



Evaluation of National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (2010-2022)

Consultation Summary Report
Volume 2: Appendices
Department of Social Services

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Glossary

Terminology	Definition
4AP	Fourth Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANROWS	Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COVID-19	Coronavirus
The Department	Department of Social Services (Australian Government)
FDSV	Domestic, family and sexual violence
DSS	Department of Social Services (Australian Government)
ImpEG	National Plan Implementation Executive Group
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer
The National Council	National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
The National Plan	The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022
NCAS	National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women
NIP	National Implementation Plan (for the Fourth Action Plan)
PMR	DRAFT Performance monitoring and reporting framework (for the Fourth Action Plan)
PSS	Personal Safety Survey

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Appendices



Appendix A: Evaluation of the National Plan

The National Plan outlines a commitment to conduct an evaluation over its 12-year lifespan, with smaller scale three-year evaluations informing the long-term evaluation. Now in the penultimate year of the fourth and final action plan, DSS have engaged KPMG to conduct an evaluation to consider how implementation of the National Plan has progressed and its overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives (inclusive of the 4AP). It will also inform future policy considerations and reform agendas for all state and territory governments. While governments have directed significant investments towards reducing and preventing violence against women and their children, the evidence base about what works best to address this complex social problem remains under-developed; particularly as it relates to vulnerable cohorts such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women with a disability. In 2014, the Department released an Evaluation Plan for the National Plan, articulating the approach to determine its effectiveness as an overarching policy on an ongoing basis; inform the focus of future directions of the National Plan; and remain responsive to emerging priorities. There are a range of evaluation activities that sit within this overarching evaluation approach including:

1. Reviews of each three-year Action Plan, including how these have contributed to the National Plan and how each Action Plan builds on the previous Action Plan/s
2. Annual progress reporting
3. Evaluation of flagship activities¹
4. Underpinning evaluation activities²

Further to this, in 2019, the Australian National Audit Office report highlighted the need for improved performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting of activities funded under the National Plan to provide assurance that governments are on track to achieve the agreed outcomes and targets and improve transparency.³ In addition, DSS produced an Implementation Plan against which progress is being monitored in progress reports on the 4AP.⁴ In February 2021, the first progress report on the 4AP was released.

The current evaluation builds on prior evaluation work within the National Plan and recognises the complexity of the context in which the National Plan is being administered.

1.1 Overview of approach

The evaluation approach recognises that the National Plan covers a diverse range of activities that have been delivered across multiple sectors over more than a decade. The approach recognises the inherent complexity of the policy response, the context in which the National Plan was formulated and implemented, the many stakeholder interests, and the role of the National Plan as a mechanism for large scale coordination and collaboration. The evaluation will identify the broad impact of the National Plan and examine gaps or disconnects in the system that decrease the overall effectiveness of investments being made by Governments in various programs under the National Plan.

¹ The flagship activities include Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS); the telephone and online counselling service, 1800RESPECT; the free training program, DV-Alert; the primary prevention organisation, Our Watch; the social marketing campaign, The Line; and White Ribbon Australia.

² This includes an analysis of the data available to measure women's safety such as the Personal Safety Survey (PSS) conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), death review data and the National Survey on Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women (NCAS) conducted periodically by the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS).

³ Australian National Audit Office, 2019, Coordination and Targeting of Domestic Violence Funding and Actions report no. 45 2018–19

⁴ Available online at the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children website as [Implementation Plan](#)

The approach to the evaluation of the National Plan will be conducted at two levels: **evaluation of the core purpose of the National Plan** and **synthesis of previous evaluations** of initiatives that have been implemented over the course of the National Plan.

Evaluation of the core purpose

The National Plan set a long-term, national approach to make a significant and sustained reduction in levels of violence against women and their children. The National Plan was based around a whole of government and community response to achieving a reduction in violence against women in Australia. This evaluation seeks to determine how the National Plan has enabled such a unified approach and promoted collaboration between states and territories. To do this, KPMG has analysed system level responses and inter-linkages between programs and outcomes at a system-wide level. Population level change, including broad trends and generalisable observations at the national level, have also been considered.

Synthesis of previous evaluations

Evaluating a national reform provides an opportunity to collate evaluations from a range of sources and synthesise key themes. KPMG has synthesised existing evaluations of flagship activities, as well as evaluations of programs and activities that have been more complex and had significant funding, impact, innovation, risk or profile. KPMG has also drawn out common findings and major themes from existing evaluations for groups or clusters of programs which have common target audiences, service configurations, and objectives. This has enabled the collation of a single source of information relating to evaluated activities to prevent, reduce, and support women and their children affected by violence.

Evaluation domains

Three evaluation domains were established to inform assessment of progress towards the National Plan target and high-level indicators of change. These domains are outlined below.

- **Overarching arrangements and governance:** a defining feature of the National Plan is how it brings together efforts across jurisdictions, sectors and policy areas to drive national improvements in reducing violence against women and their children.
- **Foundations for change:** The National Plan identifies four foundations for change which are perceived to underpin the successful implementation of the National Plan:
 - Strengthen the workforce
 - Integrate systems and share information
 - Improve the evidence base
 - Track performance
- **Six National Outcomes** were set for the National Plan:
 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 FDSV in the future. The National Plan supports individuals to develop more equal and respectful relationships.
 3. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are strengthened:** The National Plan is focused on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop local solutions to prevent violence. This includes encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to have a stronger voice as community leaders and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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, with improved collaboration between services so that women do not have to tell their story multiple times.

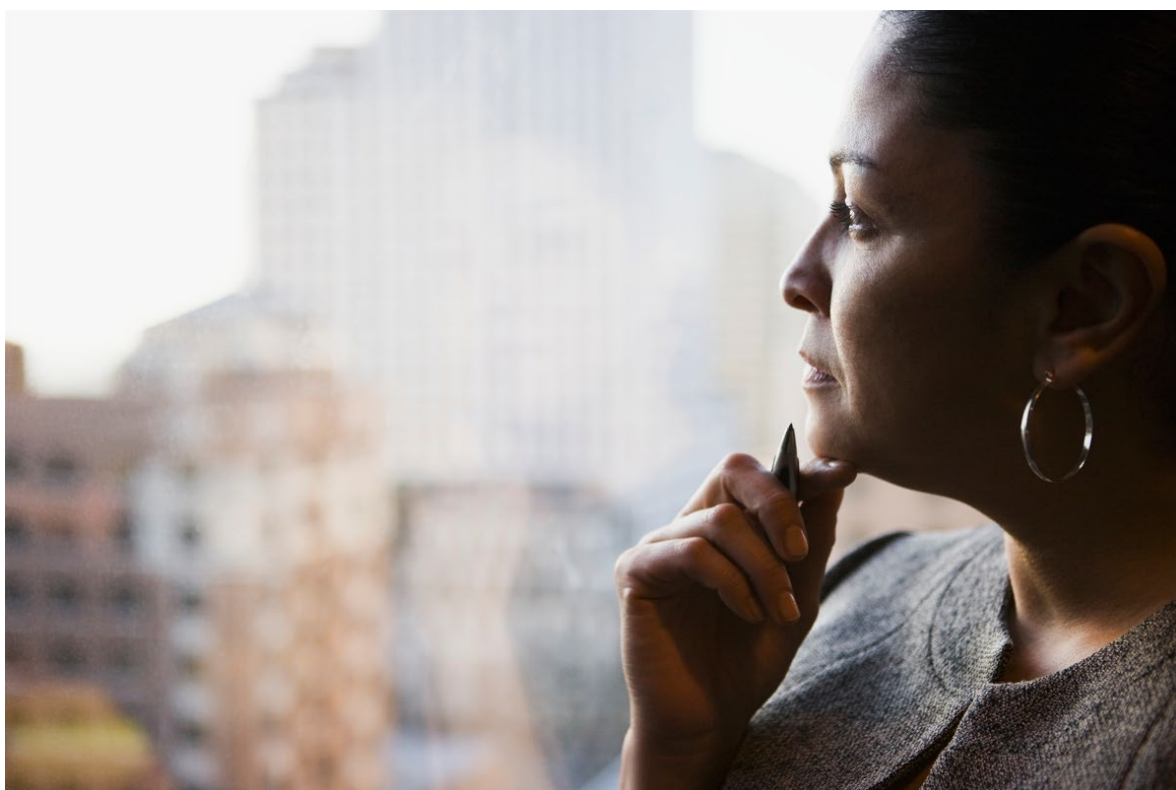
5. **Justice responses are effective:** Work will be undertaken to improve the legal response to FDSV and to promote responses from criminal justice agencies. Systems need to work together effectively to be responsive to women's safety and to prevent further violence.
6. **Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account:** Preventing and reducing violence against women requires strong laws that are effectively administered and hold perpetrators to account.

