

SUBMISSION TO THE SECOND ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

Evidence to action: informing direction for the Second Action Plan

Priority Area 4: People who use violence, with responses to related questions in Priority Areas 1, 2, 3 and 5

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Covering letter

30 July 2026

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP

Minister for Social Services

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

cc:

The Hon. Michelle Rowland MP, Attorney-General

The Hon. Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer

The Hon. Daniel Mulino MP, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services (ASIC; financial-sector codes)

The Hon. Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing

The Hon. Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education

The Hon. Anika Wells MP, Minister for Communications (eSafety Commissioner; ACMA)

The Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy (Australian Energy Regulator)

Re: Submission to the Second Action Plan consultation, Priority Area 4 (People who use violence), with responses to related questions in Priority Areas 1, 2, 3 and 5

Dear Minister,

This submission takes the approach that ***“violence is a problem for victims, but not a victim’s problem”***. This statement has been the core call to action of my advocacy since 2018 based on my combined lived and professional expertise as a survivor of child sexual abuse and domestic violence, and a policy and primary prevention practitioner with formal qualifications in gender mainstreaming who has worked across Women, Peace and Security in national security, international relations, emergency management and humanitarian responses, and social services as well as research, design, and innovation and the specialist sector in women’s health (prevention and recovery) and support services, and peak bodies.

My submission responds primarily to the People Who Use Violence (PUV) Priority Area 4 of the consultation paper, and to the closely related questions in Priority Areas 1, 2, 3 and 5. It draws on my written responses to the People Using Violence policy roundtable of 7 July 2026 (see *20260726 Dembele - Submission - 2AP - PUV Roundtable Responses* attached) and the accountability reframing approach I have been championing since 2018, which is to understand **the policy problem we are trying to solve as being “how to stop the perpetration of violence against women and children?”**.

This submission sets out **a package of action for what the Second Action Plan (2AP) should fund and do to reduce perpetration directly**. A total indicative budget envelope of approximately \$285–420 million

over five years is required to implement the recommended 25 actions. The full breakdown of estimated costings per activity, the supporting evidence based, recommended phasing, government leads and implementation partners, as well as the procurement rationale are provided within the PUV Roundtable written responses. This submission must be read in conjunction with the attached *20260726 Dembele - Submission - 2AP - PUV Roundtable Responses*.

It is my strongest recommendation that the Government fund and implement all of it. At \$420 million over five years, **this package's success rate to see a return on investment** not only through cost savings but in lives saved, childhoods lived free from fear, and women's safety and freedom restored, **is only to reduce perpetration by one per cent a year. A one per cent reduction in perpetration would save over \$1.1 billion**, more than double its cost on the worst outcome worth planning for. **The bar for a positive return and demonstrated results within the 2AP time frame that have a real-world impact is almost impossible to fail.** An investment that pays for itself even when it barely works is not a risk; it is one of the safest bets available to government, because the only way to lose money is to reduce perpetration by nothing at all.

More importantly, the return is not only fiscal, and this is the point that should decide it. **Perpetrators are made, not born. We can prevent people using violence. Perpetration is not an abstraction; it is the result of social conditioning and choices, made by people we can identify and reach, and systems we can change.** The current figures of the impact of perpetration of domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) sees a woman killed by an intimate partner in Australia roughly every eleven days, and makes intimate partner violence one of the top five contributors to disease burden for women aged 15–54. Perpetration of DFSV is the reason more than 500 children are hospitalised each year because of family and domestic violence, the reason more than half of all children seeking specialist homelessness support have experienced it, and the reason around two in five Australians carry exposure to domestic violence out of their childhood and into the rest of their lives.

Every percentage point the perpetration of DFSV is reduced is not only money saved. It is a woman who is not killed, a child who is not hospitalised, a family not made homeless, the court system not clogged with people using it is a weapon of control and punishment for years after a relationship has ended. That is what a one per cent reduction buys, and why the only unaffordable choice is to keep paying the full cost of people's use of violence, in dollars and in lives, year after year.

Prevention and early intervention in perpetration is not a moral luxury competing with crisis response. It is the fiscally responsible choice, and every year of delay compounds both the human and the public cost. **Doing nothing is the only choice we can't afford.** As members of the Independent Collective of Survivors and I wrote in 2022 in the Statement from Victim Survivors that opens the National Plan:

"It is time to be brave".

Yours sincerely,



Founder, Accountability Matters Project Pty Ltd

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Responses to Priority Area 4: People who use violence

The 25 costed actions from my People Using Violence roundtable written responses are organised below against the four consultation questions. Indicative per-action costs are shown; full mechanisms for funding and implementation, phasing and evidence base are in the attached 20260726 Dembele - Submission - 2AP - PUV Roundtable Responses.

Question 1. What would make the biggest difference in preventing and responding earlier to the use of domestic, family and sexual violence?

The biggest difference is to make perpetration visible and to invest upstream of crisis. You cannot reduce what you do not count, and you cannot respond early to a pattern the system never sees and assembles.

To prevent the perpetration of DFSV two moves matter most:

1. **Build the perpetration evidence base** every other investment depends on, and
2. **Fund the early-intervention and child-recovery pathways** that interrupt trajectories before they become lifelong behaviours.

To support effective prevention and earlier identification that breaks through current resistance to change and continues to be a barrier to people seeking help, **the Government must adopt the reframing of people who use violence** from being seen anomalies, as bad people, monsters and demonising them, to understanding that they **are people we “know, like, and love”**.

This foundational framing that it is the people we know, like and love who use controlling, abusive, and violent behaviours recognises the lived experience of victim survivors, the complexities of the relationships where these forms abuse most commonly occur and is what the evidence base shows us time and again. This framing needs to be embedded across DFSV prevention, identification and responses to remove the stigma and structural barriers that too often leaves women with the choice of living in fear with violence or facing relationship/family breakdown and poverty.

The current system and policy settings that are geared towards women leaving abusive relationships too often does offer not a pathway to safety but a choice between harms. To leave is, for many, means potential homelessness and the loss of income and assets, an immediate cost measured in the roof over her children's heads. To seek help through police or the justice system is to risk children being removed, where a mother's “failure to protect” is treated as the reportable event and the victim, not the person who chose violence, is punished. And most distressingly, as the evidence and Australian domestic and family violence death reviews consistently shows, it does not end the violence being perpetrated against them but often escalates it.

There is another way.

The 2AP provides a compelling opportunity to make seismic change to end violence against women and children. To make the biggest difference to responding earlier to DFSV, the Government must:

- reframe the person who uses violence as someone we know, like and love, and
- use support pathways and statutory responses to hold the person who used violence in view and accountable rather than make the victim responsible for creating “safety” when the threat remains unaddressed.

Until such time as we remove the human defensive response to not want to see our brothers, fathers, mothers, family members, partners, husbands, colleagues, community leaders, teachers, and friends as

people who are capable of using abuse and violence, to understand the individual's reasons why, and then get the correct tailored support to reduce these behaviours we will continue to repeat the mistakes that creates perpetrators and systems that hide its detection effectively enabling perpetration.

We cannot stop a problem we do not measure and identify. We cannot intervene early in a problem we refuse to see. We cannot reduce the controlling, abusive and violent behaviour of perpetration if we do not work with the individuals using them.

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to make the biggest difference in preventing and responding earlier to the use of domestic, family and sexual violence:

Make perpetration visible

- **Action 1: Nationalise the DFSV perpetration prevalence survey.** Complete and fund “Who uses violence, how, and why?” as recurring national data infrastructure alongside the PSS and NCAS, the baseline the entire perpetration agenda depends on. (~\$2m first wave; ~\$4m/wave thereafter)
- **Action 2: Operationalise NOSPI.** Fund the national perpetrator-intervention data collection the framework has never had, reported by the AIHW against its 27 indicators. (\$3–5m / 4 yrs)

Respond earlier, before crisis

- **Action 16: Expand confidential pre-crisis pathways (Stop It Now! model)** for people worried about their own or a loved one's behaviour. (\$2–3m / yr)
- **Action 17: Embed Baby Makes 3-style engagement universally at the birth of every child,** through maternal and child health, a known commencement and escalation point for men's violence. (\$20–30m / 3 yrs)
- **Action 14: Scale Ask A Mate.** Trusted-messenger guidance for secondary-school-aged boys and young men at the point trajectories begin. (\$1–2m / yr)
- **Action 15: Scale Love & Learn.** Healthy-relationship education for young people. (\$0.5–1m / yr)
- **Action 18: Fund a schools-based targeted early-intervention program** for students already using harassing, controlling or abusive behaviours, closing the gap between education and therapeutic response. (\$15–20m / 4 yrs)

Break the cycle

- **Action 25: Fund child recovery and specialist youth treatment.** Trauma recovery for children affected by DFSV, and specialist treatment for young people using harmful behaviours: the highest-leverage intergenerational prevention available. (\$25–40m / 4 yrs)

Question 2. How can services, families, communities, workplaces, institutions and others better recognise and respond safely to people using violence or at risk of using violence?

Recognition begins with a truth we would rather avoid: the people using violence are, overwhelmingly, people we know, like and love. We have to hold that truth, because the “good men versus bad men” construct is precisely what stops us seeing what is happening in front of us.

The perpetrators the system most needs to see are the ones it currently overlooks: the calm, controlled, high-functioning perpetrator that incident-counting misses; the father whose parenting is assumed protective rather than risk-assessed; the serial perpetrator who stays invisible because each service sees only one fragment. Recognition improves when the system assembles the pattern rather than leaving the victim-survivor to carry it, when the everyday relationships around the person using violence are

equipped to respond, and when the institutions that already hold the data are turned into sites of detection.

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to help services, families, communities, workplaces, institutions and others better recognise and respond safely to people using violence or at risk of using violence:

Keep the person using violence in view

- **Action 3: Legislate national cross-sector information sharing** organised around the person using violence, so patterns are assembled by the system, not carried by the victim-survivor. (\$8–12m / 4 yrs)
- **Action 4: Trial victim-survivor-led primary data capture** within the focused-deterrence pilots to evidence coercive control in real time. (\$2–4m / 2 yrs)
- **Action 12: Require pattern-based coercive-control capability** across all government-funded services, replacing incident-based tools that miss financial abuse and the most dangerous perpetrators. (\$10–15m / 4 yrs)

Equip the people and institutions around the perpetrator

- **Action 13: Fund the Accountability Mate Program** to equip the four in five men who want to help but don't know how to recognise male patterns of abuse and respond safely as trusted peers. (\$1.5–2.5m / 2 yrs; ~\$5m to scale)
- **Action 5: Partner with banks as holders of behavioural data** that can evidence coercive control years before justice contact, starting with CBA Next Chapter, extended via the ABA. (\$1–2m)
- **Action 19: Make safety-by-design and anti-abuse standards enforceable** across banking, insurance, energy and telco, re-centred on identifying, warning, restricting and reporting the perpetrator. (\$3–5m)
- **Action 20: Match the scams response for financial abuse** and close the relationship loophole on identity and credential misuse. (\$5–8m)

Question 3. What approaches are most effective in supporting people who use violence to take accountability, change behaviours, and reduce the use of violence, while focusing on victim-survivor safety?

The most effective approaches keep continuous “eyes on the perpetrator” and resource victim-survivor safety in parallel, not as a trade-off. A system that responds by asking the woman to leave does not stop perpetration; separation increases the likelihood of escalation and homicide, and displaces risk onto the next partner. Accountability means the people using violence and the systems with the power to intervene carry the work of safety, not the victim-survivor.

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to effectively support people who use violence to take accountability, change behaviours, and reduce the use of violence, while focusing on victim-survivor safety:

Interrupt the highest-harm perpetration

- **Action 6: Fund the focused-deterrence pilots to full, evaluated scale.** Certain, swift, individually communicated consequences paired with genuine support to change, not pilot-and-lapse. (\$20–30m / 4 yrs)
- **Action 7: Build the DV Threat Assessment Centre with lived-experience governance** from day one, targeting patterns not incidents. (\$2–3m / 4 yrs)

- **Action 8: Attach a dedicated PUV case manager to every victim-survivor managed through high-risk panels** (RAMP and equivalents), with partner and family safety contact and breach consequences funded as core. (\$30–45m / 3 yrs)
- **Action 9: Pilot a Drive-style multi-agency response to high-harm perpetrators** alongside dedicated victim-survivor support. (\$6–10m / 3 yrs)

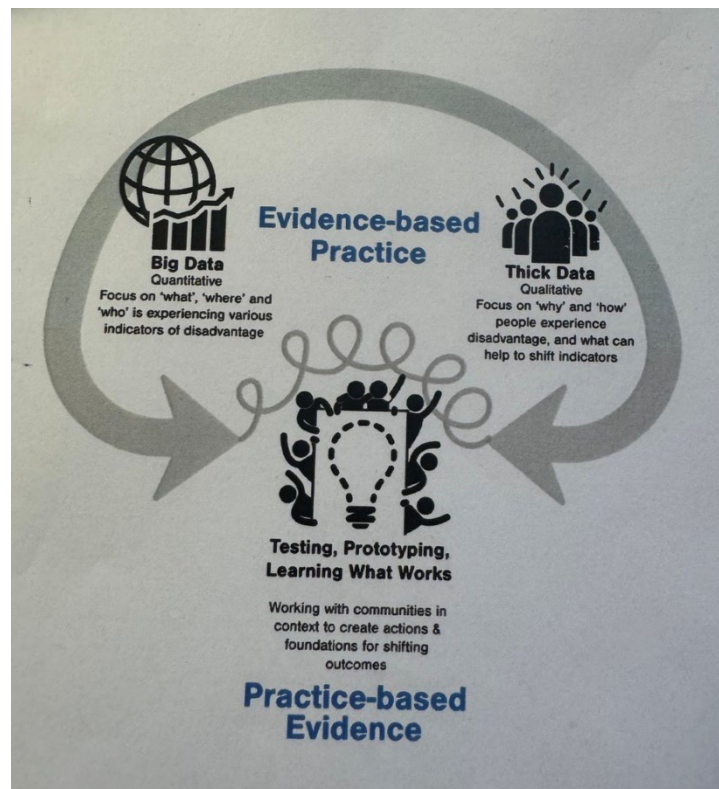
Build the accountability service system

- **Action 10: Co-design and build a PUV case-worker workforce** across crisis and specialist DFSV services, with cultural appropriateness built in. (\$4–6m / 2 yrs; scale on evaluation)
- **Action 11: Scale MBCP places to demand**, with partner and family safety contact, risk monitoring and breach consequences funded as core components, not optional extras. (\$80–120m / 4 yrs)

Question 4. How can governments and services, among others, strengthen culturally safe, accessible and evidence-informed responses for a range of communities and cohorts?

Culturally safe and evidence-informed responses depend on three things:

1. Properly funded and resourced lived-experience and community co-design (with governments, providers, researchers, businesses, and organisations) for policy, services, and products;
2. Government grant and procurement rules that support (not prohibit) survivor-led and community-controlled originators of good models actually be funded regardless of legal structure; and
3. Build practice-based evidence on what works to prevent and reduce perpetration, through working with communities in contract to create actions and foundations for shifting outcomes (see image below for how this is different from quantitative and qualitative evidence-based practice).



Actions the Government can do in the next five years for governments and services, among others, strengthen culturally safe, accessible and evidence-informed responses for a range of communities and cohorts:

- **Action 21: Provide the Audacity Centre five-year core funding** to extend its lived-experience ethical co-design method as national infrastructure, with lived-experience remuneration and trauma-informed support funded as core, not cut as a project line item. (\$6–9m / 5 yrs)
- **Action 10 (culturally safe delivery): Co-design the PUV case-worker model** with CALD-specialist and First Nations-led practice partners, paired with services supporting CALD and First Nations women and children. (within Action 10)
- **Action 24: Fix grant and tender eligibility so funding follows merit, evidence and outcomes**, not corporate structure, so survivor-led and social-enterprise models (like the Accountability Mate Program, stranded for seven years) can be funded. (nil, policy setting)
- **Actions 1 & 2: Supply the evidence base.** The perpetration prevalence survey and NOSPI outcome data are what make “evidence-informed” possible for every cohort. (see Question 1)

Responses to related questions in other priority areas

The following questions in other priority areas are answered by actions already set out under Priority Area 4. The most relevant are cross-referenced below.

