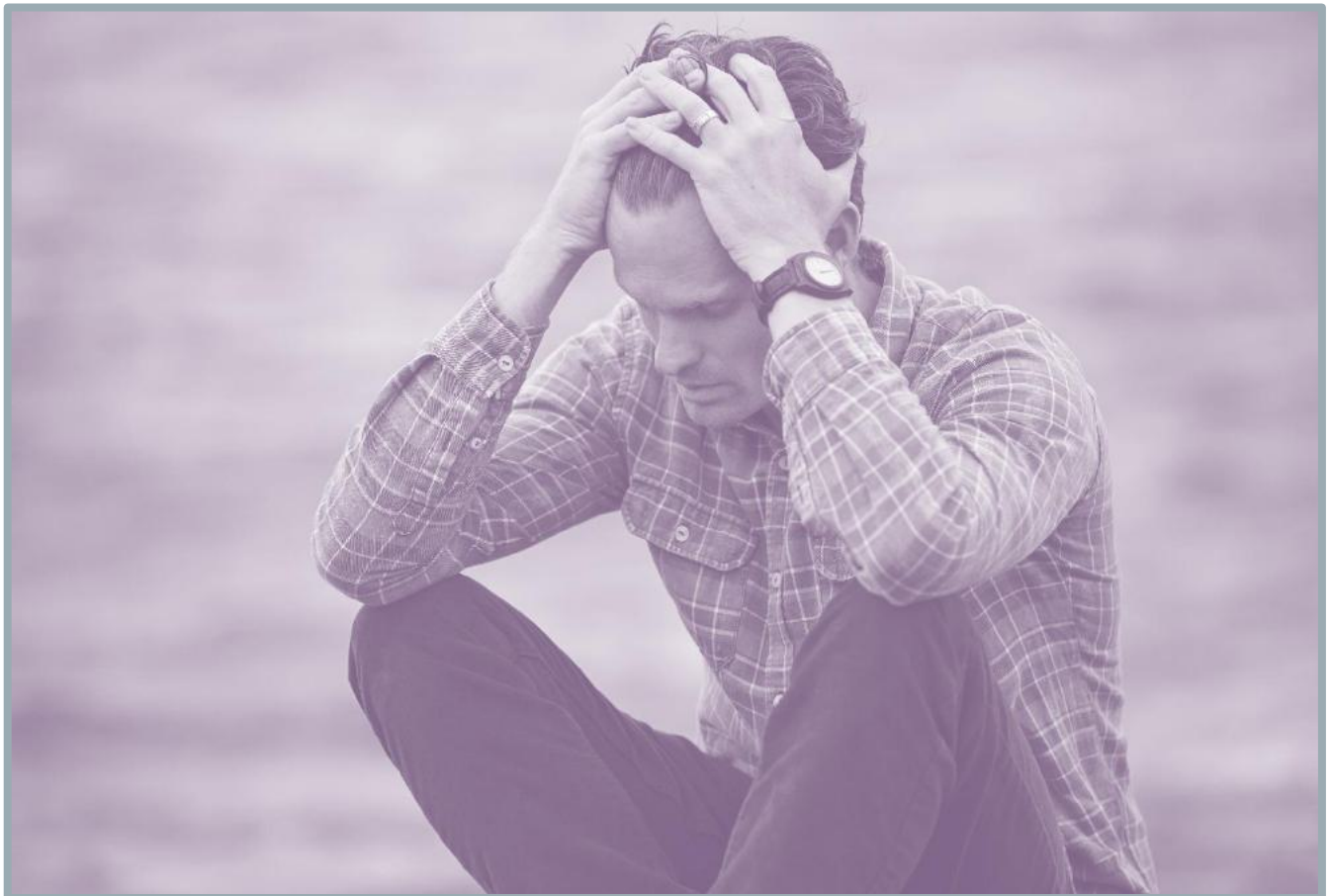


Submission to the NSW Government

A new strategy for women in NSW



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About No to Violence

No to Violence is the national peak body for organisations and individuals working with men to end family violence. We are guided by the values of accountability, gender equity, leadership and change.