Methods

KPMG utilised a mixed method design to provide insights into the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Plan. This supported the assessment as to whether, over its 12-year lifespan, the National Plan has been delivered and implemented as intended – and achieved its vision to deliver a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and children in Australia.

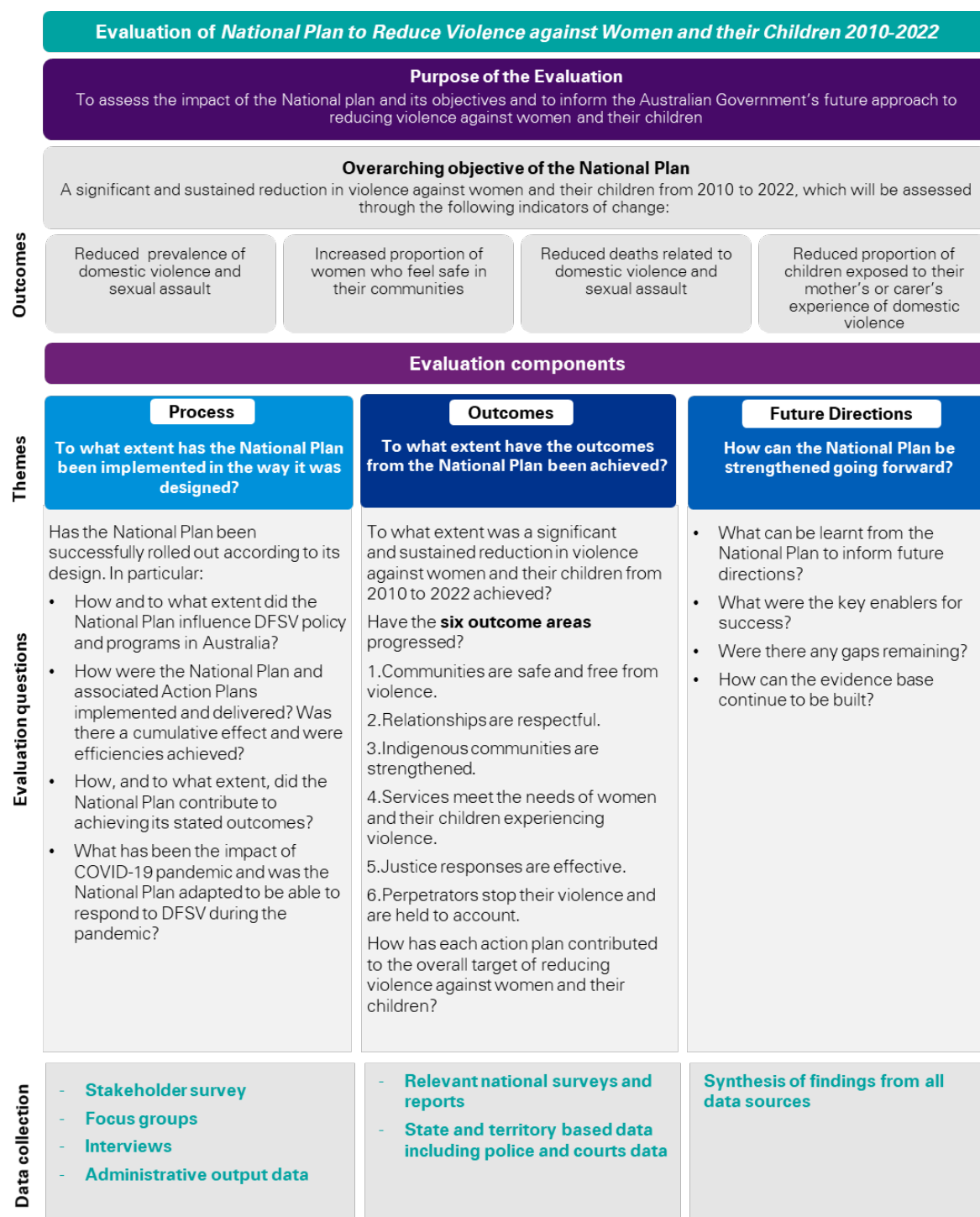
The evaluation comprised three core components:

- **Implementation (process) evaluation** – This component considered the extent to which the National Plan has been implemented as planned. Specific components considered included governance arrangements; the foundations of change; partnerships and stakeholder engagement; barriers and enablers of successful implementation; and areas for improvement. Consideration was also had to the context in which implementation was undertaken, parallel developments, and jurisdiction specific considerations.
- **Outcomes evaluation** – This component considered the outcomes achieved throughout the span of the National Plan (12 years) against the longer-term objective of the National Plan and in the six key outcome areas. The analysis considered the cumulative impact of the National Plan, on short, medium, and longer-term outcomes. Outcomes of flagship initiatives were also considered.
- **Future directions** – This component drew out the implications for future policy responses from the evaluation findings to inform future directions for FDSV reforms in Australia.



The evaluation components are illustrated in the high-level evaluation framework in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Framework for the evaluation



Source: KPMG

1.2 Evaluation questions

A series of overarching evaluation questions were developed to understand progress towards the National Plan objectives, outcomes, and priorities. These span each of the evaluation components (that is, process, outcomes, and future directions) as set out below.

- To what extent was a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children from 2010 to 2022 achieved?
- How and to what extent, did the National Plan influence FDSV policy and programs in Australia?
- How were the National Plan and associated Action Plans implemented and delivered? Was there a cumulative effect and were efficiencies achieved?
- How, and to what extent, did the National Plan contribute to achieving its stated outcomes?
- What has been the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and were initiatives under the National Plan adapted to be able to respond to FDSV during the pandemic?
- What lessons can inform policy and programs beyond 2022?

The evaluation questions and their alignment with data collection methods is outlined in Part B: Appendix A.

1.3 Data collection methods

KPMG has used a range of data collection methods to provide a comprehensive picture of how the National Plan has been rolled out and what has been achieved over the life of the National Plan. The main data collection methods employed as part of the evaluation are:

- Quantitative assessment of outcomes
- Desktop research
- Prior research and evaluation
- Social media analysis
- Stakeholder survey
- Stakeholder engagement

The collection activities used to inform this Interim Report are described in greater detail in the relevant sections. Further descriptions are provided in Part B: Appendix C.

