



Women's safety and security

Combating violence against women and children remains one of our Government's top priorities, as part of our plan to keep Australians safe.

We are proud to be making the single largest ever Commonwealth investment in the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* with funding of \$328 million invested in initiatives to address domestic and family violence. This brings the total invested by our Government to more than \$840 million since 2013.

Preventing violence is fundamental to keeping Australian families strong, safe and together, and building the Australian economy. That's why we are investing in Australia's first national prevention strategy.

The \$328 million Australian Government contribution to the Fourth Action Plan focuses on key areas where the Commonwealth is best placed to contribute to creating real and lasting change to reduce violence against women and their children.

This covers the following major investment areas:

- \$68.3 million for prevention strategies to help eradicate domestic and family violence in our homes, workplaces, communities and clubs
- \$78.4 million to provide safe places for people impacted by domestic and family violence
- \$82.2 million to improve and build on frontline services to keep women and children safe
- \$64.0 million for 1800RESPECT, the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service
- \$35.0 million in support and prevention strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Fourth Action Plan and our commitment to it represents a significant step in the journey towards an Australia free from family, domestic and sexual violence.

The 2019-20 Budget also includes the \$10 million Online Safety Grants Program. This program is targeted at enabling non government organisations to deliver practical education programs about online safety for Australian children and families.

The Budget will also fund a Single National Mechanism for Commonwealth Legal Assistance. The Government will provide \$1.2 billion over three years from 2020-21 in Commonwealth funding for legal assistance services, including services delivered by Legal Aid Commissions, Community Legal Centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.

The funding will be delivered through a new, single mechanism for Commonwealth legal assistance funding and, subject to negotiations with the states and territories, will allow for a more collaborative, innovative and effective legal assistance sector in order to address the legal needs of the most vulnerable Australians.



Key initiatives to protect women and their children since 2015

2015

Women's Safety Package

\$101.2 million in funding for practical immediate action to keep women and children safe including improving frontline support and services, leveraging innovative technologies to keep women safe, and providing educational resources to help change community attitudes to violence and abuse.

Stop it at the Start Campaign

\$16.7 million from the Government to co-fund the national Stop it at the Start campaign with the States and Territories to tackle the attitudes that ultimately lead to violence against women and their children as part of the **\$100 million** announced in the 2013 Second Action Plan.

2016

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children — Third Action Plan

\$100 million to fund the Third Action Plan, a further step in the Government's 12 year National Plan to achieve a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children. The Third Action Plan includes prevention and early intervention programs, frontline services and support, and legal services to support women experiencing violence.

2017

2017-18 Budget

\$66.5 million to improve outcomes for those interacting with the legal system due to domestic violence. This funds family law courts to employ more family consultants (including qualified social workers and psychologists) to provide child-focused interventions in cases where there are allegations of domestic violence. This includes funding to Community Legal Centres which provide support for victims of domestic violence.

2018

2018-19 Budget

\$23.4 million in the 2018-19 Budget for initiatives that address women's safety, with **\$1.2 million** over four years to expand the eSafety Women program; **\$4 million** for a penalties regime targeting perpetrators and content hosts who share intimate images without consent; **\$11.5 million** in 2018-19 and 2019-20 for 1800RESPECT; and **\$6.7 million** for the continued delivery of DV-alert, a national, accredited training program for community frontline workers such as social workers, community workers and health workers.

Women's Economic Security Statement and 2018-19 MYEFO

\$67.2 million to address women's safety as part of the Women's Economic Security Statement, **\$22.6 million** to extend Family Advocacy Support Services, **\$2.5 million** to continue pilots of legally assisted and culturally appropriate dispute resolution, **\$8.3 million** in additional funding for 1800RESPECT, and **\$500,000** to support the Australian Human Rights Commission's (AHRC) National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces.

2019

2019-20 Budget

The 2019-20 Budget delivers **\$10 million** for an Online Safety Grants Program to deliver practical, on-the-ground improvements to online safety for Australian children and families, **\$1.2 billion** in Commonwealth funding for legal assistance services delivered through a new, single mechanism to help the most vulnerable Australians.

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children — Fourth Action Plan

The Fourth Action Plan and our commitment to it represents a significant step in the journey towards an Australia free from family, domestic and sexual violence. The Australian Government's record **\$328 million** investment to support the Fourth Action Plan includes **\$68.3 million** for prevention strategies to help eradicate domestic and family violence in our homes, workplaces, communities and clubs, **\$78.4 million** to provide safe places for people impacted by domestic and family violence, **\$82.2 million** to improve and build on frontline services to keep women and children safe, **\$64 million** for 1800RESPECT, and **\$35 million** in support and prevention strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.