Priority Area 1: Victim-survivors

What current or emerging issues should the Second Action Plan address, including in relation to coercive control and technology-facilitated abuse?

Coercive control and technology-facilitated abuse are precisely the forms that incident-based systems miss. Coercive control is a pattern, not an event; technology-facilitated and financial abuse leave their clearest trace not in a police report but in the transaction, account and platform data held by business. The Second Action Plan should build the capability to see the pattern, and turn the institutions that already hold the data into sites of detection.

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to address current and emerging issues should the Second Action Plan address, including in relation to coercive control and technology-facilitated abuse:

- **Action 12:** pattern-based coercive-control capability across all funded services, replacing incident-based tools.
- **Action 4:** victim-survivor-led capture of coercive-control evidence in real time.
- **Action 3:** cross-sector information sharing so the pattern is assembled by the system, not the victim-survivor.
- **Action 7:** a threat assessment centre that targets patterns, not incidents.
- **Actions 5, 19 and 20:** banks, insurers, energy and telco as sites where financial and technology-facilitated abuse are detected, designed out, and reported.

Priority Area 2: Prevention and early intervention

Prevention and early intervention come down to one thing: stopping violence being perpetrated in the first place. Prevention that focuses only victim resilience, without reducing the behaviour of the people using violence, treats the symptom and leaves the cause in place. **Violence is a problem for victims, but it is not a victim's problem - and it cannot be prevented by asking those it is done to, to prevent it.** The biggest difference the 2AP can make is to move upstream of crisis and act on perpetration directly: to see it, to interrupt the trajectories that create it, and to reach the people using violence, and those becoming at risk of using it, while change is still possible.

Two moves matter most, and everything else depends on them.

First, **make perpetration visible**: you cannot prevent what you do not measure, and you cannot intervene early in a pattern the system never assembles.

Second, **fund the upstream and early-intervention pathways** that interrupt behaviour before it hardens into a lifelong pattern - at the birth of a child, in the classroom, in the friendship group, and in the moment a person first worries about their own behaviour.

None of this is possible while we hold to the “good men versus bad men” construct. The people who use violence are, overwhelmingly, **people we know, like and love**. Prevention begins when we can hold that truth, because it is what lets a father, a friend, a teacher, or a person themselves recognise a harmful pattern early and act on it, rather than wait for the monster who never arrives.

What would make the biggest difference in preventing and ultimately ending violence; how existing efforts can be strengthened across the individual, community, organisational, institutional and societal levels; how governments, communities, schools, workplaces, online platforms and others can better support people to recognise and respond to harmful attitudes and behaviours; and what approaches appear most promising or effective?

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to strengthen prevention and early intervention across individual, community, organisational, institutional and societal levels:

Make perpetration visible, so prevention can be targeted

- **Action 1:** nationalise the DFSV perpetration prevalence survey (“Who uses violence, how, and why?”) as recurring national data infrastructure alongside the PSS and NCAS - the baseline every prevention investment depends on.
- **Action 2:** operationalise NOSPI, reported by the AIHW against its 27 indicators, so early intervention can be measured against outcomes.

Reach people upstream, before crisis (individual and community)

- **Action 17:** embed Baby Makes 3-style engagement universally at the birth of every child, through maternal and child health - a known commencement and escalation point for men's violence.
- **Action 16:** expand confidential pre-crisis pathways (Stop It Now! model) for people worried about their own or a loved one's behaviour.
- **Action 14:** scale Ask A Mate - trusted-messenger guidance for secondary-school-aged boys and young men at the point trajectories begin.

- **Action 13:** fund the Accountability Mate Program to equip the four in five men who want to help but don't know how to recognise male patterns of abuse and respond safely.

Build prevention into schools (schools and young people)

- **Action 15:** scale Love & Learn healthy-relationship education for young people.
- **Action 18:** fund a schools-based targeted early-intervention program for students already using harassing, controlling or abusive behaviours, closing the gap between education and therapeutic response.

Turn the institutions that hold the data into sites of prevention (organisational, institutional and online platforms)

- **Action 19:** make safety-by-design and anti-abuse standards enforceable across banking, insurance, energy and telco, re-centred on identifying, warning, restricting and reporting the perpetrator.
- **Action 5:** partner with banks as holders of behavioural data that can evidence coercive control years before justice contact, starting with CBA Next Chapter and extended via the ABA.
- **Action 20:** match the scams response for financial abuse and close the relationship loophole on identity and credential misuse.
- **Action 12:** require pattern-based coercive-control capability across all government-funded services.

Interrupt intergenerational transmission (the highest-leverage prevention available)

- **Action 25:** fund child recovery and specialist youth treatment. Funded child recovery is itself perpetration prevention; Australian evidence shows specialist community-based treatment cuts sexual reoffending by 78–90% and general reoffending by 34–44%.

Set the societal conditions for prevention

- **Action 22:** adopt publicly reported national targets, including 80% accountability-focused public discourse and a 50% rebalance of investment toward perpetration-focused prevention and intervention.

What is needed to strengthen and expand these approaches is not more evidence but better funding design. Promising models are lost to “pilot-and-lapse” cycles, and to procurement rules that exclude the survivor-led and community-controlled originators of the best models.

- **Action 24:** fix grant and tender eligibility so funding follows merit, evidence and outcomes, not corporate structure, so survivor-led and social-enterprise models (like the Accountability Mate Program, stranded for seven years) can be funded.
- **Action 21:** provide the Audacity Centre five-year core funding to extend its lived-experience ethical co-design method as national infrastructure, so prevention is designed with the people it is meant to protect.

What emerging issues should the Second Action Plan address in relation to primary prevention and early intervention?

Two emerging issues most threaten prevention if left unaddressed.

The first is that the fastest-growing forms of abuse are the ones prevention and early-warning systems are least equipped to see. Coercive control is a pattern, not an event, and technology-facilitated and financial abuse leave their clearest early trace not in a police report but in the transaction, account and platform data held by business. Prevention now depends on building the capability to read that pattern early, and on turning the institutions that already hold the data into sites of detection (Actions 12, 4, 3, 5, 19 and 20).

The second is the online radicalisation of boys and young men, and the silence that feeds it. Shame, silence and rigid masculine norms keep boys from naming what has been done to them, what they have witnessed, and what they themselves are doing - and that silence is where both harm and manosphere influence take hold. Many boys and young men using violence are themselves victim-survivors, so their recovery and their accountability are the same work. Creating safe ways for boys and men to speak - as people who have experienced violence, survived it, and at times used it - removes the shame that isolates them and is itself prevention (Actions 14, 15, 18 and 25).

Priority Area 3: Children and young people in their own right

What approaches are most effective in supporting children and young people who are using violence or displaying harmful sexual behaviours to take accountability, change behaviours, and reduce harm?

The most effective approach is **specialist, community-based treatment tailored to the underlying drivers of trauma, family dysfunction and developmental disruption, delivered early and without defaulting to exclusion or criminalisation.** Many young people using violence are themselves victim-survivors, so their recovery and their accountability for harms are the same work. Australian evidence shows specialist community-based treatment cuts sexual reoffending by 78–90% and general reoffending by 34–44%.

It also depends on **helping boys and young men share their own experiences of domestic, family and sexual violence.** Shame, silence and rigid masculine norms keep boys from naming what has been done to them, what they have experienced and witnessed, and what they themselves are doing. That **silence is where both harm and manosphere influence take hold.** Creating safe ways for boys and men to speak, as people who have experienced violence, survived it, and at times used it, removes the shame that isolates them and is itself part of accountability, recovery and prevention.

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to effectively support children and young people who are using violence or displaying harmful sexual behaviours to take accountability, change behaviours, and reduce harm:

- **Action 18:** a schools-based targeted early-intervention program for students already using harassing, controlling or abusive behaviours, closing the gap between education and therapeutic response.
- **Action 25 (Stream 2):** specialist community-based forensic treatment for children and young people using harmful sexual or violent behaviours.
- **Action 25 (Stream 1):** trauma recovery for children affected by DFSV, recognising that funded child recovery is itself perpetration prevention.

Priority Area 5: System integration and workforce

What approaches or models appear most effective in improving collaboration, coordination and information sharing across services, systems and programs?

Coordination fails when each service sees only one fragment of a pattern of perpetration or a single incident and the victim-survivor is left to carry the whole picture from service to service. The fix is to organise information around the person using violence, assemble the pattern from multiple sources, and resource the high-risk panels that already exist to act on it.

It is critically important that victim-survivors are not forced to be the person responsible for systems accountability. They must be provided safe tools to collect and build evidence of their experiences that demonstrates the perpetrator's patterns of behaviour, and that they are in control of choosing and

sharing information without having to repeatedly tell their whole history in detail to every services (which is both an administrative and psychological burden that creates barriers to seeking help).

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to improve collaboration, coordination and information sharing across services, systems and programs:

- **Action 3:** legislate national cross-sector information sharing organised around the person using violence.
- **Action 4:** roll out victim-survivor-led data capture that lets survivors share once (see STARvibe Technology), rather than retell to every service.
- **Action 8:** dedicated PUV case managers within high-risk panels (RAMP and equivalents) to coordinate the response to the perpetrator.
- **Action 12:** pattern-based capability so services are reading the same signals.

What workforce capabilities, supports, or conditions are most needed to strengthen prevention, early intervention, response and recovery?

The system needs a standing workforce whose job is to keep the person using violence in view, the capability to identify and read patterns rather than incidents, and lived-experience expertise workforce that is properly paid, valued, and supported (this is also important for individuals' recovery and healing).

Actions the Government can do in the next five years to support workforce capabilities, supports, or conditions are most needed to strengthen prevention, early intervention, response and recovery:

- **Action 10:** a co-designed PUV case-worker workforce across crisis and specialist DFSV services.
- **Action 11:** MBCP capacity scaled to demand, with partner and family safety contact and risk monitoring funded as core.
- **Action 12:** pattern-based coercive-control capability across the whole funded workforce.
- **Action 21:** lived-experience remuneration and trauma-informed support funded as core workforce conditions.

Holding the Plan accountable

Two further actions make the whole envelope measurable against outcomes:

- **Action 22: Adopt publicly reported national targets against the use of violence** (the 2018 A Man's Problem measures): a 25% reduction in men's use of violence, a 50% rebalance of investment toward perpetration-focused prevention and intervention, and 80% accountability-focused public discourse. (negligible)
- **Action 23: Report the crisis-versus-perpetration investment split annually** through the DFSV Commission's National Funding Mapping Framework. (<\$0.5m / yr)

A note on method and the use of AI

This submission reflects more than a decade of my own work on gender equality, primary prevention and ending violence against women, DFSV perpetration, accountability and lived-experience-led reform. The reframes it advances, the recommendations it makes, and the decisions about what to fund and why are entirely my own.

In developing it, I chose to work with generative AI (Claude, made by Anthropic) as a research and drafting aid, to help locate and verify current Australian evidence, cross-check my recommendations against the government's own frameworks, structure a long and complex document, and build defensible indicative costings and return-on-investment estimates.

Consistent with the Australian Government's own approach to the responsible use of AI, the tool was used to assist rather than replace human judgement: I directed every stage of the process, and all AI-assisted content was reviewed, verified against its sources, and edited by me before inclusion. As someone who works at the intersection of lived experience and responsible AI, I believe transparency about how these tools are used (as an aid to human expertise, not a substitute for it) is part of using them well, and reflects the same standard of transparency that government asks of itself.

A statement from victim-survivors

It is time to transform our pain into action. There can be no more excuses – that it is too hard, we don't know what to do, it's too complex.

It is everyone's responsibility to end the perpetration of violence against women and children, and all victims of gendered violence.

We are your mothers, your sisters, your brothers, your aunts, your uncles, your cousins, your children, your partners, your colleagues, your friends, your family, your kin, your community.

Do not continue to shame us for what other people have done to us. We did not ask for abuse. We have resisted violence, or done what we needed to do – to protect ourselves, our families. To survive.

Stand with us, do not look away when we show you our pain. See what is happening all around you everyday, from the sexist comment or homophobic joke, to the excuse 'boys will be boys'.

Discard the intuition that just because you know someone, they could not possibly hurt or abuse another. The people who use violence and abuse against their families, partners, children, colleagues, friends or dates are people you already know. People you like. People you love.

The people who have abused us are people we knew; people we liked; and most often people we loved.

Too many of us are being re-traumatised trying to engage with systems that are meant to 'protect' us but fail. Systems that create barriers to access and have costs beyond our means because services are not designed for the realities of our lives. Instead, they perpetuate the same dynamics of power and control as our abusers. Systems that wait until the worst has happened before they respond, then blame us for not reporting or leaving.

We should not have to die to get your attention.

We should never be forced to choose between violence in our homes or being homeless and facing violence on the streets, or having our families torn apart in ways we never wanted and that cause further harm.

This is not safety.

The time is now to remove the inequalities that allow perpetrators to exercise power over others because our society:

- does not believe women
- does not value all women equally
- does not hear the voices of First Nations women and learn from their diverse experiences
- does not reward women equally for work
- does not value women's unpaid labour
- does not believe children can be trusted to tell the truth about abuse
- does not view people with disability as equal or able
- punishes those who do not conform
- creates disadvantage and poverty as a problem of individuals.

It is time to stop people and institutions choosing to use violence, feeling entitled to control and dominate, to degrade others' value based on their sex, gender, sexuality or perceived 'rights'. We are not damaged goods.

We are not incapable or less than you because we experience trauma. **We are survivors.** We will not be silenced, pushed into the shadows nor spoken for any more.

We hold knowledge and answers that others simply do not.

We are diverse but galvanised by a common cause. We know what needs to change. No meaningful solutions can be made about us without us.

Stopping our suffering depends on all of us choosing to do something differently. We cannot repeat more of the same and expect to achieve change. Abuse and violence is a problem for victims, but it is not the victims' problem.

Genuine change begins with a willingness to listen. We must stop protecting perpetrators with our silence, and through inaction. We must be willing to sit in discomfort.

It is time to be brave.

Members of the Independent Collective of Survivors

SUBMISSION TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Second Action Plan, National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032

“People Using Violence” Policy Roundtable - Written Responses

- Founder, Accountability Matters Project Pty Ltd (AMP) and A Man's Problem campaign (*see Appendix A*)
- General Manager, Lived Experience & Innovation, (Head of the Audacity Centre), Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand (Good Shepherd)
- Chief Investigator, Measuring Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Perpetration in Australia (ANROWS / QUT / AMP / Equality Institute)

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How to read this submission

This submission substantively responds through its recommended actions to the three roundtable questions:

Question 1. *What practical solutions are most effective in supporting people who use violence to take accountability, change behaviours, and reduce their use of violence?*

Question 2. *What types of perpetrators and perpetration are typically misunderstood or overlooked, and how can we better respond?*

Question 3. *In what ways do victim-survivors carry the burden of safeguarding themselves against people who use violence, even where the perpetrator is known to us?*

I provide my written response to expand on the brief advice I was able to share at the roundtable on 7 July 2026 to more fully inform and support the development of the Second Action Plan under The National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032.

The evidence cited throughout this submission is not exhaustive. As a practitioner and lived-experience expert rather than an academic, I have drawn on the research I am aware of and consider most relevant; a fuller academic review would surface further evidence, and I am confident it would strengthen - not weaken - the case these recommendations make.

With a focus on practical and impactful implementation of the Second Action Plan within its five-year term, my responses provide both principled guidance on what needs to be done nationally, as well as direct opportunities for government investment including areas of work that I lead and other programs or opportunities that I believe as a subject matter expert it would be worthwhile for the Australian Government scale or partner. **The goal being expediency in measurably reducing violence perpetrated against women and children before 2032.**

Tier 1 - Summary of asks: The 25 actions grouped under seven headline asks, with indicative cost and funding mechanism for advisers and decision-makers.

Tier 2 - Detailed recommendations: Each action worked up in full, including its evidence base. For departmental officers translating decisions into commissioning.

Background: The reframe and history behind the submission, and the procurement rationale.

Appendices: Relevant referenced documents from Accountability Matters Project to inform framing and activities.