1.4 Limitations

Despite the wide ranging and multi-tiered approach to the evaluation of the National Plan and Fourth Action Plan, there are several methodological limitations that need to be considered. These include:

Attribution: Due to the complex policy ecosystem in place nationally, with each state and territory concurrently driving reform at the local level through respective strategies and plans, it is not possible to attribute changes that may have occurred since the 2010 directly to the National Plan. While we will observe and analyse changes over the period of the National Plan, causal links will not be able to be made. As such, where change is identified, it has not been possible to untangle the discrete impact of the National Plan from the ongoing efforts of all initiatives that were in operation at the same time.

Consultation fatigue: The consultations for the evaluation for the National Plan and the Fourth Action Plan occurred amidst a congested stakeholder engagement landscape, at the Commonwealth and state level. For instance, consultations for the new National Plan took place in a similar time frame, as did the National Summit for Women's Safety roundtables. This can have a real impact on stakeholders, particularly those from frontline services who may be drawn away from service delivery to provide their time to the range of consultation activities.

Recall and recency bias: Facilitators directed participants to consider the entirety of the National Plan implementation period, including pre-2010, during the consultations. Many participants were not involved in the sector or the implementation of the National Plan for the entire period, with some citing only short periods of tenure. This limited attribution of perceptions across the entirety of the National Plan implementation period.

National Plan vs Fourth Action Plan: In an effort to minimise consultation fatigue, it was determined that the evaluation of the National Plan and the Fourth Action Plan would occur concurrently in combined consultation sessions. While facilitators directed participants specifically to the Fourth Action Plan where that was the subject of inquiry, participants may not have been able to disentangle views towards one or the other. Recency bias may also have favoured discourse in relation to the Fourth Action Plan, or at least activities that occurred at the same time, due to the proximity, knowledge, and familiarity of this period.

Inclusiveness: The list of stakeholders was carefully curated and checked, with government contacts in each jurisdiction given the opportunity to suggest additional or alternative individuals or groups for inclusion, in both the frontline worker survey and the stakeholder focus groups. However, this may have excluded providers that were not well known to government stakeholders.

Generalisability: For the frontline worker survey, it was not possible to determine the breadth of distribution of the online survey link, and as such establish a coherent response rate. This means that survey results are not able to be generalised to the broader FDSV frontline worker cohort, rather findings only reflect the views of those who completed the survey.

Victims-survivors and people with lived experiences: The evaluation scope deliberately did not include consultation with victims-survivors, perpetrators, and people with lived experience of FDSV. The focus of the stakeholder engagement activities was on the impact of policy and program decisions associated with the National Plan and the Fourth Action Plan, and system level understandings and shifts in attitude and behaviour, not the experiences of individuals within the community. Feedback received as part of consultations and more broadly indicated that inclusion of the voices of people with lived experiences in future evaluation and monitoring activities for the new National Plan would be crucial.

Impact of COVID-19: During the stakeholder engagement period, large parts of Australia were subject to lockdown restrictions which had the potential to impact on participation rates due to the need to work from home, while also having to care for young, elderly, and other relatives, including supervising home-schooling.

Appendix A1: Evaluation questions – National Plan

Table 1: National Plan Evaluation Questions by domain and data collection method

National Plan Domains	Evaluation Questions	Quantitative data	Desktop research	Prior evaluation and research	Interviews and focus groups	KPMG survey	Social media analysis
Overall impact of the National Plan will be assessed against the following outcomes	Reduced prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault.	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	Increased proportion of women who feel safe in their communities.	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	Reduced deaths related to domestic violence and sexual assault.	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	Reduced proportion of children exposed to their mother's or carer's experience of domestic violence	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Domain 1: Overarching arrangements and governance	To what extent has the National Plan supported sharing of good practice across jurisdictions?	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	How well does the National Plan link with, influence and inform other plans of government e.g. closing the gap, homelessness, protecting Australian children?	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	How has each action plan contributed to the overall target of reducing violence against women and their children?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	To what extent have governance, advisory and communication mechanisms established for the National Plan facilitated stakeholders to work together?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
	To what extent has the National Plan enabled collaboration with the non-government and corporate sectors?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
	To what extent has the National Plan enabled improved service responses for at risk cohorts (such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women, and women with disability)?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	What have been the added benefits and efficiencies from taking a national approach? Are there drawbacks from taking a national approach?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

National Plan Domains	Evaluation Questions	Quantitative data	Desktop research	Prior evaluation and research	Interviews and focus groups	KPMG survey	Social media analysis
	What has been the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and were initiatives under the National Plan adapted to be able to respond to FDSV during the pandemic?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Domain 2: Foundations for change <i>Strengthen the workplace</i>	To what extent has the specialist domestic and family violence and sexual assault workforce been developed to enhance their role in preventing and/or responding to violence against women?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
	To what extent has the mainstream workforce (for example, GPs, hospitals, alcohol and drug, education, homelessness, child protection, police, corrections) been equipped to undertake early identification and intervention or referral for women experiencing violence?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Domain 2: Foundations for change <i>Integrate systems and share information</i>	To what extent has the National Plan promoted and supported the need for coordinated approaches and responses to violence against women and their children and its prevention, across jurisdictions, sectors, related policy areas?	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
	To what extent has the National Plan resulted in system integration activities? Has this resulted in better outcomes for women and children?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Domain 2: Foundations for change <i>Improve the evidence base</i>	To what extent has ANROWS performed its role in enhancing the quality and quantity of the evidence base in responding to domestic, family and sexual violence? Has the process of setting research priority areas under the National Plan been effective?	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	To what extent has the Our Watch performed its role in enhancing the quantity and quality of the evidence base in relation to primary prevention?	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	Has the National Plan resulted in increased national research funding and quality outputs (e.g. evidence-based findings, publications, data availability)?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

National Plan Domains	Evaluation Questions	Quantitative data	Desktop research	Prior evaluation and research	Interviews and focus groups	KPMG survey	Social media analysis
	To what extent has the evidence been translated into more effective response to domestic, family and sexual violence including policies, procedures and legislation?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Domain 2: Foundations for change <i>Track performance</i>	Has the National Plan facilitated collection of data across the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework to enable improved tracking of performance over time?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	What proportion of activities conducted under the National Plan have featured monitoring and evaluation elements?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	What more can be done to assess effectiveness of the National Plan?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Domain 3: National Plan Outcomes <i>1. Communities are safe and free from violence</i>	Has the community's intolerance of violence against women increased?	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	To what extent has the National Plan been effective in preventing, responding to and speaking out against violence against women and their children?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
	How effectively has the National Plan maintained a strong focus on primary prevention?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	To what extent has the implementation of the National Plan addressed gender and social inequality as a fundamental link to addressing violence against women and their children?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Domain 3: National Plan Outcomes <i>2. Relationships are respectful</i>	Have the knowledge, skills and behaviours for respectful relationships by young people improved?	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
	To what extent have young people shown an improved understanding of the importance of respectful relationships?	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	To what extent have adults and young people been supported to model respectful relationships?	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	How effective have social marketing campaigns and other National Plan prevention strategies been in engaging a greater number and diversity of men to speak out against violence against women?	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y

