Federal Labor’s National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children

2010 to 2022

Including the first three-year Action Plan
Foreword

One in three Australian women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Almost one in five has experienced sexual violence. It is time for that to change.

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* will bring together the efforts of governments across the nation to make a real and sustained reduction in the levels of violence against women.

It will be the first plan to coordinate action across jurisdictions. It will be the first to focus strongly on prevention. It will be the first to look to the long term, building respectful relationships to prevent violence from passing from one generation to the next.

Federal Labor’s *National Plan* sets out a framework for action over the next 12 years and has been built from an evidence base involving new research and extensive consultation with experts and the community.

The *National Plan* will be implemented through four three-year plans, with the “First Action Plan: Building Strong Foundations” for 2010 to 2013 published in this plan. It seeks six national outcomes through the implementation of a wide range of strategies.

By working together and challenging the attitudes and behaviours that allow violence to occur, all Australian governments are saying a very loud “no” to violence.

The *National Plan* is underpinned by the belief that involving all governments and the wider community is necessary to reducing violence in the short and longer terms. No government or group can tackle this problem alone.

While living free from violence is everyone’s right, reducing violence is everyone’s responsibility.

A re-elected Gillard Labor Government will move swiftly to secure agreement to this plan from all States and Territories through the Council of Australian Governments.
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Introduction

Reducing all violence in our community is a priority. The National Plan targets a particular type of violence – domestic violence and sexual assault.

Nearly all Australians (98 per cent) recognise that violence against women and their children is a crime.¹ The prevalence of violence, however, continues to be unacceptably high.

One in three Australian women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and almost one in five have experienced sexual violence, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.²

In 2005, 350,000 women experienced physical violence and 125,000 women experienced sexual violence.³

Up to one-quarter of young people in Australia have seen their mother or stepmother physically or sexually assaulted.⁴

No form of violence in our community is acceptable. While a small proportion victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are male, the majority of people who experience this kind of violence are women — at the hands of men they know, in their own homes, and often repeatedly. Men are more likely to be the victims of violence from strangers and in public, so other crime prevention strategies must be used.

A study commissioned by the Commonwealth in 2009 also shows the enormous economic cost of violence. Violence against women costs the nation $13.6 billion each year. By 2021, the figure is likely to rise to $15.6 billion if extra steps are not taken.⁵

The emotional and personal costs of sexual assault and domestic violence cannot be measured: the effects reach all levels of society.

Violence not only affects the victim themselves, but the children who are exposed to it, their extended families, their friends, their work colleagues and ultimately the broader community.

Domestic and family violence and sexual assault occurs across the Australian community.

Some women do face particular challenges. For women with disabilities, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous women, same-sex attracted women and older women, the National Plan recognises that such diversity requires tailored responses based on individual needs.

¹ VicHealth, 2009
² Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006
³ Ibid
⁴ Indermaur, D., 2001
⁵ KPMG, 2009.
What is violence against women?

Violence against women can be described in many different ways, and laws across the country do not treat types of violence consistently.

Domestic violence refers to acts of violence that occur within intimate relationships and take place in domestic settings. It includes physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse.

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

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

Psychological and emotional abuse can include being continually humiliated and degraded, being made to ‘keep house’ to exacting standards, being kept short of money, threats against children, being made to do humiliating and degrading things, and being threatened with injury or death.

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

The Federal Government set up the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children in May 2008 to advise on measures to reduce the incidence and impact of violence against women and their children.

The National Council was asked to develop an evidence-based plan for reducing violence, based on community consultation, assessing existing Australian and international research, investigating the effectiveness of legal systems, and commissioning research on the economic costs of violence.

The 11-member council, led by Ms Libby Lloyd AM (Chair) and Ms Heather Nancarrow (Deputy Chair), consulted with more than 2,000 Australians in every State and Territory, conducted roundtable expert discussions, interviewed victims and perpetrators of violence, and reviewed more than 350 written submissions.


The Time for Action report proposed that all governments, through COAG, should agree to a long term plan to reduce violence, with the Federal Government taking a leadership role. Time for Action identified six outcome areas and strategies for all parties to deliver.

The Federal Government released its response, Immediate Government Actions, in April 2009, supporting the direction and focus of Time for Action. The Government announced that it would invest $42 million immediately to address urgent recommendations. These included the establishment of a new national domestic violence and sexual assault telephone and online crisis service, the implementation of respectful relationships programs in schools and other youth settings, and the development of a social marketing campaign targeted at young people and parents.

The Federal Government also announced that it would refer Time for Action to COAG as many of the recommendations required cooperation between all levels of government. Both Time for Action and the Government’s response, Immediate Government Actions, laid the groundwork for the National Plan.

The Commonwealth has since worked closely with State and Territory Governments to develop a National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.

Building on recent achievements

Australia’s governments have been working in their respective areas of responsibility to be more effective in reducing violence against women and their children. In recent years, governments have developed strategic plans to guide their future work and have introduced legislative reforms.

In recent years, the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments have all taken action to address violence against women and their children.

The Federal Government delivers support and services through family law, including legal assistance, and the social security system. It also provides significant funding for key services delivered through the states and territories such as hospitals, schools and housing.
The State and Territory Governments deliver a range of services from justice, policing and legal assistance, to services for victims and perpetrators. They also fund and coordinate many services provided by the non-government sector.

All governments in Australia are continuing to improve their responses to violence against women and their children. Increased reporting, law reform and greater community awareness have made a difference.

While all governments have services and programs to respond to violence against women and their children and many of them are highly effective—these responses can be fragmented.

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children* is designed to provide a coordinated framework that improves the scope, target and effectiveness of governments’ actions, ensuring women and their children receive the support they need.

**Commonwealth**

Since 2007, the Federal Government has shown leadership in developing measures to reduce violence against women. It has built on policy areas related to violence such as family law, Indigenous safety and well-being, homelessness, and the provision of income support, family payments and crisis payments. It also works internationally on initiatives to reduce violence against women and their children, promote human rights and translate those human rights into Australian laws.