Bottom line up front

Australia has embedded the right idea - that **violence is a problem for victims but not a victim's problem** - in the opening words of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 in the Statement from Victim-Survivors. **What has not yet followed is the system, data and investment to shift what the language demands into a focused strategy and activities to reduce perpetration directly.**

The ask: Through the Second Action Plan, fund the **25 actions with indicative costings** in this submission - approximately **\$285-420 million over five years** - to:

1. make perpetration visible,
2. interrupt the highest-risk perpetration,
3. build the workforce and community capability to keep people who use violence in view,
4. regulate business and banking as sites of disruption of perpetration,
5. break the intergenerational cycle through child recovery, and
6. hold the Plan itself accountable to measurable reduction of perpetration targets and investment.

The impact: This is the investment that **moves the work of safety off victim-survivors and onto the people using violence and the systems** with the power to intervene. It is also the fiscally responsible choice.

Violence against women and children costs Australia **\$22 billion a year** (financial abuse alone costs victims \$5.7 billion). Australian evidence shows that prevention is possible and cost effective with trialled examples in intensive, relational intervention demonstrating returns of \$10–16 million in criminal justice savings per client cohort, and specialist treatment for young people (often victim survivors themselves) cutting reoffending by up to 90 per cent. **It literally costs more to do nothing and maintain the status quo.**

Why now: Every action plan cycle in which perpetration remains unmeasured, perpetration-focused investment remains marginal, and victim-survivors remain the de facto risk managers of people we already know are dangerous, is lost time and more harm - in preventable deaths and injuries, in the childhoods of children living with violence, and in avoidable public cost. **Enough evidence and models that work to prevent and reduce perpetration exist, and the economic case is clear. The Second Action Plan is the moment to fund a perpetration reduction approach and continue to build the evidence through practice on what works to stop it.**

Tier 1 - Summary of asks

Twenty-five costed actions under seven headline asks. Detail and evidence follow in Tier 2. Total indicative envelope: **~\$285–420m over five years.**

1. Make perpetration visible: data, evidence and information sharing (Actions 1–5)

Action	The ask	Indicative cost	Mechanism
1	Co-invest to complete and nationalise the Domestic, family, and sexual violence perpetration: Who uses violence, how, and why? survey as recurring national data infrastructure so the prevalence of DFSV perpetration has a baseline measure that can be used to track and assess efficacy of national efforts to end violence against women and children under the National Plan.	~\$2m gov co-investment, first wave (leveraged); ~\$4m/wave thereafter	Direct commission via ANROWS to QUT/AMP/EQI consortium
2	Operationalise the long-agreed NOSPI framework: fund the national perpetrator-interventions data collection it has never had.	\$3–5m / 4 yrs	National partnership (mandated jurisdictional reporting) + AIHW collection and reporting
3	Legislate national cross-sector information sharing that keeps the person using violence in view, mitigating against data silos that enable perpetration (through preventing pattern detection) and will support evidencing coercive control.	\$8–12m / 4 yrs	Commonwealth legislation + national implementation program
4	Trial victim-survivor-led primary data capture within the focused-deterrence pilots to evidence coercive control in real time (rather than through delayed administrative sources) – this solution also trials limiting the impact of retraumatisation on victim survivors from having to retell their experience to multiple services	\$2–4m / 2 yrs	Closed tender to STARVibe Technology (platform IP)
5	Partner with businesses and institutions (especially banks) as holders of behavioural data that evidences coercive control, and can be a site of community accountability, potentially years before someone comes to the attention of the justice system (if ever).	\$1–2m (leverages bank investment)	Data partnership: start with CBA Next Chapter, extended via ABA

2. Interrupt the highest-harm perpetration (Actions 6–9)

Action	The ask	Indicative cost	Mechanism
6	Fund the focused-deterrence pilots to full, evaluated scale - not pilot-and-lapse - to decrease the likelihood of intimate partner homicide and physical violence through proven methods that reduce violence perpetration.	\$20–30m / 4 yrs	Extend existing AGD measure + published evaluation
7	Build the DV Threat Assessment Centre with lived-experience governance, targeting patterns not incidents to reflect the real life means perpetrators use to exert control, abuse and use violence against their victims supporting improved evidence gathering for prosecutions of Coercive Control offences.	\$2–3m / 4 yrs (within Centre budget)	Design authority incl. survivor-led orgs (paid governance)
8	Attach a dedicated 'PUV case manager' to every victim-survivor managed through high-risk panels to increase visibility and deterrence of the PUV (see Victorian Risk Assessment and Management Panels [RAMP] and state and territory equivalents).	\$30–45m / 3 yrs (~60–80 FTE)	National partnership payment to states/territories
9	Pilot a Drive-style multi-agency response to high-harm perpetrators alongside dedicated victim-survivor support that has been shown to reduce violence perpetration.	\$6–10m / 3 yrs	Open grant round, 2–3 sites; UK Drive advice

3. Build the perpetration-focused workforce and service system (Actions 10–12)

Action	The ask	Indicative cost	Mechanism
10	Co-design a PUV case-worker model and develop a PUV case-worker workforce across crisis and specialist DFSV services to ensure an accountability approach is taken to shift the burden off victims survivors for safety.	\$4–6m / 2 yrs (co-design + 3 sites)	Co-design grant then staged workforce funding
11	Scale MBCP places to meet demand, with partner/family safety contact, risk monitoring and breach consequences funded as core.	\$80–120m / 4 yrs	National partnership agreement; provider grants
12	Require pattern-based coercive-control capability across all government-funded services to replace incident-based risk tools that miss financial abuse and the most controlled, dangerous perpetrators.	\$10–15m / 4 yrs	Funding-agreement condition + national training

4. Fund community capability and early intervention around people using violence (Actions 13–18)

Action	The ask	Indicative cost	Mechanism
13	Fund the Accountability Mate Program (<i>Appendix B</i>) to educate the 4 in 5 men, who want to help stop violence against women but don't know how, to understand male patterns of DFSV perpetration, how to recognise and safely respond as peers and people with trusted relationships who can see and influence PUVs.	\$1.5–2.5m / 2 yrs; ~\$5m to scale	Closed tender / direct grant to AMP (IP holder)
14	Scale Ask A Mate – evidence based trusted-messenger guidance for secondary-school-aged boys and young men on healthy relationships that is already operating successfully.	\$1–2m / yr	Direct grant to Beyond DV (IP holder)
15	Scale Love & Learn – healthy relationship education for young people.	\$0.5–1m / yr	Direct grant to Beyond DV (IP holder)
16	Expand confidential pre-crisis pathways on the Stop It Now! Model to support reduction in child sexual abuse.	\$2–3m / yr	Grant to existing operator Jesuit Social Services (JSS) to extend reach
17	Embed Baby Makes 3 -style engagement universally at the birth of every child, via maternal and child health to intervene at known site of commencement or escalation of men's perpetration of domestic violence.	\$20–30m / 3 yrs	National licence + staged jurisdictional rollout
18	Fund a schools-based early-intervention targeted program for students already using sexual harassment and violence, controlling or abusive behaviours to meet the current gap between education and therapeutic interventions that can alter a lifetime trajectory of violence perpetration.	\$15–20m / 4 yrs	Open grant round with education systems

5. Make business, banking and insurance regulated sites of disruption (Actions 19–21)

Action	The ask	Indicative cost	Mechanism
19	Make safety-by-design and anti-abuse standards an enforceable, economy-wide requirement - harmonised across banking, insurance, energy and telco codes - and close remaining gaps so financial products cannot be weaponised for abuse.	\$3–5m (industry bears implementation)	PJC implementation; enforceable codes + licence conditions across all four sectors; central Treasury/AGD coordination
20	Match the scams response for financial abuse and close the trusted relationship loophole on identity/credential misuse that perpetrators exploit to gain control of victim's finances, create debt, and economically sabotage.	\$5–8m gov (industry bears detection)	Extend anti-scams architecture
21	Provide Good Shepherd's Audacity Centre five-year core funding to extend its lived-experience ethical co-design method as national infrastructure, working with the government agencies, the financial and insurance sectors to identify and prevent perpetration of financial abuse.	\$6–9m / 5 yrs core funding	Five-year core funding agreement

6. Hold the Plan itself accountable (Actions 22–24)

Action	The ask	Indicative cost	Mechanism
22	Adopt publicly reported national targets against the use of violence (the 2018 A Man's Problem measures at <i>Appendix B</i>).	Negligible	Second Action Plan performance framework
23	Report the crisis-versus-primary prevention, early intervention, and healing and recovery investment split annually as part of Budget Cycle.	<\$0.5m / yr	Annual public reporting via responsible Departments including Treasury/ DSS/AGD/Health/ Education etc...
24	Fix grant and tender eligibility so funding follows merit and outcomes, not corporate structure.	Nil - policy setting	Grant/tender eligibility policy change

7. Break the cycle: child recovery and intergenerational prevention (Action 25)

Action	The ask	Indicative cost	Mechanism
25	Fund child recovery from DFSV and specialist treatment for young people using harmful behaviours - the most targeted highest-leverage intergenerational prevention based on current evidence.	\$25–40m / 4 yrs (two streams)	Partnerships + grants to child-trauma and youth forensic providers

Tier 2 - Detailed recommendations

Each action follows the same structure: the one-sentence ask, then what the action is, what it achieves, the funding mechanism, the indicative cost and return on investment, alignment with existing Government commitments, the proposed delivery lead and phasing, and the evidence base that makes it robust.

Cluster 1. Make perpetration visible: data, evidence and information sharing

Action 1. Co-invest with current and prospective partners to complete and nationalise the *Domestic, family and sexual violence perpetration: Who uses violence, how, and why?* perpetration prevalence survey as recurring national data infrastructure, alongside the Personal Safety Survey and NCAS.

What the action is	Adopt the national rollout of the <i>Domestic, family and sexual violence perpetration: Who uses violence, how, and why?</i> perpetration prevalence survey, building directly on the completed NSW pilot. Government participates as a co-investor in the first national scale up and then takes on responsibility for future repeated surveys as part of the data infrastructure for the National Plan.
What it achieves	Completes the single largest evidence gap in the entire system for ending violence against women and children: Australia has never had a national baseline of who uses violence, how and why. Without it, investment across the National Plan cannot be properly targeted or evaluated for whether it reduces violence against women and children. This is the measure an ending perpetration and PUV policy agenda depends on - you cannot reduce what you do not count.
Funding mechanism	Direct commissioning through ANROWS to the existing research consortium (Accountability Matters Project / QUT / Equality Institute), which holds the Australia specific survey instrument, methodology and sampling design. Structured as government co-investment leveraging current and prospective partner contributions.
Indicative cost	Government co-investment in the order of \$2m for the first national wave, leveraging current and prospective co-investment partners and building on the publicly funded NSW pilot. Approximately \$4m per subsequent wave on a 3–4 year cycle. Return on investment: The NSW pilot instrument, methodology and sampling design are sunk cost already met through public (ANROWS/DSS). Every downstream program in this submission becomes measurable and defensible against a real baseline, protecting the entire ~\$260–380m Plan envelope from being spent blind.
Alignment	Directly delivers the National Plan's Foundation Principle of an evidence-based approach and the 'People who use DFSV' priority in the Australian National Research Agenda. Completes a First Action Plan measurement gap.
Delivery lead & phasing	ANROWS (commissioner); AMP/QUT/EQI consortium (delivery). Phasing: Year 1 - instrument refinement and first national wave; recurring 3–4 yearly.

Evidence base	● The State of Knowledge Report on Violence Perpetration (Flood, Brown, Dembele & Mills, 2022) establishes that less than 2% of all perpetrators of DFSV come into the contact with criminal justice system (Australia's current main measure of DFSV offending). ● It also established that measuring perpetration is methodologically feasible: established, safe and ethical protocols exist for robust self-report data, which has since been borne out The Man Box and AIC studies. The barrier is investment and will, not method. ● The AIHW has identified the absence of nationally consistent perpetration and perpetrator-outcome data as a critical national gap. ● Putting Perpetrators in the Picture (Flood & Dembele, 2021) named generating perpetration data and knowledge as the first of three urgent national tasks. ● The NSW representative survey trial (ANROWS-commissioned; AMP/QUT/EQI) will have a demonstrated instrument in-field, de-risking the national wave.
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Action 2. Operationalise the long-agreed NOSPI framework by funding the national data collection it has never had, so perpetrator-intervention outcomes can finally be reported.

What the action is	Fund and mandate the national data collection that the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions (NOSPI) has required since 2015 - a uniform collection instrument for men's behaviour change programs and other perpetrator interventions, populated through mandated state and territory reporting, and reported nationally by the AIHW against the existing 27-indicator framework. This finishes an agreed national reform that has stalled for a decade, rather than designing a new one.
What it achieves	Closes the gap between a framework that exists on paper and outcomes that can actually be reported. NOSPI and its 27 indicators were agreed by COAG in 2015 and mapped by the AIHW, but most indicators remain "aspirational" because the data underneath them was never funded or collected - so there is still no nationally consistent way to report whether perpetrator interventions change behaviour. Funding the collection converts a decade-old commitment into a working national outcomes picture, so effective models can be scaled and ineffective ones stopped.
Funding mechanism	National partnership agreement mandating jurisdictional reporting, plus a budget measure to the AIHW to build and run the collection instrument and national reporting. Aligned to the perpetration survey infrastructure (Action 1) and the information-sharing reform (Action 3).
Indicative cost	\$3–5m over four years. Return on investment: Prevents continued investment in programs that struggle to demonstrate outcomes and in a way that can be consistently measured/compared; enables reallocation towards shared understanding of what works. Small cost relative to the workforce and program spend (Actions 8, 10–11) it renders accountable - and it completes an agreed reform rather than starting cold, so much of the design is already sunk costs, this realises the investment to date.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's accountability and evidence commitments; operationalises NOSPI (agreed under the previous National Plan and still unimplemented) rather than duplicating it. It populates the perpetrator-accountability outcome (Long-Term Outcome 4: "people who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and stop their violent, coercive and abusive behaviours") within the existing Outcomes Framework 2023–2032 and its Performance Measurement Plan, and directly answers the DFSV Commission's "Data development and outcome measurement" monitoring focus (Monitoring and Reporting Framework, May 2026). It addresses the specialist-perpetrator-interventions data gap the AIHW still lists as open.

Delivery lead & phasing	AIHW, with DSS/AGD and state/territory data custodians under a national partnership agreement. Phasing: Year 1 - finalise the collection instrument (building on the agreed 27 indicators and the 2020 ANROWS minimum-dataset scoping) and secure jurisdictional reporting commitments; Years 2–4 - implementation and first national reporting against NOSPI.
Evidence base	● The National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions (NOSPI) were agreed by COAG in 2015, and the AIHW developed a 27-indicator reporting framework mapped to the six headline standards - but where data did not exist, indicators were written as “aspirational” to guide future data development. ● When the AIHW attempted to collect and report against the 27 indicators (Monitoring Perpetrator Interventions in Australia, 2021), it identified three barriers that blocked national reporting: perpetrator interventions are fragmented and multi-sectoral; data are not comparable between states and territories; and data on specific population groups are limited. ● The AIHW states plainly that no single data source is available to report on specialist perpetrator interventions in Australia, and continues to list specialist perpetrator interventions as an open national data gap. ● The scale of the gap is documented in the DFSV Commission’s Monitoring and Reporting Framework (May 2026): of the 131 measures in the National Plan’s Performance Measurement Plan, 89 (68%) currently lack data, and of the 122 measures aligned to the six long-term outcomes, only 60 have identified data sources - confirming that the perpetrator-accountability outcome cannot currently be measured without the collection this action funds. ● ANROWS (Chung et al., 2020) scoped a national minimum dataset for men’s behaviour change programs and concluded it would be highly valuable - but found there is no uniform data collection and management tool in Australia to collect MBCP data, and the dataset was never implemented. ● The National Crime and Justice Data Linkage Project (ABS Criminal Justice Data Asset) may in future show how perpetrators move through the justice system, but does not capture behaviour-change outcomes - leaving the reporting gap this action closes.

Action 3. Legislate and implement national cross-sector information sharing that keeps the person using violence in view, so patterns are assembled by the system rather than carried by the victim-survivor.