National Plan Domains	Evaluation Questions	Quantitative data	Desktop research	Prior evaluation and research	Interviews and focus groups	KPMG survey	Social media analysis
Domain 3: National Plan Outcomes 3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are strengthened	Has the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities reduced?	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	Has the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are able to have their say within their communities on important issues, including violence increased?	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	To what extent has an enhanced leadership role for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women been fostered within communities and broader Australian society?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
	How has the National Plan supported communities to drive change through local solutions, for example, self-determination, culturally safe spaces and community control?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
	To what extent has the National Plan facilitated improved access to culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children who experience violence, recognising the impact of intergenerational trauma?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	How have the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children been considered across all outcomes of the National Plan?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Domain 3: National Plan Outcomes 4. Services meet the needs of women and their children	Has access to, and responsiveness of, services for victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault increased?	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	To what extent has the National Plan enhanced first point of contact for women to identify and respond to needs?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

National Plan Domains	Evaluation Questions	Quantitative data	Desktop research	Prior evaluation and research	Interviews and focus groups	KPMG survey	Social media analysis
	How have specialist domestic and family violence and sexual assault services been supported to meet the needs of women who are facing intersectional challenges and are disproportionately impacted by violence including women with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ communities, women from regional and remote communities, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
	To what extent have mainstream services (for example, homelessness, mental health, alcohol and other drugs, hospitals) been supported to identify and respond to needs?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
	To what extent have integrated services responses, inclusive of specialist and mainstream services been established and resulted in improved outcomes for women and their children?	N	N	Y	N	N	N
	To what extent do mainstream and specialist services meet the needs of children who are exposed to violence against their mother or caregiver?	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Domain 3: National Plan Outcomes 5. Justice responses are effective	Has the rate of women reporting domestic violence and sexual assault increased?	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	To what extent has the National Plan helped improve access to justice for women and their children in the civil and/or criminal justice systems?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	To what extent has the National Plan supported justice systems to work better together and with other systems?	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Domain 3: National Plan Outcomes 6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account	Has there been a decrease in repeated partner victimisation?	Y	N	N	N	N	N
	Has the National Plan facilitated improvements in the adequacy and availability of evidence about perpetrator interventions?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	To what extent has the National Plan facilitated greater collaboration and information sharing across agencies and systems to reduce the risk of recidivism?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

Appendix B: Data collection methods

Quantitative assessment of outcomes

Objectives	Quantitative assessment of impact and outcomes under the National Plan
Key activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collect data from the time period 2010-2022 (where available)2. Assess and conduct baseline analysis where feasible; and trend analysis if there are sufficient data points3. Consult with stakeholders regarding interpretation of findings and trends and consider findings from jurisdictions which do not have a national plan4. Report on progress of data under development
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trend analysis (including specific trends for cohorts and significance testing as appropriate)• Assessment of impact

The overall impact of the National Plan has been assessed according to whether the following trends (specified in the 2014 Evaluation Plan) have been achieved over time:

- Reduced prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Increased proportion of women who feel safe in their communities
- Reduced deaths related to domestic violence and sexual assault
- Reduced proportion of children exposed to their mother's or carer's experience of domestic violence.

In assessing these trends, consideration was had to the fact that prevalence rates may have changed due to increases in awareness or historical reporting, as opposed to increases in actual incidents of violence. In addition to assessing overall impact, the evaluation has examined whether there has been progress in the six national outcomes outlined in the National Plan. The data analysed for this evaluation has been contextualised with other pertinent information (including stakeholders' interpretation of results) to provide relevant context and insights on outcomes under the National Plan and 4AP.

Key data sources that were used to formulate these assessments include the National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey; the Personal Safety Survey; the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey; the 2018/19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey; the National Survey of Workers in the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Sector; Sexual Harassment Surveys; as well as other relevant reports from the ABS and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.^{5,6,7,8} The evaluation also examined death review data and information garnered from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey.

The widespread impacts of COVID-19 have resulted in delays in collecting data for some key data sources – particularly the PSS. The AIC will also be collecting additional data to capture the prevalence

⁵ Webster, K., Diemer, K., Honey, J., Mannix, S., Mickle, J., Morgan, J., Parkes, A., Politoff, V., Powell, A., Stubbs, J., & Ward, A. (2018). *Australian's Attitudes to Violence Against Women and Gender Equality: Findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS)* (Research Report, 03/2018). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). Personal Safety Survey (cat. no. 4906.0). Canberra: ABS.

⁷ Cortis, N., Blaxland, M., Breckenridge, J., Valentine, K., Mahoney, N., Chung, D., Cordier, R., Chen, Y., & Green, D. (2018). National Survey of Workers in the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Sectors (SPRC Report 5/2018). Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre and Gendered Violence Research Network, UNSW.

⁸ Australian Human Rights Commission. (2018). Everyone's business: Fourth national survey on sexual harassment in Australian workplaces. Australian Human Rights Commission.

of FDSV in the 12-month period from March 2020 to March 2021, to understand the extent of violence during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the evaluation will report separately on data collected during the COVID-19 pandemic, firewalling this from any established time series.

Desktop research

Objectives	Describe the context in which the National Plan has been operating from a local and global perspective.
Key activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desktop review of significant local and global events 2. Develop a timeline of key developments 3. Interviews with key stakeholders (local and global)
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider significant events that may have impacted on implementation and outcomes. • Contextualise National Plan locally and globally. • Confirm findings.

KPMG conducted desktop research, guided by the key evaluation questions, to analyse significant local and global events (e.g. Royal Commissions and high-profile domestic violence-related deaths) that have created changes in the approach to how Governments, community, and service providers have been responding to the issue of violence against women and children over time. A timeline has been developed to map events that occurred prior to the development of the National Plan and throughout implementation. Interviews with key stakeholders were used to confirm research findings.

Prior research and evaluation

Objectives	Determine findings and key lessons from prior research
Key activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify prior research for inclusion 2. Develop a database for findings and recommendations 3. Develop a coding system on implementation, outcomes and strength of evidence
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database of research and findings from prior work. • Consistent coding of findings and recommendations from prior work. • Identification of success criteria for programs which drive their effectiveness in responding to different contexts and cohorts.

Findings and key lessons from prior research were analysed. Prior work that was examined include the National Plan; all Action Plans; the National Council report *Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009–2021*; prior evaluations and monitoring under the National Plan; prior evaluations of flagship initiatives; evaluations of jurisdictional reforms; and evaluations of significant programs, initiatives and innovations. The evaluation also considered ANROWS' 'What Works' Framework and the Australian Productivity Commission Indigenous Evaluation Strategy.

Given the large volume of prior research that was available, KPMG developed an excel database and coding system to classify and categorise prior work according to the key evaluation themes:

- To what extent has the National Plan been implemented in the way it was designed?
- To what extent have the outcomes from the National Plan been achieved?
- How can the National Plan be strengthened going forward?

An evidence rating was also given for the evidence base of each piece of prior work.

Social media analysis

Objectives	Assess the impact of community awareness raising activities under the National Plan
Key activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider evaluations of current media campaigns under the National Plan 2. If needed, collect information of social media footprint under the National Plan and conduct social media analysis
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of reach and effectiveness

A component of the National Plan is raising community awareness through social media and other community engagement strategies. Correspondingly, KPMG has conducted a social media analysis to assess the reach and effectiveness of the National Plan.

