

Title: The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

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Summary

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.

Key Points

- The vision of the *National Plan* is that: “Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities.”
- 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.
- 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.
- The Council presented its recommendations to government in *Time for Action: The National Council’s Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, 2009-2022* and four companion documents.
- 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.

- 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.
- To measure the success of the plans 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 *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.
- 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.
- The four Action Plans have been designed as a series to be implemented over 12 years, each building on the other.
- First Action Plan (2010 to 2013) – Building a Strong Foundation - 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.
- Second Action Plan (2013 to 2016) – Moving Ahead - 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.
- Third Action Plan (2016 to 2019) – Promising Results - 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.
- Fourth Action Plan (2019 to 2022) – Turning the Corner - 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.

- The plan also has six national outcomes:
 - ***National Outcome 1 – Communities are safe and free from violence***
 - ***National Outcome 2 – Relationships are respectful***
 - ***National Outcome 3 – Indigenous communities are strengthened***
 - ***National Outcome 4 – Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence***
 - ***National Outcome 5 – Justice responses are effective***
 - ***National Outcome 6 – Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account***

The National Plan has been developed, now governments will continue to work on the how the National Plan will be implemented. 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. A tripartite **National Plan Implementation Group** will be established to advise on the operation of the *National Plan*.

Relevance to Local Government

- Domestic and Family Violence continues to be an issue of concern for communities across the Nation, this plan will impact how local Government addresses the issue of Domestic and Family Violence.
- In 2007 the Labour State Government introduced the development of a state-wide Strategic Framework to guide action across agencies and to improve the coordination and delivery of services.
- Local Government was consulted and along with a number of agencies invited to make submissions to a discussion paper that would form the first stage in the process of developing the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategic Framework.
- In 2011 with the election of a new State Government all previous work undertaken towards developing a NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategic Framework were abandoned.
- The current State Government is in the process of developing new initiatives on how to address Domestic and Family Violence.
- Local Government is expected to refer to current plans and practices and adopt these within their own work environments, however this is difficult to achieve in the current political climate.
- Implementing both the National and any future State Plan will have a financial impact on Local Government and their resources.
- The National Plan requires that States have their own State Plans that can be used as a basis for delivery of the broader National Plan; however NSW currently has no plan.

- Local Government is meant to work with the current State Plan to then be able to deliver the National Plan; this is problematic when there is currently no Plan.
- Reducing all violence in our community is a priority and Local Government will need to work with State Governments to meet the objectives of the National Plan.
- Governments, including Local Government will be expected to respond to emerging priorities as new evidence becomes available and circumstances change. It will be a challenge for Local Governments who do not see Domestic and Family Violence as priority, to respond accordingly.
- It is expected that Governments (including Local Government) 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.
- Local Governments will need to start thinking about this issue and developing strategies that highlight and address the importance and impact of Domestic and Family Violence in our Community.