
July 2026



Lived Experience Advisory Council

Application Information Pack:

Expression of Interest



About the Commission

The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission (the Commission) is focused on practical and meaningful ways to promote the objectives outlined in the [National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) (National Plan).

The Commission works to strengthen prevention, early intervention, response and recovery systems across Australia. Our work is informed by evidence, data and the expertise of people with lived and living experience.

We are informed by what is important to people with lived and living experience, and what the research, data and frontline workforce tells us needs to happen.

We engage with people with lived and living experience to amplify their voices to ensure their diverse experience is heard – shaping policy design, informing policies and improving service delivery.

We take action inquisitively, responsibly and collaboratively, as we influence community and governments to end domestic, family and sexual violence.

About the Council

The Lived Experience Advisory Council (the Council) was first established in 2023 as a commitment made under the National Plan.

The Council brings together people with lived or living experience of domestic, family and or sexual violence from across Australia.

The Council recognises lived and living experience as expertise. Members contribute insights shaped by their experiences to inform systemic reform across policy, service design, accountability, and community responses.

The Council provides collective strategic advice to the Commission. It does not provide case advocacy, crisis support, or individual complaint resolution.

Advice from the Council is provided to the Commissioner and informs the Commission's policy advice, reporting and reform priorities. The Commission will provide feedback to the Council about how advice has been used and, where relevant, why particular approaches have or have not been adopted.

The Council is made up of one Co-Chair and eleven Members. There are ten positions available for 2026. Up to two positions will start in August and the remaining positions will start in December. This staged approach supports continuity and allows new members to overlap with outgoing members.



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Position description

About the role

Title	Member – Lived Experience Advisory Council.
Term	Fixed appointment term, up to two years (with the possibility of extension for an additional term)
Location	National. Meetings are primarily online, with one to two in person meetings per year. Support, accessibility adjustments, and cultural safety supports are available.
Time Commitment	Online Council Meetings: Up to six hours every two months, including time to read papers before the meeting. In-person Meetings: Up to three days, one or two times a year. These meetings are held in different locations across Australia. Travel may be included in the three days for some members, while members travelling from further away may need additional travel time. We can make arrangements if you are unable to travel. Required Activities: Up to 1 hour a week in administration tasks Optional Activities: Members may be invited to take part in additional consultations, workshops, working groups or other engagement activities. These are optional, and the time involved will be explained in advance.
Payment	Members are remunerated for their time in line with the Commission's remuneration framework. Travel and accommodation costs are covered by the Commission. Further information is provided in this pack.

Purpose of the role

The Council works in partnership with the Commission to amplify the voices of people with lived and living experience of domestic, family and sexual violence at the national level and to embed the voices of people with lived experience into all aspects of the delivery of the National Plan.

Council members apply lived, living and learnt experience expertise to:

- Elevate, platform, and lead lived experience engagement and dialogue nationally
- Provide advice to inform the commission's posture and authoritative strategic policy advice to government
- Identify systemic issues and reform opportunities
- Provide advice on policies, programs and service systems
- Highlight emerging risks and priorities

Where required, the Council may establish working groups dedicated to particular projects. The Council currently has three working groups progressing the lived experience recommendations from the Commission's [Yearly Report to Parliament 2025](#).

What Council members do

As a member, you will:

- Participate in Council meetings and attend at least 80 percent of meetings
- Read meeting papers beforehand and come to meetings prepared for discussion
- Contribute insights and perspectives grounded in lived, living and learnt experience
- Engage respectfully with diverse views and experiences
- Contribute to strategic and thought leadership activities and participate in working groups and other engagement activities on an opt-in basis
- Support the development of collective advice, where this is possible
- Uphold confidentiality and privacy requirements
- Work within a trauma informed and culturally respectful framework

Members are not employees of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission or the Australian Public Service.

What we're looking for

The Council benefits from members who bring thoughtful insight, steady participation and a genuine interest in working together on complex issues.

We are looking for people who demonstrate:

Experience and insight

- Lived or living experience of domestic, family and or sexual violence
- Ability to reflect on experience in a way that supports systemic improvement
- Understanding that lived experience can inform policy, law and service reform

Interest and motivation

- A desire to improve systems, services and community responses
- Interest in contributing to collective strategic advice
- Openness to learning about how government policy and reform processes work

Readiness and priorities

- Readiness to participate safely in discussions about domestic, family and sexual violence systems
- Willingness to engage with complex discussions, with support if needed
- Whether you can prioritise the time required

Collaboration and culture

- Ability to listen to different perspectives
- Willingness to contribute to a respectful and inclusive culture
- Respect for privacy, safety and confidentiality
- Commitment to trauma informed and culturally respectful engagement



Who we encourage to apply

The Commission seeks to build a balanced and diverse Council that reflects the wide range of people and communities affected by domestic, family and sexual violence.

