

2022-23 October Budget – Our Sector

The Albanese Government's 2022-23 October Budget is set to invest \$1.7 billion into women's safety by investing in new services, the expansion of pre-existing services, and improved social supports aimed at supporting women, children and other Australian.

Importantly, No to Violence's Men's Referral Service (MRS) and Brief Intervention Service (BIS) received \$10.8 million to support their continued delivery.

No to Violence's Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Watt, commented: "We welcome the ongoing investment in No to Violence's Men's Referral Service which offers confidential telephone counselling and referrals for men who use family violence to help change their behaviour."


Headline outcomes:

1. \$1.7 billion to drive change under the next National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.
2. \$25.0 million over 5 years from 2022-23 allocated towards a trial of innovative responses to address the behaviour of perpetrators, as part of new initiatives under the National Plan.
3. \$24.8 million to establish a new intervention trial for men and boys aged 12-18 years of age who present with adverse childhood experiences (family, domestic, and sexual violence) and are identified as at risk of perpetrating violence
4. \$35.2 million over five years to trial new innovative responses through the First Action Plan Priorities fund; this funding has been re-purposed from the \$20 million allocation for trials of electronic monitoring of the perpetrators of domestic violence, and from the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund trials.

No to Violence welcomes the increased focus on perpetrator accountability, commitments to funding initiatives under the new National Plan, and emphasis on early intervention with men and boys.

"Early intervention can assist potential perpetrators to voluntarily address their behaviour. No to Violence members deliver perpetrator interventions that are evidence-based, specialist services, including behaviour change programs," said Jacqui.

This budget has also made significant movement towards the structural integration of gender equality principles by funding the caring economy, over-hauling parental leave, and making significant



investments in housing. No to Violence feels that structural gender equality will inevitably have flow-on effects that reduce the incidence and impacts of family violence.

The new National Plan and First Action Plan

The budget included an additional \$5 million for the National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission, building on the previous Government's \$2.24 million over five years. The National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission will monitor and provide oversight over the implementation of the 2022-2032 National Plan.

The new National Plan, launched on 17 October 2022, includes perpetrator accountability as a cross-cutting theme. As a member of the National Plan Advisory Group (NPAG), No to Violence strongly advocated for this inclusion. The centrality of perpetrator accountability within the new National Plan is supported with the Budget's focus on perpetrator interventions and funding of the National Plan more broadly. This includes:

- \$1.7 billion over the next six years to support and implement the National Plan building on the \$1.3 billion provided by the previous Government in the March budget
- \$196.4 million over 4 years from 2022-23 and \$55.4 million per year on going to provide an additional 500 frontline service and community workers to increase support available for women and children experiencing FDSV
- \$13.9 million in a First Action Plan Priorities Fund to support programs that will address emerging priorities
- \$1 million to fund an Advisory Group to ensure engagement with victim-survivors throughout the life of the First Action Plan



Measures potentially directly benefiting members

Extension of perpetrator focused counselling and referral services

- \$10.8 million to enable No to Violence to continue national coverage of the Men's Referral Service, a direct telephone and online support service for men who use violence and controlling behaviour, and the Brief Intervention Service, which provides short-term ongoing telephone-based counselling for men who use violence.

Perpetrator intervention programs and trials

- \$25.0 million over 5 years from 2022-23 for a trial of innovative responses to address the behaviour of perpetrators, as part of new initiatives under the National Plan.
- \$35.2 million over 5 years by not proceeding with a trial of electronic monitoring of the perpetrators of domestic violence and a Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund that was intended to trial new responses to addressing violence. These initiatives will instead be delivered through the new trial of innovative responses and the First Action Plan Priorities Fund.
- \$24.8 million to establish a new intervention trial for men and boys aged 12-18 years of age who present with adverse childhood experiences (family, domestic, and sexual violence) and are identified as at risk of perpetrating violence.

National Partnership Agreement

- \$10.7 million in dedicated funding for the Northern Territory as part of the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership in recognition of the higher rates of violence and complexity of providing services in remote areas. This investment will help address the increased demand for services during COVID-19 and work towards Closing the Gap commitments



Domestic and Family Violence Services

- A **reallocation** of \$59.6 million over 5 years through aligning funding for the Specialist Family Violence Services program with anticipated levels of need, as part of efforts to target spending towards new initiatives in support of the National Plan.
 - Budget Paper 2 (pp 185/6) details parts of the Specialist Family Violence Program and the electronic monitoring trial (from the March budget) will be redirected to other initiatives to support the National Plan.
- \$169.4 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$55.4 million per year ongoing) to provide an additional **500 frontline service and community workers** across Australia to increase the support available for women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.
- \$48.7 million to expand the Family and Domestic Violence Primary Health Network Pilot.
- \$67.2 million to pilot a model of trauma-informed recovery care through Primary Health Networks to improve coordination and access to services. \$25.0 million will support the Illawarra Women’s Health Centre to establish a women’s trauma recovery centre.

Measures indirectly benefiting members

DATA AND RESEARCH FUNDING

Building the evidence base and measuring the impact of the next National Plan

- \$23.3 million for ANROWS to continue providing national leadership on data and evidence related to violence against women and children.

Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave

- \$3.4 million over 4 years from 2022–23 will be used to support the development and delivery of education, technical advice and support services targeting the needs of small business employers, to assist with implementing 10 days of paid family and domestic violence leave.

