

Formal Submission

Consultation on the Second Action Plan



**Asian Women
Development Plan
International
Australia**

Strengthening the Second Action Plan for Asian Women in Australia

Community-Level Precision,
Trusted Support Pathways and
Connected System Responses

On behalf of Asian Women Development Plan
International Australia (AWDPI Australia)



July 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Asian Women Development Plan International Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

We also recognise the strength, resilience, and continuing leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in advancing safety, healing and justice for families and communities.

Acknowledgement of Lived and Living Experience

Asian Women Development Plan International Australia acknowledges the courage, knowledge and leadership of people with lived and living experience of domestic, family and sexual violence. We recognise the enduring impacts of violence on individuals, children, families and communities.

This submission draws on de-identified and aggregated practice-informed insights from AWDPI Australia's community projects and engagement, support enquiries, and referral navigation during 2025–2026, together with feedback from community members, community representatives and relevant sector stakeholders. These insights have been considered alongside published evidence and the Consultation Paper.

About AWDPI Australia

Asian Women Development Plan International Australia (AWDPI Australia) is the Australian national office of Asian Women Development Plan International, an international non-profit network advancing the safety, empowerment and development of Asian women.

AWDPI Australia works to relieve disadvantage and advance social and public welfare for Asian women in Australia, particularly migrant and refugee women, international students, and temporary visa holders experiencing domestic, family or sexual violence, gender-based discrimination, social isolation, hardship or barriers to support.

AWDPI Australia's work spans direct and practical assistance, culturally informed information and education, supported navigation and referral, community engagement, advocacy, research and partnerships.

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Executive Summary

Asian Women Development Plan International Australia (AWDPI Australia) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*.

This submission considers how the Second Action Plan can further strengthen prevention, earlier access to support and connected system responses for Asian women in Australia, particularly migrant women, temporary visa holders and women facing cultural, linguistic or migration-related barriers to safety and support.

AWDPI Australia's perspective is practice-informed, drawn from its work at the interface between Asian women and relevant policy and service systems. This submission offers insight into the less visible stages of help-seeking that precede specialist support and the barriers that disrupt continuity thereafter.

The Consultation Paper, *Evidence to action: informing direction for the Second Action Plan*, recognises the distinct barriers experienced by migrant communities, gaps in the national evidence base, and the respective roles of specialist and non-specialist workforces. This submission builds directly on that foundation, focusing on how policy commitments and service availability translate into meaningful and sustained access in practice.

National and multicultural frameworks remain essential to equitable policy development. Their effectiveness depends on closer attention to diversity within broad population categories. Asian communities are not homogeneous. Differences in language, migration pathway, visa status, family and economic circumstances, and familiarity with Australian institutions shape the recognition and disclosure of violence, help-seeking pathways and continuity of support. Without greater precision at the community level, material differences in risk, access and outcomes can remain obscured in policy design, funding and evaluation.

AWDPI Australia terms this approach **community-level precision**: greater specificity within national and multicultural policy development, implementation and evaluation, achieved through disaggregated evidence and sustained engagement with culturally specific, language-specific and cohort-focused organisations. This retains population-wide frameworks while ensuring differences within and across Asian communities inform prevention, communication, service design and evaluation, without treating culture as a proxy for the structural and migration-related factors that shape women's experiences.

Community-level precision also strengthens the evidence base. Consistent data standards, safe disaggregation and appropriately governed analysis of cultural, linguistic and migration-related data would support more accurate assessment of service barriers, response effectiveness and disparities in unmet need.

Help-seeking among Asian women frequently begins outside specialist services through concerns about housing, finances, children, employment or visa status rather than an explicit disclosure of violence. Trusted community settings support early recognition, clarify available options and provide a defined, resourced bridge into specialist services.

Service availability alone does not secure access. Women need to understand pathways, trust the services involved, communicate safely and remain connected across service transitions.

Funded community-to-specialist pathways, including warm referral, supported navigation and follow-through, strengthen continuity from informal help-seeking to specialist support.

Migration-related abuse requires explicit recognition within the framework addressing coercive control and systems abuse. Visa or sponsorship threats, document withholding, misinformation, economic dependency, transnational family pressure, digital surveillance and misuse of legal and administrative systems constrain women's autonomy and practical options. Effective risk assessment, safety planning and referral must account for these dynamics and facilitate access to specialist support.

Prevention must also reach beyond specialist settings and audiences already engaged in gender equality initiatives. Culturally and linguistically relevant approaches delivered through trusted community, education, workplace, sporting and digital settings can engage men and boys and reach wider audiences while keeping the gendered drivers of violence central.