No to Violence provides support and advocacy for the work of specialist men's family violence interventions carried out by organisations and individuals. The work undertaken by specialist men's family violence services is diverse and includes but is not limited to Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP), case management, individual counselling, policy development and advocacy, research and evaluation, and workforce development and capability building.

No to Violence also provides a range of training for the specialist men's family violence workforce including a graduate certificate in partnership with Swinburne University, as well as professional development for all workforces who come into contact, directly and indirectly, with men using family violence.

No to Violence is a leading national voice and plays a central role in the development of evidence, policy, and advocacy to support the work of specialist men's family violence nationally. In Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania we also provide directly contracted services and work closely with police to enhance referrals for men.

About Our Members

No to Violence represents more than 200 members Australia-wide. Our membership structure is inclusive of individuals and organisations ranging from specialist services to individuals and groups who have an interest in preventing and responding to men's family violence.

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Summary of recommendations

No to Violence recommends that the next NSW Women's Strategy would be significantly improved by:

1. Inclusion of a commitment to, at the minimum, maintain current levels of funding provided for specialist frontline domestic and family violence services, including those that support perpetrator interventions, including the additional investment made through the National Partnership Agreement.
2. Ensuring healthcare and mental health professionals receive specialist training on the following:
 - Screening for signs of domestic, family intimate partner or sexual violence.
 - Responding to disclosures of domestic, family, intimate partner or sexual violence in ways that take the needs of victim-survivors into consideration.
3. Addressing sexual harassment by:
 - Acknowledging the impact of sexual harassment and ensuring there are explicit strategies to prevent and address this issue.
 - Engaging in primary prevention to address sexual harassment through age-appropriate and evidenced based respectful relationship education offered to all children and young people.
4. Investment in primary prevention activities aimed specifically at young men and boys, with the goal of engendering respectful attitudes towards women and girls.
5. Including initiatives that support men who use violence to maintain an active connection with perpetrator services, including through:
 - The creation of policy and program frameworks together with sustainable funding certainty to increase the capacity of services in NSW working directly with men to end their use of violence.
 - Providing funding that increases the capacity of perpetrators services in NSW, with specific focus on new programs in regional and remote areas, and tailored perpetrator interventions which are community led and developed for Aboriginal communities, gay, bi, trans and queer men, and migrant and refugee men.
 - Providing specialist training to ensure that actors within the criminal justice, civil justice and child protection systems, and non-mandated service systems, can identify men using violence and proactively connect them with services.
6. Implementing innovative perpetrator crisis accommodation programs alongside those aimed at keeping women and girls experiencing violence within their homes.

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the development of a new NSW Women's Strategy. No to Violence notes the successes outcomes of the 2018-2022 Strategy, including investment in frontline service responses to domestic and family violence. This included increased support for Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) and other perpetrator interventions, including funding No to Violence's expansion of perpetrator interventions and related services in NSW.

No to Violence recognises that gender inequality is a key driver of violence against women and girls. This recognition is firmly imbedded in all service delivery work we undertake with men, and the training we deliver to other organisations who are taking action to achieve gender equality in the workplace. As a national peak body we advocate for the increased economic independence, health and wellbeing of all women and girls, including their right to live a life free from violence.

While we echo the importance of the focus areas for the next strategy, there remains a pressing need to improve the institutional responses to domestic and family violence in NSW. Responses to domestic and family violence within education facilities, workplaces, and the criminal justice system, still do not reflect the best interests of women and girls experiencing violence. To increase the participation of women and girls across these contexts, there is a clear requirement to address the structural issues that erase, minimise, and even justify abusive and exploitative behaviours.

In the following sections we outline our responses to the 13 consultation questions provided in the *Towards a new NSW Women's Strategy* Discussion Paper, with a focus on improving the safety and wellbeing of women and girls by addressing and preventing men's use of violence.

Responses to consultation questions

1. Since 2018, which improvements in gender equality in NSW have been most important for you?

No to Violence notes the following matters related to gender equality in NSW as the most relevant to our organisation:

- Better responses to domestic, family and sexual violence
- Better responses to sexual harassment and/or violence
- More awareness of domestic, family and sexual violence
- Greater awareness of sexual harassment and/or violence

2. Since 2018, which programs, partnerships or initiatives have made a difference for women and girls in NSW? If you know, tell us who ran them.

