

Key findings

Outlined below are the key findings for each chapter of the *2024 Yearly Report to Parliament*.

Progressing the National Plan

The Commission will continue to focus on governance of the National Plan's implementation and efforts to assess and measure progress. We will draw on the available reporting mechanisms once established.

Areas for focus

- The Australian Government must prioritise developing the new data sources and measures needed to assess progress of the National Plan within the life of the First Action Plan.
- The Australian Government must strengthen measures that relate to the system experience

of people who have experienced domestic, family and sexual violence, particularly the experiences of priority communities.

- All governments must ensure robust information sharing and good governance processes for co-design and decision-making.

Embedding lived experience

Governments have recognised the critical role of lived experience in policymaking. Lived experience engagement needs to be embedded across all aspects of policy design, implementation and evaluation, prioritising a co-design approach.

Areas for focus

- All agencies that engage with people with lived experience must provide adequate support to those contributing. This includes offering suitable debriefing and support services, and remuneration for their time and effort spent supporting government activities.

- Governments must consider how to engage with people who have used violence, including those from diverse populations, to inform improved interventions.

Improving the capacity of our systems

Governments have invested significant public funds to address domestic, family and sexual violence. Despite this, services and systems are overwhelmed by community need.

Areas for focus

- Frontline and crisis services need to be better and more sustainably resourced.
- Governments must consider new ways to fund services to ensure effective responses. The Productivity Commission is well placed to help review funding levels and arrangements.

- The Australian Government must work with states and territories to align the Family Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership agreement to the National Plan and Action Plans. The Department of Social Services should also design funding models that provide more certainty through longer funding periods.

System governance: integration sharing and learning

Governments need to improve collaborative governance mechanisms across all systems, ensure robust monitoring and accountability, and drive greater integration, sharing and learning from one another.

Areas for focus

- Governments need to ensure their systems are not causing harm to people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence.
- Governments should keep integrating and strengthening responses between the domestic and family violence, sexual assault, child protection and children and families' sectors to adequately address the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- As the First Nations National Plan for Family Safety is

finalised, the Department of Social Services should clarify the coordination of governance and progress monitoring of both national plans.

- Governments should commit to publicly sharing all evaluation results related to the National Plan.
- The Standing Council of Attorneys-General should work on making death reviews faster, more consistent, and better funded across the country. This includes Tasmania establishing a death review function.

Engaging men

Men must be a part of every aspect of ending violence. Governments must support efforts to redefine masculinity and engage men effectively. More intervention options for men using or at risk of using violence are needed, which take a trauma-informed approach, improve information sharing and risk assessment and management.

Areas for focus

- Governments must work with service providers and the community to offer more support options for men who are concerned about their behaviour and increase the capacity of related service sectors to respond to men's needs.
- The quality of these responses should be ensured through national standards and guidelines, building on work already underway.

→ Increased accountability for people who use violence is vital, taking into consideration the forms of accountability being sought by victim-survivors. Improved information sharing, risk assessments of men using violence known to the system and effective justice interventions that prevent harm are critical.

- Governments must prioritise developing new and better data on men who use violence, their pathways in and out of violence, and what works to engage men to end violence.

Building workforce capability

Workforce capability development needs national leadership, prioritising the specialist domestic, family, and sexual violence workforce. Since addressing domestic, family and sexual violence is a key element of work across many sectors, capability development and integration with these workforces is an opportunity to improve system responses.

Areas for focus

- A national workforce strategy will support collaborative workforce development. The Australian Government should build on work done by states and territories to develop a collaborative approach to national workforce development and investment, aligning with other social sector workforce planning to increase the number of qualified workers.

→ All governments should leverage broader workforces to help prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence. Workers should be well-equipped to intervene safely and effectively, with foundational training included in tertiary education for key professions, such as health and allied health, teaching, psychology and social work, and law.