The Federal Government plays a key role in the primary prevention of violence, in particular focusing on young people’s attitudes towards violence and other risk taking behaviours such as binge drinking. Helping young people better understand and develop respectful relationships will have long term impacts on the level of violence against women.

The Federal Government funds a range of relationship counselling services to assist people dealing with relationship issues including those experiencing violence, and to support them in their role as parents. National programs provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including through the Women’s Safety Agenda. These programs include a 24-hour helpline for victims, specialist training for nurses and Aboriginal health workers in regional and rural areas, funding for the *Women Everywhere Advocating Violence Elimination* Women’s Alliance and for the White Ribbon Foundation to extend their work to rural workers.

The Federal Government recently led the development of Australia’s first White Paper on homelessness which sets the target of halving homelessness, and offering supported accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it, by 2020.

The Federal Government invests in research to build the evidence base for violence protection policies through the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse and the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault.

In April 2009, Federal Labor invested an additional $42 million into priority areas for reducing violence against women, including a new national helpline, respectful relationship education and a social marketing campaign aimed at young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships.

**New South Wales**

In June 2010, the NSW Government released a five year Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan: *Stop the Violence, End the Silence*. The NSW Action Plan includes measures to provide domestic violence workers at police stations and expand the domestic violence duty solicitor scheme. NSW also passed legislation to establish a Domestic Violence Death Review Team to investigate domestic violence deaths and identify ways to prevent deaths in the future.
**Victoria**


In 2008, Victoria’s *Family Violence Act* introduced a definition of family violence that includes economic and emotional abuse and expanded the definition of family relationships to include carers. Introduced in November 2008, Victoria was the first jurisdiction in Australia to have a coronial review designed to reduce deaths caused by domestic violence.

**Queensland**

The Queensland Government released its coordinated state strategy, *For Our Sons and Daughters - A Queensland Government strategy to reduce domestic and family violence 2009-2014*, in January 2010. A 20-month trial of an integrated response to violence has been set up in Rockhampton, which involves a case-coordination team with police, child safety officers and a specialist domestic and family violence workers.

On the legislative front, the Queensland Government introduced a new partial criminal defence of “killing in an abusive domestic relationship” in February 2010 and is further reviewing the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 1989.

**Western Australia**

The *Western Australian Family and Domestic Violence Strategic Plan 2009-2013* involves the systemic reform of Western Australia’s response to family and domestic violence. The reforms are being implemented by the Department for Child Protection and the Senior Officers’ Group for Family and Domestic Violence.

The reform of family and domestic violence laws occurred in the State in 2004. These reforms increased penalties, provided greater police powers in suspected cases of family violence, and recognised emotional abuse as a form of domestic and family violence.

**South Australia**

South Australia has an integrated Family Safety Framework (FSF) that uses a case management approach involving multiple agencies. A review of the framework in 2008 found the framework was effective in assessing risk, enhancing safety and improving system-wide collaboration.

Since 2008, the South Australian government has reformed sexual assault provisions of criminal law and expanded the power of police to issue Intervention Orders. The September 2009 changes to Intervention Orders also expanded the definition of abuse to include emotional or psychological harm and denial of financial, social or personal autonomy.

**Tasmania**


Major initiatives under *Safe at Home* include tougher prosecutions and perpetrator programs as a sentencing option, greater counselling and support for victims, and improved victim access to Legal Aid and court support. To facilitate the new approach, the Tasmanian Government linked IT systems across relevant Government agencies and improved case management.
Northern Territory

The Northern Territory uses a whole-of-government approach to family violence policy and programs, with the main policy framework called *Building on our Strengths: A Framework for Action for Women in the Northern Territory 2008-2012*.

The Territory became the only jurisdiction with mandatory reporting for domestic and family violence when the Government introduced its mandatory reporting scheme in March 2009. The scheme was introduced with a $15 million package to combat violence and raise awareness. Early crime statistics are indicating that the new system is working, with higher levels of reporting being attributed to the new system and additional funding being provided for police in remote areas.

The Northern Territory Government strengthened domestic violence orders in 2007 and included economic abuse and intimidation as a form of violence.

ACT

In September 2008 the ACT introduced legislation to broaden the scope of protection orders and better protect victims during the court process. The commencement of new legislation (*Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2008*) coincided with technology upgrades in courts and specialist training of police, prosecutors and the victim support sector.

ACT initiatives are in accordance with the ACT Women’s Plan (2010-2015), which includes the objective to prevent violence against women and their children and instil an anti-violence culture in the community. The ACT Office for Women has the lead role in the territory’s initiatives to reduced violence against women.

**Links with other COAG reform**

Violence against women does not occur in isolation from other issues faced by individuals and communities. Evidence documented in the *Immediate Government Actions* report, *The Road Home – The Australian Government White Paper on Homelessness* and the *National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children* showed that:

- The most common reason that people give for seeking assistance from government-funded homelessness services is domestic or family violence (22 per cent of support periods). Women with children most often cited domestic or family violence when accessing homelessness services (49 per cent of support periods).

- Overcrowding in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities contributes to high rates of domestic and family violence.

- Domestic and family violence are significant risk factors for child abuse and neglect.

It is important, therefore, to recognise and maintain the strong links that exist between this *National Plan* and other significant COAG reforms. All governments are working together on a series of issues that have an impact on violence against women, as outlined below.
Indigenous women

The National Plan has been developed to support all women and their children experiencing violence, including Indigenous women and their children. In addition some Indigenous communities need extra assistance to address particular factors and disadvantage which contribute to higher rates of family violence and sexual assault among Indigenous people. The National Plan will build on COAG’s commitments under the Closing the Gap framework, which is working to help close the gap in life expectancy and life opportunities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The Commonwealth also recently launched a $64 million Indigenous Family Safety Program and a supporting Agenda to help reduce family violence. A key aim of this Agenda is to tackle alcohol abuse – the primary risk factor in Indigenous family violence – by working with communities to stem the supply of alcohol where it leads to high-levels of family and community violence. Other priorities under the Agenda are to advocate for stronger police protection in remote communities, support community led initiatives that heal trauma and change attitudes, and improve the coordination of services to victims, especially children.