No to Violence would like to highlight the importance of the extra \$60 million provided over the last two years for frontline domestic and sexual violence services across NSW. This funding enhanced responses to domestic and family violence incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health measures. Extra funding for specialist domestic and family violence services makes a critical difference to the capacity of our sector and the quality and accessibility of support we provide

to victim-survivors, especially those experiencing multiple and compounding forms of marginalisation. Holistic and whole-of-system responses provide the best possible outcomes for women and children experiencing violence.

Additional Covid-19 funding enhanced No to Violence's support to the NSW Men's Behaviour Change Network (MBCN), those registered providers of MBCPs in NSW. In addition to continuing with regular NSW MBCN meetings, No to Violence facilitated regular NSW Covid-19 drop-in sessions to support ongoing service delivery and the migration of face-to-face MBCPs to those delivered online in a safe and appropriate manner. Ongoing sustained levels of funding for the perpetrator-specific sector ensures new forms of ongoing and accessible service provision and supplements the traditional MBCP offerings.

No to Violence notes the additional investment to expand the Staying Home Leaving Violence program, which has enabled more women and children to avoid homelessness as a result of their experiencing family violence; nearly half of all people accessing homelessness services in Australia (42 per cent) have lived experience of domestic and family violence, and that most people included in this percentage are women and girls.¹ Furthermore, older women remain one of the fastest growing cohorts of homeless people, with one 2020 study indicating that 36 per cent of women aged 55 years and over attending Specialist Homelessness Services in 2018-19 were due to domestic and family violence.² No to Violence knows that efforts to keep victim-survivors within the home while removing perpetrators are significant steps towards reducing the burden of homelessness faced by women and children. Investment in Staying Home Leaving Violence should be expanded to ensure all victim-survivors are afforded safe, secure and stable housing options at the time they need it, and in any geographic location.

No to Violence welcomes the investment in MBCPs and other perpetrator interventions. These initiatives have enhanced the safety of women and children living in NSW. A core principle of the Practice Standards for MBCPs, which all registered MBCPs in NSW must adhere to, is "[t]he safety of victims, including children, must be given the highest priority".³ MBCPs are an important mechanism to keep men in view of the system while starting them on their journey to taking accountability for their choice to use violence. MBCPs, either internally or in partnership with another local support service, also offer support to current and ex partners, and children (if any) of men participating in MBCPs. Continuation of this funding together with additional investment in case management for men together with the evaluation of program outcomes, are vital to provide the best possible response and recovery for affected women and children.

No to Violence's expansion of perpetrator intervention services into NSW has contributed to the improved safety of women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. No to Violence has provided valuable sector support through facilitating regular Communities of Practices and Forums for MBCP practitioners and Women's and Children's Advocates/Family Safety Workers, developing practice materials and guidelines, and providing the secretariat function to the NSW

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2019). Family, domestic, and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019—In brief. Cat. no. FDV 4. Canberra: AIHW.

² Faulkner, D. & Lester, L. (2020). At Risk: Understanding the population size and demographics of older women at risk of homelessness in Australia. Social Ventures Australia.

³ NSW Government. (2017). Practice Standards for Men's Domestic Violence Behaviour Change Programs. <https://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/domesticviolence/PublishingImages/NSW%20Department%20of%20Justice%20-%20Men%27s%20Behaviour%20Change%20Programs%20-%20Practice%20Standards.pdf>

MBCN. Furthermore, we work closely with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to develop culturally responsive and safe behavioural change programs. As the national peak in perpetrator intervention services, we continue to work with our sector colleagues and government in the setting of policy responses to family and intimate partner violence through the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Ministerial Council.

Covid-19 funding enhancements enabled No to Violence to establish a NSW branch of the Men's Referral Service (MRS), which connects men using violence to specialised counsellors and local behavioural change programs. MRS continued to engage with perpetrators during the Covid-19 lockdowns in NSW in 2020 and 2021, where local face-to-face behavioural change programs were suspended due to public health restrictions. The flow on effect has continued to increase demand for service responses, and long waitlists remain an issue due to the previous cancellation of in-person service delivery. MRS received 15,938 NSW police referrals in 2019-2020 and 34,527 referrals during 2020–2021 – a 117% increase. This increase exemplifies the importance of this service in NSW.

