to drive high quality, best practice perpetrator interventions will require systems to work more effectively together over time. Only then will perpetrator interventions be consistently effective in protecting women and stopping men from reoffending. To increase the effectiveness of perpetrator interventions, they must be culturally appropriate.

To support states and territories to make the changes required to fully implement national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions, the Commonwealth Government will offer a payment of \$4 million, to be distributed to jurisdictions in 2014-2015.

Western Australia

Perpetrator accountability within a child protection context

The significance of family and domestic violence within the child protection context is well established. Providing safe, effective and timely responses to children and adult victims within this context is paramount. Perpetrator accountability is essential if child protection services are to build safe and effective outcomes for children and adult victims.

The Western Australia Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) has targeted the development of good practice when working with family and domestic violence within the child protection arena, with perpetrator accountability a priority. The cornerstone of this initiative has been the development of the Perpetrator Accountability in Child Protection Practice resource.

The resource is designed to provide guidance and support to child protection case workers and allied support services to safely engage and manage the risk posed by perpetrators of family and domestic violence. Sitting alongside and complementing this resource are significant enhancements to child protection practice guidance that places an emphasis on perpetrators stopping their violence and being held to account.

National Priority Four - Links with National Plan Outcomes and Measures of Success

Key Outcomes this National Priority will help to achieve

How success will be measured

6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account

A decrease in repeated partner victimisation (*Personal Safety Survey and administrative data*).

National Priority Five: Continuing to build the evidence base

All governments recognise that, for the National Plan to be successful in achieving its long-term target, a solid, national evidence base is required. Only then will we know what policy and service interventions are effective in preventing and responding to violence against women and their children.

Work done in the Second Action Plan will have ongoing importance over the life of the National Plan, and lead on from foundations laid in the First Action Plan including: the establishment of ANROWS; a commitment to national surveys on prevalence of violence and community attitudes towards violence; and setting the groundwork for a National Data Collection and Reporting Framework.

Actions

24. Expand the **quality and quantity of national research** on violence against women and their children through the implementation of the National Research Agenda.
 25. Measure the **prevalence** of violence against women and their children and **community attitudes** towards violence through national surveys.
 26. Build the **National Data Collection and Reporting Framework**.
-

How will these actions be achieved?

Action 24 - Implementing the National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

National, linked-up research that can be translated into policy and practice is critical to inform national efforts to effectively reduce violence against women and their children. Under the First Action Plan, all Australian governments partnered to establish ANROWS as a national research body to bring together, for the first time, research on domestic and family violence and sexual assault across the country.

In the second half of 2013, ANROWS conducted considerable consultation across sectors to inform the development of the National Research Agenda to shape and guide national research on violence against women and their children.

The National Research Agenda was endorsed by all Australian governments and released on 16 May 2014. It will inform the development of research by a range of institutions, academics, governments and community organisations.

National

National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

A sound evidence base is crucial to the successful implementation of the National Plan.

The National Research Agenda organises identified research priorities into four Strategic Research Themes:

1. Experience and impacts
2. Gender inequality and primary prevention
3. Service responses and interventions
4. Systems.

Common across all Strategic Research Themes is the need to focus research effort on “what works” and on diverse groups and under-researched populations, including Indigenous women, women from CALD communities and women with disability.

ANROWS has identified its own priority projects from each of the Strategic Research Themes. Its 2014-2015 Research Program will be made up of open application research grants in priority topic areas; multi-jurisdictional national projects; projects commissioned to underpin empirical research; and research ANROWS is commissioned to undertake.

The National Research Agenda can be updated over time as we make progress and identify new priorities in our efforts to reduce violence against women and their children. It will help to drive expansion of research and information and it will help to identify how we are progressing in our mission to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, violence against women and their children.

Action 25 - Measuring prevalence of violence and community attitudes towards violence

Collecting and reporting national data enables governments and the Australian community to better understand the scale of violence against women and shine a light on whether or not community attitudes around violence against women are changing.

Under the First Action Plan, the Commonwealth Government committed to funding the ABS' Personal Safety Survey (PSS) and VicHealth's National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women (NCAS) on four-year cycles. The most recent PSS was undertaken in 2012 and will be conducted again in 2016, for release in 2017. The 2009 NCAS was repeated in 2013, and results will be released in late 2014.