We strongly encourage applications from:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People with disability and neurodivergent people
- People from culturally, linguistically and faith diverse communities
- LGBTIQ+SB people
- Young people (18–25)
- Older people
- People living in regional, rural and remote communities

Connection to communities, networks or groups is welcomed. Members are not expected to act as formal representatives of their communities.

How we work safely together

The Commission is committed to trauma informed and culturally respectful engagement.

As a Council member:

- You control what you share
- You are not required to disclose personal details of violence
- You can step out of meetings or take breaks at any time
- Wellbeing check ins are built into meetings
- Confidential counselling support is available
- Meetings are facilitated to promote safety, inclusion and equal voice
- All members agree to confidentiality and privacy obligations.

Support and adjustments

If you need support to apply or would like adjustments at any stage, the Commission can assist with completing the form, interviews, and participation.

You can contact the Commission by emailing secretariat@dfsvc.gov.au or calling **0460 001 750**.



Eligibility criteria

About eligibility

The Council brings together people with lived or living experience of domestic, family and or sexual violence in Australia.

Council members contribute lived experience expertise to inform systemic reform through the Commission's work. Membership is focused on collective strategic advice. It is not an individual advocacy or complaint resolution role.

To apply, you must meet the eligibility requirements below.

Mandatory eligibility requirements

To be eligible for appointment, you must:

- Be aged 18 years or over
- Be a permanent resident of Australia
- Have lived experience of domestic, family and or sexual violence in Australia
- Have undertaken the self-reflection tool and identify that you are able to participate safely and constructively in council activities
- Be able to commit to the required meeting time, including:
 - Up to six hours every two months for online meetings including reading papers, and
 - Up to three days, one to two times a year, for in person meetings (we can make arrangements if you are unable to travel)
- Previous experience in a similar advisory body is beneficial but not mandatory.

What counts as lived or living experience

This includes:

- Domestic or intimate partner violence
- Family violence
- Sexual violence, including outside the context of domestic or family violence
- Adults with lived experience of childhood sexual abuse

You are not required to disclose details of your experience.

Participation requirements

Participation includes:

- Online meetings approximately every two months
- Reading meeting papers in advance
- One to two in person meetings per year
- Optional activities such as additional consultations, workshops, working groups or other engagement activities.

Members are remunerated for their time attending meetings and participating in approved events or activities. Travel and accommodation costs are covered by the Commission.



Important clarifications

You do not need:

- Formal qualifications
- Experience speaking publicly
- Experience using specialist services

You are not expected to:

- Share personal details of violence
- Provide case advocacy, crisis support or individual complaint resolution
- Represent your entire community or identity group

Eligibility is assessed separately from Council composition. Meeting the eligibility requirements allows your application to be considered through the selection process.

Members may draw on connections to communities or networks but are appointed in their individual capacity.

Safety and wellbeing

Participation involves discussion of domestic, family and sexual violence systems and reform. Applicants should consider their current wellbeing and circumstances when applying.

The Commission provides:

- Trauma informed meeting facilitation
- The option to step out or take breaks
- Wellbeing check ins
- Access to confidential counselling support
- Cultural safety and accessibility adjustments

If you are unsure about readiness or eligibility, you can contact the Commission confidentially to discuss.



Selection criteria

What you will be asked

When completing the application form, you will be asked to provide short written responses to:

- Why you would like to join the Council and what changes to systems, services or responses are most important to you
- What insights or perspectives you think are important for government decision makers to understand
- How you would contribute to a respectful and collaborative culture, particularly when views differ
- Whether you stay connected to any communities, networks or groups that inform your perspective and if so, how you stay connected

You are not required to disclose personal details of violence. You can answer in broad terms.

How we will assess applications

We will assess applications for two main areas. What each person brings themselves, and our objective to build a balanced and diverse council.

What each person brings

Experience and insight

We consider:

- Your lived or living experience of domestic, family and or sexual violence
- How your experience shapes your understanding of systems, services, laws or community responses
- Your ability to reflect on experience in a way that supports systemic improvement

We are not assessing how much you have experienced. We are interested in how you apply lived experience as expertise.

You do not need to be a public advocate.

