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No to Violence

Leading the change to end male family violence in Australia



September Members' Newsletter

September 2024

Dear valued NTV member,

What a wonderful Conference we had earlier this month! With around 500 delegates, *NTV 2024 Conference: Leading Radical Change* was NTV's biggest national Conference ever.

I was thrilled to be part of an event that saw people from different sectors right across the country collaborating, sharing experiences and having critically important conversations about ending men's use of family violence. And I was so pleased to see so many of our members there too – to those of you who were able to be there, thank you for coming, supporting the Conference and contributing to the vital discussions we need to engage in as a sector.



The Conference capped off another very busy few weeks here at NTV. One of the highlights for me was my visit to Canberra. I was fortunate to meet with the Prime Minister's office as well as with Hon Justine Elliot MP, Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and the Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Senator Kerry Liddle, in the lead up to National Cabinet.

on the progress of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children. It was pleasing to hear the Commissioner's calls to focus on men and men's use of violence as a national priority.

Developing a deeper understanding of family violence perpetration is vital if we are to ensure effective, appropriate responses are available to reduce and ultimately end family violence. Our sector's lack of access to relevant, useful and timely data remains a key barrier to our understanding of men's use of family violence. Following detailed consultation with our members, NTV presented at the Victorian Government's Inquiry into capturing data on family violence perpetrators in August.

We highlighted the critical need to broaden our data sets beyond Police, Courts and other government-held data in recognition of the significant underreporting of family violence. We also stressed the need to improve data and information sharing, broaden access to Victoria's Central Information Point and address the issue of misidentification of primary aggressors, an issue disproportionately affecting First Nations and other marginalised groups.

And then we had the Conference – and what a Conference it was! So many inspiring and insightful presentations delivered by so many expert, passionate people, and so many people connecting over a shared vision. I am so grateful to everyone who participated at this year's Conference, either as a sponsor, speaker, panellist, lived experience advocate or delegate.

I would also like to acknowledge the work put in by the team here at NTV to host the Conference, especially our Head of Engagement Lizette Twisleton for curating such an impressive program. Sadly, this was Lizette's last Conference as an NTV employee, as she has accepted an exciting new role closer to family and friends in the beautiful Northern Rivers region of NSW.

I want to thank Lizette for her incredible service to NTV, not just for organising unforgettable conferences but also all her other work with and within our sector. In our next newsletter we will share a little more information about the impact Lizette has made here at NTV.

In the meantime, let's all build on the momentum generated at NTV 2024 Conference to really lead the radical change we need to stop men's use of family violence in Australia.

Thank you.

Phillip



News

National Cabinet announcements 'opaque and ambiguous at best, betrayal at worst'

Earlier this month the Prime Minister met with all the Premiers and Chief Ministers for the second National Cabinet dedicated to gender-based violence. While the subsequent announcement of \$4.4 billion sounded impressive, sadly it was a case of 'smoke and mirrors'.

Access to Justice NPA

The significant funding announcement referenced funding for frontline family, domestic and sexual violence services, however this was misleading. What was actually announced was funding for two entirely different National Partnership Agreements (NPAs).

The first was the Access to Justice NPA. This is the instrument that funds state based legal aid services (the vast bulk of the money) as well as a much smaller amount that goes towards Community Legal Centres (CLC). Of this much smaller amount of funding, an even smaller proportion is provided to specialist 'women's legal services' and an even smaller amount going to specialist family violence CLCs.

Now, no doubt mainstream women's legal services, Community Legal Services and even state

family violence services’.

Family Violence NPA

The second funding announcement from National Cabinet was in relation to the Family Violence NPA. This is the NPA that matters to our sector. This NPA provides the underpinning for national collaboration and funding for family violence.

The Commonwealth government announced a \$351 million funding contribution over five years through the next phase of the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses (NPA). The current agreement is set to expire in June 2025. Commonwealth funding for the current Family Violence NPA is \$80 million. Average annual funding under the new NPA will be \$70 million, a \$10 million cut or a 12.5% cut to the average annual funding under the current agreement.