What the action is	Harmonise state information-sharing schemes and extend person-centred data sharing across police, courts, corrections, child protection, health, housing and - with safeguards - financial institutions, organised around the person using violence.
What it achieves	Directly attacks system fragmentation, which is a primary enabler of people using violence remaining undetected and avoiding accountability. When each service sees only one fragment, the serial and high-functioning perpetrator stays invisible and the victim-survivor becomes the only person holding the whole picture. This shifts the coordination burden off her and onto the system.
Funding mechanism	Commonwealth legislation plus a national implementation program (scheme design, privacy architecture, workforce guidance).
Indicative cost	\$8–12m over four years for scheme design, privacy architecture and workforce guidance. Return on investment: Reduces duplicated assessment and re-disclosure costs across every service system a victim-survivor currently traverses (which is also re-traumatising and a significant administrative and time burden); enables earlier interruption (Actions 6–9) that avoids the far higher downstream cost of escalation, police and homicide investigation, legal system, incarceration and/or corrections.

Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's system-integration and coordination commitments and answers the DFSV Commission's "Towards system integration" monitoring focus (Monitoring and Reporting Framework, May 2026); responds to coronial and inquiry findings on fragmented information as a recurrent factor in preventable deaths.
Delivery lead & phasing	AGD (legislative lead) with DSS and states/territories. Phasing: Year 1–2 legislation and privacy architecture; Years 3–4 rollout.
Evidence base	● The submission's Question 3 analysis documents how fragmentation lets perpetrators conceal patterns and forces victim-survivors to carry information from service to service, re-proving their own risk. ● Pathways to Intimate Partner Homicide (Boxall et al., 2022, AIC/ANROWS) shows escalation is patterned and visible across systems before the lethal event - but only if the fragments are assembled. ● The State of Knowledge Report finds forms of violence co-occur and perpetrators exploit service silos; responses built around siloed violence types miss the whole pattern, the system needs to orient around person and pattern centred approach.

Action 4. Trial victim-survivor-led primary data capture within the focused-deterrence pilots to evidence coercive control in real time.

What the action is	Integrate a secure victim-survivor-led data-capture capability into 2–3 focused-deterrence pilot sites, converting the evidence victim-survivors already gather into admissible, real-time system intelligence, threat assessment and orchestration on coercive control.
What it achieves	Overcomes the timeliness and reliability limits of administrative data, which only captures perpetration once it reaches justice or health contact. It fills the coercive-control evidence gap that incident-based systems structurally miss - without adding to the victim-survivor's burden, because it securely operationalises evidence she is already forced to collect. This solution also places the control of data and data sharing back into the hands of victim survivors, reducing the amount of times they have to retell their whole experience to each service, and rather allows them to share information with multiple services at the same time.
Funding mechanism	Closed tender to Smart Technology Assisted Responses (STARVibe Technology), which holds the platform IP, integrated into pilot sites with independent evaluation.
Indicative cost	\$2–4m over two years. Return on investment: Improves targeting accuracy of the high-cost focused-deterrence and case-management investments (Actions 6, 8), raising their return; reduces reliance on slow, expensive administrative-data assembly and delays on information sharing architecture.
Alignment	Supports the National Plan's coercive-control focus and the Commonwealth's national coercive-control framing, which the current incident-based evidence base does not yet serve.
Delivery lead & phasing	AGD focused-deterrence measure, with STARVibe Technology (IP holder) and independent evaluator. Phasing: Year 1 integration into existing/emerging pilots; Year 2 evaluation.
Evidence base	● The State of Knowledge Report establishes that acts-based, incident-counting measures produce the gender-symmetry myth, while measures capturing coercive control, severity and impact reveal strong asymmetries - so the measurement instrument determines who the system sees. ● Administrative data captures perpetration only at justice/health contact, which the same evidence base shows is an unrepresentative fraction of all perpetration.

Action 5. Partner with businesses and institutions (starting with banks) as holders of long-term relationship data that supports evidencing coercive control potentially years before justice contact.

What the action is	Establish a formal data-and-evidence partnership with the banking sector to research how the tactics of control, isolation, debt creation and systems abuse appear in transaction and account data, and how that visibility can trigger system action.
What it achieves	Opens an intervention point no government service ever sees. Banks hold years of relationship data in which financial abuse as a form coercive control may be visible well before the first police contact – possibly the earliest reliable signal in the whole system. Working with the Commonwealth Bank reaches a scale of the Australian population matched by almost nothing outside government itself. CommBank serves more than 18 million customers - around one in three Australians hold a CBA account - with roughly 8 million people using its app every day. No specialist service, campaign or program comes close to that reach; embedding perpetration detection and safety-by-design into a platform of that scale puts protective infrastructure into everyday contact with a substantial share of the entire adult population.
Funding mechanism	Formal partnership commencing with CommBank who have been leading on responding and preventing financial abuse, through Next Chapter and AI enabled detection of DFV , extended through the Australian Banking Association. Government contribution covers privacy safe-harbour design, research access and evaluation.
Indicative cost	\$1–2m, leveraging existing bank investment. Return on investment: Extremely high leverage: the detection infrastructure already exists and is bank-funded (banks run real-time behavioural analytics on every transaction for fraud). Government funds only the privacy/research architecture to make it usable for early intervention, against a \$5.7bn/year financial-abuse cost base.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's financial-security and systems-accountability aims; builds on the Parliamentary Joint Committee's financial-abuse findings.
Delivery lead & phasing	AGD/Treasury with CBA Next Chapter and the ABA; the Audacity Centre (part of Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand) co-design. Phasing: Year 1-2 partnership and privacy design; Year 3-4 research and evaluation. Roll-out note (beyond banking): The banking partnership is the proof-of-concept; the same data-and-design partnership model extends, sector by sector, through the bodies that already own each code - general insurance via the Insurance Council of Australia and its Code Governance Committee (regulators ASIC and APRA; redress via AFCA); life insurance via the Council of Australian Life Insurers; energy via the Australian Energy Regulator and AEMC (with Victoria's Essential Services Commission for Victorian customers); and telecommunications, where a mandatory DFSV consumer-protection standard is already in force (regulator ACMA). Treasury (financial-services codes) and the AGD (coercive-control framing) provide the central coordination so detection and safety-by-design are applied consistently, not sector by sector in isolation.
Evidence base	● Deloitte Access Economics for CBA (2022) quantified financial abuse at \$5.7bn direct cost to victims and \$5.2bn to the broader economy, affecting 623,100 Australians in 2020 - figures the report notes are conservative. ● The submission's Question 2/3 analysis documents that sudden account-pattern changes, new debt, blocked access and coerced transactions are visible to financial institutions before anyone else. ● CWES and Flequity's Designed to Disrupt series (2022-) documents how perpetrators weaponise everyday banking, insurance, utility and telecommunications products, and translates this into an evidence-based "financial safety by design" blueprint - demonstrating that the tactics of financial abuse are visible in, and can be designed out of, the very data and products banks control.

Cluster 2. Interrupt the highest-risk perpetration

Action 6. Fund the focused-deterrence pilots to full, evaluated scale - not pilot-and-lapse - pairing certain, swift, individually communicated consequences and genuine support to change.

What the action is	Scale focused-deterrence models that identify the highest-harm perpetrators, communicate certain and swift consequences directly to them, and pair that with coordinated support to change - drawing on Victoria's original PSI focused-deterrence model.
What it achieves	Reaches exactly the repeat, escalating, high-harm perpetrators that general deterrence fails to touch with a specific expected reduction in domestic violence related homicides. General deterrence assumes a rational actor who expects consequences; most perpetration is committed by people who expect none. Focused deterrence targets the individuals actually driving the most harm.
Funding mechanism	Existing AGD focused-deterrence measure extended, with a published evaluation framework.
Indicative cost	\$20–30m over four years across scaled sites. Return on investment: Targets the highest-cost individuals in the system. Violence against women and children costs Australia \$22 billion a year (KPMG for DSS), with governments bearing \$4.1bn of that directly; University of Calgary evidence indicates earlier connection of police-contact perpetrators to behaviour change could reduce domestic violence by up to 40 per cent. Even a modest reduction in the highest-harm cohort avoids the homicide-investigation, incarceration and lifecourse costs (documented at \$900,000–\$5.5m per complex-needs individual in Australian lifecourse-cost analysis) that this pilot cost is a small fraction of.
Alignment	Extends an existing AGD commitment; delivers the National Plan's high-risk response and accountability priorities.
Delivery lead & phasing	AGD, with states/territories and justice partners. Phasing: Year 1 scale-up of existing pilots; Years 2–4 full evaluation.
Evidence base	- The State of Knowledge Report finds the vast majority of DFSV is committed by people never identified or sanctioned, and that a key reason people use violence is that they expect few or no consequences - 'a general deterrent cannot deter people it never touches.' - Calgary Shift research (Wells et al., 2024) on a 10-year police dataset found 73% of men charged with domestic violence in 2019 had at least one prior domestic violence police encounter, and 64% a prior non-criminal domestic encounter - visible windows currently wasted. - Victoria's original focused-deterrence PSI model and international evidence show consistent promise with repeat, escalating perpetrators. - The pattern in domestic and family violence deaths since the 2022 National Plan is that the person who killed was overwhelmingly a current or former partner already known to the victim - and frequently already visible to police, courts or services - underlining that the highest-harm perpetrators are identifiable in advance, which is precisely what focused deterrence acts on.

Action 7. Build the Domestic Violence Threat Assessment Centre with lived-experience governance from day one, connected to the perpetration data infrastructure so targeting is driven by patterns, not incidents.

What the action is	Establish the Threat Assessment Centre with survivor-led governance embedded from establishment, connected to the Action 1–3 data infrastructure, and tasked to integrate DFSV, misogyny-driven and violent-extremism threat pictures across the AGD portfolio.
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What it achieves	Creates a pattern-driven (not incident-driven) targeting capability for the highest-harm perpetration, and - uniquely - integrates it with the Department's countering-violent-extremism architecture, recognising misogyny as the connective tissue between DFSV, organised crime and violent extremism.
Funding mechanism	Design authority including lived expertise under paid engagement and governance arrangements, within the Centre's establishment budget.
Indicative cost	Governance and integration component \$2–3m over four years within the Centre's establishment budget. Return on investment: Low marginal cost (a design/governance component of an already-planned Centre) for high strategic return: it makes the Centre target patterns rather than incidents, and lets DFSV early-intervention investments (Cluster D) double as CVE investments.
Alignment	Delivers on the Government's own Threat Assessment Centre commitment and the National Plan's high-risk and lived-experience-governance principles - which the DFSV Commission frames as “not symbolic participation” but “a systemic requirement” (Monitoring and Reporting Framework, May 2026); connects to the AGD CVE portfolio.
Delivery lead & phasing	AGD, with members of the Victim Survivor Advisory Council and/or lived experience practice organisations (such as the Audacity Centre at Good Shepherd), under paid engagement and governance arrangements. Phasing: Year 1 governance design; Years 2–4 integrated operation.
Evidence base	• Australian Institute of Criminology research (Voce, Morgan & Dowling, 2022) found 40% of outlaw motorcycle gang members had been proceeded against for a domestic violence offence within ten years - twice the wider male offending rate - showing DFSV and organised crime are overlapping populations. • Castillo Díaz & Valji (2019) document the symbiosis of misogyny and violent extremism; a history of violence against women is one of the most consistent features in mass-casualty attacker biographies. • Empirical work in Terrorism and Political Violence (2024) finds misogyny predicts intentions toward violent extremism, interpersonal violence and support for violence against women alike.

Action 8. Attach a dedicated person-using-violence case manager to every person managed through high-risk panels (RAMP and equivalents), so 'eyes on the perpetrator' is a funded function.

What the action is	Fund dedicated PUV case managers as a standing function within high-risk panels, with active case management of the perpetrator, as well as fully funded partner and family safety contact, and consequences for disengagement (similar to breaching orders) as core components.
What it achieves	Closes the gap where high-risk panels identify dangerous perpetrators but no one is funded for perpetrator accountability and to keep continuous 'eyes on the perpetrator'. It complements a focussed deterrence approach and stops the system defaulting to asking the victim to leave - a response that can increase risk to the current victim survivor and displaces further risk onto the next partner rather than stopping the perpetrator.
Funding mechanism	National partnership payment to states/territories with common minimum standards.
Indicative cost	\$30–45m over three years (approximately 60–80 FTE nationally, plus supervision and training). Return on investment: Concentrated on the highest-risk, highest-cost individuals - the cohort most likely to generate homicide, serious-injury and repeat-incident costs. Active perpetrator management avoids the serial-perpetration costs that 'ask her to leave' responses do not prevent.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's high-risk and perpetrator-accountability priorities; standardises an existing but under-resourced panel function.

Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD national partnership with states/territories. Phasing: Year 1 standards and practice for PUV case workers with No to Violence and terms of funding agreements with states and territories; Years 2 – trial at 2-3 test sites, such as the Bayside Peninsula RAMP, building the evidence base of what works through practice; Year 3 - national rollout based on evaluation of test sites.
Evidence base	- ANROWS research on perpetrator-intervention systems highlights the under-valued risk-monitoring and partner-safety functions and the limited, inconsistent consequences for men who disengage or breach. - The submission's Question 1 analysis establishes that a system response that only asks women to leave does not stop post-separation. Relationship breakdown or separation increases the likelihood of escalating violence and homicide, systems abuse continues and the perpetrator becomes a threat to the next woman and children as the pattern of behaviour continues (and is unlikely to stop or reduce without intervention). - The record of women murdered in domestic and family violence deaths since the commencements of 2022 National Plan shows that in the great majority of cases the person who killed was already known to the victim and often already visible to the system - deaths that may have been prevented through a funded, continuous 'eyes on the perpetrator' function is designed to prevent.

Action 9. Pilot a Drive-style multi-agency response to high-harm perpetrators, delivering case management of the perpetrator alongside dedicated victim-survivor support.

What the action is	Fund 2–3 consortium sites to pilot the community-based, multi-agency 'Drive' model - sustained case management of high-harm perpetrators running alongside dedicated, independent victim-survivor support - with UK Drive Partnership technical advice.
What it achieves	Provides the community-integrated model for perpetrators who are not help-seeking and whom voluntary programs never reach, while ensuring victim-survivor safety is resourced in parallel rather than traded off.
Funding mechanism	Open grant round for 2–3 consortium sites, with UK Drive Partnership technical advice and independent evaluation.
Indicative cost	\$6–10m over three years including evaluation. Return on investment: The UK Drive evidence base shows reductions in the abusive behaviour of high-harm perpetrators - the cohort driving the largest share of system cost. Piloting with an established model reduces design risk and time-to-delivery.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's high-risk response priority; imports a proven international model rather than reconstructing one.
Delivery lead & phasing	AGD/DSS grant round with consortium sites; UK Drive Partnership advisory. Phasing: Year 1 establishment; Years 2–3 delivery and evaluation.
Evidence base	- The UK Drive Project is a community-based, multi-agency response to high-harm perpetrators delivered alongside dedicated victim-survivor support, with an established evaluation base showing reductions in abusive behaviour. - The submission's Question 1 analysis identifies the need for models that do not rely on the perpetrator being help-seeking and that integrate justice and community systems.

Cluster 3. Build the perpetration-focused workforce and service system

Action 10. Develop a person-using-violence case-worker workforce embedded across crisis and specialist DFSV services, starting with co-designed test sites.