Interest and motivation

We consider:

- Why you want to join the Council
- What system issues or reforms matter most to you
- Your interest in contributing to collective strategic advice that informs policy and reform

Council members bring their lived experience expertise to inform systemic reform. Membership is focused on collective strategic advice. The Council does not provide case advocacy, crisis support or individual complaint resolution.



Readiness and priorities

We consider:

- Your readiness to participate safely and constructively in discussions about domestic, family and sexual violence systems
- Your readiness to engage with complex policy and reform discussions, with support
- Whether you can prioritise the time needed for meetings and preparation

We recognise everyone's life circumstances are different. Adjustments and support can be provided.

Collaboration and culture

We consider:

- Your willingness to listen to different perspectives
- Your ability to engage respectfully in discussion
- Your commitment to confidentiality and privacy
- Your contribution to a trauma informed and culturally respectful environment

The Council works collectively. Members are not expected to agree on all issues but are expected to contribute constructively.

Building a balanced and diverse Lived Experience Advisory Council

In addition to individual strengths and contributions, we consider the overall composition of the Council to ensure it reflects the wide range of people and communities affected by domestic, family and sexual violence across Australia.

We consider representation across:

- Different lived experience types and system interactions
- Different states and territories
- Regional, rural, remote and metropolitan communities
- Age groups, including young people and older people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Different cultural, linguistic and faith backgrounds
- LGBTIQ+SB communities
- Disability and neurodiversity
- People with different levels of advocacy experience
- Emerging priorities in the Commission's work

We value different forms of advocacy, leadership and lived experience contributions, whether they happen publicly, within communities or through collective action. At this stage, we look at how people's different strengths and perspectives complement each other to ensure the Council as a whole has breadth and balance.



Selection process

The information below outlines key dates and what you can expect will happen in our selection process.

Key dates

- EOI opens: 20 July 2026
- EOI closes: 10 August 2026
- Interviews week commencing 7 September 2026
- Unsuccessful applicants notified by end of September 2026
- Appointments commence early November 2026

Please note that timeframes may vary. We will communicate with you if there are any changes.

Step 1: Shortlisting

Shortlisting begins while the EOI is open. We review every application to identify those who meet the eligibility requirements.

Step 2: Individual assessment

Panel members read and assess applications based on:

- Experience
- Motivation
- Readiness
- Ability to contribute safely and respectfully

Step 3: Balancing representation

We review the overall pool of applicants to identify where additional perspectives may strengthen the Council.

Step 4: Interviews

Interviews focus on applicants' readiness to participate safely, ability to contribute to system level thinking, and collaborative approach. You do not need to share any personal details of violence at any point.

If you progress to interview, you will receive:

- A proposed date and time
- Information about the panel
- The online interview link (Microsoft Teams)
- The option to request accessibility or cultural safety adjustments

Interviews are generally 20–30 minutes.

Step 5: Referee checks

We ask you to give us the name of someone who knows you well in a community, work, volunteer or service context.



Step 6: National police check

Applicants who progress from interview will be supported to complete a police check. The Commission covers the cost.

Step 7: Final recommendations

The Commission makes recommendations to the Minister for Social Services, who will make the final appointments.

National police checks

Having a criminal record does not automatically exclude you.

We understand that many people who come into contact with the criminal justice system have also experienced domestic, family and sexual violence, including being misidentified as the person using violence or acting in self-defence.

If your police check shows any information, we will:

- Look at your individual circumstances
- Consider context, including your lived experience
- Carry out a safety and risk assessment to support the wellbeing of all Council members

You can ask questions at any time or discuss concerns confidentially.



Payment information

The table below outlines payment rates for people with lived experience providing advice to government on domestic, family and sexual violence reforms as a Council member.

Remuneration rates for Council members are guided by the [Remuneration Tribunal \(Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office\) Determination](#).

There are two fee categories, *Meeting Day* fees are paid to Council members for attendance at formal Council meetings, *Non-Meeting Day* fees are paid to Council members for participation in approved events and activities.

Payment Type	Activity	Payment
Meeting day	General Member: attend formal meetings of the Lived Experience Advisory Council	General Members: - Less than two hours \$190.40 - Between two to three hours \$285.60 - More than three hours \$476
	Co-Chair: facilitate discussion at meetings of the Lived Experience Advisory Council	Co-Chair: - Less than two hours \$252.40 - Between two to three hours \$378.60 - More than three hours \$631
Non-meeting day	Approved events and activities include, but are not limited to - Lived Experience Consultations - Reviewing documents and providing advice - Conferences - Roundtables - Workshops - Meetings - Official travel time	General Members: - For each period of at least one hour \$95.20 - Five hours or more \$476 Co-Chair: - For each period of at least one hour \$126.20 - Five hours or more \$631
Not applicable	Attend an event as an audience member	Not applicable
	Complete a client feedback survey for a government-funded service	
	Receive and read communication from the government, for instance newsletters, communiques	
	De-briefing sessions	

Approved events or activities are when members participate in events, activities and meetings as a Council representative, which have been arranged or approved by the Commission.