Sustained input from culturally specific organisations and affected communities is essential to effective implementation. Resourced feedback mechanisms enable reporting of emerging barriers and referral failures, informing policy adaptation and strengthening accountability over the life of the Action Plan. Implementation should be measured not by service availability and activity volumes, but by successful connection and the quality, continuity and safety of access.

AWDPI Australia recommends that the Second Action Plan:

- Embed community-level precision within national and multicultural policy development, engagement, implementation and evaluation;
- Extend prevention beyond specialist settings and already-engaged audiences through sustained engagement with men and boys, institutions and broader audiences;
- Strengthen national and jurisdictional data and research frameworks to support safe disaggregation and, where statistically reliable, analysis of the prevalence and forms of violence, service access and outcomes within and across Asian communities;
- Resource culturally trusted organisations to contribute to prevention and supported access pathways to specialist services, including warm referral, navigation and follow-through;
- Assess language access through comprehension, trust and capacity for safe action—not translation or service availability alone;
- Recognise migration-related and transnational forms of coercive control, including systems abuse and technology-facilitated abuse in multilingual and transnational contexts, within risk assessment, safety planning and referral pathways;
- Integrate specialist safety responses with the social, economic, legal, migration, child-related and recovery supports on which longer-term safety depends; and
- Establish ongoing mechanisms for community input and implementation accountability, with outcomes assessed through meaningful access, successful connection, continuity and safety.

The Second Action Plan is an important opportunity to translate national commitments into meaningful and sustained access for women across diverse communities. A “no wrong door” approach is realised when every point of contact can support safe and effective connection to the services a woman needs.

1. Introduction and Scope

Asian Women Development Plan International Australia (AWDPI Australia) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*. As the next phase of implementation, the Second Action Plan strengthens prevention, advances equitable access to support and long-term recovery, and translates national commitments into effective responses across diverse communities. AWDPI Australia supports the Consultation Paper's recognition of the barriers experienced by migrant and multicultural communities and the need for culturally safe, accessible and integrated responses.

This submission focuses on Asian women in Australia, particularly migrant women, temporary visa holders and women experiencing cultural, linguistic or migration-related barriers to safety and support. Cultural and linguistic diversity, migration-related circumstances and structural conditions interact to shape experiences of violence, help-seeking and engagement with policy and service systems. The term “Asian women” encompasses diverse communities, identities and circumstances. It does not imply a uniform experience or treat culture as the sole explanation for differences in risk, help-seeking or access.

Drawing on AWDPI Australia's mission, community-facing experience and practice areas, this submission principally addresses Priority Area 1: Victim-Survivors, Priority Area 2: Prevention and Early Intervention, and Priority Area 5: System Integration and Workforce. AWDPI Australia also recognises the importance of Priority Area 3: Children and Young People in Their Own Right, and Priority Area 4: People Who Use Violence. While outside of this submission's primary focus, relevant implications are noted where they arise within other priority areas.

The analysis draws on practice-informed insights from AWDPI Australia's community engagement, support-related enquiries and supported referral navigation, together with its broader engagement with relevant government, sector and community stakeholders. These insights are considered alongside the evidence and policy directions set out in the Consultation Paper. Together, these resources inform the analysis of recurring barriers to access, points of service disconnection and implementation issues that may be less visible in aggregated data.

Across the priority areas addressed, the submission advances five connected themes:

- Community-level precision;
- Trusted entry points and meaningful access;
- Migration-related forms of abuse;
- Connected service and workforce responses; and
- Data, implementation and accountability.

The recommendations seek to strengthen the reach, responsiveness and continuity of existing systems.

2. The Case for Specific Policy Attention to Asian Women

Asian women remain systematically under-represented in national datasets on domestic, family and sexual violence, help-seeking and service outcomes. Broad indicators such as CALD status, country of birth and language spoken at home can conceal differences across Asian communities, while small or unrepresentative samples limit analysis of particular populations¹. Where these experiences remain statistically indistinct, policy responses and service systems are less able to identify risk early or target prevention effectively².

The communities encompassed by the term “Asian” are substantial and highly diverse. In 2021, more than three million people living in Australia were born in South-East Asia, North-East Asia, or Southern and Central Asia; this figure excludes Australian-born people of Asian ancestry³. Risk and barriers can intensify where several factors converge, including:

- Temporary or dependent visa status and sponsorship-related uncertainty;
- Language barriers and limited knowledge of rights, eligibility or confidentiality;
- Financial dependence and insecure housing or employment;
- Social isolation and limited access to trusted support networks;
- Stigma and pressure to preserve family relationships or social reputation;
- Transnational family pressure and concerns about children or relatives overseas;
- Misuse of documents, migration processes, financial arrangements or legal, administrative and digital systems.