By way of background and according to the first Yearly Report to Parliament by the Australian Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission:

- The original Family Violence NPA was first invested \$130 million across 2020-21.
- The second Family Violence NPA extended over two years (2021-23) and received Commonwealth funding of \$270.2 million, an average of \$135.1 million per year.
- The current (2023-2025) Family Violence NPA receives Commonwealth funding of \$159 million for two years 2023-25, an average of \$79.5 million per year.
- The proposed new Family Violence NPA announced following September's national cabinet will include \$351 million of Commonwealth funding over five years - extending until June 2030 with an average of \$70 million per year.

During this time there have been two additional funding streams:

- 500 Workers Initiative (2022-26): \$165 million
- Innovative Perpetrator Response (2022-27): \$25 million

For more details on each state and territory current contracts please go [here](#).

NTV has written to the Prime Minister and Minister for Social Services and Assistant Minister along with the Secretary of the Department to confirm our analysis of the announcements and are yet to receive a response.

In the meantime it is hoped that the States and Territories will contribute a further \$351 million to the next Family Violence National Partnership Agreement. Finally, NTV welcomes the pledge of governments to improve transparency and accountability for NPA funding – a process that should

NTV continues to call for a national strategy that puts men in the frame and provides a far broader suite of interventions to stop men using family violence and provide pathways out of using violence.

Read our media release [here](#).

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner update on the government's plan to end male violence

Most of you will be aware that Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Micaela Cronin provided her first update on the progress of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children last month.

NTV applauds the Commissioner's calls to focus on men and men's use of violence as a national priority and agrees the current National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children needs to continue to evolve and develop.

We were hoping the report would emphasise this crucial need to do more to stop violence at the source, and it did. It was definitive in saying that 'Men must be a part of every aspect of ending violence'.

Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children Inquiry

After two years and 16 hearings, the Senate Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations women handed down its report in August. The Inquiry found that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children are disproportionately impacted by men's use of violence.

This is what First Nations women have been telling us for many many years, and NTV echoes the calls of those working within First Nations communities for urgent and increased investment in the work being done on the frontline of Aboriginal women and children's safety.

Read the report [here](#).

Minimum age of criminal responsibility

Informed by you, our members, at our recent Conference NTV officially called for the minimum age of criminal responsibility to be raised to at least 16 years old for domestic and family violence offences.

violence.

As a first step, NTV will be signing Change the Record's '[Raise the Age](#)' campaign. We are also calling on the Victorian Government to reconsider its abandoned commitment to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 and the Northern Territory government to not act on its decision to lower it back to 10. These moves will further harm marginalised and vulnerable children and young people, reinforcing cycles of disadvantage.

To support long-term and meaningful behaviour change for children and young people using family violence, we need trauma-informed, therapeutic responses. We must prioritise strengths-based approaches that affirm a young person's identity, which importantly relates to their place in their community.

Read our position statement [here](#).

NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT) report

DVDRT released its report on deaths from domestic and family violence in NSW between 2000 and 2022 in August. The report contained stark and sobering findings especially in relation to First Nations and migrant and refugee women being tragically disproportionately represented in these homicide figures (noting that men using violence against Aboriginal women are most often not Indigenous).

The report was yet another reminder of the critical need to increase resourcing for frontline domestic and family violence services working to stop men's use of family violence and support the safety of women, young people, children and communities - not just in NSW but in all jurisdictions.

Read the report [here](#).

NTV supporting ANROWS webinar on working with data

Our Head of Policy and Research, Dr Rebecca Buys, took part in the ANROWS Webinar on 'Making better use of existing administrative data'. The webinar explored challenges and opportunities when working with existing datasets, data custodian and researcher partnerships, data sovereignty, and ethical principles for working with existing data. You can watch it [here](#).

Victorian Government Inquiry into capturing perpetrator data

The Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee is seeking input from a broad range of experts on the mechanisms for capturing data on the profile and volume of people using family violence in Victoria and what additional data could help achieve a full understanding of this cohort.

The Committee is also seeking to understand more about the barriers to collecting this data and how they can be overcome.

NTV highlighted the critical need to develop a deeper understanding of family violence perpetration to ensure effective, appropriate responses are available to, ultimately, reduce and end family violence. However they made clear there is no simple solution. The difficulty of understanding the scale and dynamics of family violence perpetration in Victoria mirrors the complexity of the problem itself.

The recommendations NTV put forward in our submission to the Inquiry in June shone light on the nuance needed to build a deeper understanding of this complexity without doing additional harm to victim-survivors and already marginalised communities.

