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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Australia Spends Billions Responding Too Late: Landmark Study Sets Out How to Stop Men's Violence Earlier

New research lands as governments shape the next phase of the National Plan and confront online misogyny, technology-enabled surveillance and rising sexual violence among young people.

Landmark new national research has found Australia is spending billions responding to domestic and family violence after harm has escalated, while investing next to nothing in the services capable of reaching men and boys earlier.

The report comes as governments shape the next five years of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children, after National Cabinet last week agreed priorities for its next phase. At the same time, governments are under growing pressure to respond to persistent violence and emerging forms of harm, including online misogyny, violent pornography and technology-enabled surveillance.

Released today by No to Violence, *From Fragmentation to Framework: Building an Ecosystem of Responses to End Men's Use of Domestic and Family Violence* argues the next phase of reform cannot simply respond to each new manifestation of harm in isolation.

Drawing on the expertise of around 150 practitioners across Australia, the 12-month national research project sets out the system needed to identify, engage and hold men accountable earlier, before violence and control escalate.

"We are spending billions responding after the damage is done. By the time police, courts and prisons step in, women and children may already have endured years of escalating violence and control. They should be the last resort, not the first meaningful response," No to Violence CEO Phillip Ripper said.

"The manosphere can reach a 15-year-old in his bedroom. Our response cannot wait until that same young man is standing in a courtroom years later. Governments know we need to act earlier, and this report shows them how."



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From Fragmentation to Framework also finds Australia still lacks a connected national system for engaging men before violence escalates, with existing responses too often fragmented, short-term and difficult to access.

The evidence base is also strikingly thin. Research involving men who have undertaken behaviour change treatment represents just 0.2 per cent of studies in the domestic and family violence literature.

“We still need to know much more about what works, for whom and at what point in a man’s use of violence, but we cannot keep funding isolated programs and hoping they add up to a system,” Mr Ripper said.

“Changing violent and controlling behaviour is rarely a single intervention. Men need pathways that can engage them earlier and keep them accountable over time.”

The report calls for a shared principles-based national framework, embedded within the National Plan and across Commonwealth, state and territory policy, backed by an interconnected continuum of responses.

This includes much earlier options for men at risk of or beginning to use violence, alongside tailored and accessible responses that can keep men engaged and accountable over time, while maintaining victim-survivor safety at the centre.

“The technology will change. The platforms will change. The ways men exert control will evolve. What cannot keep happening is Australia waiting until the harm has escalated before we respond.

“The blueprint is here. Governments now need to build the system around it: intervene earlier, fund responses at the scale of the problem and measure success by what matters most, whether women and children are safer.”



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About No to Violence

No to Violence is the Australian peak body for organisations and individuals committed to ending men's use of family violence. We support specialist men's family violence services and operate the national Men's Referral Service, a 24/7 telephone and online counselling and referral service to link men to the support they need to get on a pathway of change and end their use of family violence. We undertake research, training and advocacy and work with governments, employers and business to stop family violence at the source.

Please list the Men's Referral Service with all Domestic, Sexual and Family Violence stories

Men's Referral Service, provides counselling and referrals for men who are concerned about their behaviour: [1300 766 491](tel:1300766491)

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