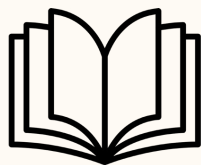


Yearly Report

SEPTEMBER 2026



Easy Read



Australian Government

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission

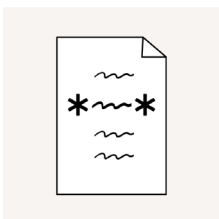
About Easy Read



This is an Easy Read book.



Easy Read uses simple words and pictures to explain ideas.



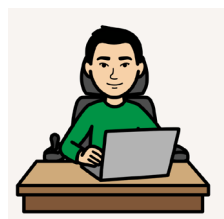
New words are ***bold with stars***.



We explain what new words mean.



Easy Read is a summary.



Get more information on our website
www.dfsvc.gov.au

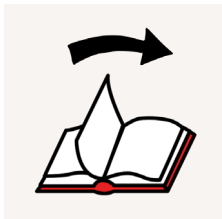
Who wrote this book?



This book is by the Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence Commission or **DFSVC**.



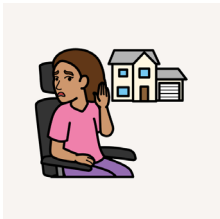
We give advice to help the Australian Government stop ***domestic, family and sexual violence***.



We explain what domestic, family and sexual violence means on the next page.

What is domestic, family and sexual violence?

What is domestic violence?

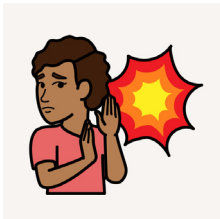


Domestic violence is harm caused by people you are close to.

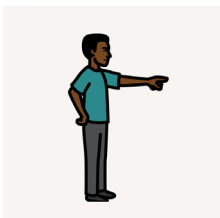


Harm might mean someone

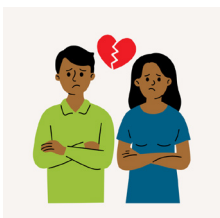
- hurts you



- scares you

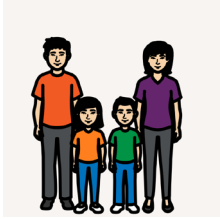


- controls you.

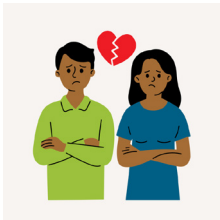


Domestic violence can be harm by a partner or ex-partner.

What is family violence?

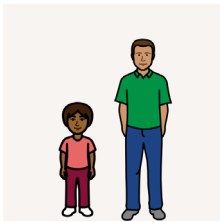


Family violence is when someone in the family causes harm.



Family might be

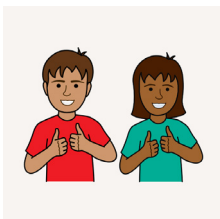
- your partner or ex-partner



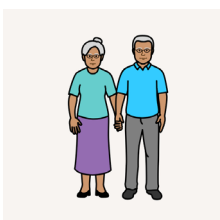
- your parents



- your children



- your brothers or sisters



- other people in your family.

What is sexual violence?



Sexual violence might be touching your body in a sexual way.

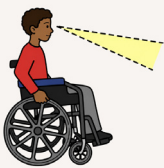


For example, unwanted kissing or touching private parts.



Sexual violence is also when someone

- makes you do something sexual



- makes you look at sexual pictures or videos



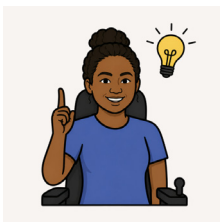
- says sexual things to you that you do not want.

About our Yearly Report



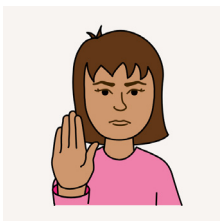
Our Yearly Report explains

- the main problems right now



- how Australia can help.

Why did we make our report?



The Government wants to stop domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia by **2050**.



Australia must do more to stop domestic, family and sexual violence.



Our report helps the Government make Australia safer.

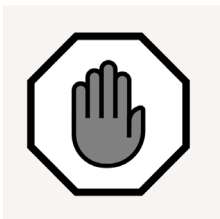
What are the main problems right now?