Many of these factors also affect other migrant and multicultural women. The case for specific attention is not that they are exclusive to Asian women, but that their combination, expression and consequences differ across Asian communities and become obscured within broader multicultural categories⁴.

Across AWDPI Australia’s community programs, support-related enquiries, referral navigation and engagement with community members, representatives and leaders from diverse Asian communities, five recurring barriers have been highlighted:

- **Recognition:** Non-physical violence, coercive control or financial abuse may not yet be understood or named as violence.
- **Disclosure:** Harm may be recognised but concealed because of fear, stigma, family consequences or concern for children.
- **Expression:** Distress may be communicated indirectly or without terminology readily recognised by formal systems.
- **Entry:** Women may not know where to begin or may be uncertain about confidentiality, police, visa status or children.

¹ De Silva, H. S., Shepherd, S. M., & McEwan, T. E. (2024). Hidden numbers, hidden people: Family violence among South Asian Australians. *Journal of Population Research*, 41, Article 7. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12546-024-09329-y>

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2024, February 15). *People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds*. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/population-groups/cald>

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Historical population, 2021*, “Overseas born population by region of origin, 1911 to 2021”, released 16 July 2024. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/historical-population/2021>

⁴ Tan, S. J., Segrave, M., Vasil, S., & Cho, H. E. (2025). Editorial: Migration, migrants and gender-based violence—Lessons from Asia and the Asian diaspora. *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*, 9(2), 163–167. <https://doi.org/10.1332/23986808Y2025D000000072>

- **Continuity:** Long waits, unclear referrals, repeated retelling and experiences of being misunderstood can lead to disengagement before effective support is secured.

Police, service and administrative data largely reflect experiences that reach formal systems and are recognised, disclosed and recorded. Lower levels of recorded contact cannot therefore be treated as evidence of lower prevalence or need. It may instead reflect non-recognition, non-disclosure, limited trust or loss of connection during referral.

These less visible stages before formal disclosure have direct consequences for prevention and early intervention. Without insight into where recognition, trust and access break down, opportunities for earlier and more responsive intervention can be missed. Specific attention to Asian women is therefore not a call for a separate service system, but for greater community-level precision within existing national and multicultural frameworks.

3. Community-Level Precision within Multicultural Frameworks

Community-level precision is adopted in this submission as a practical policy principle: broad multicultural frameworks are strengthened when policy design and implementation account for differences within large population categories. The category “multicultural communities” supports national coordination but does not fully capture differences in language, migration pathway, visa status, socioeconomic circumstances or help-seeking pathways.

Community-level precision complements national coordination, engagement with peak bodies and universal and specialist services. It draws on more specific evidence and sustained engagement with culturally specific, language-specific and cohort-focused organisations and networks. In relation to Asian women, this approach enables differences within and across Asian communities to inform prevention, communication, referral pathways and evaluation.

AWDPI Australia’s practice experience demonstrates that organisations with sustained connections to particular communities can surface barriers that may not be visible through broad consultations or service data alone. These include concerns raised before violence is identified or formally disclosed, uncertainty about service eligibility or the consequences of seeking help, and points at which referrals break down or women disengage. Integrating this insight into policy development and implementation can strengthen the connection between national commitments and the pathways through which women seek support.

Community-level precision therefore connects national consistency with community responsiveness and supports more equitable implementation across diverse populations.

4. Responses to Priority Areas 1, 2 and 5

Consistent with AWDPI Australia's mission and practice areas, this submission focuses principally on Priority Areas 1, 2 and 5. Relevant implications for Priority Areas 3 and 4 are noted where they intersect with these areas, rather than addressed through separate sections.

4.1 Priority Area 1: Victim-Survivors

AWDPI Australia supports the Consultation Paper's emphasis on informed choice, culturally responsive support and stronger coordination across response, justice, recovery and healing.

Service availability does not automatically translate into meaningful access. The point of failure is not always the absence of specialist services, but the absence of a trusted pathway into and across the service system.

AWDPI Australia's community engagement and direct support enquiries show that access can break down at different stages of help-seeking: before disclosure, at first contact and during referral. Uncertainty about service processes and their possible consequences undermines trust at each stage. These barriers become more complex when coercion operates through migration arrangements, technology, transnational relationships or formal systems.

Trusted entry points, recognition of migration-related and technology-facilitated coercion and continuity across support, justice and recovery systems closely connect to whether formal service availability becomes safe, effective and sustained access.

4.1.1 From Service Availability to Meaningful Access

Key insight: Trust is infrastructure, not a communication product.