What the action is	Build a PUV case-worker workforce embedded across crisis and specialist DFSV services, starting small with test sites co-designed with services and lived experience to ensure cultural appropriateness.
What it achieves	Creates the standing workforce needed to keep the person using violence in view across services - the human infrastructure that data-sharing (Action 3) and case management (Action 8) require to function. Starting with co-designed test sites de-risks national scale.
Funding mechanism	Limited tender co-design grant for specialists working with CALD community PUVs (such as the Institute of Non-Violence), and First Nations community led practice (see Boomerang Consultancy) paired with services supporting CALD and First Nations women and children experiencing DFSV (such as Good Shepherd's CALD co-designed emergency accommodation Bridget House or Wellsprings for Women , and Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Corporation, Women's Centre or Tangentyere Council). Followed by open tender and/or staged workforce funding, with the scale decision informed by evaluation.
Indicative cost	\$4–6m over two years for co-design and 3 test sites; scale decision informed by evaluation. Return on investment: Low-cost, staged entry that avoids the risk of funding a national workforce before the model is proven; builds sector capability rather than dispersing to reconstruction. The evidence for intensive, relational case-work as a cost-saving model is strong in Australia: the Community Restorative Centre evaluation found a flexible, outreach, relational workforce produced 62–66% reductions in custody outcomes and \$10–16m in criminal-justice savings per annual cohort - the same workforce design principles this action builds around the person using violence.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's workforce-development and service-integration commitments, with cultural-appropriateness built in.
Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD co-design grant with specialist PUV services and lived-experience partners. Phasing: Year 1 co-design; Year 2 test sites and evaluation; scale decision thereafter.
Evidence base	- The State of Knowledge Report and ANROWS establish that perpetrator response must extend beyond specialist men's behaviour change programs into human services, health and community settings. - McCausland et al. (2025), Community Restorative Centre mixed-methods evaluation: an intensive, flexible, outreach, relational case-work model for people with complex needs produced 62–66% reductions in custody outcomes and \$10–16m in estimated criminal-justice savings per annual client cohort - establishing the effectiveness and cost-return of the relational workforce design this action applies to people using violence.

Action 11. Scale men's behaviour change program places to demand, with partner and family safety contact, risk monitoring and breach consequences funded as core components.

What the action is	Approximately double national men's behaviour change program (MBCP) capacity, funding partner and family safety contact, risk monitoring and breach consequences as core components rather than optional extras.
What it achieves	Closes the indefensible scale gap: during the 7 July Roundtable a participant noted that in NSW, hundreds of thousands of police call-outs a year sit against roughly 900 funded MBCP places. No accountability system can function on that arithmetic. Funding the wraparound components makes the places safe as well as available.

Funding mechanism	National partnership agreement with jurisdictions; provider grants.
Indicative cost	\$80–120m over four years to approximately double national capacity with wraparound components. Return on investment: This is the single largest line in the submission and should be evaluated against the outcomes framework (Action 2). Set against the \$22 billion annual Australian cost of violence against women and children, even a small proportionate reduction returns many multiples of this investment. The University of Calgary evidence indicates connecting perpetrators to behaviour change at earlier contact points can reduce violence by up to 40 per cent; the wraparound components are what prevent completion-without-change. Australian evaluation of intensive, relational case-work models (the Community Restorative Centre study) found reductions of 62–66% in custody outcomes and estimated criminal-justice savings of \$10–16 million per annual client cohort - evidence that funded, relational wraparound delivers measurable public savings.
Alignment	Delivers a core National Plan response commitment; addresses the widely documented MBCP capacity shortfall.
Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD national partnership with states/territories and providers. Years 1–4. Phasing: Year 1 agreements; Years 2–4 staged capacity increase.
Evidence base	- ANROWS research notes the high expectations placed on MBCPs while their risk-monitoring and partner-support roles are under-valued, and identifies limited, inconsistent consequences for disengagement or breach. - The submission's Question 1 analysis establishes that behaviour change is unlikely to last if a man completes an MBCP then returns to the family and community dynamics that enabled his behaviour - hence funded partner/family and community components. - Meyer & Atienzar-Prieto (2024), Griffith University evaluation of the YFS Responsible Men program (a long-running Queensland MBCP): completion is associated with marked improvements in men's understanding of domestic and family violence, self-regulation and communication skills, and the program is making a positive impact for men, women and families - evidence that an established, evaluated MBCP delivers the outcomes scaling with wraparound components is designed to extend.

Action 12. Require pattern-based coercive-control capability across all government-funded services, replacing incident-based risk tools.

What the action is	Mandate pattern-based coercive-control capability across all government-funded DFSV-relevant services, replacing incident-based risk tools that miss financial abuse and the most controlled, dangerous perpetrators, via a funding-agreement condition and a national workforce training program.
What it achieves	Aligns frontline risk assessment with the Commonwealth's own coercive-control definition. Incident-based tools structurally miss the calm, controlled, patterned perpetrator - the most dangerous one - because they count discrete acts rather than patterns.
Funding mechanism	Funding-agreement condition plus a national workforce training program.
Indicative cost	\$10–15m over four years. Return on investment: Improves the accuracy of every downstream risk decision across the funded service system, raising the return on case-management and intervention spend and reducing missed-escalation costs.
Alignment	Operationalises the Commonwealth's national coercive-control framing, which risk tools have not yet caught up with; delivers the National Plan's coercive-control priority.
Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD funding-condition lead with national training delivery. Phasing: Year 1 standard and curriculum; Years 2–4 workforce rollout.

Evidence base	● The State of Knowledge Report establishes that what we measure determines who we see: incident-counting overlooks the patterned, controlling perpetrator. ● The Commonwealth's own coercive-control framing defines abuse as a pattern over time, but risk assessment, workforce capability and funded tools have not yet caught up with the definition. ● Pathways to Intimate Partner Homicide (Boxall et al., 2022) shows the fixated/controlling pathway is patterned and predictable, and missed by incident-focused systems.
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Cluster 4. Fund community capability and early intervention around people using violence

Action 13. Fund the Accountability Mate Program

What the action is	Fund co-design finalisation, facilitator training with 4–6 pilot settings (workplaces, sporting clubs, general practice) and independent evaluation of the Accountability Mate Program: an adult-learning model that builds everyday men's capability to recognise male patterns of abuse and red flags, receive disclosures safely, make referrals, and support men through behaviour change.
What it achieves	Builds the community-level accountability infrastructure that funded programs alone cannot provide. Accountability has to live in the relationships around the person using violence - the workplaces, clubs, families and mates who see fragments of behaviour long before the formal system does - turning trusted bystanders into the earliest, most cost-effective intervention point.
Funding mechanism	Closed tender or direct grant to the Accountability Matters Project as IP holder, delivered with sector partners.
Indicative cost	\$1.5–2.5m over two years for finalisation, facilitator training, 4–6 pilot settings and independent evaluation; ~\$5m for national scale on positive evaluation. Return on investment: The majority of design, evidence base and lived-experience input are sunk cost already met - government funds specific tailored co-design with communities/places, delivery, not development. This model was ready to pilot in 2019; seven years of preventable delay is the cost of the eligibility rule Action 24 fixes.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's early-intervention and community-engagement priorities and its stated commitment to lived-experience-led work; embodies the AMP 'Connection' line of effort.
Delivery lead & phasing	Accountability Matters Project (IP holder) with sector partners such as Our Watch, No to Violence and The Men's Project. Phasing: Year 1-2 - co-design finalisation and facilitator training; Year 2-4 pilots and evaluation; national scale on positive evaluation.
Evidence base	● The State of Knowledge Report establishes that peers and settings drive perpetration - in some meta-analyses peer approval predicts perpetration more strongly than personal beliefs - making community- and setting-level intervention evidence-based. ● The submission's Question 1 analysis establishes that workplaces, clubs and families that minimise or stay neutral unintentionally strengthen the perpetrator's control; equipped, they become trusted early-intervention infrastructure.

Action 14. Invest in scaling Ask A Mate - trusted-messenger relationship and behaviour guidance for secondary-school-aged boys and young men.

What the action is	Provide scaling investment to Ask A Mate (delivered by Beyond DV , the IP holder), which delivers relationship and behaviour guidance to secondary-school-aged boys and young men through trusted experts, influencers and role models.
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What it achieves	Reaches boys and young men at the point on the perpetration trajectory where it typically begins - adolescence - through trusted messengers, countering manosphere influence with credible alternatives in the same online spaces.
Funding mechanism	Direct grant to the IP holder, Beyond DV .
Indicative cost	\$1–2m per year. Return on investment: Low unit cost, high reach through existing trusted-messenger channels; upstream of the far higher costs of adult perpetration. Can be connected to the schools program (Action 18) for reach.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's prevention and healthy-masculinities priorities; targets the adolescent onset the perpetration evidence identifies.
Delivery lead & phasing	Beyond DV (IP holder), direct grant. Ongoing from Year 1. Phasing: Year 1 onward - annual scaling investment.
Evidence base	- The State of Knowledge Report establishes that most sexual-violence perpetration begins in boys' and young men's teenage years and continues into adulthood, especially where it avoids detection. - Practitioners (e.g. The Man Cave) report escalating manosphere-driven misogyny among boys, making trusted-messenger counter-programming a timely prevention investment.

Action 15. Invest in scaling Love & Learn ([Beyond DV](#)) - relationship education and support resources for young people.

What the action is	Provide scaling investment to Love & Learn, Beyond DV 's relationship-education and support resources for young people.
What it achieves	Adds evidence-informed relationship education at the early trajectory point, complementing trusted-messenger reach with structured educational content.
Funding mechanism	Direct grant to Beyond DV.
Indicative cost	\$0.5–1m per year. Return on investment: Very low unit cost; upstream prevention with an existing delivery vehicle, avoiding development cost.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's prevention and respectful-relationships priorities.
Delivery lead & phasing	Beyond DV (IP holder), direct grant. Ongoing from Year 1. Phasing: Year 1 onward - annual scaling investment.
Evidence base	The State of Knowledge Report establishes perpetration trajectories often begin in adolescence and young adulthood, the exact point these interventions target.

Action 16. Expand confidential pre-crisis pathways on the Stop It Now! model for people worried about their own behaviour or the behaviour of someone they love.

What the action is	Fund expansion of confidential, pre-crisis engagement pathways on the Stop It Now! model, extending capacity and reach.
What it achieves	Reaches people before harm done or the justice system does - including people worried about their own behaviour - providing an engagement route that intercepts perpetration trajectories before harm escalates or a crime is committed. Shifts burden off victim survivors to report abuse, after harm is done.
Funding mechanism	Grant to the existing operator to extend capacity and reach to meet scale of demand and unmet need.

Indicative cost	\$2–3m per year. Return on investment: Pre-crisis engagement is dramatically cheaper than post-crime justice response; the operator and model already exist, so investment funds reach, not development.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's early-intervention and prevention priorities; extends a proven child-sexual-abuse-prevention model.
Delivery lead & phasing	Stop It Now! Australia (existing operator Jesuit Social Services), grant. Phasing: Year 1 onward - annual capacity funding.
Evidence base	- Stop It Now! demonstrates that people worried about their own behaviour, or a loved one's, will engage with confidential, pre-crisis pathways when they exist. - The State of Knowledge Report establishes that most perpetration never reaches the justice system, so pre-crisis, non-justice engagement routes reach a cohort general deterrence never touches.

Action 17. Embed Baby Makes 3-style engagement universally at the birth of every child, delivered through antenatal and maternal and child health platforms.

What the action is	Licence and stage the national rollout of Baby Makes 3 -style equal-and-respectful-relationships engagement with couples at the transition to parenthood - a known commencement and escalation point for violence - delivered through antenatal and maternal and child health platforms.
What it achieves	Uses a universal-service touchpoint every new-parent family passes through to intervene at one of the best-evidenced escalation points for the onset of domestic violence. It reaches fathers at a moment when parenting is too often assumed protective rather than risk assessed.
Funding mechanism	Negotiation with the program IP holder for a national licence, plus staged jurisdictional rollout through health platforms.
Indicative cost	\$20–30m over three years for a staged rollout reaching an initial 30–40% of new-parent cohorts, scaling toward universal coverage. Return on investment: Delivered through existing universal health infrastructure (antenatal, maternal and child health), minimising new delivery cost; intervenes before the escalation point rather than after, avoiding downstream crisis and child-protection costs.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's prevention and early-intervention priorities; targets the transition-to-parenthood escalation window the perpetration evidence identifies.
Delivery lead & phasing	Health/DSS with the program IP holder and state health systems. Phasing: Year 1 licence and design; Years 2–3 staged rollout toward universal coverage.
Evidence base	- The transition to parenthood, including pregnancy, is identified in the submission's Question 1 analysis as a known commencement and escalation point for violence. - Baby Makes 3 is an established equal-and-respectful-relationships program for couples at the transition to parenthood, deliverable through maternal and child health platforms (AIFS Communities for Children profile). - The submission's Question 2 analysis identifies fathers who use violence - where parenting involvement is treated as inherently protective rather than risk assessed - as a systematically overlooked cohort.

Action 18. Fund a schools-based targeted early-intervention program for students already using, or at risk of using, harassing, controlling or abusive behaviours - with particular focus on the harassment of girls online, in the playground, and between students after hours.

What the action is	Fund a specialist, targeted (not universal) schools program giving schools a funded pathway to respond to identified students - individual and small-group behaviour-focused intervention, family engagement, and coordination across the school/online/after-hours boundary - holding boys accountable and supported to change without defaulting to exclusion or inaction.
What it achieves	Staffs the earliest visible point on the perpetration trajectory, which is currently a responsibility void: schools often treat after-hours and online harassment as beyond their remit, police treat it as a school matter, and platforms treat it as neither - so girls absorb the harm and adjust their behaviour while the boys using it rarely receive a protective intervention. Universal respectful-relationships curriculum does not close this gap.
Funding mechanism	Open grant round for youth DFSV and adolescent-violence specialists to co-design and deliver with young people and education systems, connected to trusted-messenger platforms (Ask A Mate) for reach, with independent evaluation against behaviour change - not attendance.
Indicative cost	\$15–20m over four years for staged rollout across secondary-school regions in each jurisdiction. Return on investment: Evidence on dating and sexual violence shows that perpetration starts during young teenage years and once commenced, trajectories of violence perpetration rarely reduce without a targeted intervention. Operating in secondary schools intervenes at the time when a lifelong pattern can be interrupted and diverted, and a decade before adult perpetration costs are incurred. These interventions should be co-designed with young people and evaluated against behaviour change so spend is tied to outcomes. Prevents the usual exclusion response (suspension or expulsion, if addressed at all) that merely relocates risk. The return on early, specialist intervention with young people is now quantified in Australia: Griffith Criminology Institute evaluation found specialist community-based treatment reduced sexual reoffending by 78–90% and general reoffending by 34–44% - each avoided trajectory saving the \$900,000–\$5.5m lifecourse institutional cost documented for complex-needs individuals. (Connects to Action 25.)
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's prevention, early-intervention and healthy-masculinities priorities; addresses the manosphere-radicalisation problem raised at the roundtable, which is simultaneously a CVE concern (links to Action 7).
Delivery lead & phasing	Education systems with youth DFSV/adolescent-violence specialists; open grant round. Phasing: Year 1-2 co-design; Years 3–4 staged site rollout with evaluation.
Evidence base	● The State of Knowledge Report establishes adolescence as the onset point of most perpetration trajectories, making targeted early intervention evidence-based. ● Practitioners report escalating misogynistic harassment of girls, gender-diverse students and female teachers, with after-hours and online harassment falling into an institutional responsibility void. ● The submission's Question 1 analysis identifies this as the earliest visible, currently unstaffed point on the trajectory, and warns that inaction rehearses for the girls involved the same safety burden the submission describes - a decade early. ● Griffith Criminology Institute quasi-experimental evaluation (2025): specialist, community-based treatment for young people using harmful behaviours reduced sexual reoffending by 78–90% and general reoffending by 34–44%, demonstrating that targeted early intervention with identified young people works and can be delivered safely in the community.

Cluster 5. Make business, banking and insurance regulated sites of disruption

Action 19. Make safety-by-design and anti-abuse standards an enforceable, economy-wide requirement across banking, insurance, energy and telecommunications, and close the gaps recent reforms have not touched.

