



Submission to the Consultation on the Second Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032 Submitted by:

Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN)

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Introduction

The Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN ACT) 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 a multicultural community leader who has worked extensively with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, refugee communities, youth, women, seniors and emerging community leaders across Australia, I strongly support the National Plan's vision of ending violence within one generation.

Australia has made significant progress. However, many victim-survivors from multicultural, migrant, refugee and emerging communities continue to face barriers that are often invisible within mainstream systems. Family violence does not occur in isolation. It intersects with migration pathways, language barriers, social isolation, housing insecurity, economic dependence, digital exclusion, racism, intergenerational conflict, gambling harm, mental health challenges, and rapidly evolving technology-facilitated abuse.

The next phase of national action must move beyond a service-centred model towards a community-centred model. Government systems alone cannot end violence. Communities themselves must become active partners in prevention, early intervention, recovery and accountability.

The Second Action Plan presents an opportunity to build a future where every Australian community becomes a violence-prevention community.

A National Vision for 2032

Australia should aspire to become the first country in the world where:

- Violence prevention is embedded across all sectors of society.

- Every child receives respectful relationships education throughout schooling.
- Every community leader receives basic violence prevention and referral training.
- Every victim-survivor can access support regardless of language, culture, disability or location.
- Every person using violence has access to early intervention before violence escalates.
- Technology is used to improve safety rather than facilitate abuse.
- Communities become active participants in prevention rather than passive recipients of services.

This requires a whole-of-government, whole-of-community and whole-of-society approach.

Priority Area 1: Victim-Survivors

A New "Community Safety Ecosystem" Approach

Many victim-survivors seek help long before they contact police, courts or specialist services.

They often first approach:

- Friends
- Family members
- Faith leaders
- Community elders
- Multicultural organisations
- Cultural associations
- Community language schools
- Sporting clubs

These trusted community pathways remain largely disconnected from formal service systems.

The Second Action Plan should establish a national Community Safety Ecosystem model that formally connects trusted community organisations with specialist services.

This would:

- Increase early help-seeking
 - Reduce isolation
 - Improve referral pathways
 - Reach communities that rarely engage with mainstream services
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Technology-Facilitated Abuse Response Framework

Technology-facilitated abuse is rapidly becoming one of the most significant emerging threats.

The Plan should establish:

National Digital Safety Program

Providing:

- Digital safety education
- Smartphone privacy training
- Online stalking awareness
- GPS tracking detection support
- Social media abuse response guidance

Particularly for:

- Women
 - Young people
 - Migrant communities
 - Older Australians
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National CALD Victim-Survivor Access Initiative

A significant proportion of CALD victim-survivors face barriers including:

- Language
- Fear of authorities
- Visa insecurity
- Lack of awareness of rights
- Cultural stigma

The Plan should fund:

- Multilingual support services
 - Bilingual community navigators
 - Community ambassadors
 - Multilingual digital resources
 - Community-based legal literacy programs
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Priority Area 2: Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention Must Begin Earlier

Australia cannot service its way out of violence.

We must prevent violence before it starts.

The strongest prevention investment is childhood.

The Second Action Plan should establish a national objective:

"Every Child, Every Year"

Providing age-appropriate education from primary school onwards on:

- Respect
 - Consent
 - Healthy relationships
 - Emotional regulation
 - Digital citizenship
 - Conflict resolution
 - Gender equality
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Community Prevention Partnerships

Current prevention programs remain heavily institutional.

Communities themselves must become prevention partners.

The Plan should establish:

Violence Prevention Community Grants

Supporting:

- Multicultural organisations
- Faith groups
- Community associations
- Sporting organisations
- Youth groups

To deliver:

- Awareness programs
 - Family education
 - Men's engagement initiatives
 - Youth leadership programs
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Addressing New Drivers of Violence

The Plan should explicitly recognise emerging drivers including:

- Online misogyny
- Manosphere content
- Gambling-related harm
- Social media radicalisation
- Pornography-driven attitudes

- Financial stress
- Housing instability

Future prevention strategies must be designed for the digital age.

