

Tuesday, 20 August 2024



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DFSV Commission tables findings on impact of ending gender-based violence in Australia.

The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission’s (the Commission) first Yearly Report on the progress of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan)* is being tabled in Parliament today.

Delivered one year after the release of the *First Action Plan 2023-2027* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2024*, the inaugural report will track the Australian Government’s progress on achieving its vision for the National Plan to end gender-based violence.

The leadership of the First Nations National Plan Steering Committee will be critical in guiding the systemic change needed to address the disproportionate impact of domestic, family and sexual violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to respond to the priority reforms identified in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap agreement.

The Commission’s report is informed by extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, include Australians with lived experience with gender-based violence, specialist sector organisations and practitioners, researchers, the health sector, police, and a range of other sources of evidence. In subsequent reports, information and data collected under formal reporting mechanisms will enable a more comprehensive assessment of progress by the Commission.

Exploring areas across policy, implementation and service delivery, the annual report’s findings are intended to be constructive and offer contemporary insights and opportunities to accelerate, amplify and drive impact towards the objectives of the National Plan over the coming years.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner, Micaela Cronin, said that while efforts are being made to end gender-based violence in a single generation, there are no easy solutions, and governments must remain committed to tackling the issue.

“After meeting with more than 300 individuals and organisations this year, I know the anger and distress that many communities feel – and their frustration at the lack of progress in addressing gender-based violence.”

“While governments have recognised the scale and severity of the impact of domestic, family, and sexual violence with funding increasing over decades, I have heard consistently, across the country, that many services are unable to keep up with demand.” Commissioner Cronin said.

The report signals key areas of focus for consideration of governments, including:

- The Commission will continue to focus on governance of the National Plan’s implementation and efforts to assess and measure progress. We will draw on the available reporting mechanisms once established.
- Governments have recognised the critical role of lived experience in policymaking. Lived experience engagement needs to be embedded across all aspects of policy design, implementation and evaluation, prioritising a co-design approach.
- Governments have invested significant public funds to address domestic, family and sexual violence. Despite this, services and systems are overwhelmed by community need.
- Men must be a part of every aspect of ending violence. Governments must support efforts to redefine masculinity and engage men effectively. More intervention options for men using or at risk of using violence are needed, which take a trauma-informed approach, improve information sharing and risk assessment and management.
- Workforce capability development needs national leadership, prioritising the specialist domestic, family, and sexual violence workforce. Since addressing domestic, family and sexual violence is a key element of work across many sectors, capability development and integration with these workforces is an opportunity to improve system responses.

In the year ahead the Commission will be able to use governments formal reporting to inform analysis on the progress of the National Plan.

There will be a sharper focus on areas that the Commission considers progress to be lagging including, the response to children and young people and sexual violence.

“The wisdom, courage, and compassion of lived experience advocates across the country – sharing their stories so that in their words, ‘no one else has to experience what I have experienced’ – drives my passion to work towards the National Plan goal - to end gender-based violence.” Commissioner Cronin said.

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If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family or sexual violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, chat online via www.1800RESPECT.org.au, or text 0458 737 732.

Feeling worried or no good? No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn. Speak to a 13YARN Crisis Supporter, call 13 92 76. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are concerned about your behaviour or use of violence, you can contact the Men’s Referral Service on 1300 766 491 or visit www.ntv.org.au