



Webinar: Yearly Report 2026

Transcript

Micaela Cronin:

[00:00:00]

Thank you all for joining us. I'm on Ngunnawal and I pay my deep respects and acknowledge the lands that I'm on and the lands that you are all joining from today across Australia. I want to acknowledge both the ongoing impact of colonisation, institutional and systemic racism, but also what we have to learn from the work that is the work and the leadership and and the wisdom of Aboriginal organisations leaders. And the other day I was in a session, someone said, and particularly Aboriginal children and what is happening for Aboriginal children at the moment. I'm going to go into the rest of the presentation, but before I do that, I just wanted to really acknowledge all of your work and thank everybody for their input into this report, for showing up to so many of the consultations through the Second Action Plan.

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And a number of us were at a session the other day with notable and Rodney Rodney Vlasis said, made a comment that they talked about how that really we need to acknowledge that we are in a really hard time, that there is a lot of very hard things happening and that we, all of you are confronting that every day, and it can be hard to kind of hold on to being hopeful and future looking when that's happening. But two things recognising how much worse it would be if it wasn't for the advocacy of so many people on this call. The number of things that I feel like I have watched while I have been in this role, that I know many of you have very specifically advocated to happen, and that those changes are making a very real difference in people's lives.

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So I just really wanted to thank everybody at the outset for, for that, I, I do feel a little emotional about all of the work that you are doing to keep people safe every day at the same time as staying optimistic, solution focused, coming, turning up to things and going right, how do we how do we make things better? So wanting to acknowledge that specifically to the input into supporting the Commission's work and supporting us in the role that we can play, and always being collaborative and showing up when we ask you to.

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And across every bit of the team, the policy work. So yeah, I'm not going to call everybody out because it would be everybody in the team. But I just want to acknowledge that while we've got cameras on, and I particularly want to in terms of I'm not going to call everybody out who's here. But Olga, I particularly want to acknowledge you and your role at the peak. And, and thank you for, again for the collaboration. I know what it's like to build the plane while you're flying it, and I know how fast you are running to do that piece of work and to get the peak up and running so that you can do the work that you need to lead. So just wanted to acknowledge you for being here, Olga. Thank you. Okay.

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So the other I as I said I acknowledge Country, but I also want to acknowledge the particularly the lived experience engagement in this piece of work and both this this the artwork that is threaded through the yearly report is Amani Haydar's work. She is a member of our Lived Experience Advisory Council, and that Council has made a huge contribution, and I think we're getting better at enabling them to make that



contribution. And they really the feedback from them as they feel a real sense of ownership of this report, which is great. That's what we want them to so want to acknowledge both their contribution to this piece of work, but more broadly to all of the work that all that that we all do. Next slide please. Okay.

So this is our third report to Parliament. And we've been progressively building what we're able to do with the reports based on what what access to what information we've had our own capacity and who we're working with. One of the things that I, quite a few of you who are on this call were at the very first roundtable the Commission convened in partnership with an rose which was around, was having a focus on measuring what matters.

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And one of the challenges we all know we've had throughout this, looking at how do we measure the impact of the national plan is what does ending gender-based violence mean in a generation? How on Earth are we going to measure that? And it was actually a number of you will have heard me tell this story, but it was Quinn on our Lived Experience Advisory Council who raised the approach that the homelessness sector to end use, to ending rough sleeping in particular, and the concept of that, that when we talk about ending, we mean we want to make it rare, brief and non-recurring. So that's a bit of a theme for us about how do we shift all of our work to being able to be measurable, even the thought, even thinking about what it is that we mean by ending gender based violence. So we will do more. We will be doing more work about this, but just wanting to kind of centre that as what the objective from the way we define what we will be measuring about the commitment to making gender-based violence rare, brief and non-recurrent. Next slide please, Nick.

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You will also be aware we launched our Monitoring and Reporting Framework in March this year. This is a very high level summary of what that Framework is. The intention was that we would both be transparent with the sector and the community, who we are accountable to all of you for the job that we do, but also really to signal to Government these are the things we're going to come and start asking you questions about, and this is the way we are going to be measuring how we're going, tracking against the National Plan. It is a live document. We intentionally launched it as a two year Framework. And we've we've had some very good feedback about how we can continue to, to develop and mature this Framework. But this is the first yearly report that is based around these seven domains, and we will keep improving that as we go. This is this is the area. This is just looking at the areas that we will be going, looking for data and intelligence from all of you government, and particularly, as I said, people's experiences directly of the service system is an area where also particularly interested in.

