



Have your say about our Second Action Plan

**The National Plan to End Violence against
Women and Children 2022–2032**



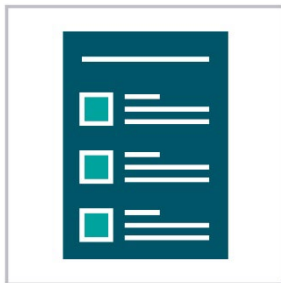
Easy Read version

How to use this document



We are the Australian Government
Department of Social Services.

We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page [36](#).



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of
another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



This is a long document.

You don't need to read it all at once.

You can take your time.



You can find the other document on our website.

www.engage.dss.gov.au/second-action-plan/consultation-paper/

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About our Second Action Plan



We are creating a new plan to help end **violence** against women and children.

We call it our Second Action Plan.



Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

It can also be called abuse.

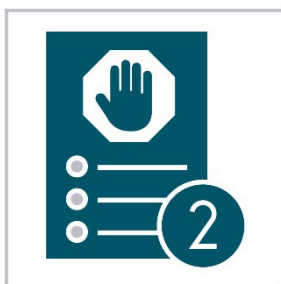


The Second Action Plan is about the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032.

In this document, we just say the National Plan.



We write an Action Plan every 5 years.



This is our second Action Plan.



Many women and children experience violence in their lives.

It will take a lot of work to end violence against women and children.



We need everyone to help us stop violence:

- before it starts
- from getting worse or happening again.



We also need everyone to help us support women and children:

- who experience violence
- to heal from violence.



We want to hear your ideas about our Second Action Plan.



You can share your ideas with us until **5 pm on 31 July 2026.**

Why we need a Second Action Plan



Our work has made a lot of things better.

But women and children deserve more.

Our Second Action Plan will help us:



- keep focusing on what works well



- work on more issues



- make sure services work well together.

What is getting better



There has been less:

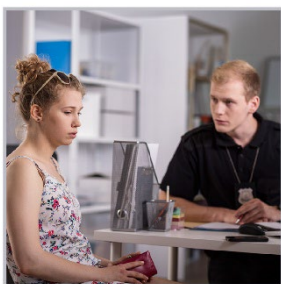
- physical violence
- **emotional violence.**



Emotional violence is when someone makes you feel bad on purpose.



More people are talking about violence against women and children.



This includes more people:

- asking for help
- getting support from the police.



Attitudes about violence in the community are getting better.

Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.



This means more people believe violence is not okay.



Workers are getting better at understanding and dealing with **family violence**.

Family violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



- your partner, like your boyfriend or girlfriend
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
- someone you live with.

What is not getting better



There has been **more sexual violence** since 2012.



Sexual violence is when someone:

- makes you do sexual things you don't want to do
- does something sexual to you that you don't want them to do.



There are new ways that people are using technology as part of their violence.

We call this **technology-facilitated abuse**.



For example, they might use a phone or computer.

Or they might use social media, like Facebook or Snapchat.



Some online communities are supporting **misogyny**.

Misogyny is when someone:



- hates women
- treats women unfairly
- believes women are less important than men.



Too many young children are learning these attitudes and ideas.



The risk of a child passing away because of violence or abuse from their parent has stayed the same.



Services don't always know when a person is experiencing:

- abuse to do with their money
- sexual abuse.



Some services focus on adults more than children.



This can make it harder for children who have experienced violence to get the right support.

What is not equal



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are still much more at risk of violence than other people.



Women and the **LGBTIQA+** community are still more at risk of sexual violence.

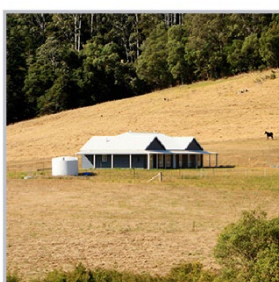
Most of this violence comes from men.



The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.



The '+' is for people who are part of the LGBTIQA+ community but don't talk about themselves using a word from this list.



People who live in places far away from cities or towns often find it harder to get support.

We want to know what you think

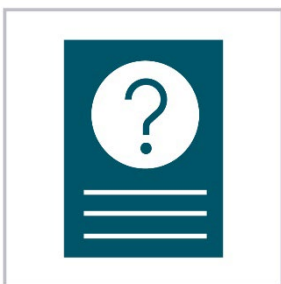


This document explains the most important areas the Second Action Plan could focus on.

There are 5 areas.



We want to know what you think about these areas.



We have included questions for you to think about.

1. Supporting people who have experienced violence



Everyone who has experienced violence should be able to:

- feel safe
- get supports
- recover and heal.