Priority Area 3: Children and Young People

Children as Victim-Survivors in Their Own Right

Children continue to be treated as secondary victims.

This must change.

Children should be recognised as direct victim-survivors with independent support needs.

The Plan should establish:

Child Recovery Pathways

Including:

- Trauma-informed counselling
 - School-based support
 - Family recovery programs
 - Cultural healing programs
 - Youth peer-support initiatives
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Youth Voices Must Shape Policy

Young people are experts in their own experiences.

The Plan should establish:

National Youth Advisory Council on Violence Prevention

Representing:

- CALD youth
- Aboriginal youth
- Regional youth
- LGBTQIA+ youth
- Young people with disability

This ensures policies remain relevant to emerging issues.

Addressing Online Harm

Young people increasingly experience:

- Image-based abuse
- Sextortion
- Cyberbullying
- Dating violence
- Online coercive control

Australia needs a coordinated digital safety strategy for children and young people.

Priority Area 4: People Who Use Violence

Shift from Crisis Response to Earlier Intervention

Most people using violence are only identified after significant harm occurs.

The Plan should invest in:

Early Intervention Entry Points

Through:

- GPs
- Schools
- Workplaces
- Sporting clubs
- Community organisations
- Faith communities

Early intervention reduces harm before escalation.

National Men and Boys Strategy

Violence prevention cannot occur without meaningful engagement of men and boys.

The Plan should establish:

Men as Partners Initiative

Promoting:

- Positive masculinity
- Respectful relationships
- Emotional literacy

- Healthy fatherhood
 - Peer accountability
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Community Accountability Models

Community leaders often identify concerning behaviour before systems do.

The Plan should explore:

- Community accountability approaches
- Restorative interventions where appropriate
- Community-led behaviour change supports

while always prioritising victim-survivor safety.

Priority Area 5: System Integration and Workforce

No Wrong Door Model

Victim-survivors should never be required to navigate fragmented systems.

The Plan should establish:

National Integrated Safety Pathways

Connecting:

- Health
- Housing
- Police
- Legal services
- Child protection
- Specialist services
- Multicultural organisations

Through coordinated referral systems.

Workforce of the Future

The future workforce requires skills in:

- Cultural safety
- Trauma-informed practice
- Digital abuse

- Coercive control
- Community engagement
- Cross-sector collaboration

A national workforce capability framework should be developed.

Recognising Community Organisations as Essential Infrastructure

Community organisations are often the first point of contact.

Yet they remain underfunded.

The Second Action Plan should formally recognise:

- Multicultural organisations
- Community associations
- Faith-based organisations
- Grassroots groups

As critical components of Australia's violence prevention ecosystem.

Additional Priority Areas

Violence Prevention Through Social Cohesion

Communities with strong social connections experience greater resilience.

Investment in:

- Community participation
- Social inclusion
- Neighbourhood networks
- Intercultural engagement

Should be recognised as violence prevention infrastructure.

Artificial Intelligence and Future Risks

The Plan should begin preparing for:

- AI-generated abuse
- Deepfake exploitation
- Synthetic image abuse
- Automated online harassment

Australia should become a global leader in preventing AI-enabled violence.

National Community Innovation Fund

A dedicated fund should support innovative grassroots solutions and allow communities to pilot new approaches that can later be scaled nationally.

Conclusion

Ending violence against women and children is not solely a government responsibility. It is a nation-building project.

The Second Action Plan presents an opportunity to move from reactive responses towards a preventative, community-led and future-focused approach.

Australia has the evidence, expertise and community leadership required to become a world leader in violence prevention. To achieve this, we must invest not only in systems and services, but also in communities, relationships, social cohesion and the next generation.

AMAN ACT stands ready to partner with governments, service providers, researchers and communities to help build a safer, more inclusive and violence-free Australia for all.

Submitted by:



Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN ACT)

This submission is informed by AMAN's ongoing work with multicultural, migrant, refugee and emerging communities and reflects our commitment to creating safe, inclusive and empowered communities across Australia.