Help-seeking can begin before a woman identifies or describes her experience as violence. Questions raised through AWDPI Australia's community engagement and support enquiries often concerned confidentiality, costs and possible police involvement. Women also sought to understand the implications for their children, housing, finances or immigration circumstances. These concerns are consistent with broader evidence on barriers affecting migrant women's access to support⁵.

In AWDPI Australia's interactions, women used these types of questions to assess whether further help-seeking would be safe, manageable and within their control. Translated information did not always provide this clarity. Women also needed practical explanations of the service pathway, including likely next steps and whether they could pause or decline further action. Information-seeking before disclosure is part of safety planning, not reluctance to engage.

⁵ Sultana, R., Ozen-Dursun, B., Femi-Ajao, O., Husain, N., Varese, F., & Taylor, P. (2023). A systematic review and meta-synthesis of barriers and facilitators of help-seeking behaviors in South Asian women living in high-income countries who have experienced domestic violence: Perceptions of domestic violence survivors and service providers. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 24(5), 3187–3204. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221126189>

De-identified practice illustration 1

An Asian woman sought bilingual, face-to-face information before deciding whether to approach a formal service. Her immediate concern was not to name her experience as violence, but to understand the possible consequences for her family and immigration circumstances. She was particularly uncertain about whether seeking assistance could lead to police involvement and whether she would retain control over the next steps.

Trusted settings allow women to obtain information without being required to make an immediate disclosure or commitment.

Culturally trusted organisations and networks support early recognition, explain available options and facilitate entry into formal systems, strengthening specialist responses. A “no wrong door” approach is realised when the first point of contact can support a safe connection to appropriate assistance. Funded pathways between culturally trusted organisations and specialist services would strengthen this connection through designated contacts, warm referrals, supported navigation, specialist secondary consultation and follow-through.

Meaningful access cannot be reduced to the provision of information or a referral; it must also be assessed by whether a woman understands her options, reaches appropriate support and remains connected through a process grounded in trust and clarity.

4.1.2 Recognising Coercion Through Migration, Technology and Systems

Coercive control operates through the systems on which a woman’s safety, stability and independence depend.⁶ For some migrant women, partners or family members exercise control through visa or sponsorship arrangements, identity documents, financial dependence or relationships with family members overseas. Misinformation about deportation, police, children or service eligibility can be particularly effective where a woman has limited familiarity with Australian institutions. AWDPI Australia’s de-identified support records and practice observations support these patterns among Asian migrant women, including experiences of transnational gender-based violence.

Technology can extend the same patterns of control across devices, platforms and national borders.

De-identified practice illustration 2

An Asian woman discovered that location sharing had been activated on her phone without her knowledge or consent. Her long-distance partner described the monitoring as an expression of care and protection. She was uncertain whether the behaviour constituted abuse, despite feeling uncomfortable with the loss of privacy and control.

Technology-facilitated surveillance can be normalised within an intimate relationship and remain difficult to identify at an early stage.

⁶ Tan, S. J., Segrave, M., Vasil, S., & Cho, H. E. (2025). Editorial: Migration, migrants and gender-based violence—Lessons from Asia and the Asian diaspora. *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*, 9(2), 163–167. <https://doi.org/10.1332/23986808Y2025D000000072>

Formal systems can be misused as part of the pattern of abuse.

De-identified practice illustration 3

A migrant woman with very limited English reported that, after her husband physically assaulted her, he contacted police first and alleged that she had initiated the violence. As she was not the person who made the report and could not understand what her husband was communicating to police, she was unable to provide her own account or clarify the context of the incident at the initial point of contact.

Language barriers and unequal familiarity with Australian institutions can affect women's initial engagement with police or other formal specialist services. This requires qualified interpreting, contextual risk assessment and attention to possible systems abuse when competing accounts are presented.

Risk assessment, safety planning and referral protocols should explicitly recognise:

- Migration-related and transnational coercion;
- Technology-facilitated surveillance and control;
- Misuse of police, legal, financial and administrative systems;
- Multilingual digital evidence and cross-border risks; and
- The need for specialist migration, legal and technology-safety assistance.

Key insight: Migration status is more than a demographic characteristic. It can shape both the means through which coercion is exercised and the options available for safety.

4.1.3 Continuity Across Service, Justice and Recovery Systems

Key insight: A referral is not continuity. Continuity depends on a supported handover and clear responsibility for what happens next.

Long waiting periods, repeated retelling, unclear referral processes and inconsistent language support disrupt engagement even after a woman has entered the service system. AWDPI Australia supports the Consultation Paper's recognition that fragmented and difficult-to-navigate systems delay access to support and compound the distress experienced by victim-survivors.

