



# Women's Safety measures

## Budget 2022-23

The Australian Government is investing \$1.3 billion over five years for a package of initiatives to drive positive change under the new *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*. The measures in this package respond to the four pillars of the new National Plan: Prevention, Early Intervention, Response and Recovery.

## What was announced in Budget 2022-23?

A historic \$919.9 million has been committed to support the Department of Social Services in delivering the First Action Plan of the new National Plan. A further \$402.8 million has been committed across other Australian Government agencies to provide a whole of government response to ending violence in all its forms, including \$30.7 million to be managed by the Department of Social Services.

This investment builds on the work of the current National Plan, which concludes in 2022, and contributes to the 'towards zero' target to end violence against women and children.

The total Government investment of \$1.3 billion investment builds on the \$1.1 billion women's safety package announced in the 2021-22 Budget, as well

as additional announcements since then including the National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission.

## Measures

The new measures include a focus on prevention, early intervention, education on respectful relationships, improving and expanding family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) response services, recovery services and investing in technology to keep women and children safe. The measures detailed in this document relate to the \$919.1 million that has been committed under the Department of Social Services.

## Prevention

Prevention activities work across society to address the attitudes, norms, practices, structures, systems, policies and power imbalances that drive gendered violence against women and children.

## Our Watch

\$104.4 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to continue supporting Our Watch, the national leader for primary prevention of violence against women and children.

This funding will enable Our Watch to implement its mission to prevent violence, deliver on key priorities under the new National Plan, and continue existing successful initiatives.

### ***Stop it at the Start* campaign**

\$46 million over four years (2022-23 to 2025-26) to continue the award-winning national primary prevention campaign, *Stop it at the Start*.

The additional funding will deliver a fifth and sixth phase of the campaign, which will continue to drive positive change in behaviours and attitudes around violence against women and help to promote gender equality over time.

*Stop it at the Start* aims to break the cycle of violence by encouraging adults to reflect on their own attitudes and have conversations about respect with young people aged 10 to 17 years.

### **Consent campaign**

In the 2021-22 Budget, the Government committed \$10.7 million over four years (2021-22 to 2024-25) to develop a new national campaign to help keep young people safe from sexual violence.

An additional \$32.2 million over four years (2022-23 to 2025-26) will now be invested to continue developing this advertising campaign to better inform young people and the adults in their lives about consent and respectful relationships, and positively influence their attitudes and behaviours.

### **ANROWS national priority research**

\$19 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to increase the capacity of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) to ensure policy interventions continue to be evidence-based, open and accessible.

This funding will allow ANROWS to deliver dedicated research to specifically address the Government's priorities and responsibilities under the new National Plan.

### **Extension of Third and Fourth Action Plan prevention activities**

\$9 million in 2022-23 to continue community based activities that address family, domestic and sexual violence in across Australia.

These activities are focused on supporting victim-survivors, helping men to be positive role models, and assisting perpetrators to change their behaviour.

### **Victim-survivor funding**

\$1 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) for ongoing engagement with victim-survivors throughout the life of the First Action Plan of the new National Plan, to ensure the valuable insights and voices of people with lived experience of family, domestic and sexual violence are central to policy development supporting implementation of the next National Plan.

Approaches to victim-survivor engagement will be considered alongside the establishment of the new Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission.

## **Early Intervention**

Early intervention activities aim to change the course for individuals who are at high-risk of perpetrating violence, stop the escalation of violence and supports victim-survivors with appropriate services addressing immediate and long-term harm.

### **Expansion of specialised counselling services**

\$100 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) for trauma-informed national

counselling services to support victim-survivors including children impacted by family and domestic violence and behaviour change services for individuals who have or are at risk of perpetrating gendered violence, supporting about 80,000 Australians.

### **DV-alert training and Accredited Training for Sexual Violence Responses**

\$54.4 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) for training to help the frontline sector, health and disability workers, the legal sector and community leaders recognise signs of domestic violence, respond appropriately, and refer victim-survivors to specialist support services.

The funding includes:

- \$39.7 million for Lifeline to continue delivering its successful free, nationally accredited DV-alert training for non-specialist frontline service providers
- Up to \$14.8 million to continue Accredited Training for Sexual Violence Responses for frontline workers and health professionals.

### **New early intervention campaign for men and boys**

\$47.9 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) for an early intervention campaign aimed at boys and men.

It will target boys and men at risk of perpetrating violence and who hold beliefs and attitudes associated with violence against women and girls, as well as men who may already be using violence.

### **FDSV Support Fund**

\$15.2 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to fund new, innovative approaches to addressing FDSV.

The FDSV Support Fund will enable the Government to respond quickly to emerging issues over the course of the First Action Plan of the new National Plan.

The Fund will support innovative proposals from the FDSV sector for new initiatives across the four national pillars: Prevention, Early Intervention, Response and Recovery.

### **No to Violence**

\$10.5 million over four years (2022-23 to 2025-26) for No to Violence to continue delivering the Men's Referral Service, Brief Intervention Service and Remote Working Toolkit training.

### **National Child and Family Investment Strategy**

\$10 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to develop a National Child and Family Investment Strategy focusing on a clear set of national principles and actions to drive funding priorities within the child and family service system.