Protecting children

Physical abuse, emotional maltreatment, neglect, sexual abuse, and witnessing family violence are now all recognised as forms of child abuse and neglect. In April 2009, COAG endorsed Protecting Children is Everyone’s Business—National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009–2020. This framework is aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect in Australia over time. The National Plan and the National Framework are designed to work in tandem to bring about positive change for women and their children experiencing violence.

Homelessness

Domestic and family violence continues to be the major cause of homelessness. Escaping violence is the most common reason provided by people who seek help from specialist homelessness services. In December 2008, the Commonwealth released The Road Home - The Australian Government White Paper on Homelessness. The Road Home sets a strategic whole of government agenda for reducing homelessness to 2020. Women and children who have been victims of violence are a key target group of the White Paper.

The Commonwealth is spending an additional $4.9 billion over four years to address homelessness, with an extra $400 million from the States and Territories. This includes the $1.2 billion committed at the time of the release of the Homelessness White Paper.

The Commonwealth is:

- Increasing spending on homelessness services by 55 per cent as a substantial initial investment on a 12-year reform agenda.
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing homes by 80,000 over four years – 50,000 through the National Rental Affordability Scheme and 30,000 through the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.
- Providing an additional $80.4 million in emergency relief and financial counselling services until mid 2011 to support Australians through difficult times.
- Funding 41 specialist homelessness projects across our housing programs, to provide more than 1680 new units of accommodation.
### Health and hospitals

The health sector through doctors, nurses and specialist staff are often an early point of identification for women who have experienced sexual assault or domestic violence. COAG’s April 2010 announcement to establish a National Health and Hospitals Network will have an impact on the National Plan through improved services in areas of urgent priority for the health sector. The National Plan’s National Workforce Agenda for specialist workers in domestic violence and sexual assault services will seek to align work in the community services sector with that in the health sector.

### Social inclusion

The Federal Government has developed a social inclusion agenda that seeks to ensure all Australians have the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, social and civic life of our country. Priorities have been identified in which to start the work of addressing social exclusion and increasing social inclusion, including:

- Supporting children at greatest risk of long-term disadvantage by proving health, education and family relationships services.
- Helping jobless families with children by helping the unemployed into sustainable employment and their children into a good start in life.
- Focusing on the locations of greatest disadvantage by tailoring place-based approaches in partnership with the community.
- Assisting in the employment of people with disability or mental illness by creating employment opportunities and building community support.
- Addressing the incidence of homelessness by providing more housing and support services.
- Closing the gap for Indigenous Australians with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, access to early childhood education, educational achievement and employment outcomes.

By developing programs to assist the above priority groups, the Federal Government will also assist women experiencing domestic violence.
The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

What is the National Plan?

The National Plan provides the framework for action by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to reduce violence against women and their children.

The central goals of the National Plan are to improve how governments work together, increase support for women and their children, and create innovative and targeted ways to bring about change.

The National Plan is unprecedented in the way it focuses on preventing violence by raising awareness and building respectful relationships in the next generation. The aim is to bring attitudinal and behavioural change at the cultural, institutional and individual levels – with a particular focus on young people.

Further to prevention measures, the National Plan will allow women who have experienced violence to rebuild their lives as quickly as possible as part of a community-wide response. This means mainstream and specialist services will improve their responses so that women return to full social and economic participation as soon as possible.

The National Plan sets out six national outcomes for all governments to deliver during the next 12 years. The outcomes will be delivered through four three-year Action Plans, the first of which runs from 2010 to 2013.

Vision and targets

The vision of the National Plan is that:

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

To measure the success of this vision, governments have set the following target for: “a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children” during the next 12 years, from 2010 to 2022.

To know whether this target is being achieved, four high-level indicators of change will be used to show progress, indicating:

- 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.
The values and principles that guide the National Plan are:

- Domestic violence, family violence and sexual assault crosses all ages, races and cultures, socioeconomic and demographic barriers, although some women are at higher risk.
- Everyone regardless of their age, gender, sex, sexual orientation, race, culture, disability, religious belief, faith, linguistic background or location, has a right to be safe and live in an environment that is free from violence.
- Domestic violence, family violence and sexual assault are unacceptable and against the law.
- Governments and other organisations will provide holistic services and supports that prioritise the needs of victims and survivors of violence.
- Sustainable change must be built on community participation by men and women taking responsibility for the problems and solutions.
- Everyone has a right to access and to participate in justice processes that enable them to achieve fair outcomes.
- Governments acknowledge the legacy of past failures and the need for new collaborative approaches to preventing violence against Indigenous women.
- Responses to children exposed to violence maintain the safety and long term well-being of children.

**Working together - areas of responsibility**

All systems need to work together to make a major difference to the prevalence and impacts of violence against women. The National Plan will build on the current work of all Australian governments so that government departments and agencies partner with relevant community and business organisations.

The National Council reported in *Time for Action* that frequent changing of government programs and differences between the states and territories were major barriers to progress in reducing violence. *Time for Action* recommended that governments adopt a long term strategic approach: one that was widely communicated so that it could be used by government and non-government organisations.

The National Plan will drive collaboration with the broader community and governments will share information with each other. Many areas of business and the community are already playing their part to reducing violence. Through the National Plan, governments are committed to working in partnership with business, researchers and the community sector to develop and implement actions and report on progress – consistent with the National Compact with the Third Sector.

**Action Plans 2010 -2022**

The National Plan will be driven by a series of four Action Plans. They will support Australian governments to work together to develop, implement and report progress on key actions at the national and local level, within a coordinated national framework.

This National Plan public document includes the first three-year Action Plan, and the Commonwealth, States and Territories will indicate which actions they will commit to as part of the implementation process.

The Action Plans have been designed in three year cycles so that governments can review the strategies and actions once they are implemented and design future government efforts to be as effective as possible into the future. Governments will respond to emerging priorities as new evidence becomes available and circumstances change.
Each Action Plan will:

- Address all national outcomes.
- Allow States and Territories to act in locally relevant and responsive ways.
- Draw on the existing evidence base.
- Aid national consistency, such as through national benchmarks.
- Change over time.