AWDPI Australia's enquiries reflected recurring uncertainty about the overall service pathway.

De-identified practice illustrations 4 and 5

One woman who was already seeking specialist assistance contacted AWDPI Australia because she did not understand the next steps, likely timeframes or which service remained responsible during waiting periods and service transitions. In another interaction, a woman reported that repeatedly recounting her experience across different services intensified her distress, despite finding individual practitioners professional and supportive.

Fragmentation arises between otherwise competent services when handover, communication and follow-up are not adequately supported.

Safety and recovery often depend on several forms of assistance operating together. These can include specialist violence support, housing, financial assistance, migration and legal advice, child-related support and mental health care. No single service is expected to provide every response. However, the burden of identifying, contacting and coordinating multiple systems should not fall on the victim-survivor.

Engagement with police and justice systems also requires informed choice. Qualified interpreting, clear explanations of available options and support throughout the process can reduce misunderstanding and loss of control. Access to safety and specialist assistance should remain available regardless of whether a woman is ready to report to police or pursue legal action.

Stronger continuity requires designated contacts, consent-based information sharing, interpreter continuity, support during waiting periods and clear responsibility for follow-up. It must also extend beyond immediate crisis response while housing, financial, migration, legal, child-related and longer-term recovery needs remain unresolved. System continuity is measured at the points between services, not within each service alone.

Priority Actions for Area 1

AWDPI Australia recommends that the Second Action Plan:

- Adopt meaningful access, successful connection and continuity as core access outcomes;
- Fund pathways between culturally trusted organisations and specialist services, incorporating designated contacts, warm referral, supported navigation and follow-through;
- Incorporate migration-related, transnational and systems-based coercion into risk assessment, safety planning and referral protocols;
- Strengthen multilingual and cross-border responses to technology-facilitated abuse, including recognition of non-English digital evidence and access to specialist technical, legal and migration support; and
- Improve continuity across support, police, justice and recovery systems, with clear responsibility for handover, and ensure continued access to safety regardless of a woman's readiness to report or pursue legal action.

4.2 Priority Area 2: Prevention and Early Intervention

AWDPI Australia supports the Consultation Paper's emphasis on sustained, whole-of-community prevention across the settings in which people live, work, learn and connect.

Responsibility for prevention and early intervention cannot rest primarily with victim-survivors, specialist services and audiences already committed to gender equality. Its reach must extend to the people, institutions and environments that shape attitudes, relationships and responses to early concerns.

For diverse Asian communities, reach alone is not sufficient; relevance also matters. Prevention needs to be culturally and linguistically intelligible, responsive to differences within and across communities, and delivered through trusted settings and communication channels.

This requires more than translating national messages. It requires concepts, examples and pathways to action that help communities recognise non-physical forms of violence, question harmful norms without stereotyping communities, and respond with cultural sensitivity.

AWDPI Australia's bilingual community education and engagement reveals several points at which prevention loses reach:

- Initiatives primarily engage audiences already connected to gender equality or violence prevention;
- Translated information does not always make unfamiliar concepts readily understood;
- Early concerns arise in community, educational, workplace or digital settings without a clear pathway to further information or support; and
- Attitudes and misinformation circulate through non-English media, multilingual platforms and transnational networks beyond the reach of mainstream prevention initiatives.

4.2.1 Prevention Beyond Already-Engaged Audiences

Key insight: Prevention must engage the people, institutions and environments that shape attitudes and behaviour.

Whole-of-community prevention requires deliberate engagement beyond specialist sectors and audiences already participating in gender equality initiatives. Existing efforts are strengthened by reaching people who do not actively seek violence-prevention information or recognise its relevance to their relationships, families, workplaces or community responsibilities.

For Asian communities, this includes engagement through community programs, universities, workplaces, sport, language groups, cultural and faith networks, community media and online spaces. These settings influence how relationships, family responsibilities, privacy, finances and gender roles are understood. Trusted messengers and familiar environments reduce barriers to participation, particularly where formal terminology or unfamiliar institutional settings create distance from the issue.

AWDPI Australia's community engagement experience demonstrates that familiar activities and recognisable content can provide lower-barrier entry points for prevention. This has included community participation through table tennis under the RallyHer initiative, alongside film screenings and facilitated discussions exploring jealousy framed as care, monitoring and possessiveness, financial control, emotional manipulation and unequal gender expectations. Through sport, shared activities and familiar narratives, these approaches can engage men and boys, families and wider community audiences who may not otherwise attend a program explicitly framed around gender equality or violence prevention. Participation does not require prior knowledge, identification with a victim-survivor experience or immediate disclosure, creating space for people to question harmful attitudes and discuss safety, respect and relationships in an accessible setting.

