

Action Plan

Building Better Responses: NSW Strategy to Respond to the Use of Domestic and Family Violence 2026–2030

December 2025

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Acknowledgement of Country

The New South Wales (NSW) Government acknowledges and pays respects to all Aboriginal peoples across NSW. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and whose winds and waters we all share. We acknowledge the diversity and richness of Aboriginal cultures and languages across NSW.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders past and present. We value Aboriginal histories, cultures, and knowledge and the many ways they enrich our nation and communities. We recognise that Aboriginal peoples — through the ongoing impacts of colonisation and systemic racism — have experienced high levels of violence and institutional abuse. The result is an enduring legacy of intergenerational trauma, devastating impacts to outcomes and barriers to care.

Addressing these factors is crucial to closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. In this context, all work carried out under this strategy must:

- respect the specific experiences of Aboriginal peoples
- work towards ensuring activities and reforms are culturally appropriate and safe
- nurture the spirit, resilience and cultural identities of Aboriginal peoples, families and communities.

We recognise that Aboriginal peoples have contributed their wisdom, knowledge, experiences and expertise in the development of this strategy. We also acknowledge the ongoing role Aboriginal peoples, organisations and communities will play in its implementation.

The NSW Government is committed to transforming how we work with Aboriginal peoples to achieve better outcomes for those impacted by domestic and family violence. We are committed to supporting the ongoing efforts of Aboriginal peoples to reduce the effects of individual and collective trauma and violence, including by working in partnership with Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, and by supporting Aboriginal-led initiatives.

We respect the rights of Aboriginal peoples to self-determination and agency.

Building Better Responses: NSW Strategy to Respond to the Use of Domestic and Family Violence 2026–2030

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1. Introduction

1.1 The strategy

The NSW Government is committed to ending domestic and family violence (DFV). Recognising the need to address the behaviours of those who use violence and to protect victim-survivors, the government developed its first dedicated strategy for addressing the behaviour of people who use DFV in 2025.

Building Better Responses: NSW Strategy to Respond to the Use of Domestic and Family Violence 2026–2030 identifies 6 domains of activity, summarised on page 5. It builds on and connects to a broader suite of activities under the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022–2027, NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022–2027, and Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028.

1.2 This action plan

This action plan is for NSW Government agencies, policymakers and service providers. Its purpose is to outline what the NSW Government is doing to address the use of DFV, and to establish roles, responsibilities, and sequencing to support implementation.

The strategy sets out an ambitious long-term policy platform. This action plan will establish the foundations for achieving the changes outlined in the strategy. It identifies practical actions already occurring, or planned to commence from 2025–26, across the NSW Government. These actions are designed to drive alignment and progress towards achieving the strategy's objectives and intended outcomes, while laying the groundwork for future activities that will further support these efforts.

The action plan supports the visibility and coordination of work across the NSW Government, and its implementation will be regularly reviewed by the NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Board, with opportunity to include additional actions.

The action plan will align with existing initiatives and is intended to intersect with related strategies and plans, ensuring a shared responsibility for implementing priority actions and preventing duplication.

Strategy overview

Vision Systemic, community, organisational and individual drivers that contribute to people using DFV are identified and addressed through prevention, intervention, healing and recovery

Domains

Supporting children and young people	Children and young people who use, or are at risk of using, DFV are identified early and supported through effective interventions, including through working holistically with families	Cohort based domains
Preventing the use of DFV	People who are at risk of using DFV are identified, assessed, and supported to disrupt pathways towards violence	
Addressing the use of DFV	People who use DFV are identified, assessed, held accountable and change their violent behaviours	
Enhancing service system integration	All services and systems work together to address the use of DFV through collaborative and integrated practices	System enablers
Increasing workforce capability	The workforce engaging with people who use DFV has the appropriate skills, resources and capacity to support prevention, identification, referral and response	
Improving evidence and data	Evidence and data adequately captures use of DFV and drives the understanding of, and response to, people who use or are a risk of using DFV	

Focus areas

Priority actions to drive the achievement of outcomes

Principles to guide actions

Accountable	Equitable and inclusive	Evidence-based	Intersectional	Victim-survivor centred	Whole-community oriented
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1.3 Governance

NSW Government agencies are jointly responsible for implementing the strategy through the action plan, in collaboration with service providers, communities and industry. Implementation will be coordinated through a governance structure that provides oversight and strategic direction, and tracks progress.

The NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Board has overarching responsibility and accountability for implementing the Building Better Responses strategy alongside the NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022–2027 and NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022–2027. The Board brings together principal decision-makers and leaders from across the NSW Government to ensure agencies work collaboratively to shape, support and implement domestic, family and sexual violence reforms.

1.4 Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting is crucial to tracking progress, measuring outcomes, and generating evidence to inform continuous improvement and resource allocation.

A dedicated monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework will be used to track progress towards desired outcomes.

The MEL framework will identify indicators that should be used to monitor and assess progress towards achieving the strategy's outcomes.

This will include:

- **outcomes** – the changes the strategy aims to achieve
- **indicators and measures** – used to track changes over the life of the strategy
- **data sources** – the sources that can be used to demonstrate progress against the indicators or measures.

A mixed-method approach to evaluation will be used given the complexity of the strategy and the range of levers for change and intended outcomes. This approach will likely involve the collection of quantitative trend data, supported by detailed qualitative analysis where required.

2. Actions

The action plan includes mobilisation activities to support the ongoing implementation of the strategy, along with new initiatives and activities funded by NSW Government agencies.

The strategy will be implemented through a phased approach that builds momentum over time, as funding becomes available. The first phase, represented by this action plan, identifies actions that are intended to commence from 2025–26. It aims to establish a foundation for future delivery of interventions that support the achievement of the strategy’s objectives and intended outcomes, as reflected in the MEL framework.

2.1.1 Domain 1 – Supporting children and young people

1

Focus areas	Actions
<p>Enhancing primary prevention efforts through respectful relationships, healthy masculinities and pornography-related education to change the attitudes and behaviours of the next generation</p>	<p>Implement NSW’s first dedicated domestic, family and sexual violence primary prevention strategy, which will fund a range of initiatives to address the drivers of gendered violence.</p> <hr/> <p>Embed evidence-based, quality-assured respectful relationships education in NSW schools that addresses pornography and consent in relationships.</p> <hr/> <p>Provide professional learning for all school teachers and staff on the evidence base for best practice in respectful relationships education.</p> <hr/> <p>Engage Aboriginal organisations to deliver programs that support primary prevention efforts for children and young people.</p> <hr/> <p>Co-design and implement initiatives with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to reduce the impact of DFV on Aboriginal communities.</p>
<p>Expanding support services to support children and young people who use DFV</p>	<p>Explore options to pilot or expand existing whole-family approaches and interventions that aim to address young people’s use of DFV and reduce their involvement with the criminal justice system.</p> <hr/> <p>Explore how the Community and Family Support program can increase the focus on, and support for, children and young people using DFV.</p> <hr/> <p>Identify options to develop and pilot or expand programs to address adolescent DFV violence, using existing pathways such as Youth Action Meetings.</p>
<p>Developing trauma-informed, age-appropriate and culturally safe interventions for young people who use DFV, to encourage healing and recovery while changing behaviours</p>	<p>Develop and expand Aboriginal programs to support Aboriginal children and young people who use violence.</p>

2.1.2 Domain 2 – Preventing the use of DFV

2

Focus areas	Actions
Improving risk assessment practices for harmful attitudes and behaviours to increase identification at system touchpoints and in under-recognised settings	Support agencies and organisations in reviewing and aligning their practices, policies and systems with evidence-based approaches to identifying DFV, assessing risk, and managing safety.
Delivering a range of activities for at-risk individuals to prevent DFV, including changing harmful attitudes and behaviours	Scope and deliver a program to work with fathers using, or at risk of using DFV, to develop healthy relationships and behaviours.

