



Yearly Report to Parliament 2026 Address

Transcript

Micaela Cronin

My name is Micaela Cronin. I'm Australia's first Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner. I'm joining today from the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and I pay my respects to their Elders and Communities, and I extend those respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Communities and leaders from across the country.

Today the Commission's third Yearly Report has been tabled in Parliament. This report comes at a really important time in our community when we've been having national conversations about sexual violence and the way our systems and communities are responding.

We are nearly halfway through the ten year National Plan. We have built some really significant investment and foundations we need to build on those foundations so that we are able to achieve the impact and the outcomes that the National Plan sets out to achieve.

This report sets out eight recommendations. Two speak to the areas demanding the most urgent, sustained attention, sexual violence and our justice and family law systems.

The commission has identified sexual violence as an area where we need to have very sharp focus and significant reform and investment.

We know that prevalence of sexual violence in our communities is increasing, we know that reports to police are at their highest rates in 33 years, we know that children are experiencing sexual abuse at rates that are deeply worrying and disturbing, we also know that our systems are not providing the justice, care, safety and support that women and children need to be able to heal.

The commission has found that our justice and family law systems require sustained attention and reform and investment. Those systems are often sites that are causing harm to people when they seek protection and safety.

Six recommendations, chart a path to a more mature national system.

What we've heard very clearly this year, and we are really focusing on is early intervention taking every moment to intervene early.

We have been extensively listening across the country and we are bringing together the insights from those conversations and what the data and research is telling us.

What gives me hope is the commitment that I've seen across governments, lived experience advocates who so courageously share their stories to change the future for others, community services on the ground who are working above and beyond what they are their resources enable them to do to deliver real change for our communities.

This isn't only a job for Government, it's a job for all of us as communities, workplaces, our institutions and families.



Our intention with this Yearly Report is to provide Government with some very clear priorities for action that will enable us to set up so that we are not having the same conversations in five years' time.

[End transcript]