Stakeholder survey

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with frontline and wider sector stakeholders in all Australian jurisdictions to understand the impact of the National Plan 'on the ground'
Key activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a national online survey 2. Identify stakeholders to distribute the survey 3. Identify stakeholders to complete the survey 4. Roll out national survey to identified stakeholders
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically collect stakeholder views through survey

KPMG developed a national online survey to measure stakeholder perspectives regarding the effectiveness of the National Plan. This was distributed to numerous stakeholders across government, non-government and community sectors, who are involved in responding to violence against women and their children. The survey comprised 20 questions – primarily closed style questions (e.g. radio or multiple tick box options) with two free text questions – and used clear and simple language to avoid ambiguity and facilitate ease and accuracy of response.

The survey included primary evaluation questions aimed at assessing the high-level success of the National Plan and secondary evaluation questions aimed at assessing the delivery of key actions under the 4AP. In addition to understanding stakeholder views on effectiveness of the National Plan, the survey sought to determine how well the relationships between government and the non-government sector are working on delivering on the National Plan and identify the extent of collaboration across different sectors. It also aimed to identify opportunities to improve service responses and focus areas for future policies.

Stakeholder engagement

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with government, corporate and community sector stakeholders in all Australian jurisdictions through interviews and focus groups to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on implementation of Foundations for Change (including partnerships, governance, and impact on state and territory policy) - Gauge effectiveness of response - Provide interpretation of outcomes
Key activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify stakeholders to consult 2. Conduct interviews and focus groups with identified stakeholders
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather stakeholder perspectives to inform findings • Include stakeholders in the evaluation

Stakeholder engagement is a vital component of this evaluation and important in understanding the effectiveness and impact of the National Plan on the ground.

Appendix C: Evaluation of the Fourth Action Plan

The Fourth Action Plan (4AP) sought to achieve change through improving existing initiatives, addressing gaps from previous action plans, and by setting the foundation for future policy initiatives.

Unique to the 4AP has been the establishment of the National Implementation Plan (NIP)⁹ and PMR Framework. The NIP provides information on over 160 initiatives under the 4AP across all jurisdictions. Commonwealth, state, and territory agencies provide updated details on their initiatives as part of annual progress reporting, providing information on implementation status and report on progress towards achieving national priorities. The PMR Framework sets out outputs and outcomes against each of the 20 actions to support monitoring under the 4AP. These key activities establish critical qualitative and quantitative data which will inform the evaluation of the 4AP.

Five priority areas have been identified under the 4AP:

-
- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 01 | Primary prevention is key |
|----|---------------------------|
-
- | | |
|----|--|
| 02 | Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children |
|----|--|
-
- | | |
|----|---|
| 03 | Respect, listen and respond to the diverse lived experiences and knowledge of women and their children affected by violence |
|----|---|
-
- | | |
|----|---|
| 04 | Respond to sexual violence and harassment |
|----|---|
-
- | | |
|----|--|
| 05 | Improve support and service system responses |
|----|--|
-

In similarity to the evaluation of the National Plan, a mixed methods design was used to provide insights into the effectiveness and efficiency of the 4AP. The evaluation comprised two core components:

- **Implementation (process) evaluation** – This component considered the extent to which the 4AP has been implemented as planned, with a focus on the initiatives of the NIP. This component identified barriers and enablers to successful implementation and areas for improvement as well as lessons learnt. The context in which the 4AP was implemented was also acknowledged, particularly with reference to the broader National Plan activities and any parallel developments, and jurisdiction specific considerations.
- **Outcomes evaluation** – This component considered the outcomes achieved throughout the three-year span of the 4AP. The analysis considered the potential impact of the 4AP, on short, medium and longer-term outcomes. Outcomes of flagship initiatives were also considered.

The methods used for the evaluation of the 4AP are similar to those utilised for the National Plan evaluation. These activities were undertaken independently to separate findings related to the 4AP from the broader National Plan. Specific methods included:

- Desktop research

⁹ Available at <https://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au/implementation-plan/>

- Interviews and focus groups with the national implementation group and other government stakeholders, as well as peak bodies – particularly those working with diverse and vulnerable cohorts
- Interviews and focus groups with data custodians and key research organisations (for example, ANROWS, ABS, AIHW)
- Analysis of data from the PMR Framework
- Consideration of separate evaluations of key initiatives funded across jurisdictions under the 4AP.

The 4AP evaluation focuses on the progress made under each of these priority areas. Specifically, the evaluation:

- Describes each of the priority areas and actions
- Determines whether actions under each priority area have been implemented as intended
- Describes what progress has been achieved to date
- Measures the outcomes (where appropriate) to determine whether there has been any change over time
- Highlights the key achievements and challenges in implementing actions under each priority area
- Reports on data gaps and data developments
- Identifies opportunities to improve future actions and initiatives to reduce the impact and prevalence of FDSV.

The key evaluation questions specific to the 4AP evaluation are outlined in Part B: Appendix C.



Appendix D: Evaluation Questions – Fourth Action Plan

Table 2: Fourth Action Plan evaluation questions by priority area and data collection method

4AP Priority Areas	Key Evaluation Questions	PMR	NIP	Desktop research	Prior research / evaluation	Interviews and focus groups
Overall outcomes	How has the 4AP contributed to the overall target of the National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children?	Y	N	N	N	Y
Primary prevention is key	Have initiatives promoting positive attitudes towards women and gender equality been successfully implemented?	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	To what extent have initiatives under the 4AP contributed to improved coordination across primary prevention activities?	N	Y	N	N	Y
Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children	To what extent have responses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence prioritised cultural healing and strengthening cultural identity?	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	To what extent are services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people community-led and co-designed?	N	N	N	Y	Y
Respect, listen and respond to the diverse lived experiences and knowledge of women and their children affected by violence	How has the 4AP facilitated improved service responses for victims from all backgrounds, including women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTIQ+ communities, women with a disability, older women, and women living in rural and regional areas?	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	To what extent are responses to FDSV where children are involved age appropriate, child-centric and tailored to their specific needs and stages of development?	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

4AP Priority Areas	Key Evaluation Questions	PMR	NIP	Desktop research	Prior research / evaluation	Interviews and focus groups
Response to sexual assault and harassment	To what extent have specialist and generalist service workforces been developed to enhance their role in responding to sexual assault and harassment?	N	Y	N	Y	Y
	To what extent have community attitudes in relation to gender equality, consent and healthy sexual relationships (particularly for young people) changed over time?	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Improve support and service system responses	To what extent has evidence been translated into more effective responses to FDSV?	N	Y	Y	Y	N
	How has the 4AP contributed to addressing key data gaps, and contributed to data development activities?	N	N	Y	Y	Y

Appendix E: Frontline worker survey

Background

The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022 (the National Plan) was developed by the Australian Government in partnership with all states and territories and released in February 2011. The National Plan was designed as a unifying strategy, committing all governments to making a real and sustained difference to the problem of violence against women and their children.

The vision of the National Plan is that “Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities.” Four high level indicators of change were agreed as follows:

- Reduced prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Increased proportion of women who feel safe in their communities
- Reduced deaths related to domestic violence and sexual assault
- Reduced proportion of children exposed to their mother’s or carer’s experience of domestic violence.

It is underpinned by six outcomes, including:

- Communities are safe and free from violence
- Relationships are respectful
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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

The Department of Social Services has engaged KPMG to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan. This survey forms part of that evaluation.

Purpose of the survey

The survey will be used to measure stakeholder perspectives regarding the effectiveness of the National Plan and whether outcomes have been achieved.

Who should complete the survey?

You **do not** need any specific knowledge of the National Plan to complete the survey.

The survey is for service managers and frontline workers who work in sectors relating to violence against women and their children.