Community-based and institutional settings do not replace evidence-informed prevention expertise. They provide the relationships and communication channels through which prevention reaches wider audiences and becomes relevant to everyday life. Prevention has greater reach when it is embedded where attitudes are formed, relationships are discussed and harmful behaviour is first questioned.

4.2.2 Culturally Relevant Prevention Without Culturalising Violence

Key insight: Culturally relevant prevention strengthens the application of established evidence across diverse communities.

The Consultation Paper places gendered attitudes, behaviours and structures at the centre of prevention. AWDPI Australia supports this framing; culturally responsive approaches strengthen its practical application across diverse communities. This keeps the gendered drivers of violence, including gender inequality, entitlement, misogyny and unequal power, central, while recognising that migration experiences and trusted communication channels shape how prevention messages are understood.

Direct translation of terms such as coercive control, financial abuse, consent and healthy relationships does not necessarily make them understandable in practice. Questions raised through AWDPI Australia's activities have concerned monitoring framed as care, control over money described as family management, and family pressure concerning marriage or children. These questions highlight the value of explaining formal concepts through familiar situations and practical language.

Applying community-level precision means adapting content, examples, facilitation and distribution through engagement with culturally specific, language-specific and cohort-focused organisations and networks. This preserves the evidence-informed foundations of prevention while improving relevance, comprehension and trust.

A prevention message is not accessible merely because it has been translated. It becomes accessible when people can recognise its relevance and identify a safe response.

4.2.3 Trusted Settings for Early Recognition and Response

Key insight: The first opportunity for early intervention may arise in a conversation that is not described as violence.

Early concerns emerge through questions about relationships, finances, housing, children, study, employment or visa status. Community organisations, universities, health services, workplaces and migrant services may encounter these concerns before a specialist violence service becomes involved. Not every concern indicates violence, but these conversations can create an opportunity for careful explanation and a safe offer of support.

AWDPI Australia's bilingual community activities and enquiries show that questions about privacy, financial control, family expectations or a partner's behaviour precede formal recognition or disclosure. Trusted settings allow women to explore these concerns without being required to make an immediate disclosure or decision.

The contribution of non-specialist organisations requires greater attention. Their role is to recognise possible indicators, respond safely, explain available options and facilitate appropriate, consent-based referral. With appropriate training, safeguards and specialist support, culturally trusted organisations strengthen the connection between community-based prevention, early recognition and formal assistance.

4.2.4 Online Misogyny and Multilingual Digital Environments

Key insight: Prevention strategies cannot achieve full reach when non-English digital environments remain outside their scope.

The Consultation Paper identifies online misogyny and backlash against gender equality as emerging prevention priorities. This work is strengthened by extending prevention to the digital environments used by culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Many Asian communities engage through diaspora media, overseas platforms, private messaging groups and language-specific social media. Harmful gender narratives, victim-blaming and misinformation about Australian law or services circulate across languages and national borders within and across multicultural communities. Multilingual prevention can complement mainstream campaigns by reaching these information platforms and environments.

AWDPI Australia's bilingual family violence handbook, *You Are Not Alone: A Support Guide for Asian Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in Australia*, and related community engagement confirm the importance of content that is linguistically accessible and grounded in recognisable situations. Effective digital prevention also requires multilingual content, platform-aware distribution and partnerships with organisations connected to specific communities. Prevention must reach the environments in which harmful attitudes and misinformation are produced, shared and normalised.

4.2.5 Sustained Prevention and Meaningful Evaluation

Key insight: Prevention should be assessed by who is reached, what is understood and whether earlier, safer action becomes possible.

The Consultation Paper highlights the importance of sustained prevention and the limitations of one-off, insufficiently contextualised activities. Continuity allows prevention messages to be discussed, adapted and reinforced across communities, institutions and digital environments.

Culturally specific organisations can contribute throughout design, delivery, feedback and evaluation, rather than only through translation or distribution. Alongside activity measures, evaluation should consider whether prevention reaches unengaged audiences, improves recognition of non-physical violence and strengthens understanding of safe responses.

Ongoing, de-identified community feedback complements formal evaluation by identifying emerging harmful narratives, gaps in understanding and communities not reached by existing approaches.