Stopping harm

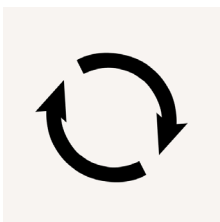


Australia needs to get better at

- stopping domestic, family and sexual violence **before** it happens



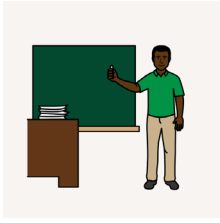
- helping to stop the problem early.



Systems in Australia often deal with domestic, family and sexual violence **after** it happens.



Systems describe how different organisations work together.

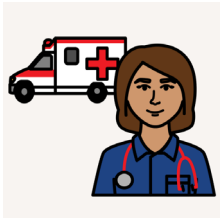


Systems might be

- schools



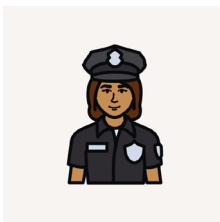
- government



- health care



- ***justice and family law*.**

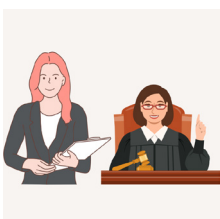


Justice and family law includes things like

- police



- courts

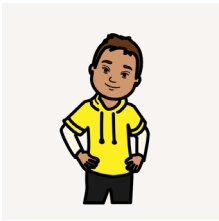


- lawyers and legal help.

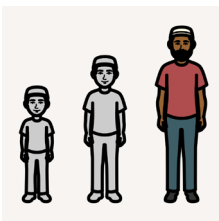
Justice and family law



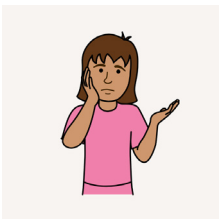
Justice and family law is not always safe for people who experience harm.



For example, children need different supports compared to adults.



Children do not always get the right help for their age.



Sometimes systems cause more harm to people they should help.



For example, asking a woman to talk about bad things that happened to her many times.

Sexual violence



Reports of sexual violence are **higher** in Australia now than ever before.



Australia needs more ways to help people stay safe from sexual violence.



We do not know enough about why sexual violence happens.



For example, violence used by strangers rather than partners or family.

Access to supports



Some people in Australia have access to better supports than others.

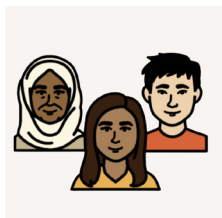


Supports can be better or worse based on

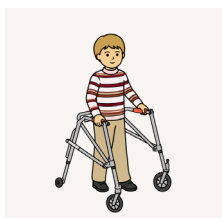
- the service a person uses



- where a person lives



- a person's background or identity.



For example, a person with disability.

Problems measuring progress



It is not clear how governments will measure the safety of women and children over time.

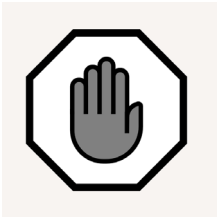


This means the government cannot check or show if their work is helping or not.

What must happen next



We made 8 ***recommendations***.

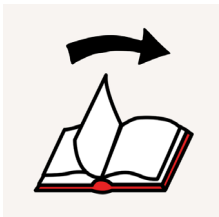


Recommendations are our ideas to help the government

- stop domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia



- make Australia safer.



We explain each recommendation starting on the next page.

1 Whole-of-government approach



All parts of government must work to stop domestic, family and sexual violence.

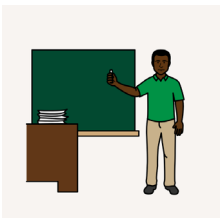


For example

- housing



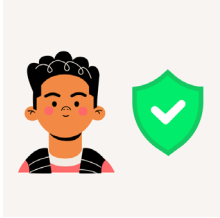
- justice and family law



- education

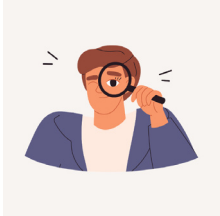


- health care.