What the action is	Bring the safety-by-design and anti-abuse protections that have emerged unevenly across financial and essential services to a single, enforceable, economy-wide standard. Implement the Parliamentary Joint Committee's 61 unanimous recommendations in full with a published timeline; make anti-abuse terms and financial-safety-by-design mandatory through enforceable code provisions and licence conditions across all four sectors - banking (extending beyond the major banks to smaller ADIs, non-bank lenders, BNPL and fintech), insurance (general and life), energy, and telecommunications; and shift the architecture from supporting victim-survivors after harm to identifying, warning, restricting and reporting the perpetrator. Use the eSafety Commissioner's Safety by Design model - on which the <i>Designed to Disrupt</i> series is built - as the cross-sector template.
What it achieves	Turns a patchy, voluntary, big-bank-concentrated set of protections into a consistent economy-wide standard, so a victim-survivor is protected regardless of whether the product misused is a bank account, an insurance policy, an energy account or a phone plan. Critically, it re-centres the architecture on the perpetrator - identifying, warning, restricting and reporting - which almost none of the current sector reforms yet do. It closes the coverage gaps (smaller lenders, BNPL, fintech, superannuation, insurers, energy and telco) that perpetrators exploit precisely because protection is uneven.
Funding mechanism	Full PJC implementation response; enforceable amendments to each sector's code and licence conditions, delivered through the body that owns it - the Insurance Council of Australia and its Code Governance Committee (general insurance), the Council of Australian Life Insurers (life), the Australian Energy Regulator and AEMC (energy), and the ACMA (telco, building on the mandatory 2025 DFSV Standard). Closed tender to CWES/Flequity Ventures as IP holders for implementation toolkits in the lagging sectors; Audacity Centre (part of Good Shepherd ANZ) co-design partnership for perpetrator-identification design. Treasury and the Attorney-General's Department coordinate centrally for consistency.
Indicative cost	\$3–5m for standards, toolkits and regulator capability. Return on investment: Very high leverage - government funds standards and regulator capability while industry bears implementation cost, as the scams precedent proves. Targets a \$5.7bn/year victim-cost base. It also validates the "fund the sector's IP" thesis: the CWES <i>Designed to Disrupt</i> and <i>Respect & Protect</i> designs were adopted wholesale by more than a dozen banks and by the PJC inquiry itself.
Alignment	Implements an existing unanimous parliamentary committee report; delivers the National Plan's financial-security and systems-accountability priorities; and advances the DFSV Commission's "Towards system integration" monitoring focus (Monitoring and Reporting Framework, May 2026). Each sector reform it harmonises is already in train, so this completes and connects existing commitments rather than creating new ones.
Delivery lead & phasing	Gov - Treasury (Financial Services) leads, implementing the PJC's financial-abuse recommendations, with the AGD co-leading the coercive-control and criminal-law elements. Enforcement sits with the relevant sector regulators - ASIC (banks, credit, financial products and Design and Distribution Obligations), APRA (superannuation and insurance), ACMA (telcos) and the AER (energy) - coordinated with the ACCC as cross-sector consumer regulator. Sector partners - CWES/Flequity (Designed to Disrupt toolkits and Respect + Protect T+Cs, and); Audacity Centre (co-design). Phasing: Year 1–2 PJC response and code/licence design, using telco (mandatory standard already live) and banking (majors already moved) as the template; Years 3–5 sector-by-sector enforcement across insurance, energy and the remaining financial sub-sectors.

Evidence base	● The PJC's December 2024 report Financial Abuse: An Insidious Form of Domestic Violence made 61 unanimous recommendations, including recognising financial abuse in the terms and conditions of all financial products. ● Designed to Disrupt series (CWES + Flequity 2022–) documents how perpetrators weaponise banking, insurance, utility and telecommunications products, and translates this into an evidence-based "financial safety by design" blueprint modelled on the eSafety Commissioner's Safety by Design. ● More than 14 banks including the big four have adopted anti-abuse terms on the CWES/Respect & Protect model; the ABA, General Insurance Code, telco and energy schemes, AFCA and ASIC (Report 782) have all moved - but unevenly and voluntarily. ● Sector reforms are already underway but uneven: a new General Insurance Code with enforceable financial-abuse protections is being finalised; the Life Insurance Code is under review; the AER released a family-violence energy strategy in May 2025; and a mandatory Telecommunications DFSV Consumer Protections Standard has been in force since 1 July 2025 - evidence that the machinery exists and needs harmonising, not building. ● The reforms so far centre on supporting victim-survivors; few identify, warn, restrict or report the perpetrator - the shift this submission argues for.
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Action 20. Match the scams response with equivalent investment in identifying and responding to financial abuse, and close the relationship loophole on identity and credential misuse.

What the action is	Extend the anti-scams architecture (Accord-style industry commitment, real-time detection obligations) to financial abuse, and legislate that non-consensual use of another person's identity and credentials is fraud regardless of relationship, with coercion vitiating apparent consent.
What it achieves	Ends an indefensible disparity: financial abuse costs victims \$5.7bn a year - nearly three times total national scam losses - yet has attracted nothing like the whole-of-ecosystem scams response. It closes the 'relationship loophole' whereby identical conduct (using someone's ID for a loan, account or directorship) is treated as fraud from a stranger but assumed consensual from a partner.
Funding mechanism	Extend the anti-scams architecture to financial abuse; legislate to close the relationship loophole, with coercion vitiating apparent consent. Detection investment borne by industry, as with scams.
Indicative cost	\$5–8m to government for legislation, regulator capability and guidance; detection investment borne by industry as with scams. Return on investment: Government funds legislation and regulator capability; industry bears detection cost (proven by the scams precedent). Targets a \$5.7bn/year cost base with a fraction of that in public spend. Reduces the coerced debts, coerced directorships and sexually transmitted debt that keep women economically unequal after separation.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's financial-security priority; builds directly on the PJC financial-abuse inquiry and existing scams-prevention legislation.
Delivery lead & phasing	Treasury (Financial Services) leads both elements. For matching the scams response, the existing Scams Prevention Framework (Treasury policy; enforced by the ACCC as general regulator, ASIC for banking and ACMA for telcos, with AFCA as external dispute resolution) provides the vehicle - extendable to financial abuse via new sector designation. For closing the identity/credential loophole, Treasury's coerced-directorships reform (touching the Corporations Act and Taxation Administration Act, administered with ASIC and the ATO) is the live pathway. AGD leads any criminal-law fraud elements. Years 1–3. Phasing: Year 1 legislation and loophole closure; Years 2–3 detection obligations and guidance.

Evidence base	● Deloitte/CBA (2022): financial abuse cost victims \$5.7bn directly in 2020; total national scam losses run at roughly \$2bn/year - financial abuse costs victims alone nearly three times more. ● Banks already run real-time behavioural analytics on every transaction for fraud - the detection capability exists; only the mandate to apply it to financial abuse is missing. ● The submission's Question 3 analysis details the relationship loophole: coercion makes 'she agreed to it' the perpetrator's easiest defence, so the trusted relationship makes the conduct higher-risk, not lower.
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Action 21. Provide the Audacity Centre with five-year core funding to extend its lived-experience co-design method as national infrastructure.

What the action is	Provide five-year core funding (not project grants) for the Audacity Centre at Good Shepherd ANZ to extend its Lived Experience Framework's practice and ethical 'design against perpetration' co-design method and capability - bringing lived experience, practitioner expertise and research evidence into one design process to test and redesign products and policies against perpetration and misuse, so systems, not victims, carry the burden.
What it achieves	Institutionalises the 'design against perpetration' capability that Actions 5, 19 and 20 rely on. Core funding is essential because the method's foundation is proper remuneration of lived-experience expertise plus the trauma-informed supports, supervision and debriefing that ethical co-design requires - precisely the costs cut first when co-design is procured as a project line item, leaving survivors subsidising the system with unpaid labour or left harmed from unsupported engagement.
Funding mechanism	Five-year core funding agreement (closed tender or direct partnership grant reflecting the demonstrated methodology), with Commonwealth and state/territory government agencies participating in co-design of their own service design and policies.
Indicative cost	\$6–9m over five years (approximately \$1.2–1.8m per year covering the core team, lived-experience remuneration at professional rates, and wellbeing supports). Return on investment: The method is already demonstrated working with Australia's largest bank - government funds extension, not development. It underpins the high-leverage banking/insurance actions (5, 19, 20) whose returns depend on perpetrator-identification design capability existing.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's lived-experience-governance and systems-accountability principles and the Ethical Co-Production Framework (which the author co-authored); embodies the ethical lived-experience remuneration that the DFSV Commission's Monitoring and Reporting Framework (May 2026) treats as a systemic requirement rather than symbolic participation.
Delivery lead & phasing	Good Shepherd's Audacity Centre, five-year core funding agreement. Years 1–5. Phasing: Year 1 agreement; Years 1–5 continuous co-design infrastructure.
Evidence base	● The Audacity Centre's subject matter expert co-design method is demonstrated as effective, from specialist DFSV CALD service design to systems change with Australia's largest bank, partners reporting a shift from responding to harm toward designing against it - the Temporal Spheres shift executed inside institutions. ● The Australian Framework for the Ethical Co-Production of Research with Victim-Survivors (2023) establishes proper remuneration and trauma-informed support as ethical requirements, not optional extras, with Good Shepherd's Lived Experience Framework and Audacity Centre team's specialist capability operationalising these standards in practice.

Cluster 6. Hold the Plan itself accountable

Action 22. Adopt publicly reported national targets against the use of violence, using the 2018 A Man's Problem measures as ready-made architecture.

What the action is	Adopt publicly reported national targets: a 25% reduction in men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings; a 50% rebalance of investment toward perpetration-focused prevention and intervention; and 80% accountability-focused public discourse (see Appendix C).
What it achieves	Makes an outcome the National Plan has already adopted actually measurable. The Outcomes Framework 2023–2032 already includes, as its fourth long-term outcome, that “people who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and stop their violent, coercive and abusive behaviours” – but the DFSV Commission's Monitoring and Reporting Framework (May 2026) shows this outcome has almost no measures with current data. This action supplies the targets and reporting that convert an already-agreed outcome into trackable commitments, measured against the perpetration survey (Action 1).
Funding mechanism	Second Action Plan performance framework.
Indicative cost	Negligible. Return on investment: Zero cost; makes the entire Plan envelope accountable to outcome. Without targets, spending cannot be judged as effective or otherwise.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's accountability and measurement commitments; makes measurable the perpetrator-accountability outcome (Long-Term Outcome 4) already in the Outcomes Framework 2023–2032; and provides a ready-made target architecture from the 2018 A Man's Problem measures of success.
Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD performance framework. Year 1. Phasing: Year 1 adoption; annual public reporting thereafter.
Evidence base	- The 2018 A Man's Problem Measures of Success set explicit benchmarks: 80% accountability-focused discourse, a 50% rebalance of investment, and a 25% reduction in men's use of violence – a target architecture built for exactly this purpose. - The National Plan already embeds the reframe ('a problem for victims, but not a victim's problem') in its opening Survivor Statement; these targets convert language into accountability. - The perpetrator-accountability outcome is already one of the six long-term outcomes in the Outcomes Framework 2023–2032, but the DFSV Commission's Monitoring and Reporting Framework (May 2026) documents that most long-term-outcome measures lack data (only 60 of 122 aligned measures have identified data sources) – so the outcome exists on paper but cannot yet be tracked. Targets and the perpetration survey are what make it measurable.

Action 23. Report the crisis-versus-perpetration investment split annually, so the rebalance toward reducing harm as it happens is measured, not assumed.

What the action is	Require that the DFSV Commission's National Funding Mapping Framework (in development, commencing 2026) explicitly disaggregates the split between crisis/response investment and perpetration-focused prevention and intervention investment, and reports it annually.
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What it achieves	Makes the Temporal Spheres of Harm (<i>see Appendix D</i>) rebalance visible and accountable: it shows, each year, whether investment is actually shifting from responding to harm already done toward reducing harm as it happens. The DFSV Commission is already scoping a National Funding Mapping Framework that analyses Commonwealth, state and territory budget papers; this action asks only that the mapping disaggregate perpetration-focused from crisis/response investment - a small addition to work already underway, not a new build. What is not measured is not managed.
Funding mechanism	Incorporated into the DFSV Commission's National Funding Mapping Framework, with annual public reporting (DSS/AGD and the Commission's Yearly Report to Parliament).
Indicative cost	Under \$0.5m per year. Return on investment: Near-zero cost; provides the accountability signal that keeps the 50% new investment rebalance target (Action 22) honest.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's transparency and accountability commitments; plugs directly into the DFSV Commission's "Funding transparency" monitoring focus and its National Funding Mapping Framework (Monitoring and Reporting Framework, May 2026).
Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD annual reporting. Year 1 onward. Phasing: Year 1 onward - annual public report.
Evidence base	- The AMP Temporal Spheres of Harm framework establishes that systems organised around victims respond to harm already done (maintaining the status quo), while the shift to the present sphere - the people using violence - is what reduces harm as it happens. - The DFSV Commission's Monitoring and Reporting Framework (May 2026) confirms a National Funding Mapping Framework is being scoped from 2026, analysing government budget papers to give a national picture of DFSV funding allocation - the natural vehicle for the crisis-versus-perpetration disaggregation this action requires.

Action 24. Fix grant and tender eligibility so funding follows merit, evidence and outcomes - not corporate structure.

What the action is	Open government funding to social enterprises and partnering with lived experience/victim survivors, using closed tender or direct grant wherever a named program carries existing IP or individual is the originator.
What it achieves	Removes the structural rule that has excluded survivor-led and social-enterprise innovation for years - the rule that left the Accountability Mate Program unfunded for seven years because AMP is a Pty Ltd rather than a registered NFP. It aligns eligibility with what works, not with legal form.
Funding mechanism	Policy setting change to grant and tender eligibility criteria.
Indicative cost	Nil; this is a policy setting, and it is seven years overdue. Return on investment: Zero cost; unlocks sunk-cost, pilot-ready innovation (e.g. Action 13) that the current rule strands, and prevents future loss of survivor-built models to eligibility technicalities.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's lived-experience-leadership commitments; removes a documented barrier to survivor-led innovation.
Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD/Finance policy setting. Year 1. Phasing: Year 1 - immediate policy change.

Evidence base	● The Accountability Mate Program was designed and pilot-ready in 2019 but ineligible for many government grants because the Accountability Matters Project is a Pty Ltd social enterprise, not a registered NFP - a structural exclusion that cost seven years. ● The Commonwealth Procurement Rules already provide for limited tender where IP rights or the absence of a reasonable alternative make open competition inappropriate - the legal basis already exists.
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Cluster 7. Break the cycle: child recovery and intergenerational prevention

Action 25. Fund healing and recovery for children experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence, and specialist treatment for young people using harmful sexual and violent behaviours, as both burden-shift and the highest-leverage intergenerational perpetration prevention.

What the action is	Establish two connected funded streams: (1) trauma recovery and healing support for all children affected by DFSV, recognising them as victim-survivors in their own right - deliverable through schools using non-talking, play-based modalities (e.g. the Safe and Sound Protocol , clinical trial with the Australian Childhood Foundation) and community services; and (2) specialist, community-based forensic treatment for children and young people already using harmful sexual or violent behaviours, tailored to the underlying drivers (trauma, family dysfunction, developmental disruption) rather than managing behaviour alone.
What it achieves	Acts at the earliest and most malleable point in the potential perpetration trajectory, where the evidence for changing that trajectory is strongest. It shifts the burden off child victim-survivors by treating their recovery as a funded entitlement rather than individual costs or something families arrange alone, and it interrupts the intergenerational transmission of violence. Childhood exposure to/experience of violence in the family is a significant risk factor for later perpetration, so funding children's recovery is itself perpetration prevention.
Funding mechanism	Stream 1: National partnership with education and health systems, plus grants to specialist child-trauma providers (e.g. Australian Childhood Foundation and BlueKnot) and licensing of evidence-based modalities (such as Safe + Sound Protocol) Stream 2: Grants to specialist youth forensic treatment services co-designed with youth justice, child protection and health, evaluated against sexual and general reoffending.
Indicative cost	\$25–40m over four years across both streams - Stream 1 (child recovery, staged rollout through schools and community services) and Stream 2 (specialist youth treatment capacity in each jurisdiction), with independent evaluation. Return on investment: This is among the highest-return investments in the submission. The Griffith quasi-experimental evaluation found specialist community-based treatment reduced sexual reoffending by 78–90% and general reoffending by 34–44% in young people - each prevented trajectory avoids decades of downstream cost. Australian lifecourse-cost analysis (Baldry et al.) documents institutional costs of \$900,000 to \$5.5 million per person with complex needs cycling through justice, health and homelessness systems, with the evidence stark that early intervention was absent and the only cost reductions came when tailored support was provided. The KPMG cost-of-violence study puts the 'second generation' cost of children witnessing and living with violence at \$333m; AIHW attributes \$1.3 billion per year in health-system spending to child abuse and neglect. Community-based treatment is also far cheaper than custody and keeps young people safely out of the criminalisation pathway.
Alignment	Delivers the National Plan's commitments to children as victim-survivors in their own right, to prevention and early intervention, and to breaking intergenerational cycles of violence; aligns with the social-determinants-of-justice evidence on childhood pathways into criminalisation.