Priority Actions for Area 2

AWDPI Australia recommends that the Second Action Plan:

- Extend prevention beyond specialist and already-engaged audiences through sustained engagement with men and boys, community leaders, institutions and audiences not currently reached by gender equality initiatives;

- Support culturally and linguistically relevant prevention developed through sustained engagement with diverse Asian communities and delivered through trusted settings and communication channels;
- Build role-specific early-recognition and referral capability across community, education, health, workplace, and settlement settings, supported by specialist consultation;
- Extend strategies addressing online misogyny, misinformation and emerging digital harms to multilingual, diaspora and transnational digital environments; and
- Support sustained delivery and evaluate prevention against measures of reach, comprehension, earlier recognition and capacity for safe response, informed by de-identified community feedback.

4.3 Priority Area 5: System Integration and Workforce

AWDPI Australia supports the Consultation Paper's emphasis on coordination, continuity, culturally safe practice and workforce capability. For Asian women, effective integration is reflected in what happens between services. Individual services may provide appropriate support, yet the pathway can break down when responsibility for handover, interpreting, specialist advice or follow-up is unclear.

AWDPI Australia's support enquiries and referral navigation experience, together with feedback received through engagement with frontline practitioners, service providers and community representatives, point to recurring uncertainty about service eligibility, organisational roles and responsibilities during referral and waiting periods.

Community feedback also reveals inconsistent language support and the difficulty of navigating interconnected needs involving safety, housing, finances, migration, legal assistance and recovery when these are addressed through separate systems. These observations are not a representative assessment of the service sector, but they provide practice-informed insight into points at which coordination and workforce arrangements can be strengthened.

For culturally and linguistically diverse Asian communities, system integration also depends on whether community-facing organisations are appropriately connected to specialist expertise. These organisations may contribute cultural and linguistic knowledge, early recognition, supported navigation and feedback on emerging barriers, but should not be expected to assume specialist responsibilities without clear role boundaries, safeguards, consultation pathways and sustainable capacity.

A connected system is one in which responsibility for safe handover is shared across services and systems.

4.3.1 Supported Pathways and Shared Responsibility

Key insight: System integration depends on the quality of connections between services, not only the number of services available.

A referral does not constitute an integrated response when a woman must independently determine eligibility, contact multiple services, repeat her experience and coordinate each transition. Feedback received through AWDPI Australia's support enquiries and engagement with community representatives supports that uncertainty concentrates at these transition

points. Even where appropriate services are individually available, responsibility for navigating the system remains with the person seeking support.

Effective pathways are characterised by clear referral criteria, designated contacts, consent-based information sharing, supported handover and confirmation that the receiving service has responded. Feedback from community-facing and frontline practitioners also identifies interpreter continuity, escalation procedures and support during waiting periods as important elements, particularly where language barriers or migration-related legal issues affect access.

Culturally trusted organisations may identify concerns or receive requests for practical information before a specialist service becomes involved. For Asian women, these organisations contribute cultural and linguistic knowledge, clarify unfamiliar service processes and support connection to appropriate assistance. Their participation within formal pathways is most effective where role boundaries and referral protocols are clear.

Formal integration also depends on responsibility remaining visible during transfer. Clear allocation of responsibility for communication, interim support and follow-up provides continuity until the receiving service has accepted the referral or an alternative response has been arranged.

4.3.2 Shared Foundation and Role-Specific Workforce Capability

Key insight: A connected workforce requires shared foundational understanding, capability matched to each role and access to specialist advice.

The Consultation Paper identifies consistent training and culturally safe practice as foundations of an integrated system. Feedback from AWDPI Australia's engagement with community-facing practitioners and sector stakeholders supports role-specific capability and greater consistency across sectors in understanding risk, help-seeking and victim-survivor decision-making.

De-identified stakeholder consultation

Frontline police personnel consulted by AWDPI Australia expressed confidence in existing referral, interpreting and follow-up arrangements, citing clear thresholds for initiating protective action, mandated interpreter provision for non-English speakers, and active follow-through on housing-related referrals.

The feedback reflected the distinct role of police within the broader response system, where intervention is focused on identified risk, immediate safety and law-enforcement responsibilities. From this perspective, referral and follow-up arrangements were considered effective once a matter had entered the policing system and relevant needs had been identified.

The consultation also highlighted that police and community-facing organisations may encounter women at different stages of help-seeking. The practitioners noted that some Asian women may not contact police where no immediate threat to life or physical safety is perceived. AWDPI Australia's community engagement indicates that, at this stage, women may nevertheless be experiencing psychological abuse, financial control, technology-facilitated monitoring, migration-related threats or increasing isolation, consistent with the forms of coercion discussed in Section 4.1.2. Women may seek information, safety planning or connection to specialist assistance without being ready to make a formal report.

A related difference concerned the reasons a woman may remain in or return to an abusive relationship, or maintain contact with a person using violence. Shared children, financial dependence, housing insecurity, migration circumstances, fear, family pressure or uncertainty about the consequences of engaging with formal systems can each shape continued contact. These circumstances are not always well captured where professional responses are oriented primarily around the presence of immediate danger or the apparent availability of separation.