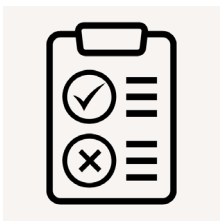


All parts of government must

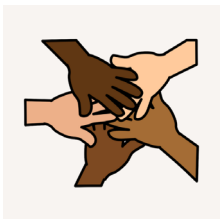
- think about safety when making plans



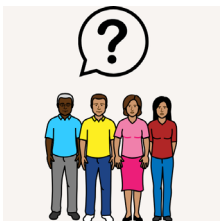
- check that policies and services do not put people at risk



- make rules and services that keep people safe



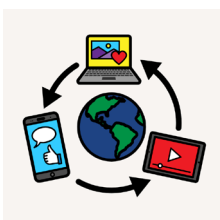
- work together to stop violence



- check how decisions affect people

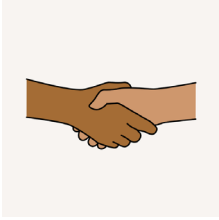


- learn how to make things safer over time



- make sure people are safe from abuse and harm online.

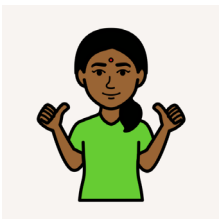
2 Co-design



The government must ***co-design*** laws, rules and decisions.



Co-design is working with people who have ***lived experience***.



Lived experience means a person has a specific background or identity.



For example, working with LGBTQIA+SB people to build inclusive programs.

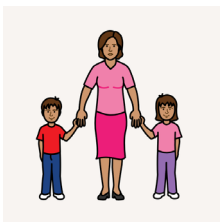


Some groups are more likely to face domestic, family and sexual violence.

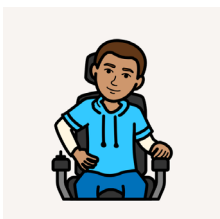


These groups include

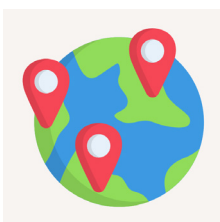
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



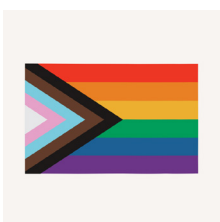
- women and children



- people with disabilities



- culturally and linguistically diverse communities

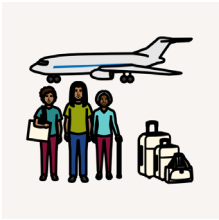


- LGBTIQ+SB people.



Groups more likely to face harm also include

- people in regional and remote Australia



- migrants and refugees



- children and young people

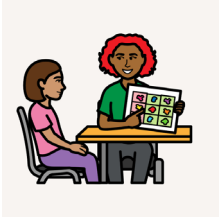


- older women.



Co-design can help the government meet the needs of different groups.

3 Early intervention



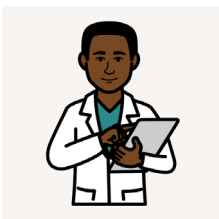
The government must focus
early intervention.



Early intervention means you stop
the problem before it gets worse.

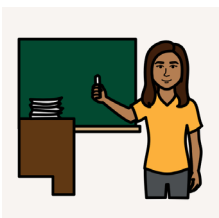


The government must help services
to do more early intervention.

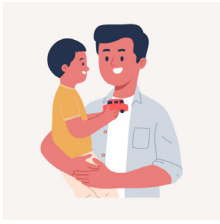


Services might be

- doctors



- teachers.



The government must support services across Australia to

- help men and boys before they use violence



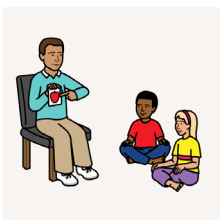
- help men who have started to use violence early



- teach men and boys safe and healthy ways to act



- help children and young people who experience violence



- use health, education and family services to give help sooner.

4 Safety and recovery

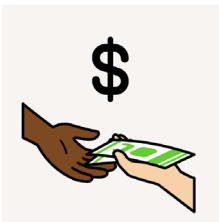


The government must focus on safety and recovery for people who experience harm.