But it is still hard for some people to get the support they need.



For example, people who live far away from cities or towns.



Our Second Action Plan could help connect people to the right support.



Our Second Action Plan could deal with new types of technology-facilitated abuse.



Our Second Action Plan could improve how the **justice system** supports people who experience violence.



The justice system helps to make people who use violence responsible for their behaviour.

This includes police, courts, the law and prisons.



Our Second Action Plan could also stop people using money or the courts to hurt people who experience violence.



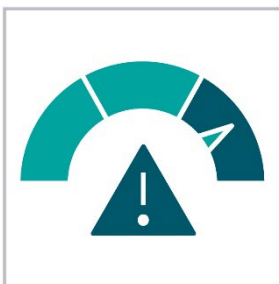
Our Second Action Plan could make it easier to find and deal with **coercive control**.



Coercive control can include when someone controls:

- who you talk to
- where you go
- your money.

Question for you to think about



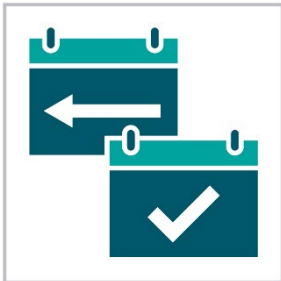
How can services and supports work better for people who:

- have experienced violence?
- might be at risk of violence?

2. Stopping violence early



Our goal is to end violence against women and children.



This means we need to stop violence:

- before it happens
- as soon as we can after it starts.



We also need to change the things that let violence happen.

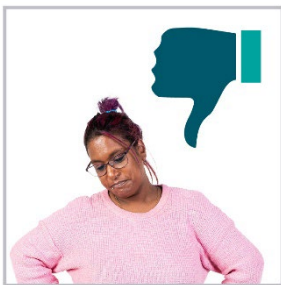


This includes:

- attitudes
- behaviours.



Our second Action Plan could try to change bad attitudes in the community.



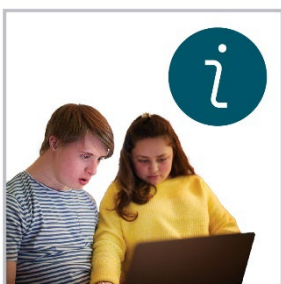
This includes:

- misogyny
- ideas about how people should behave because of their **gender**.



Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

There are more genders than only women and men.



Our Second Action Plan could support young people to learn up to date information about healthy relationships.



Our Second Action Plan could help deal with things that might cause people to use violence.



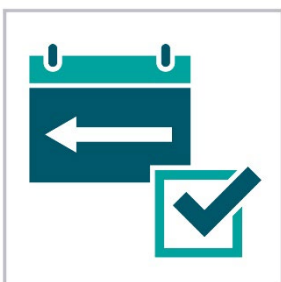
For example:

- alcohol
- gambling
- bad experiences as a child.



The Second Action Plan could build the skills of:

- communities
- workers.



This would help people and organisations to:

- find out about violence earlier
- deal with violence earlier.

Question for you to think about



What can everyone do to stop violence before it starts?

For example:



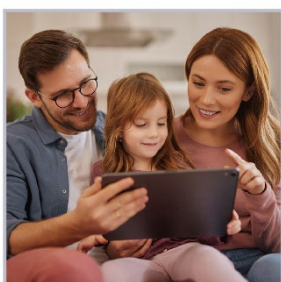
- governments



- places where people work



- schools



- people and families.

3. Supporting children and young people

Violence can affect children and young people when:



- it happens to them



- they see it happen to someone else.

Services need to understand that children have their own:



- experiences
- needs
- **rights.**

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

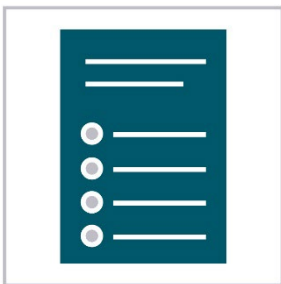


- fairly
- equally.

Our Second Action Plan could focus on working with children to make better:

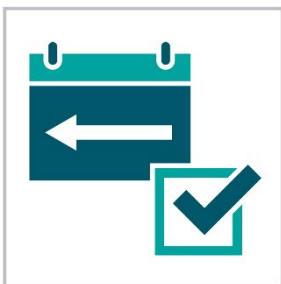


- services



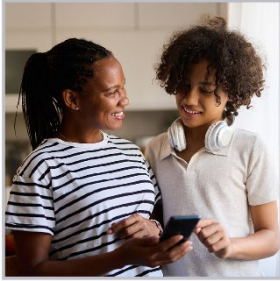
- **policies.**

A policy is a set of rules or ideas that tell people how they should do things.



