

*Preventing and  
addressing violence  
against women and  
children: consulting on  
the next National Plan*



Your views will help all Australian governments to reduce violence against women and children by:

- *building on what is working,*
- *improving collaboration between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments, business and across the community.*

About this discussion guide:

This document is a visual aid to support you better in responding to the DSS Engage survey. Key principles are included to reflect what we have learned so far.



# Principles



Everyone has a right to live free from violence, and reducing violence against women and children is everyone's responsibility.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be at the centre of all aspects of responding to violence in their communities.

Gender inequality is a key driver of violence against women, and reinforced by factors such as socio-economic status, mental illness and prejudice.

Our approach to women and children with diverse lived experiences needs to be inclusive, strengths-based, and promote social cohesion.

Children and young people need responses that are age appropriate and tailored to their needs.

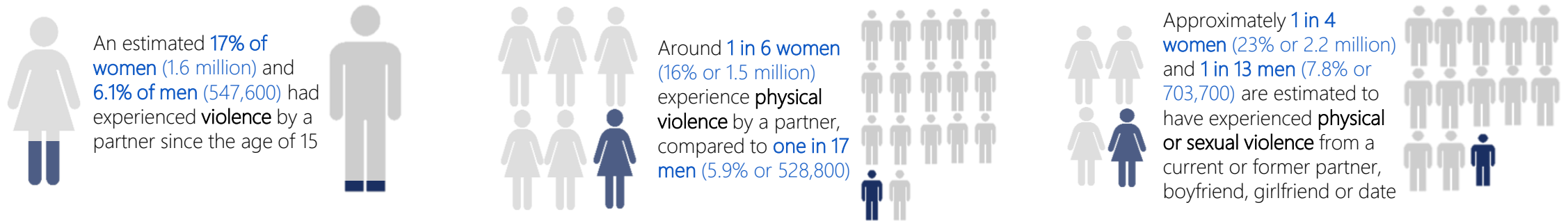
Actions will be based on evidence from lived experience and research relating to violence against women and children.

# Evidence

Since the age of 15, women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence. **Around 1 in 6 women experience physical violence by a partner, compared to one in 17 men.** Women are **eight times more likely** to experience sexual violence by a partner than men.

According to the ABS Personal Safety Survey (PSS);

- Around 15.5% of people (2.9 million) are estimated to have experienced **physical or sexual violence** from a current or former partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or date since the age of 15.
- Women aged 18 years and over were more likely than men to have experienced either **physical violence and/or sexual violence** by a partner since the age of 15.



- Around 11.7 % of people are estimated to have experienced **sexual violence** since the age of 15
- Around 19.5% of people are estimated to have experienced **emotional** abuse by a current or previous partner since the age of 15



# Evidence

## INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Indigenous adults are 34 times as likely to be hospitalised for family violence as non-Indigenous adults.

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## CHILDREN

In 2017–18, 22% (26,500) clients seeking specialist homelessness services as a result of family or domestic violence were aged 0–9 (AIHW 2019). For both women and men, experiencing abuse before the age of 15 increased their likelihood of experiencing intimate partner violence as an adult by threefold.

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## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

People with disability were 1.8 times as likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in the previous year, compared with people without disability.

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## PEOPLE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

People in remote and very remote Australia are more than 24 times as likely to be hospitalised for domestic violence as are people in major cities.

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## PEOPLE FROM CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTIALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

Between March 2013 and June 2016, the Australian Federal Police received 116 case referrals for forced marriage involving young females.

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## PEOPLE FROM SOCIOECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AREAS

People living in the most disadvantaged areas of Australia are 1.5 times as likely to experience partner violence as those living in areas of least disadvantage.

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## LGBTIQA+

In the last 5 years, workplace sexual harassment was higher among those identifying with diverse sexual orientation (52%) than among those identifying as heterosexual (31%).



# Draft Framework for Australia's National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children

## Vision

An Australia free from all forms of violence against women and children.