The government must make it easier for people to get

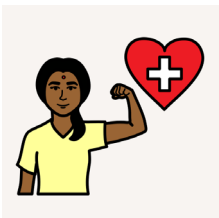
- a safe place to live that they can afford



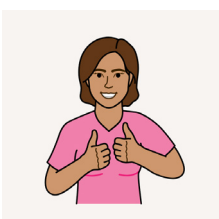
- money and help to manage it



- legal help



- health care and counselling

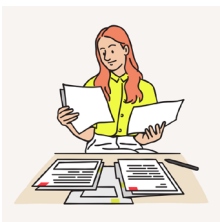


- other supports to start a new life without the violent people around.

5 National evidence



Australia must learn more about domestic, family and sexual violence.



The government must work across Australia to

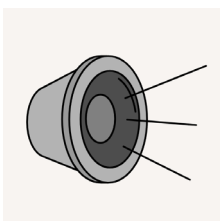
- bring together research findings



- listen to people with lived experience



- learn what works



- share what they learn



- find new problems early and plan new ways to help.

6 Stronger ways to measure change

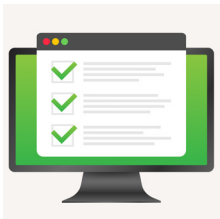


The government must

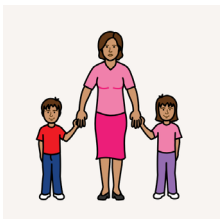
- check their work



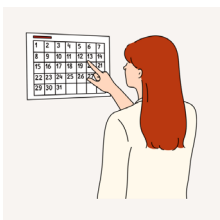
- show what they find in a clear way.



This includes work on ***Australia's National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children***.



The National Plan helps stop violence against women and children in Australia.

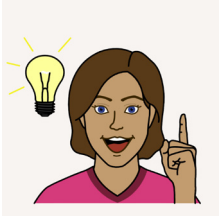


The National Plan goes from 2022 – 2032.

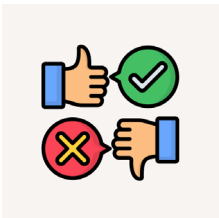


The government must

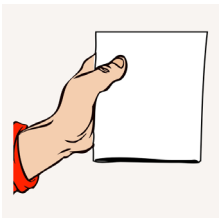
- share what they are doing and what has changed



- listen to and use important findings and advice



- keep checking what is working and what is not



- share helpful information with us so we can do our work



- use what they learn to make things better.

7 Justice and family law



Justice and family law systems must be safer for people who experience violence.



The government must

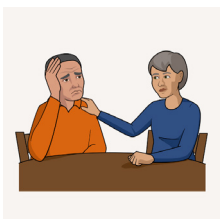
- find safety risks early



- listen to children about their safety and needs

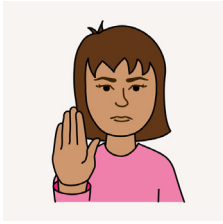


- make sure people who use violence do not get away with it



- help people get counselling and other support.

8 More help to stop sexual violence

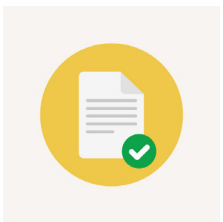


The government must do more to

- stop sexual violence from happening in the first place



- deal with sexual violence in better ways.

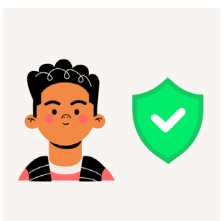


The government must

- make sexual violence an important part of the National Plan



- spend enough money to properly deal with the problem

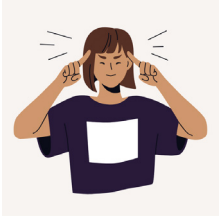


- make services better for people who experience sexual violence.



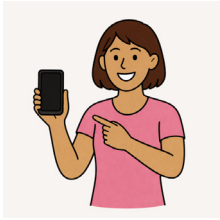
The government must also

- learn more about why sexual violence happens



- make sure sexual violence stays a big focus.

Learn more



Contact the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission to learn more.



Website www.dfsvc.gov.au

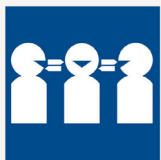


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Australian Government



DFSV
COMMISSION



Embrace **Access**

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