The Brief Intervention Service offered by MRS, launched in mid-2020, was also a strong referral pathway for NSW MBCPs to use to ensure perpetrators were actively engaged and supported while waiting for local MBCP in-person group work to resume. Overall, we supported 294 clients from across Australia in 2020-2021. This support was vital to ensure men could stay engaged in the service system while enabling them to receive support prior to the commencement of group work. The Brief Intervention Service is a vital component of starting men on their change journeys.

Due to the importance of these measures, a new NSW Women's Strategy should include a commitment to, at a minimum, maintain existing levels of support and resourcing for services. This will ensure that women and girls affected by domestic and family violence can access coordinated, timely and trauma-informed responses in line with best practice.

Recommendations

- 1. Inclusion of a commitment to, at the minimum, maintain current levels of funding provided for specialist frontline domestic and family violence services, including those that support perpetrator interventions, including the additional investment made through the National Partnership Agreement.**

3. Which are the most important issues that need to be addressed to create a positive future for women and girls?

No to Violence feels the most critical issues that must be addressed to create a positive future for women and girls are:

- Other: Ensuring men are held accountable for violence against women and girls
- Better responses to domestic, family and sexual violence
- Better responses to sexual harassment and/or violence.

4. How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect key areas of your life?

This question is not applicable to our organisation.

5. How has COVID-19 changed your priorities?

This question is not applicable to our organisation.

6. To improve your health and wellbeing, what support do you need the most?

No to Violence recommends the following support is most needed to improve the health and wellbeing of women and girls in NSW.

- More access to specialist domestic and family violence services
- More access to health services (GP, specialists, pharmacists)
- More access to mental health support

Our answers reflect the significant health impacts of domestic and family violence on women and girls. The 2015 Australian Burden of Disease Study determined that partner violence is one of the top three leading risk factors that contributes to the disease burden for women aged 25-44.⁴ Furthermore, experiences of domestic violence are linked to depressive disorders, alcohol use disorders, and early pregnancy loss.⁵

For many victim-survivors, family violence may be identified or revealed in healthcare settings rather than through direct reporting with specialist services; this may especially be the case for marginalised women, who may have access to health services but limited access to domestic and family violence services. For instance, women living with disability are almost twice as likely to experience physical or sexual violence from a partner, and one in four women with a disability have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.⁶ It is not always possible for people with a disability to contact domestic and family violence support services, which in turn means that healthcare professionals may be the first to notice and respond to signs of abuse.⁷ Additionally, trans women experience higher rates of sexual violence than cisgender women, with trans women of colour at highest risk, often compounded by a lack of accessible, inclusive and visible health and support services.⁸ This increases the importance of accessible health and mental health services and support.

Improved access to healthcare services alone will not address the impacts of domestic and family violence on women and girls living in NSW. Healthcare and mental health professionals require specialist training on screening for and responding to signs of domestic and family violence. This includes training on responding to disclosures appropriately and safely, in a trauma and violence-informed way, as well as ensuring people experiencing violence are connected to the appropriate

⁴ Ayre, J., Lum On, M., Webster, K., Gourley, M., & Moon, L. (2016). Examination of the burden of disease of intimate partner violence against women in 2011: Final report (ANROWS Horizons, 06/2016). Sydney: ANROWS.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2019. Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019. Cat. no. FDV 3. Canberra: AIHW.

⁷ 1800Respect, n.d. Responding to violence against people with a disability. Medibank Health Solutions.

<https://www.1800respect.org.au/inclusive-practice/supporting-people-with-disability/responding-effectively>

⁸ Ussher, J., Hawkey, A., Perz, J., Liamputtong, P., Marjadi, B., Schmied, V., Dune, T., Sekar, J., Ryan, S., Charter, R., Thepsourinthone, J., Noack-Lundberg, K., Brook, E. (2020). Crossing the line: Lived experience of sexual violence among trans women of colour from culturally and linguistically (CALD) backgrounds in Australia (Research report), Sydney: ANROWS.

services⁹. No to Violence recommends that healthcare and mental health services professionals are provided with specialist training to understand and screen for signs of domestic and family violence, and training aimed at providing a safe and supported response and preliminary safety planning for victim-survivors.