This may include but is not limited to people who work in the following services:

- Domestic and family violence support services
- Sexual assault services
- Homelessness and housing service providers
- Court support services
- Perpetrator intervention programs
- State and Territory Police
- Local health services
- Community Services, Corrective Services/Community Corrections
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services and health centres
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support services
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services
- Women and children’s services

- Specialist services for culturally and linguistically diverse women
- Specialist services for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer
- Counselling services
- Women's health centres
- Community domestic, family, and sexual violence programs.

How long will the survey take?

The survey will take about approximately 20 minutes to complete. Please note the survey may time-out after 30 minutes of inactivity.

How do I complete the survey?

This is an online survey which you can commence by clicking the arrow button below. Please limit survey responses to one submission per person.

The survey can be completed via desktop, mobile or tablet.

When is the survey due?

The survey closes at 5:00 pm (AEDT) on Friday 30 April 2021. Please complete the survey by this date.

What will KPMG do with the results?

The results of this survey, along with several other data and information sources, will inform the evaluation of the National Plan. Survey results will be presented to the Department of Social Services in a de-identified and aggregated form. All responses will be confidential and will not be attributed to any particular respondent or organisation. By consenting to participate in the survey, you agree to your de-identified responses being shared.

Questions?

If you have any questions or are experiencing any difficulties completing the survey, please contact us using the email address or phone number below:

Telephone: (02) 9346 5681 or flockie@kpmg.com.au (9:00 am to 5:00 pm AEST)

KPMG acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people of Australia. We thank them for their custodianship of the Land and pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging.



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This survey is facilitated by KPMG Australia. All personal information, sensitive information and otherwise data provided by you ("personal data") may be collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the KPMG Privacy Collection Statement for Survey Participants, the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and other applicable laws.

Q1 Do you consent to participate in this survey?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Skip To: End of Survey If Do you consent to participate in this survey? = No

Knowledge of the National Plan

Q2 Had you heard about the National Plan to Reduce Violence and Women and their Children before today?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q3: Have you heard of any of the following initiatives/organisations that are delivered under the National Plan?

Please select all that apply

☐ DV-Alert

☐ Our Watch

☐ 1800 RESPECT

☐ ANROWS

Q4: To what extent has the National Plan influenced the way that you work, if at all?

☐ To a great extent

☐ To a moderate extent

☐ To a slight extent

☐ Not at all

☐ Unable to comment

Demographics

This section captures information on where you work, the type of work you do, and how long you have been doing this work.

Q5 What state do you work in?

- ☐ Australian Capital Territory
- ☐ Queensland
- ☐ New South Wales
- ☐ Northern Territory
- ☐ South Australia
- ☐ Tasmania
- ☐ Victoria
- ☐ Western Australia

Q6 Do you provide services, either directly or indirectly, to people who have experienced or perpetrated domestic, family and sexual violence?

- ☐ Yes, I am providing a service to victims of domestic, family and sexual violence
- ☐ Yes, I am providing a service to perpetrators of domestic, family and sexual violence
- ☐ Yes, I am providing a service to both victims and perpetrators
- ☐ No, I am not providing a service to either of these groups

Q7 What service area do you work in?

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Case management and coordination
- ☐ Perpetrator intervention
- ☐ Community programs around awareness, attitudes and behaviours
- ☐ Counselling service
- ☐ Health service
- ☐ Housing, including refuges
- ☐ Legal including court support and assistance
- ☐ Policing and community safety
- ☐ Specialist Service (LGBTQI+)
- ☐ Specialist Service (CALD)
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service
- ☐ Other

Q8 How long have you been working in the domestic, family and sexual violence sector or related area?

- ☐ Zero to less than three years
- ☐ Three years to less than six years
- ☐ Six years or more

End of Block: Demographics

Start of Block: Focus block 1

The following questions are seeking your views on the effectiveness of initiatives implemented since 2010 (when the National Plan commenced), and their outcomes over time.

Q09 Since 2010, do you believe that the number of initiatives relating to domestic, family and sexual violence operating in Australia has increased?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q10 Since 2010, do you believe that initiatives regarding reducing violence against women and their children have improved the safety of women and children?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q11 Since 2010, do you believe that the understanding of consent and what constitutes respectful relationships has improved?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q12 To what extent do you agree people in the community are able to recognise domestic, family and sexual violence?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q13 To what extent do you believe that initiatives implemented since 2010 have met the needs of women and their children in addressing violence?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q14 Do you believe that there has been a decrease in violence against women and their children in the community since 2010?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q15 To what extent do you believe that victims are confident and willing to access services in the domestic, family and sexual violence system, or other related sectors?

- ☐ To a great extent

- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

End of Block: Focus block 1

Start of Block: Focus block 2

The following questions are seeking your views on collaboration across different sectors.

Q16 To what extent do you work with other organisations, Departments, or services within the domestic, family and sexual violence or related sectors?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q17 To what extent has collaboration between Departments, organisations or other support mechanisms improved since 2010?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q18 To what extent has collaboration between services improved in responding to at risk cohorts (such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women, and women with disability) since 2010?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q19 Do you work with other Departments or services regarding information sharing, training or research?

- ☐ Yes – with government departments
- ☐ Yes – with Service Providers
- ☐ Yes – with both
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

Q20 To what extent do you feel that you can connect with the appropriate Department or organisation to seek assistance regarding practice, policies or initiatives to support women and children?

- ☐ To a great extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To a slight extent
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Unable to comment

End of Block: Focus block 2

Start of Block: Focus block 3

The following questions are seeking your views to improve service responses and focus areas for future plans and policies.

Q21 Do you agree that the domestic, family and sexual violence system is progressing in the right direction to make victims and their families safer?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Q22 Why do you think this?

Please describe your answer in 150 words or less

Q 23 Do you agree that the level of training and capacity building currently offered to the workforce operating in the domestic, family and sexual violence, or other related fields, is appropriate?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Q24 Why do you think this?

Please describe your answer in 150 words or less

Q25 Please click the arrow button to finalise your response

End of Block: Focus block 3

Appendix F: Consultation guides - Interviews

Interview Guide – Data custodians

Evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Background

KPMG has been engaged by the Department of Social Services to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. The National Plan was developed in partnership with all states and territories and was endorsed and released by COAG in 2011. The National Plan involves a collective commitment by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to making a real and sustained difference to the problem of violence against women and their children. Now in the last two years of the fourth and final action plan, an evaluation will consider the impact of the National Plan (inclusive of the Fourth Action Plan) and its overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

The evaluation will be conducted over three stages, and includes developing performance monitoring and reporting frameworks, Fourth Action Plan annual progress reports and evaluation of the National Plan to assess its effectiveness and whether it has achieved its goals.

To inform the evaluation, we are conducting a number of interviews with key stakeholders that are custodians of data relating to the National Plan. We are keenly interested in your view and would like to discuss broadly:

- **The overall contribution of Action Plans in reducing violence against women and their children**
- **Measuring effectiveness of the National Plan**
- **What data is available, and has the National Plan added to the evidence base?**
- **The levels of collaboration and information sharing evident**

Questions

Evidence base

- How has the National Plan assisted in developing the evidence base around violence against women and their children?
- To what extent have flagship initiatives, such as ANROWS and Our Watch, enhanced the quality and quantity of the evidence base in responding to violence?
- To what extent has the evidence been translated into more effective actions? Consider from the perspective of prevention, early intervention, victim support, and perpetrator interventions.
- What significant data gaps remain, despite the National Plan?
- Since the release of the National Plan, rates of violence have not reduced. Why do you think that is?