Frequently Asked Questions

Applying for the Council

How do I apply?

To apply for the Lived Experience Advisory Council, you must:

- Check that you meet the eligibility requirements
- Complete the Self-Reflection Tool (for your own reflection only)
- Submit your Expression of Interest online before the closing date

The Self-Reflection Tool is not submitted with your application. It is for you to decide whether this opportunity feels right for you at this time.

The Expression of Interest will open and close on the dates listed in the Information Pack.

Can I apply if I have never done advocacy work?

Yes. You do not need formal qualifications, advocacy experience, or prior service engagement. We welcome both experienced advocates and emerging voices.

Can I apply if I have never done advisory work?

Yes. Previous experience in a similar advisory body is beneficial but not mandatory.

Can I get help completing my application?

Yes. The Commission can provide support and adjustments at any stage of the process, including assistance completing the form, clarifying questions, and interview adjustments.

If you would like support, you can contact the Commission by emailing secretariat@dfsvc.gov.au or calling **0460 001 750**. We encourage you to reach out if any part of the process feels unclear or if you need assistance to participate.

About the Council

What is the Lived Experience Advisory Council?

The Council brings together people with lived or living experience of domestic, family and or sexual violence from across Australia.

The Council recognises lived and living experience as expertise. Members contribute insights to inform systemic reform across policy, service design, accountability, and community responses.

The Council provides collective advice to the Commission. It does not provide individual case advocacy, crisis support, or complaint resolution.

Is there a Terms of Reference?

Yes. The Terms of Reference outline the role of the Council, member expectations, and how the Council operates. The Terms of Reference are available on the Expression of Interest webpage.

Meetings and participation

How often does the Council meet?

The Council meets online once every two months and in person one to two times per year. Online meetings usually run for two hours. Members should allow approximately one hour to read papers beforehand.



Who attends meetings?

Council members, the Commissioner, and a small number of Commission staff attend meetings. Meetings are facilitated in a trauma informed, respectful and inclusive way.

What is the difference between a Council meeting and a consultation?

Council meetings are formal meetings where members provide collective advice. Consultations are optional sessions where organisations seek feedback on specific work.

Will I be paid?

Yes. Members are remunerated for formal Council meetings, Council business, approved consultations, approved events, and official travel time.

Eligibility and assessment

Who is eligible?

You must be aged 18 years or over, be a permanent resident of Australia, have lived or living experience of domestic, family and or sexual violence, be able to commit up to 6 hours every two months for meetings, have prior advisory experience and complete the Self-Reflection Tool.

How are applications assessed?

Applications are assessed based on what each person brings and the need to build a balanced Council representing diverse communities and experiences.

What happens after I apply?

The process includes shortlisting, interview, referee check, National Police Check, and final recommendation to the Minister for Social Services.

Privacy and confidentiality

Who will see my application?

Your application will be reviewed by the selection panel. If you progress, your name will be shared for a National Police Check, and a summary of your application will be provided to the Minister for appointment.

Information is handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles.

Will my details be made public?

You can choose your level of public visibility. You are not required to share personal details of violence. All members agree to confidentiality.

Police checks and criminal records

Can I apply if I have a criminal record?

Yes.

A National Police Check indicates whether you have criminal history information such as convictions or pending charges. We recognise that some people with lived or living experience may have had contact with the criminal justice system.

If criminal history information appears on your National Police Check, we will consider your individual circumstances and context and conduct a safety and risk assessment. Having a criminal record does not automatically exclude you.



Safety and wellbeing

Do I have to share my personal story?

No. You can speak in general terms about systems and change. You control what you share.

What support is available?

Meetings are trauma informed. Members can take breaks, step out of discussions, access wellbeing check-ins, and request adjustments.

If you need external support at any time, contact **1800RESPECT** on **1800 737 732**.

Impact and voice

How will my voice make a difference?

Your voice will help shape national conversations and contribute directly to improving systems, policies and services. While change can take time, the Council's advice plays an important role in guiding ongoing reforms, and the Commission will keep you updated on how your insights have influenced our work.

Positions available

How many positions are available?

There are 8 positions available. Appointments will commence in November 2026.