Importantly, each Action Plan also will help to build the skills, systems and available data of governments to improve policy making and service delivery. This is essential to governments having the capacity to work together and to support lasting change.

Each Action Plan will be supported by the following “foundations for change”:

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

The four Action Plans have been designed as a series to be implemented over 12 years, each building on the other as described below.

**First Action Plan (2010 to 2013) – Building a Strong Foundation**

The First Action Plan establishes the groundwork for the National Plan, putting in place the strategic projects and actions that will drive results over the longer term while also implementing high-priority actions in the short term. During this period, governments will be working with services to support women, build a solid evidence base and establish the frameworks and approaches that will achieve the attitudinal and behavioural change that is necessary for stopping violence in the future.

Creating momentum in primary prevention in the first three years will provide an essential platform for the succeeding three Action Plans. While cultural and attitudinal change in the community can take a long time, evidence about the impact of the First Action Plan should emerge during the plan’s implementation and evaluation.

**Second Action Plan (2013 to 2016) – Moving Ahead**

The Second Action Plan will take stock of what has worked well in the first three years and consolidate the evidence base for the effectiveness of the strategies and actions implemented to date.

The evidence will inform the strengthening of existing strategies and actions and the development of new approaches if some areas are not producing the progress expected. In this phase, the governments will be Moving Ahead in the sense that cultural change will be advancing and the level of women reporting violence increasing, allowing for greater attention and action in the next stages.
Third Action Plan (2016 to 2019) – Promising Results

The Promising Results plan will deliver solid and continuing progress in best practice policies, with governments using data of far greater detail, accuracy and depth due to the improvements made in data collection and analysis. The long term initiatives put into place during the first two Action Plans are expected to be delivering results. The involvement of groups across the community is expected to make more people receptive, supportive and involved in strategies to reduce violence against women. In turn, this will enable governments to draw on greater community awareness and support.

Fourth Action Plan (2019 to 2022) – Turning the Corner

The Fourth Action Plan is expected to see the delivery of tangible results in terms of reduced prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault, reduced proportions of children witnessing violence, and an increased proportion of women who feel safe in their communities.

Governments and the community will be turning the corner through a greater awareness of the importance of respectful relationships and the need for changes in norms and behaviours that support violence, beyond the life of the National Plan.
Six national outcomes

National Outcome 1 – Communities are safe and free from violence

Positive and respectful community attitudes are critical to Australian women and their children living free from violence in safe communities. One of the best predictors of violent behaviour is that an individual holds beliefs and values that support violence.\(^6\)

Research shows that social norms, attitudes and beliefs shape different types of violence against women, whether it be emotional, psychological, economic, physical or sexual violence.\(^7\) These beliefs can result in violence being justified, excused, or hidden from view.

Strategy 1.1: Promoting community involvement

Violence against women is a community problem that requires a community-wide response. This strategy focuses on encouraging people throughout Australia – from individuals and families, to community, health and education organisations, to businesses and governments – to embrace their responsibility as a community member and take a role in preventing and reducing violence against women. The strategy includes supporting men to take a leading role in discouraging aggressive and violent behaviour.

Strategy 1.2: Focus on primary prevention

Primary prevention involves taking action to prevent the problem of violence before it occurs. But what early action is needed? What will work? Research by the World Health Organisation shows that promoting the healthy development of a child’s physical, emotional and social self, and reducing exposure to violence, may significantly reduce the likelihood of violence inflicted by an intimate partner from occurring later in life.\(^8\)

This strategy focuses on developing primary prevention frameworks that will assist in forming, implementing and assessing primary prevention at a national level through different groups and at different levels of society. It will look at building positive attitudes and beliefs and ways for organisations to tackle areas that foster controlling, macho, aggressive and ultimately violent behaviour.

Strategy 1.3: Advancing gender equality

At every level of society, gender inequalities have a profound influence on violence against women and their children. Building greater equality and respect between men and women can reduce the development of attitudes that support or justify violence.\(^9\) The acting out of negative attitudes towards women, especially through men seeking to control and devalue their female partners, is an especially important predictor of violence.\(^10\) If the woman’s partner is engaged in controlling behaviour, she is six times more likely to experience physical violence.\(^11\)

Broader social policy initiatives that address gender inequality and improve the status of women are critical to reducing violence against women.\(^12\) The strategy will use the link between gender equality and violence to create better outcomes for women.

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\(^6\) VicHealth, 2006.  
\(^12\) World Health Organisation, 2004.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Key actions by Australian governments 2010 to 2013</th>
<th>Key actions by the Commonwealth 2010 to 2013</th>
<th>Measure of success</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.1. Promote community involvement.</strong></td>
<td>Encourage schools, community, sporting and business groups to prevent, respond to, and speak out against violence. Foster community initiatives to reduce alcohol and substance abuse. Change community attitudes and behaviours through a national social marketing campaign complemented by local initiatives. Promote positive media representations of women.</td>
<td>Continue the National Binge Drinking Strategy. Implement social marketing and awareness campaigns including the Commonwealth’s ‘The Line’, to encourage young people to develop healthy and respectful relationships, with the aim of changing attitudes that support violence. Examine and develop media codes of practice for reporting sexual assault and domestic violence. Work with the media, the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance and sexual assault experts to develop and implement guidelines for media and police that are more sensitive to victims. Support local Indigenous communities to take action against alcohol supply where it is leading to high levels of violence through the new Indigenous Family Safety Program.</td>
<td>An increase in the community’s intolerance of violence against women. Data: National Community Attitudes Survey to be undertaken every four years across the life of the National Plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.2. Focus on primary prevention.</strong></td>
<td>Expand and apply national best practice benchmarks for work in primary prevention. Build primary prevention into the work of schools, community and sporting groups, local government agencies, and business groups. Draw on evidence to develop targeted primary prevention strategies for key groups.</td>
<td>Increase community action through local primary prevention strategies. Funding will be provided for: - Take the Line Local, expand respectful relationships social marketing campaign to urban, rural and remote communities. Projects allocated through competitive grants process. Projects will mostly target mainstream settings, however priority will also be given to women with disabilities, older women, the CALD and gay and lesbian communities. - Zero Tolerance Through Sport, partner with major sporting codes (football, basketball, soccer etc) and the...</td>
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Australian Sport Commission to promote the prevention of sexual and domestic violence against women.
Continue to implement and evaluate the national respectful relationships projects.
Develop best practice benchmarks for work in primary prevention to build the capacity and skills of the primary prevention workforce.