Under the Second Action Plan, options for providing information relating to diverse groups of women who can be more vulnerable to violence – including Indigenous women, women from CALD communities and women with disability – will be explored through the production of specific one-off reports where possible.

Action 26 - Building the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework

Jurisdictions collect and report different administrative data on experience and perpetration of violence against women and their children. This data is collected through systems such as policing, justice, corrections, health and community services. These systems are often not 'linked-up', meaning the individual pathways of women and their children experiencing violence, and of perpetrators, cannot be tracked across systems. This presents a considerable barrier in determining which interventions are most effective in supporting and protecting women.

Data is also often not comparable across jurisdictions, due to different data definitions and collections. Making data consistent, and developing a national picture around administrative data, is important in better understanding the incidence and experience of violence against women and improving

interventions. Under the First Action Plan, all Australian governments committed to the development of a National Data Collection and Reporting Framework. This work is being led by the ABS in partnership with all governments.

Under the Second Action Plan, further work will be done to develop the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework. This framework will work with existing national data collected from state and territory systems and lay the foundation for building a common language and a coordinated and consolidated approach to data collection.

National Priority Five - Links with National Plan Outcomes and Measures of Success

Key Outcomes this National Priority will help to achieve	How success will be measured
1. Communities are safe and free from violence	An increase in the community's intolerance of violence against women (<i>National Survey on Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women</i>).
2. Relationships are respectful	Improved knowledge, skills and behaviour of respectful relationships by young people (<i>Evaluation of respectful relationships education projects and Commonwealth social marketing campaign The Line</i>).
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened	Reduction in the proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities and neighbourhoods; and Increased proportions of Indigenous women are able to have their say within community on important issues including violence (<i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey</i>).
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence	Increased access to and responsiveness of services for victims of domestic/family violence and sexual assault (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).
5. Justice responses are effective	Increased rates of women reporting to justice agencies domestic violence and sexual assault (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account	A decrease in repeated partner victimisation (<i>Personal Safety Survey and administrative data</i>).

Implementing the Second Action Plan

Governance

In order to achieve the aims of the National Plan there needs to be a collaborative effort from governments, the community sector, business and the broader community. This requires National Plan communications and governance arrangements to cut across traditional government boundaries as well as engage a range of stakeholders.

A collaborative and dynamic approach to governance arrangements under the Second Action Plan will ensure that a broad range of people are involved in shaping national work to reduce violence against women and their children.

Governments are committed to strong governance arrangements under the Second Action Plan and are jointly responsible for overseeing its management, in collaboration with experts and other members of civil society:

- **Commonwealth, state and territory ministers** responsible for reducing violence against women will oversee the implementation of the Second Action Plan, monitor progress and develop the next Action Plan. Ministers will also ensure whole of government involvement with the National Plan by continuing to partner with relevant ministerial colleagues within jurisdictions and at a national level, and work with relevant councils under the COAG system.
- **Commonwealth, state and territory officials** will support ministers to implement the Second Action Plan, closely monitor and progress key cross-jurisdictional and national actions and drive national reform by sharing information and good practice. Officials will also ensure whole of government involvement with the National Plan by continuing to engage and partner with relevant departmental colleagues within jurisdictions and at a national level.
- The Commonwealth Minister will chair **annual national roundtables** of key experts from a range of sectors (such as ANROWS, domestic and family violence and sexual assault services and perpetrator services, primary prevention organisations, health, education, housing and homelessness services, representatives from CALD groups, policing and justice, national women's alliances, business, Indigenous groups, the disability sector and the Australian Bureau of Statistics) to inform areas of focus across the Second Action Plan and shape the direction the National Plan is heading in.
- Governments will undertake **targeted consultations** with subject matter experts on how to best implement specific actions. This could include the establishment of time-limited reference groups or advisory panels, consultation through ANROWS and the Foundation's governance arrangements, or seeking advice through broader processes where necessary.
- Existing state and territory **advisory and consultative mechanisms** will provide feedback and input into the implementation of the Second Action Plan at the state and territory level, as well as advise on interactions between the National Plan and state and territory plans to reduce violence against women and their children.
- **National conferences** will be held in 2015 and 2016 on selected National Priorities within the Second Action Plan to bring sectors together and encourage whole of community engagement in sharing information and raising awareness of 'what works.'