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Next slide. Nick.

So in terms of how we develop this is one of the things that's been interesting about growing the Commission is that every year has been different. Every year there has been something, you know, this year has been and this year has been Second Action Plan. Last year was election year. Before that was Rapid Review. So we're kind of evolving the way we have been able to really think about how we have impact in this space when there are so many incredible actors, like all of you in this space. I the as I've said, it's based on the Monitoring and Reporting Framework, but we've held over the last 12 months, 43 consultations, 37 of those were directly part of the Second Action Plan withheld, some others on top of that, and 20 of the Second Action Plan ones. The Commission convened ourselves again in partnership. I think nearly all of those were in partnership with somebody on this call. There were a couple that were that were other partners.



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But so again, I want to really thank you for making that an incredibly valuable exercise. And there's a lot more work going on drawing out the insights that we have from all of those conversations. They've fed directly into shaping the yearly report recommendations and what we've been saying, unsurprisingly and actually really pretty, there was a lot of validation for us in what we heard that it was what we've been hearing in the conversations we've been having with you already. So while but but what has been incredibly rich about talking to so many people in such a consolidated piece of time is is the richness and the depth of what we've been hearing and, and across the across different domains. So different geographic, different geography, different different age groups across the really recognising across the age range the differences.

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So you me I have you are in my ear you, me all the time. I make sure we talk about children and young people. Yes, but also the experiences of older women. The, the differences in experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, migrant, multicultural and others who are on the call. I'm just saying you because I can see you, but I know there are others here. The work that came through that all of you brought into that meant that they were very rich and deep conversations about the detail of what works. Doesn't your your thoughts about what what can be done. So as I said, we've got we've got quite an incredible body of insights from that that we'll be working with you about how we can share that as we progress.

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Next slide. Nick. Okay.

So we made 30 recommendations last year. I was really determined to get it down to a much smaller number. This year. I gave the team the the original KPI was three. We got it down to six and two two focus areas, which I'll come to in a second so that we can really be as sharp in. Our advice to Government as possible. Doesn't mean that they're the only things. And in fact, there's other things that we will be aware we've talked about in the report that aren't we're not calling out quite as specifically as these. I'm going to talk to these briefly, but as I say, I'm very happy to come back to them in a bit more detail.

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So these and really the point of this is really, from my perspective, the point, a really big focus of this year's work for the Commission has been how can we make sure the Second Action Plan and the associated plans around that are as well informed, strategic and as able to be as impactful as they possibly can? That's been a real focus for us as a Commission. So hence the recommendations are really pointed out. How do we support Government in that work across the next year?

So first, first of those is government's own responsibility around ensuring that Government systems are doing no harm, that they are they need to be safer and that there needs to be strengthened capability across all bits of Government about identifying risk as policy and investment is designed. So getting in place and embedding processes, that really is the safety by Safety by Design principles.

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But also then so anything going forward. But what are we going to do about auditing going back. So there are a number of key areas. So we know that the advocacy again of some of the people who on this call have driven about some of those Government services. So are child, the child support system, family law system, the broad some of the aspects of the broader justice system down to again, the detail of what's happening with people's superannuation. So what is it that that's the first is government get your own house in order about safety of your own systems.

The second recommendation, what sits behind that is something, again, we hear over and over and really was really crystalised for me in the Second Action Planning process in a way that I kind of knew it, but is much sharper now, which is that our current systems and you will all know this.

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Our current systems are not not designed with the people who have faced the greatest barriers to safety. So the people who are overrepresented in the harm that they experience disproportionately represented in the harm that they experienced, underserved by the system, over policed by the system, under less visible in the data and even the definitions of the plan don't serve them. So the people and we all know who those people are, right? People who are least well served are actually not the ones who are front and centre when we design these programs.

So we talk about it in more detail in the report. But it is a real priority for us that we need to think about, and it's why we have not advocated for a range of alternative plans. This plan has to centre people who are most at risk and less well served currently by the by the current plan. That's the second recommendation.

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Something that I realised after a little while, despite what people's language, the way they described it, was very live and real in every single conversation. Was the missed opportunities to intervene earlier, to change pathways to to support, support young families, to recognise where we know that the the real points both where the opportunities for intervention are where the highest risk opportunities you know for for harm to commence, start, become more serious.

So intervening earlier and thinking about that, which really goes to the heart of what we what I mean, I think a lot of, a lot of the recommendations from from all of you. But it was was also at the heart of some of the work of the Rapid Review as well.