All work to capture data on family violence perpetration in Victoria must centre the experiences and perspectives of victim-survivors, including children, especially those from marginalised communities, and specialist family violence practitioner knowledge.

Read [our submission](#) to the Inquiry.

Engaging in Change: A Victorian study of perpetrator program attrition and participant engagement in men's behaviour change programs

A new study by Monash University explored the experiences of men who had participated in men's behaviour change programs along with family members of participants and practitioners who deliver the programs.

NTV were pleased to partner with Monash for this report, which concluded that behaviour change programs are crucial components in the effort to enhance the accountability of those who use domestic and family violence while also revealing ways to improve these services to reduce domestic, family, and sexual violence.

Read the research [here](#).

Respect Victoria's 'Willing, capable' report

masculine norms, and what this means for preventing violence against women. [Willing, capable: men, masculinities and the prevention of violence against women](#) presents findings from focus group discussions with Australian men, following on from the Man Box 2024 report. It explores how men conform to, navigate or challenge harmful expressions of masculinity.

Read more [here](#).

Introducing START, Men's Behaviour Change Program

NTV is pleased to introduce START, a group specifically for gay, bi, trans, and queer men who are looking to build relationships which are **Safe, Trusting, Accountable, Respectful, and Transformative**.

This group joins Thorne Harbour health's broadening [family violence services](#) and seeks to support individuals in changing harmful behaviours and creating healthier relationships.

With rising rates of family violence across the country, we know that we need to work with people using violence to explore the impacts of their behaviours and beliefs, and provide a non-judgemental environment to start making the positive changes needed to develop and maintain healthy relationships.

We hope that this queer and trans affirmative group will address this need.

Eligibility

This program is for all gay, bi, trans, and queer men, as well as non-binary people who feel the group would be a good fit. We encourage anyone who doesn't identify as such to get in contact - we may still be able to help. The group is available both online and in-person.

Referrals

We welcome self-referrals from individuals and referrals from external services. If you're making a referral on behalf of a client, please use our [referral form](#). Direct all questions to behaviourchange@thornehabrou.org.

Thorne Harbour Health is an accredited provider of men's behaviour change programs for the queer community. All programs are provided at no cost to participants.

NTV in the media

Phillip was quoted in a Women's Agenda [article](#) that looked at responses to Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Micaela Cronin's first update on the progress of the national plan to end violence against women and children.

Phillip was also interviewed and quoted extensively in for a story for News Corp media that looked at the impact of domestic and family violence in regional and remote communities in NSW.

Phillip's commentary also featured heavily in this weekend's Saturday Paper article titled 'Albanese's promise on family violence conceals multimillion-dollar cuts'. In the article, Phillip expresses the frustration felt by many in the sector that the government's announcements fall short of what is needed and lack transparency.

You can read the article [here](#).

Workforce Development

We are continuing to roll out the MARAM: Adults Using Family Violence learning program across Victoria.

We are facilitating customised MARAM training for a range of workforces including The Orange Door, Child Protection and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency.

Public MARAM training is also continuing for all prescribed professionals to identify, assess and manage family violence risk at the three different levels of responsibility Identification, Intermediate and Comprehensive.

Victorian members can register for the training and for further information by following the link to: [NTV | MARAM Adults Using Family Violence \(AUFV\) learning program](#).

For any further queries or questions about MARAM Training please email us at maram@ntv.org.au

Events

Stop Domestic Violence 2024

Now in its 10th year, the STOP Domestic Violence Conference brings together sector leaders, professionals, practitioners and victim-survivors for two days of sharing and learning.

The conference will take place in Adelaide this year, with an option to attend virtually.

When: Monday 25 – Thursday 27 November

Where: Adelaide or online

Price: \$499+

Read more and register [here](#).

NTV AGM notice

Our 2024 Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 24 October from 4pm. As a valued member of NTV, you along with all our other members will receive formal notice of the AGM soon.

Keep an eye out in your inbox!

We use our social media platforms to share information, provide expert commentary and prompt discussions around issues related to the family violence sector.

To be a part of the conversation, follow:



No to Violence acknowledges First Nations Peoples across these lands; the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters. We pay respect to all Elders, past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge a deep connection with country which has existed over 60,000 years.

We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and this was and always will be First Nation's land.

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