Recommendations

2. Ensuring healthcare and mental health professionals receive specialist training on the following:

- a. Screening for signs of domestic and family violence.
- b. Responding to disclosures of domestic and family violence in ways that take the needs of victim-survivors into consideration.

7. Which health issues would you like to see more research and information on for women?

No to Violence recommends additional research and information on the following topics:

- Other: the impact of domestic and family violence on women's health
- Sexual health
- Relationship between acquired brain injury, cognitive impairment, mental health and intimate partner violence

8. How well do workplaces manage health and related issues for women?

This question is not applicable to our organisation.

9. What else could be done to create safe and respectful workplaces that support gender equality?

To create safe and respectful workplaces that truly support gender equality, concerted effort is required to end the scourge of sexual harassment, misconduct and assault endured by working women across the economy. We know that women are twice as likely as men to experience sexual harassment over their lifetime, and that lower life satisfaction, financial stress, and economic wellbeing were all associated with higher rates of sexual harassment.¹⁰

The NSW Women's Strategy should include information on the impact of sexual harassment and develop explicit strategies to prevent and address this form of gendered violence in all workplaces.

⁹ We would like to note that Insight Exchange have some useful resources regarding how to pick a counsellor that has a informed understanding of domestic, family and sexualised violence: <https://www.insightexchange.net/selecting-a-counsellor/>

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2021. Sexual Harassment. Australian Bureau of Statistics. <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/sexual-harassment>

Furthermore, the NSW government should extend and continuously improve age-appropriate and evidenced based respectful relationship education offered to all children and young people.¹¹

Women experiencing domestic and family violence should be appropriately supported in their workplaces. Domestic and family violence can deeply affect a victim-survivor's capacity to work and their quality of work, resulting in unfair sanctions or even job loss if employers lack an understanding of these issues.¹²

Workplaces require specialised domestic and family violence training to improve their support of women experiencing family violence. For example, No to Violence's Workforce Development team offers bespoke training on workplace responses to domestic and family violence, such as customised versions of our [Everyday Conversations](#) course. In the last 12 months, we have delivered 25 programs focused on responding to domestic and family violence to a total of 273 participants. This included specific training delivered through our engagement with VET Development Centre (VTC), which is designed to support teachers in responding to students' disclosures. We strongly recommend that the updated NSW Women's Strategy highlights the importance of such training to ensure organisations provide safer and trauma-informed responses.

Recommendations

3. The NSW Women's Strategy should address sexual harassment by:

- Acknowledge the impact of sexual harassment and ensuring there are explicit strategies to prevent and address this issue.
- Engage in primary prevention to address sexual harassment through age-appropriate and evidenced based respectful relationship education offered to all children and young people.

10. What could be done to ensure diverse women and girl's voices are heard?

No to Violence advocates that all women and girls should be proactively included in addressing issues that impact their lives and overall wellbeing. For marginalised women and girls experiencing domestic and family violence, this includes purposefully incorporating a lived experience voice and/or survivor advocate to inform all major policy and practice developments. In addition, the contributions of survivor advocates should be fairly and adequately compensated. Finally, all women and girls should be supported to participate in all areas of society, including but not limited to:

- The provision of accredited interpreters for women and girls who speak limited or no English.

¹¹ Recommendation 10 of the Respect@Work Report states "All Australian governments ensure children and young people receive school-based respectful relationships education that is age appropriate, evidence-based and addresses the drivers of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment".

¹² Fair Work Ombudsman. n.d. Employer Guide to Family and Domestic Violence. Australian government, Canberra. <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/sites/default/files/migration/1414/employer-guide-to-family-and-domestic-violence.pdf>

- Provision of Australian sign language and other signing languages to communicate with women and girls.
- Upholding the rights of women with disabilities by ensuring that meetings are accessible for women and girls who use mobility aids, or have any other accessibility needs met, and that information about accessibility is provided well in advance of these engagements.
- Providing the opportunity to bring a support person to key engagements.
- Engaging inclusively with the LGBTIQ+ community
- Making an effort to visit key communities for consultations, instead of expecting delegates to navigate unfamiliar contexts and environments.