Measures in other part of the Family Violence Sector

VICTIM SUPPORTS

- \$169.4 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$55.4 million per year ongoing) to provide an additional 500 frontline service and community workers across Australia to increase the support available for women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.
- \$48.7 million to expand the Family and Domestic Violence Primary Health Network Pilot.
- \$67.2 million to pilot a model of trauma-informed recovery care through Primary Health Networks to improve coordination and access to services. \$25.0 million will support the Illawarra Women’s Health Centre to establish a women’s trauma recovery centre.

Sexual harassment at work

- The Government will amend the Fair Work Act 2009 to expressly prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace, enabling the Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Ombudsman to deal with disputes alleging workplace sexual harassment.
- This will be supported with \$15.1 million over 4 years to implement the new prohibition.



Respect@Work

\$42.5 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$10.2 million per year ongoing) to implement the government response to recommendations of the Respect@Work Report., including:

- \$32.0 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$8.0 million per year ongoing) to fund Working Women’s Centres in all states and territories to provide advice, information and advocacy to workers on gender-based workplace issues, including sexual harassment.
- \$5.8 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$1.8 million per year ongoing) to support education and compliance activities associated with introducing a positive duty on employers to take reasonable and proportionate measures to eliminate sex discrimination, sexual harassment and victimisation as far as possible.
- \$2.6 million over 3 years from 2022–23 to hear and confidentially document the experiences of victims of historical workplace sexual harassment.
- \$2.1 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$0.4 million per year ongoing) to establish a one-stop shop for workplace sexual harassment information, including about victims’ rights, complaint options, support service referrals and employer responsibilities.

Trauma-informed counselling services

- \$100 million over five years has been allocated to National Counselling Services, including opportunities to work with Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services to provide culturally appropriate and trauma-informed support.
- \$27.8 million has been provided to extend Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Services and provide funding for up to 18 existing providers currently funded under the 3rd and 4th Action Plans of the National Plan (2010-22).
- \$150.5 million over five years has been allocated to a pilot to be delivered by Primary Health Networks to improve access to trauma-informed recovery services for FSDV victim-survivors
- \$6.7 million has been allocated to the Helping Children Heal program, a pilot trauma-informed service for mothers and children aged 6-12 years.

Escaping Violence Payments

- \$39.6 million in 2022–23 to meet increased demand for the Escaping Violence Payment.

Supporting victim-survivors on visas

- 12.6 million over two years from 2022–23 for a pilot program to assist Temporary Visa Holders who are experiencing domestic violence.

First Nations Justice

\$99.0 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to support improved justice outcomes for First Nations peoples. Funding includes:

- \$81.5 million for justice reinvestment initiatives to be delivered in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including:
- \$69.0 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$20.0 million per year ongoing) to invest in and expand locally tailored initiatives addressing the underlying causes of incarceration
- \$12.5 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$3.1 million per year ongoing) to design and establish an independent unit to coordinate and support justice reinvestment initiatives

- \$13.5 million over 3 years from 2022–23 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services to ensure First Nations families can access culturally appropriate and timely legal assistance before, during and after coronial processes
- \$3.0 million over 3 years from 2022–23 for the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum to deliver legal and non-legal support to First Nations communities
- \$1.0 million over 3 years from 2022–23 for the representative peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, to support its contribution to law reform and policy development to address inequalities in the legal system
- The Government will also explore options for consolidated national real-time reporting of First Nations deaths in custody, with costs to be met from within the existing resourcing of the Australian Institute of Criminology

Housing

\$10 billion in the newly created Housing Australia Future Fund, to be managed by the Future Fund Management Agency, to generate returns to fund the delivery of 30,000 social and affordable homes over 5 years and allocate \$330 million for acute housing needs, which includes

- \$100 million for crisis and transitional housing options for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness.
- \$200 million for the repair, maintenance and improvements of housing in remote Indigenous communities,
- \$30 million to build more housing and fund specialist services for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness.
- Of those 30,000 social and affordable dwellings, 10,000 will be allocated for frontline workers including female-dominated industries, like nursing and cleaning; and 20,000 will be allocated to social housing, an estimated 4,000 of which will be allocated for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence and older women who are at risk of homelessness
- Additionally, the Government remains committed to ensuring that of the \$10 billion fund, the returns from \$1.6 billion will be directed to long-term housing for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence, and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness
- The Government will provide \$13.4 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$4.2 million per year ongoing) to develop a 1- year National Housing and Homelessness Plan in 2023. The Government will also provide a one year extension for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement to 30 June 2024, to allow for the development of the new arrangement, in consultation with the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council and states and territories

PREVENTION

Our Watch has been allocated \$104.4 million to continue its primary prevention work.



Prevention campaigns

- \$47.9 million over five years for a new campaign that focuses on confronting the attitudes and expectations of young men and boys which can condone or excuse violence.
- \$55.3 million from 2022-23 has been allocated for additional phases of the *Stop it at the Start* campaign, which seeks to shift community attitudes about violence among young people.
- \$32.2 million to promote the importance of consensual and respectful relationships.
- \$104.4 million for Our Watch, Australia’s national leader for the primary prevention of gender-based violence.
- \$6.0 million over 3 years from 2023–24 to the Alannah and Madeline Foundation for the national rollout of the eSmart Digital Licence+, Media Literacy Lab and a new Junior Digital Licence+ to improve media and digital literacy and online safety awareness among primary and secondary school students.

Respectful Relationships programs

- The Government will provide \$65.3 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$18.2 million over 2 years from 2026–27) to invest in respectful relationships education to help prevent gender-based violence and keep children safe.