Delivery lead & phasing	DSS/AGD/Health/Education with state and territory education systems, the Australian Childhood Foundation and specialist youth forensic providers; state youth justice and child protection. Phasing: Year 1-2 co-design and provider grants; Years 3–5 staged rollout building on the evidence base of what works through practice and with evaluation against recovery and reoffending outcomes.
Evidence base	● The State of Knowledge Report (Flood et al., 2022) establishes that childhood exposure to violence is a significant risk factor for later perpetration - many adult perpetrators were themselves child victims - so funded children's recovery is itself perpetration prevention. ● Griffith Criminology Institute quasi-experimental evaluation (propensity-score matched, ScienceDirect 2025): specialist community-based forensic treatment reduced sexual reoffending by 78–90% and general reoffending by 34–44% in young people; up to a third of all child sexual abuse is perpetrated by under-18s, and ~16% of sexual assault and related offences (2020–21) were by 10–18-year-olds. ● Baldry et al. (UNSW) lifecourse-cost analysis: institutional costs of \$900,000–\$5.5m per person with complex needs, with early intervention demonstrably absent and cost reductions occurring only during periods of tailored support - establishing the return on early, tailored intervention in Australian dollars. ● McCausland & Baldry (2023), 'Who Does Australia Lock Up? The Social Determinants of Justice': childhood abuse, out-of-home care and early trauma are among the strongest determinants of later criminalisation; 84% of people in the Mental Health Disorders and Cognitive Disability (MHDCCD) cohort who had been in out-of-home care as children had complex needs as adults. ● The Safe and Sound Protocol (SSP), a non-talking, play-based modality, clinical trial with the Australian Childhood Foundation - offering a school-deliverable recovery pathway for children affected by DFSV.

Background: the reframe, the history, and the case for the investment approach

The accountability reframe I bring to these questions

In 2018 I founded the Accountability Matters Project on a single reframe: violence is a problem for victims, but it is not a victim's problem. The A Man's Problem concept outline (*Appendix A*) I published that year set out, on a 25-year timeline, the goals, strategies and measures of an actor-accountability approach to:

- measurably reduce men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings, and
- shift public discourse from a female-centric victim lens to one that centralises the behaviour of the people using violence - people who must be held accountable and supported to change.

In 2019, through AMP, I published the Temporal Spheres of Harm (*Appendix C*): a model showing that when systems organise around victims, they are responding to harm already done - essential work, but work that by itself maintains the status quo. It is only when the organising focus moves to the present sphere - the people using violence, and the structural barriers that let their behaviour continue - that we reduce harm as it is happening and create social change.

AMP's theory of change set out three lines of effort for social change (*Appendix E*), and I have organised my roundtable responses through them, because each question maps almost exactly onto one:

- **Accountability** - Focus on who is using abuse, why, and the impact on victims and society.
 - This is the work of Question 1 - the systems, data and interventions that hold ending perpetration as the organising focus.
- **Connection** - Share men's and boys' lived experiences of abuse.
 - This is the work of Question 2 - seeing the perpetrators and forms of perpetration our stereotypes hide.
- **Transformation** - Shift responses from a 'good men vs bad men' construct to understanding that people we know, like and love can abuse.
 - This is the work of Question 3 - once we accept that perpetrators are among us, we can no longer justify systems that make victim-survivors responsible for managing them.

The history behind this advice

The reframe toward understanding perpetration as the policy problem has since been reflected in national policy - in no small part through sustained advocacy. The A Man's Problem approach was recorded in Federal Parliament by the former Member for Canberra, Ms Gai Brodtmann MP, on 26 November 2018. In 2020 I worked in the Department of Social Services' Women's Safety Policy Branch and was instrumental in structuring the first submissions of the current National Plan around the domains of Prevention, Early Intervention, Response, and Recovery and Healing, ensuring experts in prevention, engaging men, and work with perpetrators briefed officials at the ideation stage.

Most visibly, from my seat on the National Plan Advisory Group I initiated the Statement from Victim-Survivors that opens the National Plan, co-authoring it with colleagues at the Independent Collective of Survivors - embedding 'abuse and violence is a problem for victims, but it is not a victim's problem,' and that it is 'everyone's responsibility to end the perpetration of violence,' as some of the first words policymakers read in the Government's own framework.

I am co-author of Putting Perpetrators in the Picture (2021) and the State of Knowledge Report on Violence Perpetration (2022), co-authored the Australian National Research Agenda that made 'people who use DFSV' a national research priority, and am Chief Investigator on the first prevalence study measuring DFSV perpetration.

Eight years on, we are yet to reach Year 0 of a perpetration-reduction plan - a national data landscape on the prevalence of DFSV perpetration and why individuals use violence. **While we have the policy framing, what has not yet landed is the system, data and investment shift that must follow the language. This submission is how the Second Action Plan lands it.**

Why the funding mechanisms matter: the case for closed or limited tender to named IP holders

Throughout this submission I have paired every program with a specific investment or procurement pathway, because the sector's experience is that the 'what' is endlessly gathered while the 'how' and 'with what money' are deferred - and deferral is where good answers die between action plans.

Several actions recommend closed or limited tender to named IP holders. That is the value-for-money route as well as the ethical one, for five reasons.

1. **Research and design already paid for.** Every named program arrives with its research base, design and/or testing complete - sunk investment government did not fund. Open tender discards that asset: the winning incumbent reconstructs the concept from scratch, and government pays for the same design twice, usually less well, because the tacit practice wisdom and lived-expertise that shaped the original does not transfer with a tender document.
2. **Time.** An open-tender cycle typically adds 18 months to 3 years before a participant is reached. The named programs can commence within a funding cycle because development is done. In this portfolio, every year of delay is measured in preventable escalation - and the Calgary economics price the do-nothing baseline at tens of millions per city per year. The cheapest intervention is the one that starts soonest.
3. **Risk and scaling.** Trialled programs carry lower delivery risk: the assumptions are tested, the workforce often exists, and the originator retains the deep knowledge needed to adapt the model as it scales - which is where reconstructed programs most often fail.
4. **Sector sustainability.** Social program models cannot be patented, so under open tendering the specialist sector provider or an individual's (such a survivor advocate) expected return on designing something new is to watch funding go a larger provider to deliver it - commonly without recognition or reward for moral and intellectual property or investment that went into the ideation and development (often at a cost to the service or the individual that spent money and resources developing it). This creates a lack of trust and limits collaboration when there is scarce funding and what gets developed may be an opportunity that another provider benefits from without recompense to the originator. Protecting IP though closed or limited tendering can turn innovation into an income-generating asset for the sector: the originator can earn licensing or royalty revenue each time their model is scaled by larger providers, giving specialist services and survivor advocates a self-sustaining stream to reinvest in further innovation rather than depending on the next grant round. Protecting IP generators restores healthy competition (not patch protecting) and innovation that government actually wants: competition on whether the model works. It does not lock large providers out - it sequences them fairly in at scale-up, as the Australian developed [Triple P - Positive Parenting Program®](#) and [Mental Health First Aid](#) licensing models show.
5. **It is the only ethical option.** Much of this innovation was generated by victim-survivors and a chronically under-resourced sector, for free, at great personal cost. Putting a survivor-led or sector organisation's concept to open tender invites better-resourced incumbents to win delivery of someone else's IP. No government would open-tender a patented technology to the patent-holder's competitors. The

Commonwealth Procurement Rules already provide for limited tender where IP rights or the absence of a reasonable alternative make open competition inappropriate.

A structural lesson the Plan should fix

The Accountability Mate Program (see Appendix B) was designed in 2019, evidence-informed and ready to pilot in partnership with No to Violence, Professor Michael Flood and [Menslink](#). It was either ineligible or refused government grants because the Accountability Matters Project is a Pty Ltd social enterprise rather than a registered not-for-profit. Seven years later, this consultation asks exactly what that program was built to do. Funding eligibility that follows legal form rather than merit systematically excludes survivor-led and social-enterprise innovation, and the sector loses years it cannot afford. Action 24 fixes it.

The economic case, stated honestly

The return-on-investment figures in this submission draw on two robust sources. Financial abuse costs Australian victims \$5.7 billion a year in direct costs, with a further \$5.2 billion to the broader economy, affecting more than 623,000 people in 2020 - figures the Deloitte/Commonwealth Bank study itself notes are conservative. The University of Calgary's 2026 study *It Costs More to Do Nothing* found domestic violence perpetration cost one mid-sized city approximately \$58 million in a single year, more than 90 per cent borne by taxpayers, and modelled that connecting men to behaviour change at earlier points of police contact could reduce domestic violence by up to 40 per cent - saving more than \$93 million over five years in that city alone.

A note on how I use the Calgary figures: they are Canadian, single-city and modelled. I present them as indicative of the order of return demonstrated internationally, not as a direct prediction of Australian dollar savings. The Australian figures below are the domestic anchors.

The cost of doing nothing, in Australian dollars

The Australian evidence base is now strong enough to make the economic case without relying on international figures. Violence against women and children costs Australia an estimated \$22 billion a year (KPMG for the Department of Social Services, 2015–16), of which victim-survivors bear \$11.3 billion, governments \$4.1 billion, and the community, children and perpetrators the remaining \$6.5 billion - with a further \$4 billion likely once under-counted groups (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disability, pregnant women, women experiencing homelessness) are included. On a recurring basis, the AIHW attributes \$751 million a year in health-system spending to intimate partner violence and \$1.3 billion a year to child abuse and neglect. These are costs incurred because of people who use violence. Stopping their controlling, abusive and violent behaviours saves money.

The return on early, tailored intervention is equally well-evidenced in Australia. UNSW lifecourse-cost analysis (Baldry et al.) documents institutional costs of \$900,000 to \$5.5 million per person with complex needs cycling through justice, health and homelessness systems - and finds the only periods when those costs fell were when tailored, supported intervention was provided, which was otherwise absent. The Community Restorative Centre evaluation (McCausland et al., 2025) found an intensive, relational case-work model produced 62–66 per cent reductions in custody outcomes and \$10–16 million in criminal-justice savings per annual client cohort. And specialist community-based treatment for young people who have used harmful behaviours reduced sexual reoffending by 78–90 per cent and general reoffending by 34–44 per cent (Griffith Criminology Institute, 2025).

Reducing perpetration produces savings in direct proportion to the reduction achieved. Against the \$22 billion annual cost of violence against women and children, every one per cent reduction saves the Australian economy approximately \$220 million a year. Meeting the National Plan's ambition of a 25 per cent reduction would save an estimated \$5.5 billion every year - rising toward \$6.5 billion once the costs borne by under-counted groups are included. Even confined to direct government health outlays, a 25 per cent reduction would save around \$510 million a year in the health-system spending the AIHW attributes to intimate partner violence

and child abuse. These are recurring annual savings, and they compound: every year perpetration is not reduced, the full cost is paid again.

Children's recovery is perpetration prevention

Childhood exposure to violence is a significant risk factor for later perpetration (and re-victimisation); many adult perpetrators were themselves child victims. The social-determinants-of-justice research (McCausland & Baldry, 2023) shows childhood abuse, out-of-home care and early trauma among the strongest determinants of later criminalisation - 84 per cent of people in the MHDCC cohort who had been in out-of-home care as children had complex needs as adults. Funding children's recovery from DFSV therefore does two things at once: it shifts the safety burden off child victim-survivors by treating their recovery as an entitlement and prosocial community level benefit (as well as individual) rather than a family's private task, and it interrupts the intergenerational transmission of violence at the point where the evidence for changing the trajectory is strongest. It is, in economic terms, among the highest-return investments available to the 2nd Action Plan.

My final appeal for the 2nd Action Plan to make real change

Fund all of it. **At \$420 million over five years, this package need only reduce perpetration by one per cent a year to save over \$1.1 billion - more than double its cost on the worst outcome worth planning for. The bar for a positive return is one per cent; clearing it is almost impossible to fail.** An investment that pays for itself even when it barely works is not a risk; it is one of the safest bets available to government, because the only way to lose money is to reduce perpetration by nothing at all. This is not a gamble on prevention working spectacularly - it is an investment that returns benefits even if it barely works at all.

More importantly, the return is not only fiscal: and this is the point that should decide it. **Perpetrators are made, not born. We can prevent people using violence. Perpetration is not an abstraction - it the result of social conditioning and choices, made by people we can identify and reach, and systems we can change.** On current figures the perpetration of DFSV sees a woman killed by an intimate partner in Australia roughly every eleven days, and makes intimate partner violence one of the top five contributors to disease burden for women aged 15–54. It is the reason more than 500 children are hospitalised each year because of family and domestic violence, the reason more than half of all children seeking specialist homelessness support have experienced it, and the reason around two in five Australians carry exposure to domestic violence out of their childhood and into the rest of their lives.

Every percentage point the perpetration of DFSV is reduced is not only money returned - it is a woman who is not killed, a child who is not hospitalised, a family not made homeless, and a childhood free from fear. That is what a one per cent reduction buys, and why the only unaffordable choice is to keep paying the full cost of people's use of violence, in dollars and in lives, year after year.

These figures are conservative and defensible: prevention and early intervention in perpetration is not a moral luxury competing with crisis response - it is the fiscally responsible choice, and every year of delay compounds both the human and the public cost.

Doing nothing is the only choice we can't afford. As I and members of the Independent Collective of Survivors wrote in 2022 – **It is time to be brave.**

A statement from victim-survivors

It is time to transform our pain into action. There can be no more excuses – that it is too hard, we don't know what to do, it's too complex.

It is everyone's responsibility to end the perpetration of violence against women and children, and all victims of gendered violence.

We are your mothers, your sisters, your brothers, your aunts, your uncles, your cousins, your children, your partners, your colleagues, your friends, your family, your kin, your community.

Do not continue to shame us for what other people have done to us. We did not ask for abuse. We have resisted violence, or done what we needed to do – to protect ourselves, our families. To survive.

Stand with us, do not look away when we show you our pain. See what is happening all around you everyday, from the sexist comment or homophobic joke, to the excuse 'boys will be boys'.

Discard the intuition that just because you know someone, they could not possibly hurt or abuse another. The people who use violence and abuse against their families, partners, children, colleagues, friends or dates are people you already know. People you like. People you love.

The people who have abused us are people we knew; people we liked; and most often people we loved.

Too many of us are being re-traumatised trying to engage with systems that are meant to 'protect' us but fail. Systems that create barriers to access and have costs beyond our means because services are not designed for the realities of our lives. Instead, they perpetuate the same dynamics of power and control as our abusers. Systems that wait until the worst has happened before they respond, then blame us for not reporting or leaving.

We should not have to die to get your attention.

We should never be forced to choose between violence in our homes or being homeless and facing violence on the streets, or having our families torn apart in ways we never wanted and that cause further harm.

This is not safety.

The time is now to remove the inequalities that allow perpetrators to exercise power over others because our society:

- does not believe women
- does not value all women equally
- does not hear the voices of First Nations women and learn from their diverse experiences
- does not reward women equally for work
- does not value women's unpaid labour
- does not believe children can be trusted to tell the truth about abuse
- does not view people with disability as equal or able
- punishes those who do not conform
- creates disadvantage and poverty as a problem of individuals.

It is time to stop people and institutions choosing to use violence, feeling entitled to control and dominate, to degrade others' value based on their sex, gender, sexuality or perceived 'rights'. We are not damaged goods.

We are not incapable or less than you because we experience trauma. **We are survivors.** We will not be silenced, pushed into the shadows nor spoken for any more.

We hold knowledge and answers that others simply do not.

We are diverse but galvanised by a common cause. We know what needs to change. No meaningful solutions can be made about us without us.

Stopping our suffering depends on all of us choosing to do something differently. We cannot repeat more of the same and expect to achieve change. Abuse and violence is a problem for victims, but it is not the victims' problem.