The consultation points to a broader implementation tension rather than a deficiency in any single response. Existing procedures may function effectively once police involvement has occurred, while women and community-facing organisations may encounter uncertainty in the period before formal police involvement, or require forms of assistance that sit outside the immediate policing response. Both perspectives are consistent with the roles each part of the system is designed to perform; the gap lies in the connections between them.

Consistent workforce capability across the response system should therefore include trauma-informed communication, recognition of non-physical forms of violence, and a shared understanding of the complexity of victim-survivor decision-making. Regular cross-sector consultations between police, specialist, legal, migration and culturally specific services support responses that are proportionate to the woman's circumstances and appropriate to different stages of help-seeking.

4.3.3 Strengthening Community Data, Feedback and Accountability

Key insight: Data gaps reflect not only what is not collected, but whose experiences remain outside policy evaluation and service improvement.

The data limitations outlined earlier are also relevant to system integration and accountability. Consistent and sufficiently disaggregated data on the experiences, service pathways and outcomes of diverse Asian women remain limited. Broad population categories may obscure differences associated with language, migration pathway, visa status and country or region of origin, while administrative data provide less insight into concerns raised before violence is identified or disclosed.

AWDPI Australia's community members and stakeholders identify concerns involving housing, finances, immigration circumstances, confidentiality and digital monitoring before formal disclosure. These interactions are not prevalence data, but they provide practice-informed insight into questions and barriers that may not appear in administrative datasets.

Culturally specific organisations can contribute de-identified community feedback, identify emerging concerns and support the interpretation of data and implementation outcomes. Meaningful participation depends on appropriate resourcing, data capability, privacy safeguards and clear role boundaries.

Accountability extends beyond service contact and activity volumes to whether women successfully connect with support, whether continuity and language access are maintained and whether outcomes differ across groups. A more responsive evidence system enables community knowledge to inform both what is measured and how findings are interpreted.

Priority Actions for Area 5

AWDPI Australia recommends that the Second Action Plan:

- Strengthen supported and accountable pathways across specialist, mainstream and culturally specific services;
- Develop consistent, role-appropriate workforce capability and shared cross-sector understanding of diverse forms of abuse, risk and help-seeking;
- Support culturally specific organisations to contribute community knowledge and de-identified evidence to system design, implementation and evaluation, with appropriate resourcing and safeguards; and
- Assess system performance through meaningful access, successful connection, continuity and equitable outcomes, informed by sufficiently disaggregated data and ongoing community feedback.

5. Summary of Recommendations

AWDPI Australia recommends that the Second Action Plan:

1. Embed community-level precision within national and multicultural policy development, engagement, implementation and evaluation;
2. Extend prevention beyond specialist settings and already-engaged audiences through sustained engagement with men and boys, institutions and broader audiences;
3. Strengthen national and jurisdictional data and research frameworks to support safe disaggregation and, where statistically reliable, analysis of the prevalence and forms of violence, service access and outcomes within and across Asian communities;
4. Resource culturally trusted organisations to contribute to prevention and supported access pathways to specialist services, including warm referral, navigation and follow-through;
5. Assess language access through comprehension, trust and capacity for safe action—not translation or service availability alone;
6. Recognise migration-related and transnational forms of coercive control, including systems abuse and technology-facilitated abuse in multilingual and transnational contexts within risk assessment, safety planning and referral pathways;
7. Integrate specialist safety responses with the social, economic, legal, migration, child-related and recovery supports on which longer-term safety depends; and
8. Establish ongoing mechanisms for community input and implementation accountability, with outcomes assessed through meaningful access, successful connection, continuity and safety.

6. Conclusion

The Second Action Plan represents an important opportunity to consolidate progress under the National Plan and strengthen the connection between national commitments and implementation on the ground. The experiences and needs of Asian women warrant meaningful reflection in this work, within a broader and sustained attention to diversity across Australian communities.

The central proposition of this submission is that national consistency and community-level precision are mutually reinforcing rather than competing priorities. National coordination establishes shared objectives and a consistent policy foundation, while community-level precision enables those objectives to be applied with sufficient understanding of the populations they are intended to serve. Together, these strengthen the reach, accessibility and responsiveness of existing systems without creating separate or fragmented responses.

AWDPI Australia stands ready to contribute to further consultation, evidence-building, implementation, and to work alongside government, specialist services and community partners to help ensure that the Second Action Plan delivers accessible, trusted and effective prevention and support for all women and children across Australia's diverse communities.