Data availability

- What national research and data is available? Has this increased over the life of the National Plan?

- Thinking about the Fourth Action Plan specifically (which has been in place since 2019), what data development activities have taken place to address data gaps?

Monitoring and evaluation

- To what extent has the National Plan or the Fourth Action Plan facilitated collection of data to enable improved tracking of performance over time? Has the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework supported this?
- Has there been progressive monitoring and evaluation of activity over time? Has this led to improvements as a result?
- What more can be done to assess effectiveness of the National Plan?

Integrate systems and share information

- Is there evidence of greater collaboration and information sharing across agencies and systems?
- To what extent has the National Plan facilitated sharing of learning across jurisdictions? How?
- What have been the added benefits and efficiencies from taking a national approach? What are the challenges?

• **Contact**

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Interview Guide – Federal agencies

Evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Background

KPMG has been engaged by the Department of Social Services to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. The National Plan was developed in partnership with all states and territories and was endorsed and released by COAG in 2011. It is an ambitious national strategy which involves a collective commitment by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to making a real and sustained difference to the problem of violence against women and their children. Now in the last two years of the fourth and final action plan, an evaluation will consider the impact of the National Plan (inclusive of the Fourth Action Plan) and its overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

The evaluation will be conducted over three stages, and includes developing performance monitoring and reporting frameworks, Fourth Action Plan progress reports and evaluation of the National Plan to assess its effectiveness and whether it has achieved its goals.

To inform the evaluation, we are conducting a number of interviews with key stakeholders the Department of Social Services. We are keenly interested in your view and would like to discuss broadly:

- **The overall contribution of Action Plans in reducing violence against women and their children**
- **The effectiveness of the National Plan in engaging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, CALD women and women with disability**
- **The benefits of taking a national approach**
- **The levels of collaboration and information sharing evident**

Questions

Governance arrangements

- What have been the benefits of taking a national approach?
- What governance arrangements were put in place to support the National Plan?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Coordination

- To what extent has the National Plan promoted coordination between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions?
- Has this coordination occurred across jurisdictions, sectors, and/or related policy areas?
- What worked well? What could be improved?
- How well does the National Plan influence and inform other plans of government?
- How does the implementation of the National Plan align with Australia's responsibility under international agreements?

Information sharing

- To what extent has the National Plan promoted information sharing between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions?

- To what extent has the National Plan facilitated sharing of good practice?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Supporting vulnerable groups

- How effective has the National Plan been in engaging with and supporting:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
 - CALD women
 - Women with disability
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender women
 - Children and young people
 - Other groups with diverse experiences of violence, or at risk of violence?
- How could this be improved?
- How have DFSV sector workforces been supported through the National Plan?

Tracking performance

- To what extent has the National Plan enabled national data collection and reporting?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Fourth Action Plan

- To what extent have primary prevention activities in the Fourth Action Plan promoted:
 - Positive attitudes and behaviours towards women?
 - Community understanding of the drivers of violence?
- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan resulted in increased support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children? Please provide examples of:
 - Innovative initiatives
 - Building culturally competent workforces
 - Community-led solutions
- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan responded to the needs of diverse groups of women and their children? (For example, culturally and linguistically diverse women, women with disability, women who identify as LGBTQ.)
- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan responded to sexual violence and sexual harassment (both victims and perpetrators)?
- To what extent have support and service system responses improved under the Fourth Action Plan?

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Interview guide – Flagship initiatives

Evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Background

KPMG has been engaged by the Department of Social Services to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. The National Plan was developed in partnership with all states and territories and was endorsed and released by COAG in 2011. The National Plan involves a collective commitment by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to making a real and sustained difference to the problem of violence against women and their children. Now in the last two years of the fourth and final action plan, an evaluation will consider the impact of the National Plan (inclusive of the Fourth Action Plan) and its overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

The evaluation will be conducted over three stages, and includes developing performance monitoring and reporting frameworks, Fourth Action Plan annual progress reports and evaluation of the National Plan to assess its effectiveness and whether it has achieved its goals.

To inform the evaluation, a number of focus groups with key stakeholders from all states and territories are being conducted. We are keenly interested in your view and would like to discuss broadly:

- **The overall contribution of Action Plans in reducing violence against women and their children**
- **The effectiveness of the National Plan in engaging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, CALD women and women with disability**
- **The benefits of taking a national approach**
- **Communities understanding of violence against women and their children, and how communities are supported**

Questions

Governance arrangements

- Considering your flagship initiative, what have been the benefits of taking a national approach?
- What mechanisms or governance arrangements were put in place to support implementation of your flagship initiative?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Coordination

- To what extent has your flagship initiative promoted coordination between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions?
- Has this coordination occurred across jurisdictions, sectors, and/or related policy areas?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Information sharing

- To what extent has your flagship initiative promoted information sharing between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions?

- To what extent has your flagship initiative facilitated sharing of good practice?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Supporting vulnerable groups

- How effective has your flagship initiative been in engaging with and supporting:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
 - CALD women
 - Women with disability
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender women
 - Children and young people
 - Other groups with diverse experiences of violence, or at risk of violence?
- How could this be improved?

Tracking performance

- How has the National Plan assisted in developing the evidence base around violence against women and their children?
- To what extent has your flagship initiative enhanced the quality and quantity of the evidence base in responding to violence?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Contact

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Interview guide – NIAA

Evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Background

KPMG has been engaged by the Department of Social Services to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. The National Plan was developed in partnership with all states and territories and was endorsed and released by COAG in 2011. The National Plan involves a collective commitment by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to making a real and sustained difference to the problem of violence against women and their children. Now in the last two years of the fourth and final action plan, an evaluation will consider the impact of the National Plan (inclusive of the Fourth Action Plan) and its overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

The evaluation will be conducted over three stages, and includes developing performance monitoring and reporting frameworks, Fourth Action Plan annual progress reports and evaluation of the National Plan to assess its effectiveness and whether it has achieved its goals.

To inform the evaluation, a number of interviews with key stakeholders from all states and territories are being conducted. We are keenly interested in your view and would like to discuss broadly:

- **The overall contribution of Action Plans in reducing violence against women and their children**
- **The effectiveness of the National Plan in engaging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, CALD women and women with disability**
- **The benefits of taking a national approach**
- **Communities understanding of violence against women and their children, and how communities are supported**

Questions

Involvement

- How long have you been involved in implementing the National Plan? How have you been involved?
 - Are you also involved in implementing the Fourth Action Plan?
- What have been the benefits of a national approach? What have been the challenges?
- Are you working more collaboratively with other agencies (government and non-government) since the National Plan or Fourth Action Plan? How? How has this changed over time?
- How effective has the National Plan been in engaging with and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

- Has the National Plan supported communities to drive local solutions? Please give examples.
- Has the National Plan facilitated improved access to culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children who experience violence? Please give examples.
- Considering the Fourth Action Plan (in place since 2019):
 - To what extent have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people been engaged in the development of community-led solutions?

- To what extent do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children have greater access to holistic, trauma-informed and culturally safe supports?
- Are there alternative models for victims and perpetrator supports? Please give examples.
- To what extent do initiatives address the underlying drivers of family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?
- To what extent have responses to family violence prioritised cultural healing and strengthening cultural identity?
- What has worked well? What could be improved?