Our Second Action Plan could support people to deal with violence earlier.

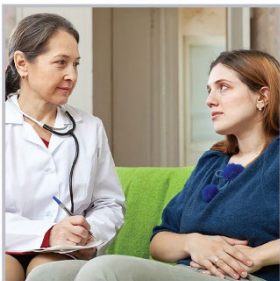
This could include:



- families



- schools



- health services.

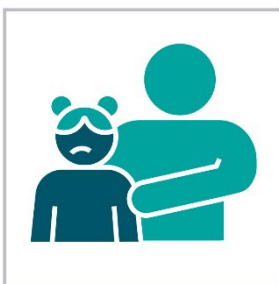


Our Second Action Plan could deal with new issues that affect children.

For example:



- people abusing children online



- sexual behaviours that hurt children.



Our Second Action Plan could also look into supporting young people to:

- stop using violence
- change their behaviour.

Question for you to think about



What is the best way for communities and services to support children to stay safe from violence?

4. People who use violence



People who use violence also:

- take part in the community
- use services.

For example:



- schools



- at work



- health services



- the justice system.



These services give us a chance to stop violence before it happens.



We also need to make sure people don't get away with using violence.

We must never ignore it.



Our Second Action Plan could create more ways to:

- stop people using violence
- change their behaviour early in life.



Our Second Action Plan could support people in the community to know when someone:

- might use violence
- is using violence.



This could help spot bad behaviour:

- at home
- at work.



The Second Action Plan could improve how services understand people from different communities who use violence.

For example:



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

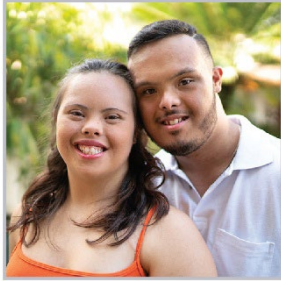


- people from different **cultures** and backgrounds.



Culture is the way a group of people live and what they believe.

Questions for you to think about



How can we do more to teach people about healthy and safe relationships?



How can we do more to stop people getting away with using violence?

5. Supporting services to work together



People who experience violence often need to use many services at the same time.



For example:

- health services
- housing
- the justice system.



These services can work together to:

- keep people safe
- help people recover.

Our Second Action Plan could improve how services:



- share information



- work together.



Our Second Action Plan could build the skills of workers who support people who experience violence.



This includes knowing how to support people from different cultures and backgrounds.



Violence can have a bad effect on workers who support people who experience violence.



Our Second Action Plan could make sure these workers get the support they need.

Questions for you to think about



How can we best support people and families to recover and heal?



What makes it easier for people to find and use services and supports?

How to tell us what you think



You can email us your answers to the questions in this document.

SecondActionPlan@dss.gov.au



You can also email us if you need support to share your ideas.



You can also share your ideas in the survey on our website.

www.engage.dss.gov.au/second-action-plan/survey



You can share your ideas in an online meeting.



You can find information about online meetings on our website.

www.engage.dss.gov.au/second-action-plan/webinars



You can share your ideas with us until
5 pm on 31 July 2026.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Attitudes

Your attitude is what you think, feel and believe.



Coercive control

Coercive control can include when someone controls:

- who you talk to
- where you go
- your money.



Culture

Culture is the way a group of people live and what they believe.



Emotional violence

Emotional violence is when someone makes you feel bad on purpose.

Family violence

Family violence is when someone close to you hurts you, such as:



- your partner, like your boyfriend or girlfriend
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you
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Gender



Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

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Justice system

The justice system helps to make people who use violence responsible for their behaviour.

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LGBTIQA+



The letters LGBTIQA stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and asexual.

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- hates women
- treats women unfairly
- believes women are less important than men.



Policies

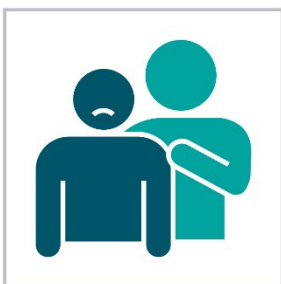
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Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Sexual violence

Sexual violence is when someone:

- makes you do sexual things you don't want to do
- does something sexual to you that you don't want them to do.

Technology-facilitated abuse



Technology-facilitated abuse is when a person uses technology as part of their violence.

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Or they might use social media, like Facebook or Snapchat.

Violence



Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.

It can also be called abuse.



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