This strategy will work in collaboration with the National Framework and the new National Plan to ensure a shift towards adequate and coordinated funding of early, targeted and culturally safe support services that are effective in protecting children and families from violence, abuse and neglect.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Support**

\$8 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to establish a virtual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Support (Centre).

The Centre will also support evidence-based and outcomes-focused approaches

to the development and delivery of policies and programs affecting vulnerable and/or disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families and will inform and drive practical change to prevent and reduce harm to children.

The Centre will be co-designed and implemented by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation or consortium.

### **Improve support for non-parent carers**

\$7 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to improve the support for grandparent, foster and kinship carers (non-parent carers) by developing a National Carers Register, so there is a nationally consistent approach in the management of state and territory carers registers and data can be shared between jurisdictions.

Establishing the National Carers Register will help with recruitment, training and retention of carers and will improve care standards, with the longer-term aim to improve care and outcomes for children.

### **Helping Children Heal**

\$6.7 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) for a pilot program of trauma-informed services for children affected by family and domestic violence called Helping Children Heal.

Helping Children Heal will be tailored for children aged 6 to 12 who are struggling to reach developmental, social and educational milestones due to family and domestic violence.

The pilot will support about 100 children on a single site. It will be evaluated to determine the potential for applying it to more locations in future.

### **Supporting parents and non-parent carers to improve their parenting practices**

\$3 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to raise awareness of strengths-based parenting practices and provide supports for parents and non-parent carers.

This investment builds on previous and existing work to enable parents and non-parent carers to understand the importance of child development and parenting, and reduce the stigma associated with families seeking support to improve their parenting practices.

A tailored communication approach will be implemented to target parents and non-parent carers with a focus on the National Framework priority groups.

### **Establish a National Advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People**

\$2 million over four years (2022-23 to 2025-2026) to establish a National Advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People (National Advocate) within the Australian Human Rights Commission.

A National Advocate will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of actions to implement *Safe and Supported: the National Framework to Protect Australia's Children 2021-2031*, to ensure it delivers real and tangible outcomes for children and young people.

## **Response**

Our investment will boost efforts and programs used to address existing violence, and support victim survivors experiencing violence. This includes crisis counselling, financial, housing or medical assistance as well as police and justice

responses including family law services and perpetrator interventions.

### **Extension of the Escaping Violence Payment**

\$240 million over three years (from 2023-24 to 2025-26) to extend the Escaping Violence Payment (EVP), which provides financial support to help victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence rebuild their lives after leaving a violent relationship.

This funding will enable the EVP to continue for a further three years through to 30 June 2026, supporting approximately 12,500 victim-survivors each year.

An additional \$40 million in funding for the EVP in this financial year (2021-22) to meet an anticipated demand for the program, and support all eligible victim-survivors as they contact for support.

Of the existing budget \$6 million will establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place-based trial of the EVP in the Cairns region, Queensland.

### **Safe Places 2 Emergency Accommodation**

\$100 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) will continue the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation program, to support the building, renovation or purchase of emergency accommodation for women and children escaping family and domestic violence.

This will fund around 720 new safe places for women and children, bringing the total number of safe places to around 1,500 when the program is completed.

### **Keeping Women Safe in their Homes and Safe Phones**

\$54.6 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to continue the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes (KWSITH) and Safe Phones programs and transition them to a single national provider.

A single national provider will provide national consistency for women affected by family, domestic and sexual violence to access support from both KWSITH and Safe Phones.

### **Electronic monitoring of offenders**

\$20 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to further trial the electronic monitoring of family violence offenders to help hold them to account, prevent them from reoffending, and improve victim protection, and supporting a range of models including the successful Project Vigilance trial in Tasmania.

The technology can be used to set off an alarm if the offender comes within a pre-determined distance of the victim, and for live tracking of offenders and victims, which can help reduce police response time for Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) breaches. Funding for this initiative will be through by the Treasury, but the Department of Social Services will manage policy and implementation.

### **Additional funds for the Northern Territory under the FDSV National Partnership**

An additional \$10.7 million to the Northern Territory under the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-23 (FDSV National Partnership) to work towards Closing the Gap commitments and help address the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's safety. Funding for this initiative will be through by the Treasury, but the Department of Social

Services will manage policy and implementation.

The additional funding will support communities across the Northern Territory – including remote Indigenous communities – to improve responses to family, domestic and sexual violence, including staff mentoring and training for frontline services, early intervention programs for young people, and tailored services for women in remote communities experiencing violence.

### **Support for Trafficked People Program**

\$8 million over five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to extend the Support for Trafficked People Program for people who are exploited by the intolerable crimes of

human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices.

This assistance includes tailored case management to clients referred by the Australian Federal Police to meet individual needs including accommodation, medical treatment, legal and migration advice, skills or English language development and social support.

### **More information**

For more information about these measures and other Department of Social Services' Budget measures, visit [www.dss.gov.au/budget](http://www.dss.gov.au/budget).

For information about Budget 2022-23, go to [www.budget.gov.au](http://www.budget.gov.au).