Genuine change begins with a willingness to listen. We must stop protecting perpetrators with our silence, and through inaction. We must be willing to sit in discomfort.

It is time to be brave.

Members of the Independent Collective of Survivors

A note on method and the use of AI.

This submission reflects more than a decade of my own work on gender equality, primary prevention and ending violence against women, DFSV perpetration, accountability and lived-experience-led reform. The reframe it advances, the recommendations it makes, and the decisions about what to fund and why are entirely my own.

In developing it, I chose to work with generative AI (Claude, made by Anthropic) as a research and drafting aid - to help locate and verify current Australian evidence, cross-check my recommendations against the government's own frameworks, structure a long and complex document, and build defensible indicative costings and return-on-investment estimates.

Consistent with the Australian Government's own approach to the responsible use of AI, the tool was used to assist rather than replace human judgement: I directed every stage of the process, and all AI-assisted content was reviewed, verified against its sources, and edited by me before inclusion. As someone who works at the intersection of lived experience and responsible AI, I believe transparency about how these tools are used - as an aid to human expertise, not a substitute for it - is part of using them well, and reflects the same standard of transparency that government asks of itself.

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- [Baby Makes 3](#) - equal and respectful relationships program at the transition to parenthood (AIFS Communities for Children profile).
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NOVEMBER 2018

RE-FRAMING SEXUAL, DOMESTIC AND
FAMILY VIOLENCE AS

A MAN'S PROBLEM

To Own To Resolve

Social Disruption Movement Concept Outline



Prepared by [REDACTED]
CEO & Founder
A Man's Problem
[REDACTED]

A MAN'S PROBLEM

A Man's Problem is a purpose driven organisation and social disruption movement to create an inclusive public discourse about domestic and family violence (DFV) that is focused on actor accountability.

Mission

Engender an Australian society where men and women do not use violence in intimate, domestic and family settings, building safe families and communities for everyone.

Values

1. Accountability
2. Understanding
3. Fairness
4. Respect
5. Bravery
(not being limited by fear)
6. Original thought

What we believe in:

- One person's ability to change the world
- Individual responsibility and collective action
- Substantive equality where difference is valued
- Authentic leadership
- Challenging social norms of power that disempower women and men
- Raising people up, not dragging people down
- Helping and healing, not judging and blaming
- Being curious and trying new things
- Transformational change

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

Reducing men's use of violence in intimate, family and domestic settings

Leading with honesty focused on behaviour

Celebrating men's positive contributions to family and society, particularly promoting men as caregivers

Supporting men to talk about DFV experiences as users of violence, victims/survivors, and engaged members of society

Removing shame and guilt from people's experiences of DFV

Empowering boys and men to express their feelings

Supporting victims (female and male) access support services

WHAT WE ARE NOT ABOUT

Minimising victims' and survivors' experiences of DFV

Avoiding truths to prevent discomfort

Saying men are bad or that use of violence is exclusively male

Saying women do not use violence in family and domestic settings

Advocating that services to victims should be eschewed for prevention of men's violence programs

GOALS

● To measurably reduce men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings.

o For men to identify with the behaviours and issues contributing to sexual, domestic and family violence.

o For people who use violence in intimate, domestic and family settings to be accountable for their behaviour and supported to change.

● The public discourse on domestic and family violence is actor-focused and acknowledges the different effect DFV has on men, women, boys and girls.

o Measurable reduction in the tolerance and acceptance of 'masculine' behaviours and attitudes that entrench domestic and family violence as a gendered issue.

o For men and women to understand their role(s) in reducing men's use of violence in intimate, family and domestic settings.

1

To measurably reduce men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings.

2

Create an inclusive public discourse on domestic and family violence that is actor-focused and acknowledges the different effect DFV has on men, women, boys and girls.

POINT OF DIFFERENCE

There are many worthwhile, experienced organisations, and governments at all levels working to prevent men's use of violence and provide services to victims of DFV. However with few exceptions, these stakeholders use female-centric victim lens representations, reinforcing the impression that DFV is a women's issue. A Man's Problem believes until these leading organisations, major institutions, and the media shift the focus to an actor-accountability discourse, the effect of changing public perception, and ultimately reducing men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings, will continue to be limited.

THE PROBLEM

The public discourse frames DFV as a women's issue through a female-centric victim lens. This approach obscures the role of male actors, minimises personal accountability for behaviour, reinforces ideas women need protection (instead of men being responsible for and changing their behaviour), perpetuates victim blaming by centralising female victims as the subject of DFV, and conceals male victims' experiences. The effect is the majority of resources is spent on female-focused crisis support and little impact is made on reducing men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings. The 2018 Australia Institute of Health and Welfare report on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence showing rates of victim reported DFV have not decreased in the past 10-15 years.

WHILE STATISTICS SHOW THAT
PREDOMINANTLY MEN PERPETRATE DFV
AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAJORITY
OF DOMESTIC HOMICIDES,
DFV IS REPRESENTED AS A WOMEN'S PROBLEM.



One in three women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by someone known to them.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2013). *Personal Safety, Australia, 2012*, cat. no. 4906.0. Retrieved from: <http://bit.ly/1kKSe0l> © White Ribbon Australia 2014

1/week

Over 12 months, on average, one woman is killed every week by a current or former partner.

Chan, A. and Payne, J. (2013). Homicide in Australia: 2008-09 to 2009-10, *National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report*. Canberra, Australia: Australian Institute of Criminology. Retrieved from: <http://bit.ly/1qVoTZF> © White Ribbon Australia 2014



Domestic and family violence is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2013). *Specialist homelessness services 2012-13*, cat no. HOU 273. Retrieved from: <http://bit.ly/1ofyA7s> © White Ribbon Australia 2014



Intimate partner violence is the leading contributor to death, disability & ill-health in Australian women aged 15-44.

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. (2004). *The Health Costs of Violence: Measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence*. Retrieved from: <http://bit.ly/1y8fYVW> p.8 © White Ribbon Australia 2014

A MAN'S PROBLEM SOLUTION

A Man's Problem's will re-frame the DFV public discourse as actor-focused to influence public opinion on who is responsible and understanding where action can be taken. Men, understandably, don't readily identify with female experiences of violence. If we want men to identify with intimate, domestic and family violence and understand how they can contribute to its prevention, then we need to talk about it in male terms. We must explicitly centralise masculine behaviour and use of violence in the DFV discourse.

FROM

female-centric victim lens

TO

actor-accountability focus



One in three women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by someone known to them



Over twelve months on average, one woman is killed every week by a current or former partner



Domestic violence is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children



The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children



Women and men are three times more likely to be physically assaulted by a man than a woman



51% of male victims experiencing sexual violence since the age of 15 reported a male perpetrators



Men who use physical and sexual violence against people known to them affects one in three women



On average, an Australian man murders his current or former partner at a rate of one woman per week & one man per month



Men's use of violence in domestic and family settings is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children



The National Action Plan to Reduce Men's Use of Violence in Family and Domestic Settings



Men are three times more likely than women to use physical violence



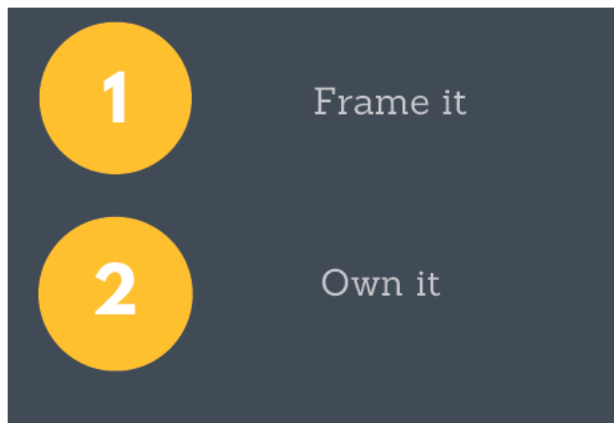
Men are reported to perpetrate 51% of sexual violence against boys and men (over the age of 15)

*** Statements are examples of actor-focused language, interpreted from current DFV representations.

A Man's Problem will do original research to accurately represent actor use of violence statistically.

STRATEGIES

Unique



A Man's Problem Activities

- *Direct stakeholder engagement to change DFV language to actor-focus*
- *Social media campaign(s) re-framing DFV as A Man's Problem*
- *Accountability Commitment*
- *YouTube channel of original user content telling men's stories of DFV as victims and users of violence*
- *Roster of male speakers to tell their stories as victims and reformed users of violence*

Complementary



- *Visual campaign focused on men's behaviour based on examples from the pyramid of violence and cycle of abuse*
- *Relationship (eg families, friends, colleagues, team mates) and culturally specific toolkits for identifying and talking about unacceptable behaviours*
- *Male support program to remove barriers for self-identifying and early intervention*
- *Improving emotional literacy, early childhood/primary school programs and resources to expand boys' (and girls') emotional vocabulary*
- *Visual campaign focused on men's behaviour using same examples from See it, but demonstrating how to be responsible for your emotions and choices of how to express them.*

A Man's Problem will work collaboratively on complementary strategies with stakeholders and like-minded organisations to avoid duplication of effort, pool resources, create consistent messaging, and amplify effect across collective platforms and networks.

RE-FRAME

[ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



One Australian woman is killed every week by a current or former partner on average over twelve months

TO PERPETRATOR



An Australian man kills his current or former partner at a rate of one woman per week & one man per month

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2018/contents/summary>

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



1 in 6 women
have experienced
physical and/or sexual
violence perpetrated by
co-habiting partner

TO PERPETRATOR



Men who use physical
and/or sexual violence
against co-habiting
partners, impacts
1 in 6 women

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for

**[M] A MAN'S
PROBLEM**
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

**** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.*

www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2018/contents/summary

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



Domestic violence is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children

TO PERPETRATOR



Men who use violence in domestic & family settings are the principal cause of homelessness for women & children

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.
www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-in-australia-2018/contents/summary

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



Both men & women
are more likely to
experience violence
(since the age of 15)
by a male perpetrator
than a female
perpetrator

TO PERPETRATOR

Men are more likely
than women to use
physical violence,
impacting 2 in 5 men &
1 in 3 women



Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.

www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4906.0~2016~Main%20Features~Prevalence%20of%20violence%20since%20the%20age%20of%2015%20-%20Relationship%20to%20perpetrator%20by%20Sex%20of%20perpetrator~12

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



981,300 female victims
and 18,700 male
victims experienced
violence by a
boyfriend/male date

TO PERPETRATOR

Men who used
violence against dates
/ partners impacted
981,300 women &
18,700 men



Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.
ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016 - www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main+features12016

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



1 in 6 women
(16% or 1.5 million)
experienced sexual
violence by a
male known person

Less than 1% (57,400)
who experienced
sexual violence
by a female known person

TO PERPETRATOR



Men who use sexual
violence against people
known to them impacts
1 in 6 women

Women who use sexual violence
against people known
to them impacts less than
1% of Australian women



Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for

**[M] A MAN'S
PROBLEM**
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.

ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016 - www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main+features12016

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



An estimated 4.5% of women (418,900) experienced sexual violence by a male previous partner

TO PERPETRATOR



Men who use sexual violence against their partners impacts an est. 4.5% of women (418,900)

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.
ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016 - www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main+features12016

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



An estimated 4.3% of women (398,700) experienced sexual violence by a boyfriend/date

TO PERPETRATOR



Men who use sexual violence against girlfriends/dates impacts an est. 4.3% of women (398,700)

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.
ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016 - www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main+features12016

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



1 in 4 women
(25% or 2.3 million)
experienced physical
violence by a male
known person

6.9% (642,400) women
experienced physical
violence by a female
known person

TO PERPETRATOR



Men who use physical
violence against people
known to them impacts
1 in 4 Australian women
(2.3 million)



Women who use physical violence
against people known
to them impacts 6.9%
of Australian women (642,400)

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.

ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016 - www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main+features12016

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



Women are almost twice as likely to experience physical violence by a male stranger than a female stranger.

An est. 4.2% of women (397,800) experienced physical violence by a male stranger, 2.4% (228,800) by a female stranger.

TO PERPETRATOR



Men are almost twice as likely as women to use violence against a female stranger.

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.
ABS Personal Safety Survey 2016 - www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4906.0main+features12016

RE-FRAME [ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



More than 1 in 3
Australians
experienced
violence by a male
perpetrator since
the age of 15
(36% or 6.7 million)

TO PERPETRATOR



Men's use of violence
impacts more than
1 in 3 Australians over
the age of 15
(36% or 6.7 million)

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current Australian statistics.

www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0

RE-FRAME

[ACCOUNTABILITY]

FROM VICTIM



1 in 3, or 35%, of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence

TO PERPETRATOR



Men who use physical and/or sexual violence against an intimate partner or non-partner impacts 1 in 3 women worldwide

Violence is a problem for victims, but it's not a victim's problem.

Men are the Solution for
[M] A MAN'S PROBLEM
SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAMPAIGN

*** Statements are examples of an accountability focus, interpreted from current statistics.

www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women

You can help reduce domestic and family abuse

ACCOUNTABILITY MATE PROGRAM



ABOUT

The Accountability Mate Program is for the every day man who wants to make a difference to reduce the incidence of domestic and family abuse.

The adult learning workshop experience aims to provide people with a safe and supportive environment to learn about and connect with the issues surrounding men's use of violence intimate, domestic and family settings.

Developed by experts and professionals in the field, keeping victims' safety the primary goal, we bring the man's lived experience to the forefront in working with men to end domestic and family abuse.



GET STARTED

The Accountability Mate Program can be tailored to your needs, either as weekly series of two hour sessions (12 total), six half day workshops, or a three day intensive course. Suitable for corporate settings, employers, general practitioners, sports clubs, community groups or organisations, families or a bunch of mates (minimum 4 people):

Contact -

programs@ampchagency.com

YOU CAN HELP

YOU WILL LEARN:

- what is sexual, domestic and family abuse/violence,
- what are male patterns of abuse,
- the red flags and times of critical risk for a man to start using or escalating violence/self-harm,
- understanding men's shame around domestic and family abuse,
- how to initiate and have conversations about harmful behaviours,
- how to receive disclosures of abuse,
- the victim experience,
- how to make referrals to local, state, national providers working with men who use violence in relationships,
- how to support someone you know doing a behavioral change program, and
- vicarious trauma awareness and basic self-care training.

GOALS

Baseline national gendered rates of use of violence (not victimisation)

Re-frame sexual, domestic and family violence discourse and reporting towards accountability

Increased national focus on preventing and reducing men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings

Critical mass change in attitudes towards men's use of violence, with an increased belief in personal accountability of perpetrators. (*Using the ANROWS National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey*)

Reduction in men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

National database of publicly available statics and narrative resources on gendered use of violence in line with pyramid of violence

80%+ of public discourse using accountability focused language

50% increase in governments' budgets directed towards prevention of men's violence programs and behavioral intervention services nationally, with a forecast increasing trajectory

A reduction to:

1 in 100 think violence against women is justified

1 in 10 believe that violence could be excused if people got so angry they lost control

1 in 10 believe that rape was the result of men being unable to control their need for sex

1 in 10 believe a woman was partly responsible for being raped if drunk or affected by drugs

25% reduction in incidence and reports of men's use of violence in intimate, domestic and family settings

PROJECTED TIMELINE

3 Years

6 Years

12 Years

18 Years

25 Years

TEMPORAL SPHERES OF HARM

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

FOCUS

WHO

HOW

WHAT

VICTIMS

RESPOND
TO HARM DONE

PRACTICAL NEEDS

USERS OF VIOLENCE

REDUCE
HARM HAPPENING

STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

POPULATION

PREVENT
HARM OCCURRING

STRATEGIC INTERESTS

IMPACT ON
POWER
RELATIONS

**MAINTAIN
STATUS QUO**

**CREATE
SOCIAL CHANGE**

**BUILD
GENDER EQUALITY**



*3 lines of effort
for social change*



ACCOUNTABILITY

Focus on who is using
abuse, why,
the impact on victims
and society

CONNECTION

Share men's and boys'
lived experiences of
sexual, domestic
and family abuse

TRANSFORMATION

Shift responses from
'Good vs Bad men' construct
to understanding that
people we know, like and love
can abuse

**REDUCE
SEXUAL, DOMESTIC
& FAMILY ABUSE**