



Frequently Asked Questions

Development of the Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022 of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*

This document contains potential questions asked regarding the Fourth Action Plan, a summary of responses to questions sent to the Fourth Action Plan inbox (fourthactionplan@dss.gov.au) and questions raised in face-to-face consultations to inform the development of the Fourth Action Plan.

A final report on all consultations will also be added to the Department of Social Services' website.

About the National Plan

Q: What is the National Plan?

A: The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* (the National Plan) brings together the efforts of governments across Australia to make a real and sustained reduction in the levels of violence against women.

Key achievements of the National Plan include the establishment of key organisations and programs to reduce violence against women, such as:

- Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) – to build the evidence
- the Personal Safety Survey and National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey – which provide a growing evidence base about the prevalence of and attitudes towards violence in the community
- Our Watch – including the development of a national prevention framework
- 1800RESPECT – the free, 24 hour national online and telephone counselling and support service for people who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, family, domestic or sexual violence.
- DV-alert – training from Lifeline for workforces that support people affected by family, domestic and sexual violence.

The National Plan is supported by four, three-year Action Plans from 2010 to 2022.

The Third Action 2016-2019 Plan is currently being implemented. The Fourth Action Plan is being developed and will be implemented from 2019 to 2022. For more information about the National Plan, please visit <https://www.dss.gov.au/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children-2010-2022>.

Q: What is the Fourth Action Plan?

A: The Fourth Action Plan is the final action plan of the National Plan.

Consultations to support the development of the Fourth Action Plan will focus on building on what has been achieved so far, understanding what is happening locally and looking for opportunities to improve responses to family, domestic and sexual violence.



Fourth Action Plan Engagement

Q: Who is leading the development of the Fourth Action Plan?

A: The Australian Government is leading the development of the Fourth Action Plan in partnership with state and territory governments.

The Department of Social Services will partner with state and territory governments to deliver workshops in each jurisdiction. The focus of these consultations will be influenced by a number of key themes identified by the Australian Government, in consultation with stakeholders across the country. These include:

- reducing violence against women and their children through prevention activities
- reducing sexual violence
- addressing the impact of violence on women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other women with diverse needs
- developing workforce capability
- responding to the impact of family and domestic violence on children
- providing crisis accommodation
- supporting the medium to long term safety, wellbeing and independence of women and their children
- addressing technology facilitated abuse
- improving access to justice.

Discussions at the consultation workshops are supported by the [Background and Evidence paper](#), which also forms the basis of the data workshops being conducted in most capital cities. Please note that this is not an overarching research and evidence paper. It simply pulls together data to support the priorities identified through early conversations with states and territories and other key stakeholders.

Q: When will consultations begin?

A: Consultations commenced in mid-July and will continue to October 2018. Consultations are being held in all capital cities, some regional locations and with a number of individuals and organisations that represent or work with people of diverse backgrounds.

Q: Who will be consulted?

A: Key national organisations, peak bodies and service providers that work to address violence against women and their children, academics and other experts, the corporate sector and people who have experienced family, domestic or sexual violence.

Q: I can't make the consultation in my jurisdiction, how can I give my feedback?

A: Please provide any feedback to FourthActionPlan@dss.gov.au.

Q: Why wasn't I invited to a consultation?

A: Attendance lists for consultations were developed based on the advice of Commonwealth, state and territory governments. If you were unable to attend a consultation, you can provide feedback to FourthActionPlan@dss.gov.au.

Q: How are diverse communities being engaged in this process?

A: Invitations for the Fourth Action Plan consultations include a number of individuals and organisations that represent or work with people of diverse backgrounds.



These individuals and organisations include representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people of diverse sex, gender and sexuality, women with disability and regional and remote service providers.

Details are being finalised for metropolitan and a regional/remote Indigenous-specific workshops to be held in September 2018. Details will be made available on the webpage when finalised.

Q: Will there be a second COAG National Summit to Reduce Violence against Women?

A: Yes. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reducing Violence against Women Summit will be held later in 2018. Information captured from the Fourth Action Plan consultations will support discussions at the National Summit.

Q: How can I stay informed or get more information about the development of the Fourth Action Plan?

A: To stay informed about the development of the Fourth Action Plan, visit the *Latest news* or the Fourth Action Plan webpage of the National Plan website at

<https://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au>.

Q: Will information captured at the consultations be published?

A: Yes. Summaries of workshops will be published on the Fourth Action Plan webpage as they are finalised.

Alternatively, if you have questions about the development of Fourth Action Plan, you can email FourthActionPlan@dss.gov.au

Q: When will the Fourth Action Plan be launched?

A: The Fourth Action Plan is due for release in 2019. The Third Action Plan measures are funded to 30 June 2019.

Q: What happens at the completion of the Fourth Action Plan in 2022?

A: Decisions regarding what comes after the National Plan is a matter for Australian Governments and will be considered at a later date, based on evaluations and consultation with states and territories and key stakeholders.

Research and evidence informing the plan

Q: What evidence will the Fourth Action Plan be based on?

A: Under the National Plan, the Australian Government invests in various research and data projects that help build the evidence base on family, domestic and sexual violence.

These projects inform policy and service responses to reduce violence against women and their children.

Key research and data initiatives of the National Plan include:

- the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework (DCRF)
- the [Personal Safety Survey](#) (PSS)
- Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)
- the [National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey](#) (NCAS)
- the first [Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in Australia](#) report
- a number of discrete projects exploring issues and themes about family, domestic and sexual violence against women and their children in Australia.



Moving towards the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan, all governments are committed to supporting the ongoing development of the evidence base underpinning our policies and programs.

A Background and Evidence paper has been developed by the Department of Social Services to support discussions at the consultations. This report is available at the Fourth Action Plan webpage.

Evaluations, research reports and links to a range of data can also be found at <https://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au>

Australian Government investments under the National Plan

Q: How much will be invested and what will the Australian Government fund under the Fourth Action Plan?

A: This is a matter for the Australian Government. The Third Action Plan measures are funded to 30 June 2019.

How someone can get help if at risk of, or experiencing, family, domestic or sexual violence

Q: I am experiencing, or at risk of family, domestic or sexual violence – where can I get help?

A: If you are in immediate danger, call 000.

You can also, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit the website (www.1800RESPECT.org.au). This is the free, 24 hour national online and telephone counselling and support service for people who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, family, domestic or sexual violence, their family and friends and frontline and isolated workers.