| 1.3. Advance gender equality. | Australian Sport Commission to promote the prevention of sexual and domestic violence against women.  
|                             | Continue to implement and evaluate the national respectful relationships projects.  
|                             | Develop best practice benchmarks for work in primary prevention to build the capacity and skills of the primary prevention workforce.  
|                             | Improve women’s economic participation and independence.  
|                             | Improve the participation of women in leadership positions.  
|                             | Build and support legal literacy among migrants and refugees on Australian law and gender equality principles.  
|                             | Develop workplace measures to support women experiencing and escaping from domestic violence.  
| Develop and implement measures to increase women’s economic security, including:  
| - The introduction of paid parental leave.  
| - Superannuation reform.  
| - Increased support for pensioners.  
| Develop and implement measures to increase women’s leadership opportunities including:  
| - Funding the National Women’s Alliances to support women’s involvement in government policy development.  
| - Setting a 40:40 female and male target for government boards.  
| - Funding scholarships to support more women on private sector boards.  
| Provide information to newly arrived migrants and refugees about protections for women who experience violence in Australia.  
| Consult with peak employer and employee representatives to improve ways for workplaces to better support women experiencing domestic violence.  
| Fund the Australian Domestic Violence Clearinghouse Domestic Violence – Workplace Rights and Entitlements project. |
Details of the specific actions to be undertaken by each jurisdiction against the strategies and actions outlined above will be provided in each jurisdiction’s implementation plan. This will include details of what actions each jurisdiction will undertake, along with when they will do it and who has responsibility for its success.
National Outcome 2 – Relationships are respectful

Changing attitudes and behaviours of young people is critical to preventing domestic violence and sexual assault in the future. While prevention at the community level is essential, governments will also support individuals to develop healthy respectful relationships.

Education can help in encouraging young people to develop more equal and positive relationships. Seeing adults exhibiting respectful behaviours—between partners, friends, parents and their children—is also important for young people. Positive parenting practices and violence-free home environments are crucial to the development of healthy social behavioural skills and healthy relationships.13

Strategy 2.1: Build on young people’s capacity to develop respectful relationships

Education plays a key role in equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to develop and maintain non-violent, respectful and equitable relationships. School and community cultures need to support and foster structural and individual change. School-based approaches that help young people to identify inappropriate sexual or violent behaviour and shape their expectations and capacity to build and sustain respectful relationships are promising examples of primary prevention that appear to be working internationally.14

Strategy 2.2: Support adults to model respectful relationships

Children learn their attitudes and behaviour from those around them. Positive adult role models can encourage young children to develop positive respectful relationships.

Strategy 2.3: Promote positive male attitudes and behaviours

The majority of men are non-violent, but they need to be supported to speak out against violence against women. While organisations such as the White Ribbon Foundation of Australia have made progress in this area, more can be done.

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<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Key actions by Australian governments 2010 to 2013</th>
<th>Key actions by the Commonwealth 2010 to 2013</th>
<th>Measure of success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 2.1: Build on young people’s capacity to develop respectful relationships</td>
<td>Embed evidence-based best practice respectful relationships education in schools. Foster whole-of-school approaches to respectful relationships involving staff, parents, students and community agencies. Extend access to respectful relationships programs in non-school settings.</td>
<td>Work through the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to support the inclusion of respectful relationships education in phase three of the Australian Curriculum. Encourage young people to develop healthy and respectful relationships through national social marketing campaign, ‘The Line’.</td>
<td>Improved knowledge of, and the skills and behaviour for, respectful relationships by young people. Data: Evaluation of the respectful relationships education projects and the Commonwealth social marketing campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 2.2: Support adults to model respectful relationships</td>
<td>Encourage broader societal and cultural change that promotes respectful relationships.</td>
<td>Support workshops for adult survivors of sexual abuse, parents and spouses through the Child Protection Framework.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14 Ibid.
Increase support for parents to learn positive parenting skills and promote positive fathering.

Increase awareness of, and education on, cyber safety issues.

Extend work in the detection, investigation and prosecution of online sexual exploitation.

Fund the $1.2 billion Family Support Program to support vulnerable and disadvantaged families, and separated and separating parents and their children. Program includes early intervention and prevention services to families to build and strengthen relationships, develop skills and support parents and children.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy 2.3: Promote positive male attitudes and behaviours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actively engage men to promote gender equality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encourage men to speak out against violence and promote non-violence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expand men’s knowledge and skills in sustaining respectful relationships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Men’s Shed organisation to assist men to develop relationship and personal skills and awareness under the National Men’s Health Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost funding to the national Mensline to assist callers with issues such as separation, family violence and fathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund the White Ribbon Day campaign to ensure expansion to rural and regional areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details of the specific actions to be undertaken by each jurisdiction against the strategies and actions outlined above will be provided in each jurisdiction’s implementation plan. This will include details of what actions each jurisdiction will undertake, along with when they will do it and who has responsibility for its success.
National Outcome 3 – Indigenous communities are strengthened

Indigenous women experience much higher levels of family violence than non-Indigenous women. In 2006-07, Indigenous females were 35 times more likely to be hospitalised due to assaults related to family violence than non-Indigenous females.\(^1\)

Indigenous women and their children are considered in all elements of the National Plan to Reduce against Women and their Children. This outcome focuses on strengthening Indigenous communities. The issues facing Indigenous women are complex. Extra effort is needed to tackle violence against Indigenous women and their children.

The National Plan is seeking to support Indigenous communities to create, and build on, their own solutions to preventing violence. This includes encouraging women to have a stronger voice as community leaders and supporting Indigenous men who reject violence. Improving economic outcomes and leadership opportunities for Indigenous women is critical to reducing violence.