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Was that piece around intervening at every point you can to be thinking about preventing, and that there needs that needs to be the real focus of this plan? Because also, one of the things that I've, I've been talking a lot about to is there are a couple there are a couple of fundamental flaws in the way that our systems have been designed.

One of those is that domestic family and sexual violence happens to a small proportion of the population over there somewhere, whereas we know that it happens to the majority of people in our community and in every part of our community. While it is disproportionately in some parts than others, we know it happens everywhere, and our systems aren't designed to deal with that.

And the other design flaw is, well, it's not a design. It's not necessarily a design flaw. It's the way the system has been designed up is we the system is designed to respond to crises and incidents, not recognise patterns of behaviour, and that often when you see someone who is in in we, we respond and design around episodic care, not necessarily recognising that it is a journey both to it, both to address harm and and crises and response is a journey.

Healing and recovery is a journey. Intervening early is a journey, all of those things.

So those two things absolutely, fundamentally mean that we need to be thinking very differently about how we access the broader platforms that are designed for early intervention health, education, the big service systems that will help enable the specialist work, because the specialist work is so important, but is never going to be able to be scaled up to deal with the scale of the problem if we don't get those other platforms to step up.



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The fourth recommendation really is about is about some of those fundamental things that need to be in place, that without which people cannot either be secure their own safety or healing and recovery. So housing, financial security, again, many of you have been advocating and recognising that without without those two things, you can't you can't achieve safety or a journey of recovery, the importance of legal assistance, health and therapeutic support. So that's a very big grab.

All for saying that those things, you cannot just look at one bit of the system without recognising the foundations are so critically important.

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The fifth recommendation really was about it is about the need to invest in really understanding and bringing together and translating what it is that is, and invest in understanding more about what what it is that's working, where the gaps are, and being able to translate and share that and know where the gaps are in our knowledge. I think you will all know there's a slightly more nuanced there's the message that, we don't we know what needs to be done is largely true, but not completely true.

Right. We have we do have thousands of recommendations. You have all written, I'm sure, hundreds of submissions to dozens of inquiries with very clear recommendations about what needs to be done. But, for example, we do not know enough about the drivers of sexual violence that sits outside, domestic and family violence, intimate partner relationships, and therefore we don't know enough about what will help work. We haven't invested enough in building our knowledge base around that. So there are areas where we need to know more.

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What we've recommended is one of the things that the Commission convened and then handed over to our own rose was a group that we've called is currently called convening on the evidence, which are the big government bodies that are responsible for building this not knowledge base.

So and Rose Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Institute of Family Studies, the ABS, the AIC, those bodies are responsible Government funded by Government specifically to do this bit of work that Government needs to enable them to join up more, because one of the things that we know has been such a challenge is evaluations.

It's pretty sporadic what gets where there is evidence, but where there is resources built in to build the evidence base through evaluation of programmatic work. But it's then often not systematically shared if it's shared at all. And and it's been pretty hard, I know, to to bring all of that together.

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So how can we systematise that process and those bodies, in our view, drawing on all of the collaborations they have with academics, other research bodies, civil to build the build a much better national evidence base. So we're not having same conversation in five years time.

And the sixth one is around monitoring and accountability. And that's that's both the Commission's role, but also brought more broadly what Government's role is around ensuring transparency, and that we are really holding our feet to the fire around understanding impact.



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Next slide. I've only got a few more and then I'll open it up. And if anybody wants me to go back to any of the slides, feel free to we can call back and call it back out.

So I said before there were eight recs. These are the other two are that we call that we've called out as they're not the only persistent systems issues, but they're the two that we've called out at the moment, remembering that the Commission does a yearly report to Parliament. And this is about what we're calling out this year and what will be the focus across the coming year.

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These are the two issues that kept resonating with people that we need a much sharper focus on. And again, it's about what's the Commission's role in this space? I think one of the things that the Commission can do is help us have national conversations that might be difficult conversations to have and help convene those help bring people together around that. Now, it doesn't mean we're going to stop having some of the ones that we've already been invested in. So previous years we've talked about children and young people, men and boys, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Those will continue to be absolutely be focuses for the Commission's work. But we're really going to prioritise these two issues because and again, because they are areas that government has levers and responsibility around some of the what is happening in these spaces.

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And again, happy to come back to that when we when we open up. Thank you very much. Really appreciate and thank you for showing up today. Really appreciate it.

[End transcript]