2.1.3 Domain 3 – Addressing the use of DFV

3

Focus areas	Actions
Engaging communities in prevention education and awareness to increase the identification of people who use DFV	Deliver face-to-face workshops to employers on the drivers of workplace gender-based violence and preventative actions they can take.
Improving risk assessment practices for people who use DFV to increase identification at system touchpoints	Support the delivery of a common risk assessment framework which puts victim-survivor safety at the forefront, ensuring they receive consistent and safe responses, and allows earlier intervention with users of violence to prevent violence from escalating.

2.1.3 Domain 3 – Addressing the use of DFV (continued)

3

Focus areas	Actions
Diversifying interventions for people who use DFV to ensure they are accessible to people from different communities and with diverse needs, while supporting sustained change over time	<p>Identify options to support Men’s Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs)¹ to expand wrap-around services that support these programs through case management or one-on-one services.</p> <p>Design an evidence-based post-MBCP support framework and deliver pilot post-MBCP support programs to support behaviour change for perpetrators over the long term.</p> <p>Deliver tailored interventions for specific cohorts, such as people from cultural and linguistically diverse communities.</p> <p>Review the current requirements for MBCP registration to reduce barriers to delivery while maintaining program quality and the safety of victim-survivors.</p> <p>Explore options to pilot or expand whole-of-family services to address behaviour change for people who use DFV.</p> <p>Evaluate and consider expanding Aboriginal-led responses that include adults and young people who use violence, while also prioritising victim-survivor safety. This includes whole-of-family supports, including for families who choose to stay together.</p>
Enhancing specialised interventions for high-risk and recidivist DFV offenders, who may have multiple victims	<p>Implement Serious Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders, to ensure high-risk perpetrators are subject to strict monitoring and supervision, with courts able to impose any condition they consider appropriate.</p> <p>Bolster electronic monitoring of high-risk domestic violence perpetrators on parole orders or intensive correction orders to support compliance with exclusion zones in their Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders.</p>
Integrating services for people who use DFV with other specialist DFV and mainstream services and responses	<p>Explore expanding place-based partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations across communities in NSW, focusing on cultural safety, service integration and knowledge translation.</p>

¹ NSW Government-funded MBCPs are currently being evaluated by ANROWS. Findings of the evaluation, due in 2026, will inform the design and development of actions relating to MBCPs.

2.1.4 Domain 4 – Strengthening service system integration²

4

Focus areas	Actions
<p>Improving service system coordination at the local level to support collaborative service planning and the identification of, and responses to, DFV</p>	<p>Explore the benefits of introducing a regional system collaboration role (that facilitates local service system integration and collaboration) and identify geographic areas that might most benefit from it.</p> <hr/> <p>Review legislative and cultural barriers to information sharing for users of violence to improve visibility and accountability across government and non-government systems.</p>
<p>Reviewing legislative and cultural barriers to information sharing for users of violence to improve visibility and accountability across government and non-government systems</p>	<p>Review legislation, policies, systems and practices related to information sharing to ensure agencies and services can share the information they need to support people who experience DFV and keep them safe. This includes sharing information about people who use DFV to support risk assessment and management, while respecting people’s rights to privacy.</p> <hr/> <p>Consider opportunities to improve policies, processes and training to help agencies identify whether a person may be a perpetrator of DFV or in need of protection.</p>
<p>Preventing future misuse of government systems by DFV perpetrators, considering Safety by Design principles</p>	<p>Uplift the capability of NSW Government agencies to embed Safety by Design principles through training and/or by developing resources.</p>
<p>Improving coordination and information sharing between services for people who use DFV and other specialist DFV and mainstream services and responses</p>	<p>Investigate whether the Safety Action Meeting manual should be updated to provide clearer guidance on when MBCP providers should be invited to attend Safety Action Meetings.</p> <hr/> <p>Explore how offender diversion or treatment programs currently in operation can identify DFV offenders, and facilitate DFV supports.</p> <hr/> <p>Identify opportunities to improve service integration within and across DFV services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and other services.</p>

² NSW Government agencies have diverse roles, responsibilities and functions. Engagement in service system integration will be influenced by each agency’s respective mandate. For example, NSW Police Force has a unique law enforcement function that may limit the application of service system integration actions to police.