Communications

Communicating effectively with a broad range of people will be a key factor in driving the implementation of the Second Action Plan. A National Plan Communications Strategy will bring together the multiple elements of National Plan communications from early 2015.

The Second Action Plan will work to increase engagement with the National Plan and develop a shared understanding across the community about the issue of violence against women and their children. This will support a shift in thinking about violence against women, transforming it from a problem that is considered to be 'just a women's issue' to a whole of community issue. Action by the Foundation, including delivery of *The Line* social marketing campaign and work with the media, as outlined under **National Priority 1**, will drive this increased engagement and shift in attitudes.

It is critical that diverse groups of women and communities are able to access information about violence against women and their children, and about the National Plan. Accessible and translated information and support will complement efforts under **National Priority 2** and will be a key feature of National Plan communications under the Second Action Plan.

To build awareness about what is being done under the National Plan there will be enhanced sharing of information about progress between governments and with the Australian public. Communities and organisations will be supported to share information about the work they are doing and learn from each other. This will help to build good practice and an understanding about 'what works' in reducing violence against women and their children, and will be complemented by work undertaken by ANROWS under **National Priority 5**.

Everyone involved in the National Plan has a role to play in effective communications. The Foundation and ANROWS, as well as the national roundtables, state and territory advisory mechanisms and National Plan conferences outlined under 'Governance', are important mechanisms for broadening engagement in, and sharing information about, violence against women and their children and the National Plan. Similarly, the annual progress reports described in 'Reporting' will be a key method for communicating progress under the Second Action Plan and the National Plan. The approach to communications will be dynamic and evolving, responding to and harnessing the increasing level of energy throughout Australia to stop violence against women and their children.

Reporting

Monitoring and reporting progress against the National Plan is vital to ensure there is real progress towards reducing violence against women and their children. It allows jurisdictions to share information with each other and the public and provides governments with useful information when developing future Action Plans.

Governments will work together to publicly release targeted and streamlined annual reports to the Australian public on progress under the Second Action Plan, commencing in 2015.

Evaluation

The National Plan includes a commitment by all governments to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan as a policy framework for reducing violence against women and their children across its 12-year lifespan.

Evaluations will analyse the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Plan by measuring progress toward achieving 'a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children' by 2022. This will include analysis of indicators of change as well as each National Outcome's measure of success.

National Plan evaluations will take a cumulative approach, building the evidence base for adjustments and enhancements to the National Plan over time.

An Evaluation Plan that outlines how the National Plan will be evaluated every three years, and across its 12-year lifespan was released on 27 June 2014, along with a Progress Review outlining what was achieved under the First Action Plan. A link to the Evaluation Plan is at [**www.dss.gov.au/nationalplan**](http://www.dss.gov.au/nationalplan).

Appendices

Appendix 1: Structure of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

The National Plan is working towards a vision that by 2022, *Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities* and a target of achieving a *significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children*.

Governments have reviewed progress under the First Action Plan, and the elements of the overarching National Plan, and have agreed to continue with the following National Plan structure:

Vision

Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities.

Target

A significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children from 2010 to 2022.

National Outcomes

The National Plan sets out six Outcomes for all governments to deliver over its 12-year lifespan, along with Measures of Success (see Table 1.) for each Outcome:

1. **Communities are safe and free from violence** - Promoting community involvement, focusing on primary prevention and advancing gender equality will help foster positive and respectful community attitudes that are critical to Australian women and their children living free from violence in safe communities.
2. **Relationships are respectful** - Changing and shaping attitudes and behaviours of young people is critical to preventing domestic and family violence and sexual assault in the future and the National Plan will support individuals to develop more equal and respectful relationships.
3. **Indigenous communities are strengthened** - The National Plan is focused on supporting Indigenous communities to develop local solutions to prevent violence. This includes encouraging Indigenous women to have a stronger voice as community leaders and supporting Indigenous men to reject violence.
4. **Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence** - Specialist and mainstream services must be responsive and flexible in meeting the diverse needs of their clients. It is particularly important that there is improved collaboration between services so that women do not have to tell their story multiple times.
5. **Justice responses are effective** - Under the National Plan, work is being undertaken to improve the legal response to domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and to promote responses from criminal justice agencies. Systems need to work together effectively to be responsive to women's safety and to prevent further violence.
6. **Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account** - Preventing and reducing violence against women requires strong laws that are effectively administered and hold perpetrators to account. All governments recognise the evidence base for perpetrator interventions requires strengthening and are currently working to expand the range of perpetrator interventions in their jurisdiction.

Foundations for Change

Each Action Plan is supported by four 'Foundations for Change,' in recognition that there is ongoing work that needs to underpin the National Plan through its lifespan if we are to achieve a reduction in violence against women and their children.

The four 'Foundations for Change' of the National Plan are:

1. **Strengthen the workforce** - Preventing and responding to violence against women and their children requires a workforce that has the right training and support. This includes both the specialist and mainstream workforce, people who work with victims and people who work with perpetrators.
2. **Integrate systems and share information** - National and international evidence demonstrates the critical role of integrated service delivery for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. For example, the non-government support system is working closely with government and justice agencies to ensure the needs of individuals who have experienced violence are effectively met. Integrated service systems which share information, coordinate responses and track results have demonstrated improved outcomes for victims. A further aim is that the integrated service system is focused on the needs of the individual and is able to share information to ensure these needs are met. The National Plan also seeks to foster information sharing between and within governments.
3. **Improve the evidence base** - The National Plan has a strong focus on improving and coordinating the evidence base around domestic and family violence and sexual assault. This requires ongoing work to: collect and report national survey data; strengthen jurisdictional administrative data so it can be shared nationally and individual pathways through systems can be followed; and produce, bring together and disseminate research that is high quality and can usefully inform policy and practice.
4. **Track performance** - The National Plan includes measures of success which are high level indicators of change. Measuring progress against these indicators presents significant challenges as there is currently no nationally consistent dataset on which to build a robust and reliable evidence base. Over the course of the National Plan, the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework will create nationally consistent data definitions and collection methods. The Commonwealth has also committed to repeat the PSS and the NCAS every four years.

Action Plans

The National Plan is being delivered through a series of four three-year Action Plans. The Action Plans have been designed as a series to be implemented over 12 years, each building on the other as well as allowing flexibility for governments and the community to respond to new and emerging issues. The four Action Plans are:

First Action Plan (2010 – 2013) – Building a strong foundation

Second Action Plan (2013 – 2016) – Moving ahead

Third Action Plan (2016 – 2019) – Promising results

Fourth Action Plan (2019 – 2022) – Turning the corner.

National Priorities

Each Action Plan identifies a set of 'National Priorities' which are joint areas of work for all governments during the life of the three-year Action Plan. National Priorities contribute to one or more National Plan Outcomes.

Appendix 2: Foundations laid by the First Action Plan

The purpose of the First Action Plan was to build a strong foundation – setting up national infrastructure, bringing stakeholders together under a common goal and providing the pathway for issues to be taken up nationally. The First Action Plan put in place strategic projects and actions to drive results over the longer term while also implementing more immediate priority projects and actions.

The National Priorities identified under the First Action Plan were:

National Priority 1: Building Primary Prevention Capacity - Some significant achievements in the area of primary prevention include the ground-breaking social marketing campaign *The Line* and state and territory-based social marketing initiatives; respectful relationships education in schools; and the establishment, initially by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, of the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children, which will engage the broader community to prevent violence, and work to change attitudes and behaviours that support violence.

National Priority 2: Enhancing Service Delivery - There have been significant advancements in service delivery, including through state and territory-based reforms to service responses to women and their children who have experienced violence.

National initiatives to support and supplement state and territory work have also been established and expanded. These include 1800RESPECT, which provides free telephone and online counselling services to victims, people at-risk, their family and friends, frontline and isolated workers 24/7, and DV-alert, which supports frontline health and allied health workers to better identify and assist victims of domestic and family violence, and also offers an Indigenous-specific programme.