11. What could be done to change attitudes towards women and girls, especially to challenge stereotypes and overcome biases?

All violence against women and girls begins with disrespectful behaviour.

To change the attitudes towards women and girls that underpin domestic and family violence, the NSW government should consider new and additional investment in primary prevention aimed specifically at young men and boys. In particular, we reference healthy masculinity initiatives such as [The Men's Project](#) (Jesuit Social Services), an evidence-based program aimed at supporting men and boys to live respectful, accountable and fulfilling lives free from violence and other harmful behaviour. We also reference Queensland's male Youth Ambassador program [Men4Respect](#), where youth ambassadors model the values and behaviours of respectful relationships and deliver educational activities face-to-face and online. We acknowledge the recent [Make No Doubt](#) affirmative consent campaign aimed at raising awareness and understanding of affirmative sexual consent among young people, to support the introduction of affirmative sexual consent laws that came into force in NSW on 1 June this year¹³. Ongoing investment in program delivery and public awareness campaigns over the entirety of the revised NSW Women's Strategy is recommended to prevent the onset of abusive behaviours and provides targeted opportunities for engagement across all communities and neighbourhoods.

More needs to be done to address the institutional, systemic and structural factors that lead to gender-based violence, such as men's control of decision-making, limitations to women's independence, rigid gender roles and identities, and male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women in public and in private.

Recommendations

4. Investment into primary prevention activities aimed specifically at young men and boys, with the goal of engendering respectful attitudes towards women and girls.

12. What could men and boys do to contribute to gender equality in NSW?

Family violence is everyone's problem, but it begins, and ends, with men. Men and boys should contribute to gender equality in NSW by calling out sexist and abusive behaviour and holding each

¹³ More information on the Make No Doubt affirmative consent campaign and the new "common sense" law reforms is provided in the following article from the Law Society Journal, authored by Liz Snell in 2022: <https://lsj.com.au/articles/affirmative-consent-what-the-commonsense-nsw-law-reforms-mean/>

other to account. This should be supported through school-based education initiatives that teach young men and boys about what behaviours are unacceptable, as well as how to be an “active bystander”.

Men should be proactively invited into conversations about gender-based violence. For too long, addressing gender inequality and violence has been treated as the sole responsibility of women and girls. It is time that men became active participants in these conversations and demonstrated more active forms of allyship. To quote No to Violence’s CEO Jacqui Watt, “we need to reach out to men and boys, bring them in, and make them part of the solution if we truly want to end gendered violence”.¹⁴

Men who use violence should be supported to maintain an active connection with perpetrator services, including MBCPs and other initiatives and should be encouraged by the services and agencies that encounter perpetrators, as they are all part of the “web of accountability” that provides protection for victim-survivors.¹⁵ To support this, No to Violence recommends the following actions:

- The creation of policy and program frameworks together with sustainable funding certainty to increase the capacity of services in NSW working directly with men to end their use of violence.
- Prioritise the creation of new programs in regional and rural areas where services are less accessible, and tailored perpetrator interventions which are community led and developed for Aboriginal communities, gay, bi, trans and queer men, and migrant and refugee men.
- The provision of specialist training to ensure that actors within the criminal justice, civil justice and child protection systems, and non-mandated service systems, can identify men using violence and proactively connect them with services.

Recommendations

5. The inclusion of initiatives that support men who use violence to maintain an active connection with perpetrator services, including through:

- The creation of policy and program frameworks together with sustainable funding certainty to increase the capacity of services in NSW working directly with men to end their use of violence.
- Providing funding that increases the capacity of perpetrator services in NSW, with specific focus on new programs in regional and remote areas, and tailored perpetrator interventions which are community led and developed for Aboriginal communities, gay, bi, trans and queer men, and migrant and refugee men.
- Providing specialist training to ensure that actors within the criminal justice, civil justice and child protection systems, and non-mandated service systems, can identify men using violence and proactively connect them with services

¹⁴ No to Violence. 15 March 2022. No to Violence and White Ribbon Australia call for funding to stop male violence [media release]. <https://ntv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/No-to-Violence-and-White-Ribbon-Australia-call-for-funding-to-stop-male-violence.pdf>

¹⁵ Royal Commission into Family Violence. 2016. Volume III: Report and recommendations. Royal Commission into Family Violence, Victoria. <http://www.rcfv.com.au/MediaLibraries/RCFamilyViolence/Reports/Final/RCFV-Vol-III.pdf>

13. What else is important to include in the strategy?

No to Violence recommends that programs that enable women and girls experiencing violence to stay within the family home be accompanied by crisis accommodation for men using violence.