## Mission

Creating intergenerational change to eliminate violence against women and children.

### Principles

Everyone has a right to live free from violence, and reducing violence against women and children is everyone's responsibility.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are decision makers in responses to the family and sexual violence experience in their communities.

Gender inequality is a key driver of violence against women, and reinforced by factors such as socio-economic status, mental illness and prejudice.

Our approach to women and children with diverse lived experiences needs to be inclusive, strengths-based, and promote social cohesion.

Children and young people need responses that are age appropriate and tailored to their needs.

Actions will be evidence-based and build on research relating to violence against women and children.

### National Priorities

#### PRIMARY PREVENTION EFFECTIVE PRIMARY

Prevention initiatives to promote healthy and safe relationships and build gender equitable values is a key part of ending violence against women and children.

#### SUPPORT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO DRIVE CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their families to lead the creation of solutions. Delivering tailored, holistic trauma informed and culturally safe support that respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.

#### RESPECT, LISTEN AND RESPOND TO THE DIVERSE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

Acknowledging the intersecting forms of inequality that enable violence against women and using the lived experiences of women and children in policy and program development.

#### RESPOND TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

Strengthen the capacity of all sectors to address sexual violence and harassment to ensure women and children are safe at home, at work, while studying, in public and online.

#### IMPROVE SERVICE SYSTEM RESPONSES

Support services need specialised skills to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed and strength based support that meets the needs of women and children.

#### WORK WITH PERPETRATORS

Using a holistic approach to work with perpetrators of domestic family and sexual violence to inform prevention, deterrence, rehabilitation and ensure accountability.

#### STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Through better data, enhanced reporting frameworks and timely evaluations.

#### PARTNER

Collaborate across government, civil society, business and academia to ensure a coordinated response to reducing violence against women. All sectors need to be engaged in ending the cycle of violence and keeping women and children safe.

### Approaches

Prevention

Intervention

Response

Recovery

### Focus Areas

Children experiencing violence

Supporting women from diverse backgrounds

Coercive control

Mental health

Rural and remote communities

Financial abuse

LGBTIQ+ communities

Technology facilitated abuse

Alcohol and other drugs

The role of intergenerational trauma

Disability

### Outcomes

By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced by at least 50 per cent, as progress towards zero.

All communities are safe and free from violence.

Relationships are respectful.

Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence.

Justice responses are effective.

Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account.

# What do we want to achieve?

All communities are safe and free from gender-based violence

By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced by at least 50 per cent, as progress towards zero

Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account

Justice responses are effective

Services meet the needs of those experiencing violence

Relationships are respectful and gender equality is reinforced

## Vision:

An Australia free from all forms of gender-based violence

## Mission:

Creating intergenerational change to eliminate violence against women and children in Australia



