



## 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](mailto:fourthactionplan@dss.gov.au)) and questions raised in face-to-face consultations which informed the development of the Fourth Action Plan.

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## Seeking help

**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](#). 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.

## 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 all Australian governments to make a real and sustained reduction in the levels of violence against women.

Key achievements of the National Plan include the establishment of 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, *Change the Story: A Shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia*
- 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.

On Friday 9 August 2019, the Council of Australian Governments endorsed the Fourth Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*, agreeing on five national priorities to reduce family, domestic and sexual violence.

More information about the National Plan is available [here](#).



## Q. What was achieved under the Third Action Plan?

A: There were a number of key achievements under the Third Action Plan (2016 to 2019):

- The introduction of the first response triage model for 1800RESPECT in August 2016 has led to an increase in service performance. This resulted in a 172 per cent increase in the number of telephone and online contacts answered, with additional 40,500 people able to receive support in 2016-17, in comparison with the previous year. The service demand continues to grow, with the service answering 98,466 telephone and online contacts in 2017-18, a 54 per cent increase from 2016-17. In 2018–19, first response counsellors answered over 163,000 contacts, a growth of 66 per cent from the preceding year.
- The DV-alert frontline services training program developed and piloted a new accredited disability training stream and is currently adapting this training stream to a new flexible eLearning module.
- The *Stop it at the Start* campaign launched and completed a second phase of activity.
- Our Watch launched a number of campaigns to raise community awareness of violence, including non-physical forms of violence, and to empower bystanders to challenge disrespect towards women, where safe and appropriate to do so.
- 26 organisations implemented projects aimed at reducing culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women’s experiences of domestic and family violence in their local communities.
  - The projects were developed and implemented locally to meet needs identified within each community.
  - Examples of projects include working with communities to raise awareness, encouraging attitudinal and behavioural change (including engaging with men), and strengthening pathways and access to information and support.
  - The eight Safer Pathways projects help CALD women in regional areas experiencing, or at risk of, domestic and family violence or sexual assault to access support by addressing barriers to accessing services. The sites were chosen based on local government areas with high numbers of recent CALD arrivals, significant cultural diversity and identified high rates of domestic and family violence.
  - The 18 Communities Leading Prevention projects received funding to support long-term changes in community awareness, attitudes and behaviours to reduce violence against women and their children in CALD communities.

## Fourth Action Plan

### Q: What is the Fourth Action Plan?

A: The Australian Government led the development of the Fourth Action Plan in partnership with state and territory governments. On 9 August 2019, the Council of Australian Governments endorsed the Fourth Action Plan (2019-2022) which reflects and builds on the outcomes of the First, Second and Third Action Plans to create lasting change.

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

A: The decision 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 other key stakeholders.



## 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:** On 5 March 2019, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced a \$328 million package as part of the Australian Government's contribution to the Fourth Action Plan. In addition to this, two further measures were provided in the 2019-20 Budget to support people affected by violence, bringing the Government investment in the Fourth Action Plan to \$340 million over three years. More information about the Government's investment in the Fourth Action Plan can be found [here](#).

The Fourth Action Plan was released on 9 August 2019, following endorsement by the Council of Australian Governments. Over the coming months, the Australian Government will continue to work closely and collaboratively with states and territories to develop a national implementation plan, outlining the policies and programs all governments will implement to address the Fourth Action Plan priorities and reduce violence against women and their children.

Organisations are encouraged to apply for grant opportunities published on the [Community Grants Hub website](#) and the [Grant Connect website](#).

## Fourth Action Plan Consultations

### **Q: Who led the consultations for the Fourth Action Plan?**

**A:** The Department of Social Services partnered with state and territory governments to deliver workshops in each jurisdiction, including in metropolitan and regional areas. The consultation summaries are published on the National Plan [website](#).

### **Q: What was discussed at the National Consultations for the Fourth Action Plan?**

A number of initial themes were developed to assist discussion across the consultations, noting these would likely change and evolve over time. These themes are not necessarily indicative of the priorities of the Fourth Action Plan, rather they promoted discussions across a number of areas.

The initial themes included:

- 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 domestic and family violence on children
- supporting the medium to long term safety, wellbeing and independence of women and their children
- addressing technology facilitated abuse
- improving access to justice.

A number of additional themes were added after initial consultations, including:

- violence experienced by people of diverse sex, sexuality and gender
- the experience of women with disability
- adequate crisis accommodation



- complex forms of violence
- men that use violence.

Consultation summaries from across all jurisdictions, including a summary of all consultations, are published on the National Plan [website](#).

Discussions at the consultation workshops were supported by the [Background and Evidence paper](#), which also formed 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 and where were consultations held?**

**A:** Consultations were held between mid-July and October 2018.

Consultations were 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:

- Canberra – 21 July 2018 and 29 August 2018
- Sydney – 9 August 2018
- Cairns – 16 August 2018
- Perth – 21 August 2018
- Kalgoorlie – 22 August 2018
- Brisbane – 17 August 2018
- Darwin – 3 September 2018
- Alice Springs – 5 September 2018
- Melbourne – 12 September 2018
- Adelaide – 17 September 2018
- Port Augusta – 18 September 2018
- Hobart – 21 September 2018

A number of issue specific consultations were also held:

- Sexual Violence – 27 August 2018
- Violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities – 5 September (Women and Men’s breakaway groups in Alice Springs), 26 September (Melbourne)
- The experienced of people of diverse sex, sexuality and gender – 7 September 2018
- Men who use violence – 14 September 2018
- Women with disability – 25 September 2018
- Complex forms of violence – 26 September 2018

Consultation summaries from across all jurisdictions, including a summary of all consultations, are published on the National Plan [website](#).

### **Q: Who was consulted as part of the Fourth Action Plan?**

**A:** Over 600 individuals from 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.

Lists of organisations that were invited to attended consultations is located on the National Plan [website](#). Individual consultation summaries contain a list of who attended the workshop.



**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.

**Q: How were diverse communities engaged in this process?**

**A:** Invitations for the Fourth Action Plan consultations included 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.

A number of specific consultations were held for communities that experience violence in different ways and at different rates, summaries of which are available on the National Plan [website](#).

**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](#) page or the Fourth Action Plan webpage of the National Plan [website](#).

**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.

Evaluations, research reports and links to a range of data can also be found [here](#).

In addition, submissions and recent academic and service provider research is continually being reviewed by officials at the Department of Social Services to ensure that the Fourth Action Plan is informed by the latest information.