Communities are safe and free from violence

- What is your perspective on the community's view of violence against women? Does this differ between communities or ages? *Note: This will be compared against data relating to community views.*
- Since the release of the National Plan, rates of violence have not reduced. Why do you think that is?
- How have DFSV and Aboriginal sector workforces been supported through the National Plan and Fourth Action Plan?
- To what extent has the National Plan helped improve access to justice for women and their children who have experienced violence?

Contact

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Interview guide – States and territories

Evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Background

KPMG has been engaged by the Department of Social Services to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. The National Plan was developed in partnership with all states and territories and was endorsed and released by COAG in 2011. The National Plan involves a collective commitment by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to making a real and sustained difference to the problem of violence against women and their children. Now in the last two years of the fourth and final action plan, an evaluation will consider the impact of the National Plan (inclusive of the Fourth Action Plan) and its overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

The evaluation will be conducted over three stages, and includes developing performance monitoring and reporting frameworks, Fourth Action Plan annual progress reports and evaluation of the National Plan to assess its effectiveness and whether it has achieved its goals.

To inform the evaluation, a number of focus groups with key stakeholders from all states and territories are being conducted. We are keenly interested in your view and would like to discuss broadly:

- **The overall contribution of Action Plans in reducing violence against women and their children**
- **The effectiveness of the National Plan in engaging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, CALD women and women with disability**
- **The benefits of taking a national approach**
- **Communities understanding of violence against women and their children, and how communities are supported**

Questions

Involvement

- How long have you been involved in implementing the National Plan? How have you been involved?
 - Are you also involved in implementing the Fourth Action Plan?
- What have been the benefits of a national approach? What have been the challenges?
- Are you working more collaboratively with other agencies (government and non-government) since the National Plan? How? How has this changed over time?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

- Has the National Plan supported communities to drive local solutions? Please give examples.
- Has the National Plan facilitated improved access to culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children who experience violence? Please give examples.
- What has worked well? What could be improved?

Communities are safe and free from violence

- What is your perspective on the community's view of violence against women? Does this differ between communities or ages? *Note: This will be compared against data relating to community views.*

- Since the release of the National Plan, rates of violence have not reduced. Why do you think that is?
- How have DFSV sector workforces been supported through the National Plan and Fourth Action Plan?
- To what extent has the National Plan helped improve access to justice for women and their children who have experienced violence?
- How effective have the National Plan and Fourth Action Plan been in engaging with and supporting:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
 - CALD women
 - Women with disability
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender women
 - Children and young people
 - Other groups with diverse experiences of violence, or at risk of violence?

Fourth Action Plan

- To what extent have primary prevention activities in the Fourth Action Plan promoted:
 - Positive attitudes and behaviours towards women?
 - Community understanding of the drivers of violence?
- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan resulted in increased support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children? Please provide examples of:
 - Innovative initiatives
 - Building culturally competent workforces
 - Community-led solutions
- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan responded to the needs of diverse groups of women and their children? (For example, culturally and linguistically diverse women, women with disability, women who identify as LGBTQ.)
- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan responded to sexual violence and sexual harassment (both victims and perpetrators)?
- To what extent have support and service system responses improved under the Fourth Action Plan?

Contact

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Appendix G: Consultation guides – Focus groups

Focus group guide – Non-government organisations

Evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Background

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The evaluation will be conducted over three stages, and includes developing performance monitoring and reporting frameworks, Fourth Action Plan annual progress reports and evaluation of the National Plan to assess its effectiveness and whether it has achieved its goals.

To inform the evaluation, a number of focus groups with key stakeholders from all states and territories are being conducted. We are keenly interested in your view and would like to discuss broadly:

- **The overall contribution of Action Plans in reducing violence against women and their children**
- **The effectiveness of the National Plan in engaging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, CALD women and women with disability**
- **The benefits of taking a national approach**
- **Communities understanding of violence against women and their children, and how communities are supported**

Questions

Effectiveness

- Considering the landscape of responding to violence against women 12 years ago, what has changed? How has the National Plan contributed to this?
- How effective has the National Plan been in engaging with and supporting:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
 - CALD women
 - Women with disability
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender women
 - Children and young people
 - Other groups with diverse experiences of violence, or at risk of violence?

Note: This will be compared against available data on outcomes.

- How effective has the National Plan been in enabling links between government and non-government organisations?

Workforce

- Have specialist workforces been supported to better prevent and/or respond to violence against women? Please provide examples.
- Are mainstream workforces (e.g. health, alcohol and drug, education, homelessness, child protection, police, corrections) equipped to respond to violence against women and children? What are the enablers and barriers?

Integrate systems and share information

- Has the National Plan supported the development of coordinated approaches and responses across jurisdictions and sectors? Please provide examples.

Communities are safe and free from violence

- What is your perspective on the community's view of violence against women? Does this differ between communities? *Note: This will be compared against available data on community views.*
- How effectively has the National Plan maintained a focus on primary prevention?
- Since the release of the National Plan, rates of violence have not reduced. Why do you think that is?

Fourth Action Plan

- Since 2019, to what extent has there been a change in attitudes and behaviours towards women, and understanding of violence?
- Since 2019, to what extent has there been increased support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children? Please provide examples of:
 - Innovative initiatives
 - Building culturally competent workforces
 - Community-led solutions
- Since 2019, to what extent has there been improved responses to the needs of diverse groups of women and their children? (For example, culturally and linguistically diverse women, women with disability, women who identify as LGBTQ.)
- Since 2019, to what extent has there been improved responses to sexual violence and sexual harassment (for both victims and perpetrators)?
- Since 2019, to what extent has there been have support and service system responses improved?

Contact

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Focus group guide – All states and territories

Evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

Background

KPMG has been engaged by the Department of Social Services to conduct an evaluation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. The National Plan was developed in partnership with all states and territories and was endorsed and released by COAG in 2011. The National Plan involves a collective commitment by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to making a real and sustained difference to the problem of violence against women and their children. Now in the last two years of the fourth and final action plan, an evaluation will consider the impact of the National Plan (inclusive of the Fourth Action Plan) and its overall effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

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- **The benefits of taking a national approach**
- **Communities understanding of violence against women and their children, and how communities are supported**

Questions

Governance arrangements

- What governance arrangements were put in place to support the National Plan? *Note: This will be compared against the design of governance structures.*
- How did you participate in these arrangements?
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Coordination

- Has the National Plan promoted coordination between jurisdictions? Please give examples. *Note: This will be compared against the designed arrangements to improve coordination.*
- Has this coordination occurred across jurisdictions, sectors, and/or related policy areas?
- How well does the National Plan link with, influence and inform other plans of government?
- How has this changed over time? What worked well? What could be improved?

Information sharing

- Has the National Plan promoted information sharing between jurisdictions? Please give examples. *Note: This will be compared against the designed arrangements to improve information sharing.*
- To what extent has the National Plan facilitated sharing of good practice?
- How has this changed over time? What worked well? What could be improved?

Tracking performance

- To what extent has the National plan enabled national data collection and reporting?
- What are the reporting processes to the Commonwealth for the National Plan? *Note: This will be compared against the designed reporting arrangements.*
- What worked well? What could be improved?

Fourth Action Plan

- To what extent have primary prevention activities in the Fourth Action Plan promoted:
 - Positive attitudes and behaviours towards women?
 - Community understanding of the drivers of violence?
- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan resulted in increased support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children? Please provide examples of:
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- To what extent has the Fourth Action Plan responded to the needs of diverse groups of women and their children?
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