# Areas of focus:

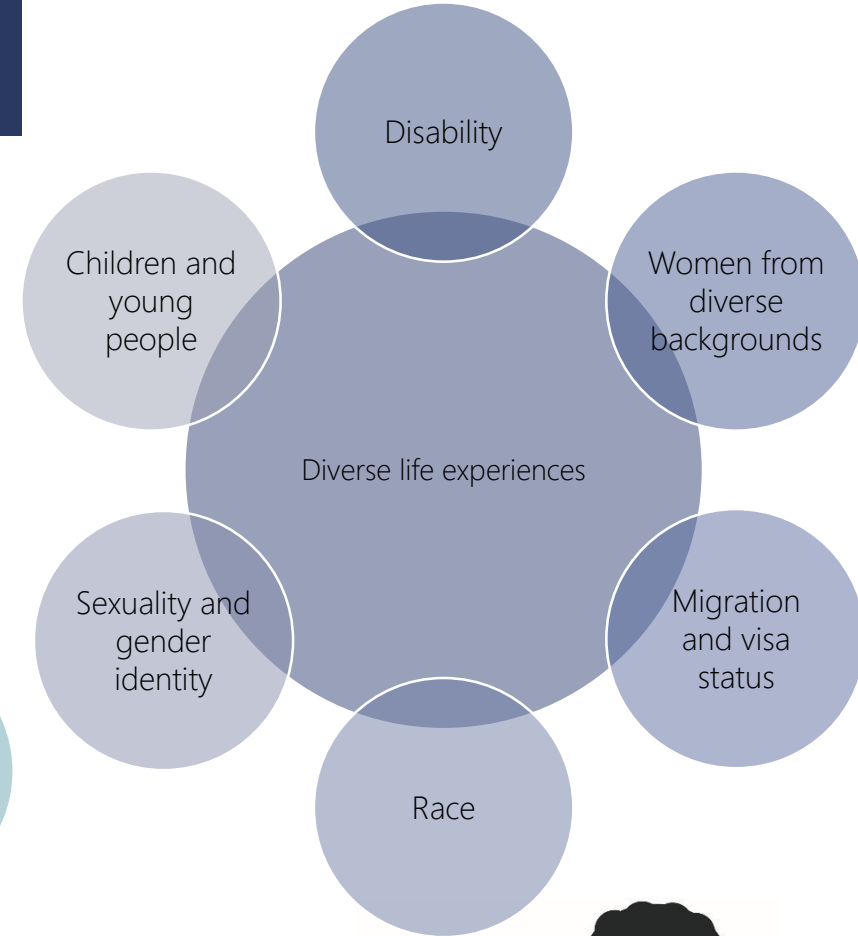
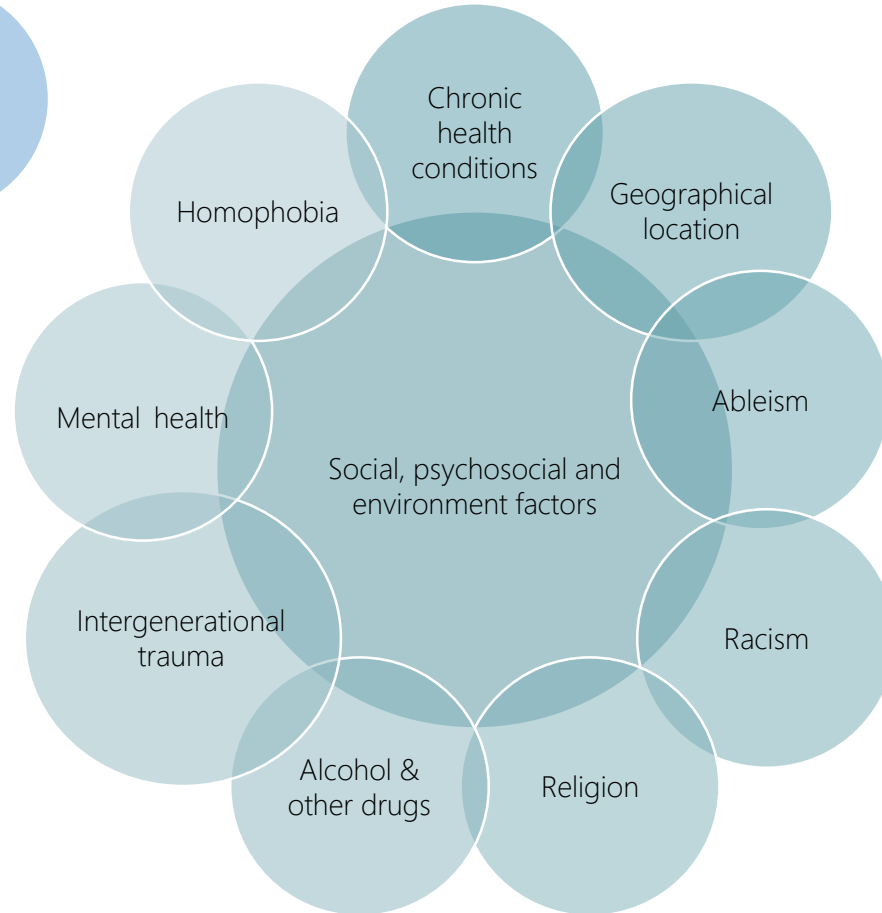
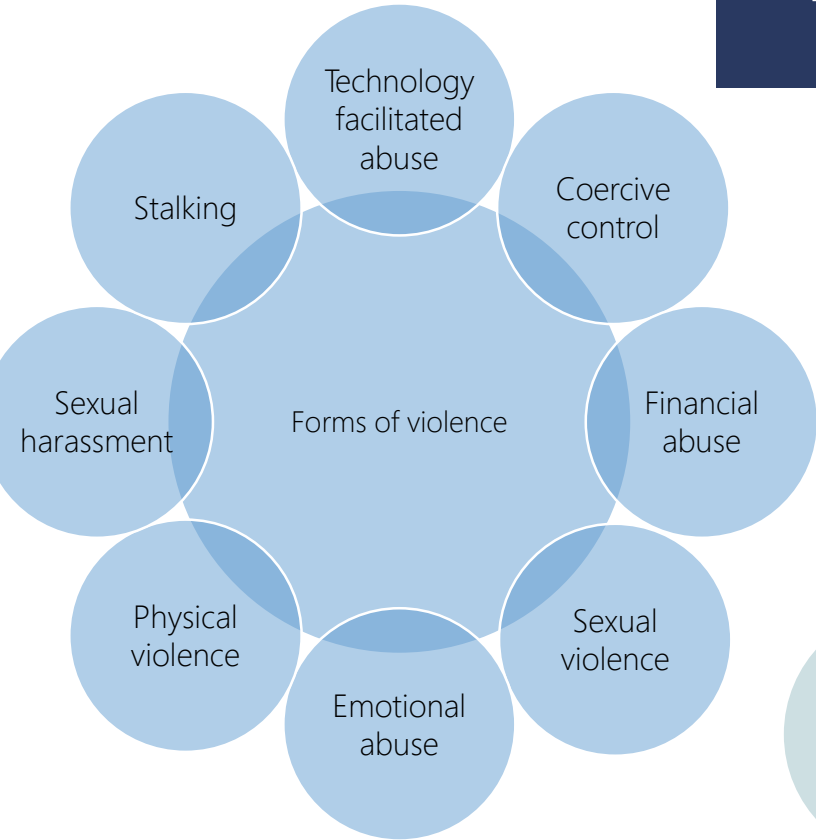
To reduce gender-based violence, we need a new National Plan which responds to need and is coordinated, based on evidence and agile enough to meet new and emerging challenges.



- Primary Prevention.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Children.
- Respect, listen and respond to the diverse lived experiences of women and children affected by violence.
- Respond to sexual violence.
- Improve service system responses.
- Work with perpetrators.
- Partner with all governments and settings.



# Many factors can affect the impacts of violence on those experiencing it



# Your feedback will form part of targeted consultation activities:



Accessible online feedback from interested parties including people experiencing violence and those supporting them as well as the general public.

A National Plan Advisory Group with experts on family, domestic and sexual violence.

To explore several focus areas:

*Primary prevention, including issues of gender and other exacerbating factors*

*Non-physical forms of abuse*

*Effectiveness of services*

*Men in different capacities including role models and perpetrators*

*Sexual violence*

*Responding to diverse experiences*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities*

*Women and children with disability*

**National Summit** to bring together key experts in a national conversation on the priorities and action required to prevent and respond to violence against women.

As well as consultations, the next National Plan will be informed by many other avenues, including previous evaluations, current evidence, the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) project and findings from the House Standing Committee Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence.

You can subscribe to updates on the feedback received during the consultation via DSS Engage and [plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au](https://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au).