2.1.5 Domain 5 – Increasing workforce capacity

5

Focus areas	Actions
<p>Delivering training to the broader workforce interacting with people who use DFV, including children and young people, to improve identification and referral to appropriate specialist services</p>	<p>Implement the first year of activities under the DFV Workforce Development Strategy to support the specialist non-government sector in meeting the evolving needs related to engaging with people who use violence.</p> <hr/> <p>Identify opportunities to expand and support the Aboriginal workforce in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations responding to DFV.</p> <hr/> <p>Scope training needs for specialist and non-specialist workers on the dynamics of DFV (including misidentification), early indicators, trauma-informed practices, appropriate responses and personal safety.</p> <hr/> <p>Scope training needs for specialist and non-specialist workers on identifying and responding to young people who are using, or are at risk of using, violence.</p> <hr/> <p>Engage with professional bodies, education providers and other key stakeholders to encourage the embedding of knowledge and skills related to victim-survivors and users of violence into key qualifications, such as social work and youth work.</p>
<p>Developing guidance for services on how to work with users of violence, to increase confidence and improve practices</p>	<p>Design training material that increases knowledge and skills to identify and address intimate partner sexual violence within MBCPs.</p>
<p>Building the cultural awareness and cultural safety capability of the workforce improve the ability to identify users of DFV and enable equitable access to services</p>	<p>Scope training needs for specialist DFV services that work with people who use DFV, to support cultural safety, inclusion and accessibility.</p> <hr/> <p>Ensure staff and leaders are both culturally responsive, and responsive to the needs of priority populations across the DFV and related sectors, including through position descriptions, recruitment, ongoing learning and performance KPIs.</p>

2.1.6 Domain 6 – Improving data and evidence

6

Focus areas	Actions
<p>Building practice leadership and disseminating system-wide advice to encourage uptake of effective practices in working with people who use DFV</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to promote system-level reform and embed evidence-based approaches to working with individuals who use violence.</p>
<p>Reviewing existing data collection systems to capture information that improves our understanding of who is using violence</p>	<p>Explore opportunities for government to capture more information about people who use DFV and their interactions with the service system to improve understanding of perpetrator pathways.</p> <p>Consider how to improve the collection and sharing of DFV data to capture Aboriginal experiences and service system performance.</p>
<p>Developing or identifying new data sources to better understand people who use DFV, including those who have no contact with the justice system</p>	<p>Commence work to identify data gaps and options to address them.</p>
<p>Better embedding evaluation into the design and implementation of existing and new services to gather data on the effectiveness of interventions for users of DFV and their contribution to the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors</p>	<p>Embed monitoring, evaluation and learning, including cost-benefit assessment, into the design and delivery of interventions for people who use DFV to better understand what works for whom.</p> <p>Deliver an MBCP evaluation to inform improvements and consolidate good practice.</p> <p>Identify current Aboriginal-led and community-controlled programs and local initiatives across NSW that are showing promising outcomes for reducing violence against Aboriginal people, and explore options for evaluation, replication and scaling.</p> <p>Identify ways to enhance the capability and capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to engage in monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of the impacts of the services they provide.</p>
<p>Increasing research and the evidence base on people who use DFV to build a better evidence base</p>	<p>Support research into perpetrators and effective interventions to improve DFV prevention and ensure more effective responses to perpetrators, with the aim of reducing the use of DFV in NSW.</p> <p>Identify Aboriginal-led research, evaluation and data projects that would help to grow the evidence base on new and existing DFV programs and services, including cultural and strengths-based approaches to dealing with people who use violence.</p>