Excluding perpetrators from the home enables women and girls to stay at home. New and innovative programs that support men who are ready to take accountability for their behaviour and connect him with intervention services. Emergency accommodation, especially when paired with counselling services, offers an important first step for men on their change journey.

Emergency accommodation for men using violence enhances the safety of victim-survivors. Perpetrators experiencing homelessness and housing instability are much more difficult to monitor and keep within view.¹⁶ Additionally, frontline service practitioners previously consulted by No to Violence have highlighted a higher risk of perpetrators who have been excluded but who are facing homelessness or housing insecurity returning to the home and continuing to intimidate, threaten or stalk their victims. Importantly, crisis accommodation on its own is not enough; men using violence require wrap-around support and a multiagency response to create the best possible conditions for lasting behavioural change.¹⁷

The Fixed Address program is delivered by Kempsey Families, Warrina and Liberty specialist domestic and family violence services and provides intensive case management and accommodation to men excluded from their homes due to their use of violent and abusive behaviours.¹⁸ This program enables men to begin taking accountability through intensive case management, and it keeps perpetrators within view of the system.¹⁹ This program a good example of best practice in connecting perpetrators to accommodation and wrap-around service support.

No to Violence recommends that the NSW Women's Strategy includes perpetrator crisis accommodation housing programs alongside any initiatives aimed at keeping women and girls experiencing violence within their homes. No to Violence has a strong evidence base for best-practice perpetrator accommodation through our Men's Accommodation and Counselling Service (MACS) program and we would welcome an opportunity to work with the NSW government to explore a similar initiative.²⁰

¹⁶ For instance, see Coroner Gray's findings in the 2015 Luke Batty Inquest, which noted that Luke's father Greg Anderson was able to avoid police and service responses due to a lack of permanent address.

¹⁷ Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)-lead Perpetrators and Housing Working Group. (2021). Accommodation for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. DAHA, London: United Kingdom. <https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/media/11029/accommodation-for-perpetrators-of-domestic-abuse-discussion-paper-apr-21.pdf>; Royal Commission into Family Violence. 2016.

¹⁸ Department of Family and Community Services. 2018. Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund Round 2. NSW Government. <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/dcj-website/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/programs-grants-and-funding/grants/Factsheet-Fixed-Address-Kempsey-Families-Inc.pdf>; Kempsey Families Inc. n.d. Fixed Address: Keeping women and children safe by working with men. Kempsey Families Inc. <https://kempseyfamilies.org.au/fixed-address-intensive-case-management/>

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ This program was evaluated in 2021 by EY Australia. Importantly, MACs was found to be effective in engaging a broad and diverse range of men who use violence, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men; men from a wide range of age groups; men from urban and regional areas, with more than one-third of clients being from regional areas; and men from different cultural backgrounds. The evaluation also found that client engagement in PASS correlated to increased levels of stability and safety for women and children identified as affected family members.

Recommendations

6. The implementation of innovative perpetrator crisis accommodation housing alongside any initiatives aimed at keeping women and girls experiencing violence within their homes.

Concluding statement

No to Violence welcomes the opportunity to provide advice and feedback on the next NSW Women's Strategy. We reiterate that addressing domestic and family violence should be a priority for this strategy, due to the overwhelming impact that violence has on the economic opportunity, health and overall wellbeing of women and girls.

Family and domestic violence is everyone's problem. But it begins – and ends – with men. We hope the next women's strategy acknowledges that working with men is a vital part of the journey towards a truly equal world, and that the NSW government continues to shift the burden of family violence by supporting and funding a thriving, sustainable and accessible men's family violence sector.