Australian governments acknowledge the legacy of past failures and the need for new collaborative approaches to preventing violence. This outcome is designed to work in parallel with other government efforts to strengthen Indigenous communities.

Strategy 3.1: Foster the leadership of Indigenous women within communities and broader Australian society

Indigenous women’s voices need to be heard within their communities and in representative bodies, as well as in broader society. The National Plan will promote situations where Indigenous women’s leadership is currently working well.

Strategy 3.2: Build community capacity at the local level

Governments will support communities to develop and implement local solutions across all areas of the National Plan.

Strategy 3.3: Improve access to appropriate services

The National Plan prioritises broader work to close the gap for Indigenous people to reduce disadvantage in life expectancy, child mortality, access to early childhood education, educational achievement and employment outcomes.

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<th>Key actions by the Commonwealth 2010 to 2013</th>
<th>Measures of success</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 3.1: Foster the leadership of Indigenous women within communities and broader Australian society</td>
<td>Promote the leadership of senior women in governance and decision-making for communities and organisations. Create new opportunities to improve economic outcomes for Indigenous women. Improve employment and retention strategies for Indigenous women at senior</td>
<td>Fund the Commonwealth Indigenous Women’s Program to enhance Indigenous women’s leadership, representation, safety, well-being and economic status. Support Indigenous women to identify issues and develop their own solutions through funding for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Alliance.</td>
<td>Reduction in the proportion of Indigenous women who consider that family violence, assault and sexual assault are problems for their communities and neighbourhoods. Increase in the proportion of Indigenous women</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy 3.2: Build community capacity at the local level</th>
<th>Strategy 3.3: Improve access to appropriate services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Support national healing and locally developed healing places, programs or activities. Work with communities to deliver integrated local contingency planning and responses. Develop effective Community Safety Plans including in remote service delivery locations which include primary prevention.</td>
<td>Improve the cultural competence of mainstream and specialist services. Improve community responses to perpetrators. Improve services for Indigenous women and their families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish the Healing Foundation to address trauma and aid healing in Indigenous communities, with a particular focus on the Stolen Generations. Invest in the skills of local people to make their own changes to reduce violence through the $64.4 million Indigenous Family Safety Program. Provide a flexible funding pool for quick and flexible responses to high priority needs identified by communities in the 29 Remote Service Delivery priority locations. Develop and trial new models and approaches to improve police responses and community planning for Indigenous family safety. Develop community safety plans in 29 Remote Service Delivery sites.</td>
<td>Fund initiatives through the Indigenous Family Safety Program aimed at improving coordination of services so victims of violence receive proper and continuous care from start. Through this program, also fund initiatives that create better links and information sharing between communities on important issues, including violence.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Data: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.
Develop effective culturally appropriate therapeutic responses for Indigenous children who have been exposed to family violence, to prevent the transmission of intergenerational trauma.

Local police and service providers focused on preventing and protecting families against violence; and research on appropriate tools for the states and territories to use when allocating police resources.

Provide incentives and support payments for practice nurses and Aboriginal health workers in regional and rural areas to undertake training on domestic violence.

Provide 22 safe houses, a mobile protection team and Remote Family Support workers in the Northern Territory as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

Support victims of family violence through the legal system through the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services program.

Details of the specific actions to be undertaken by each jurisdiction against the strategies and actions outlined above will be provided in each jurisdiction’s implementation plan. This will include details of what actions each jurisdiction will undertake, along with when they will do it and who has responsibility for its success.
National Outcome 4 – Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence

Specialist and mainstream services are critical to helping women rebuild their lives following violence.

Time for Action reported on the challenges facing the domestic violence and sexual assault sector in meeting the needs of victims. These included the inability of services to meet the holistic needs of victims and their families and over-stretched and stressed services with long waiting lists. It also reported the need for ‘the first door needing to be the right door’. A ‘first door approach’ means that for women who have experienced violence their first point of contact should provide professional and compassionate assistance. Improving collaboration between services means that women do not have to repeat their story multiple times to multiple services.

Services supporting victims of violence must be flexible in meeting the diverse needs of their clients, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, older women, women with disabilities, gay and lesbian women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and women from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Of those women who reported experiencing violence by a current partner in the 2005 Personal Safety Survey, 34 per cent said their children had witnessed the violence. Children need services to meet their needs in their own right.

Strategy 4.1 Enhance the first point of contact to identify and respond to needs

When violence occurs, victims and their children need access to support services that are high-quality, accessible and responsive. Women should not have to tell their story multiple times to multiple services. The first response should be the right one.

Strategy 4.2 Support specialist domestic violence and sexual assault services to deliver responses that meet needs

New perspectives and strategies are required by all Australian governments in the delivery of best responses, as early as possible to the victims of violence. Women may require specialized support based on individual needs in recognition of issues such as age, English language proficiency, disability, sexuality, prior victimization and other vulnerabilities.