The National Plan also recognises the need for improved services for women with disability. As part of the First Action Plan, Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) was funded to investigate and promote ways to improve access and responses by services for women and girls with disability experiencing or at risk of violence.

The WWDA project was overseen by a project steering group chaired by Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick with membership from across jurisdictions, and involved extensive consultation with the community sector and key experts. The findings of a national Stop the Violence symposium held in late 2013 has informed the development of the Second Action Plan. This work has laid the groundwork for improved service provision, so that the service system is more responsive to the needs of women and girls with disabilities. It also complements other important work related to violence against women with disabilities and their children.

National Priority 3: Strengthening Justice Responses - The need to stop men using violence against women is at the centre of the National Plan. During the First Action Plan all governments agreed to develop national outcome standards for perpetrator interventions and a major consultation involving 220 people in 13 workshops, 66 interviews, and 58 online surveys, has defined a way forward, with ANROWS providing research to assist jurisdictions to implement the national outcome standards. A family violence training package (AVERT) targeting practitioners in the legal and family law system and a common risk assessment framework tool (DOORS) were also implemented during the First Action Plan.

At a state and territory level, a number of states and territories have also undertaken considerable work to stop men using violence and to improve justice responses. In the Second Action Plan, justice responses will be strengthened through focusing on specific areas of Commonwealth laws and by jurisdictions working on national DVO requirements.

National Priority 4: Building the Evidence Base - All governments have contributed to building the evidence base, especially through establishing ANROWS, which will bring together knowledge of 'what works' to enable further sharing of best practice, and provide an evidence base for policy makers and practitioners. This evidence base will be strengthened by two national surveys, conducted every four years over the life of the National Plan – the PSS and the NCAS. Data was collected for the most recent NCAS in June 2013 and will be released later in 2014.

The PSS 2012, released in December 2013, found that around one in three Australian women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and almost one in five has experienced sexual violence. The PSS presents information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15, including their experience of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. Detailed information is available about the characteristics of a person's most recent incident of violence (such as whether injured, help seeking behaviours, police involvement, anxiety/fear experienced). It also presents detailed information about men's and women's experience of current and previous partner violence (such as frequency of violence, whether children saw or heard the violence, help seeking behaviours, police involvement, anxiety/fear experienced and where people go when leaving violent relationships). Other information is also presented for lifetime experience of stalking, physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15 and general feelings of safety.

A National Data Collection and Reporting Framework is currently being developed to provide nationally consistent data definitions, reporting and collection methods over the life of the National Plan.

Appendix 3: Definitions of violence against women

Violence against women can be described in many different ways, and laws in each state and territory have their own definitions.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as:

‘The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats or such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.’

Domestic violence refers to acts of violence that occur between people who have, or have had, an intimate relationship. While there is no single definition, the central element of domestic violence is an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear, for example by using behaviour which is violent and threatening. In most cases, the violent behaviour is part of a range of tactics to exercise power and control over women and their children, and can be both criminal and non-criminal.

Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse.

Physical violence can include slaps, shoves, hits, punches, pushes, being thrown down stairs or across the room, kicking, twisting of arms, choking, and being burnt or stabbed.

Sexual assault or **sexual violence** can include rape, sexual assault with implements, being forced to watch or engage in pornography, forced prostitution, and being made to have sex with friends of the perpetrator.

Psychological and **emotional abuse** can include a range of controlling behaviours such as control of finances, isolation from family and friends, continual humiliation, threats against children or being threatened with injury or death.

Family violence is a broader term that refers to violence between family members, as well as violence between intimate partners. It involves the same sorts of behaviours as described for domestic violence. The term, ‘family violence’ is the most widely used term to identify the experiences of Indigenous people, because it includes the broad range of marital and kinship relationships in which violence may occur.

Elder abuse is a general term used to describe harmful acts toward an elderly adult, such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect, including self-neglect.

Financial abuse is a form of mistreatment and fraud in which someone forcibly controls another person’s money or other assets. It can involve, for instance, stealing cash, not allowing a victim to take part in any financial decisions or preventing a victim from having a job.