Strategy 4.3 Support mainstream services to identify and respond to needs

Women and their children need to receive holistic support including health, housing, education, employment and legal assistance. Economic and social livelihood is critical for women and children who have been victims of violence to rebuild their lives. Services need to be equipped to support this.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 4.1: Enhance the first point of contact to identify and respond to</td>
<td>Deliver high quality integrated national helpline and online support services which meet national benchmarks.</td>
<td>Expand the new National Online and 1800 Counselling Service (due to be operational from 1 October 2010), to provide back up support for frontline workers such as allied health, child care etc. whose clients may disclose</td>
<td>An increase in the access to, and responsiveness of, services for victims of domestic and family violence and</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy 4.2: Support specialist domestic violence and sexual assault services to deliver responses that meet needs</th>
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</table>
| **needs** to retell their story through improved information sharing and integrated case management.  
Extend the use of best practice risk assessment and management frameworks to identify and respond to violence against women.  
domestic violence and sexual assault and don’t know what to do.  
sexual assault.  
Data: Personal Safety Survey - to be conducted every four years, commencing in 2011-12, across the life of the National Plan. |
| **Support specialist domestic violence and sexual assault services to deliver responses that meet needs** | Build the capacity of domestic violence services to respond to the needs of children who are exposed to domestic violence.  
Extend sexual assault services and domestic violence services’ work with other agencies to provide flexible, innovative, inclusive and integrated services which recognise diversity.  
Provide survivors of sexual assault with access to timely, best practice forensic medical and crisis response/counselling services.  
Support the specialist domestic violence and sexual assault workforces. |
| Establish the National Centre of Excellence for Research in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to build the evidence base, improve best practice and support workforce development.  
Establish a national research agenda through the new Centre for Excellence to drive research priorities.  
Repeat the Personal Safety Survey and the National Community Attitudes Survey across 12 years of the National Plan. Surveys will be used to monitor and evaluate the success of the Plan.  
Support better service delivery – children, Indigenous women, women with disabilities and health referrals through the development of new evidence based approaches where existing policy and service responses have proved to be inadequate.  
Implement the Building Capacity Building Bridges project to deliver accredited “child focus” training to workers in adult-focused services.  
Investigate and promote ways to improve access and responses to services for women with disabilities.  
Develop a National Workforce Agenda to support and improve workforces involved in reducing violence against women. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy 4.3: Support mainstream services to identify and respond to needs</th>
<th>Improve early identification of violence against women through routine home visits and screening tools for antenatal, maternal and child health services.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Improve and expand cross-agency support for women and children to remain safely in their homes and communities while the perpetrator is removed.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Increase the numbers of families who maintain or secure long term safe and sustainable housing post-violence.</td>
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<td>Expand Mensline to provide counselling to male victims of violence and work with men to stop using violence.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Implement homelessness services under the National homelessness partnership agreement to improve housing options for women victims of violence including the Safe at Home projects.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fund income support and family assistance payments, including the Crisis Payment. More than 13,000 crisis payments were granted to women escaping violence in 2009.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provide social work services to victims experiencing domestic violence through Centrelink’s Domestic and Family Violence Strategy.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fund the $1.2 billion Family Support Program to support vulnerable and disadvantaged families, and separated and separating parents and their children.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provide training for health workers in regional and rural areas to help them recognise signs of domestic violence, and to make referrals to available community resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop a national risk assessment framework for the health to assist medical professionals identify and better support victims of violence.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**National Outcome 5 – Justice responses are effective**

Domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes. A range of civil and criminal measures exist to protect women and children in Australia who have experienced violence and prevent further violence.\(^\text{17}\) While aiming to reduce violence, the First Action Plan will drive more effective justice responses.

Reforms to the justice system have improved links between criminal justice processes, services for victims and prevention programs. Despite these changes, the legal response remains inadequate for many women and their children.\(^\text{18}\) Under the *National Plan* work will be undertaken to improve the legal response to domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and to promote responses from criminal justice agencies.

Preventing and reducing violence against women requires strong laws that are effectively administered and hold perpetrators to account.

**Strategy 5.1: Improve access to justice for women and their children**

The civil and/or criminal justice systems need to protect women and their children who have been the victims of violence. Systems need to be accessible and responsive to their ongoing safety.

**Strategy 5.2: Strengthen leadership across justice systems**

Justice systems have an important role in reducing violence against women, and all elements of the systems need to work together to achieve this.

**Strategy 5.3: Justice systems work better together and with other systems**

Women and their children who experience violence may come into contact with more than one justice system, as well as a range of services outside of the justice sector. This strategy will support these systems to work together effectively and provide appropriate responses to women and their children.

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 5.1: Improve access to justice for women and their children</td>
<td>Review legal aid funding arrangements to ensure women and their children at risk of violence are a key priority. Improve the capacity of the civil and criminal justice systems to respond effectively to patterns of risk and accumulative effects of violence. Enhance the family law system’s response to family violence.</td>
<td>Increase funding for legal assistance programs to $1.2 billion, including for services to assist victims of domestic violence. Improve sexual assault victims’ access to justice through the evaluation of the impacts of ‘victim-focused’ court practices reforms around Australian since around 2000. Pilot dispute resolution models to improve the family law system’s response to violence. Expand Family Pathways</td>
<td>An increase in the rate of women reporting domestic violence and sexual assault. Data: Personal Safety Survey - to be conducted every four years, commencing in 2011-12, across the life of the <em>National Plan</em>.</td>
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</table>

\(^{17}\) National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009b.  
\(^{18}\) National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, 2009a.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy 5.2: Strengthen leadership across justice systems</th>
<th>Networks and expand coverage of the networks with a greater focus on family violence and child protection services.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Adopt best practice investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and family violence.**  
  Drive continuous improvement through sharing outcomes of reviews into deaths and homicides related to domestic violence.  
  Develop and promote the uptake of multi-disciplinary training for professionals to improve consistency and responsiveness in the handling of family violence cases. | **Implement multi-disciplinary training package** for police, lawyers, judicial officers, counsellors and other professionals working in the family law system.  
  Monitor **domestic violence-related homicide** issues to inform ongoing policy development including the Australian Institute of Criminology’s National Homicide Monitoring Program to research domestic violence-related homicides, risk factors and interventions. |
| Strategy 5.3: Justice systems work better together and with other systems | |
| **Improve cross-jurisdiction mechanisms to protect women and children through a national approach to domestic and family violence protection orders.**  
  Consider the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Family Violence. | **Establish the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry into the impact of Commonwealth laws on those experiencing family violence,** including the impact of child support and family assistance law, immigration law, employment law, social security law, superannuation law and privacy provisions. The ALRC is due to report to the Attorney-General no later than 30 November 2011. The inquiry will build on the ALRC’s 2010 Family Law system inquiry.  
  Develop options for a **national scheme for domestic and family violence orders.** |

Details of the specific actions to be undertaken by each jurisdiction against the strategies and actions outlined above will be provided in each jurisdiction’s implementation plan. This will include details of what actions each jurisdiction will undertake, along with when they will do it and who has responsibility for its success.
**National Outcome 6 – Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account**

Perpetrators need to take responsibility, and be held accountable, for their actions. This outcome promotes a zero tolerance approach to violence, supported by stronger policing leading to arrest, consistent sentencing of perpetrators, and serious consequences for perpetrators if they breach orders.

This outcome is supported by research that shows that the likelihood of recidivism for some offenders can be reduced through deterrents.\(^{19}\) Focusing only on punishing perpetrators will not bring about lasting improvements. Perpetrators need support to end their violence. Community safety can also be enhanced by reducing the risk that perpetrators will re-offend. This outcome seeks to improve responses to perpetrators to help reduce rates of re-offending.

**Strategy 6.1: Hold perpetrators accountable**

The most effective way to deliver an immediate reduction in violence and enhance community safety in the long term is to hold perpetrators to account now.

**Strategy 6.2: Reduce the risk of recidivism**

Violent behaviour needs to be addressed before there is an opportunity for violence to occur again.

**Strategy 6.3: Intervene early to prevent violence**

Some men are more likely than others to act violently towards women due to health, behavioural or other complex risk factors. They should be supported as children and young teenagers to develop appropriate behaviours.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategy 6.1: Hold perpetrators accountable</strong></td>
<td>Adopt effective pro-active policing. Implement strong domestic violence and sexual assault legislative responses to offending. Enforce strong penalties for repeat offences and breaches of sentencing and protective orders.</td>
<td>Provide funding to <strong>expand the number and standard of perpetrator interventions</strong> through a once-off reward/incentive payment to the states and territories at the end of the first three-year action plan. Funding will support greater integration between police, corrections and community service departments.</td>
<td>A decrease in repeated partner victimisation. This will be measured through the Personal Safety Survey to be conducted every four years, commencing in 2011-12, across the life of the National Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategy 6.2: Reduce the risk of recidivism</strong></td>
<td>Track sexual assault and domestic violence offenders to improve monitoring and management of the risk of violence. Enforce attendance at mandatory domestic violence and sexual assault perpetrator programs. Set and monitor national minimum standards for domestic violence perpetrator programs</td>
<td>Evaluate <strong>Indigenous justice programs</strong>, focussing on youth and perpetrator programs, and use the findings to inform future whole-of-government Indigenous justice initiatives. Conduct <strong>research into perpetrator interventions</strong>, and use this to develop a best practice perpetrator intervention</td>
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\(^{19}\) Drabsch, T., 2006.
and ensure programs for sex offenders continue to adhere to evidence-based best practice.

Develop, test and roll out specific evidence-based best practice domestic violence programs to be tested in correctional, juvenile justice and community settings.

Identify effective post-intervention services and programs to sustain long term behavioural change and reduce re-offending.

| Strategy 6.3: Intervene early to prevent violence | Provide access to interventions for people with complex needs at risk of committing violence. Provide services for children and young people showing early indicators of violence or sexually harmful behaviours. | Expand Mensline to provide counselling to male victims of violence and work with men to stop using violence. Implement the National Male Health Policy to assist in addressing male health challenges, including funding for the Australian Men’s Sheds Association, which provides a space for men to meet and discuss issues such as relationship breakdown, isolation, loneliness and depression. |

Details of the specific actions to be undertaken by each jurisdiction against the strategies and actions outlined above will be provided in each jurisdiction’s implementation plan. This will include details of what actions each jurisdiction will undertake, along with when they will do it and who has responsibility for its success.
Implementing the National Plan

Now that the National Plan has been developed, governments will continue to work on the how the National Plan will be implemented.

**Governance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council of Australian Governments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Council comprising of relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence Against Women Implementation Working Group involving representation from Commonwealth, state and territory governments, and non-government organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub working groups to progress specific actions nationally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jurisdiction level arrangements</td>
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The National Plan will require integrated governance arrangements that cut across traditional government boundaries and engage the community-based and private sectors. Work under the National Plan will use a wide range of government portfolios and services.

A [Ministerial Council](#) comprising of relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers will be established to oversee the implementation of the National Plan, monitor progress and develop further Action Plans. Ministers from across different areas of all governments will be represented.

A tripartite [National Plan Implementation Group](#) will be established to advise on the operation of the National Plan. The working group will comprise of government and non-government representatives, such as leading researchers, practitioners and community representatives. The current Violence against Women Advisory Group will be amalgamated into this new group. The National Plan Implementation Group will establish sub-groups when necessary to oversee the implementation of specific strategies. The Implementation Group will report to the Ministerial Council.

**Jurisdictional implementation plans**

Details of the specific actions to be undertaken by each jurisdiction against the strategies and actions outlined in the National Plan will be provided in each jurisdiction’s annual implementation plan. This will include details of what actions each jurisdiction will undertake, along with when they will do it and who has responsibility for its success. Each jurisdiction will report to the Ministerial Council on the progress of actions as outlined in each implementation plan.

**Tracking and evaluating progress**

Evaluation of the National Plan will be critical to ensure governments are taking note of what is working, where the gaps are and where more effort is required.

An evaluation will be conducted by the Ministerial Council at the conclusion of each Action Plan. These evaluations will be submitted to COAG. As part of this evaluation, generic indicators and measures of success will be analysed, as well as progress against each of the 59 actions.

Action Plan evaluations will also monitor the success of the National Plan in achieving the six specific national outcomes. These measures of success will initially be monitored using national surveys, such as the Personal Safety Survey and the national Community Attitudes Survey. As data collection improves amongst the states, and is more consistent, new sources of data will become available.
The measures, in summary, are:

**National Outcome 1:** An increase in the community's intolerance of violence against women.

**National Outcome 2:** Improved knowledge, skills, and behaviour of respectful relationships among young people.

**National Outcome 3:** A reduced proportion of Indigenous women who consider family violence, assault and sexual assault are community problems, and an increased proportion of Indigenous women who are able to have their say on important issues, including violence.

**National Outcome 4:** An increase in access to and the responsiveness of services for victims of domestic/family violence and sexual assault.

**National Outcome 5:** Increased rates of women reporting domestic violence and sexual assault.

**National Outcome 6:** A decrease in repeated partner victimisation.
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