



Australian Multicultural Action Network Inc



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Submission to the Australian Government

Consultation on the Second Action Plan

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

Submitted by:



President

Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN)

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Introduction

The Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) 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**.

Violence against women and children is one of Australia's most significant human rights, public health and social justice challenges. While considerable progress has been made, lasting change will require a stronger emphasis on prevention, community leadership, cultural inclusion, digital safety, systems integration and long-term investment in trusted community organisations.

As a multicultural organisation working closely with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities across the ACT and nationally, AMAN recognises that experiences of violence are often compounded by language barriers, migration experiences, social isolation, financial insecurity, disability, racism, visa dependency, digital exclusion and limited awareness of Australian support systems.

The Second Action Plan presents an opportunity to transform Australia's response from one that primarily reacts to violence into one that actively prevents violence before it occurs.

AMAN strongly believes that ending violence is not solely the responsibility of governments or specialist services. It requires a **whole-of-society movement** where governments, community organisations, businesses, schools, faith leaders, sporting organisations, technology companies and local communities work together to build a culture of safety, respect and equality.

About AMAN

The Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) is a community-led organisation committed to strengthening inclusion, wellbeing, resilience and social cohesion across multicultural communities.

AMAN partners with government agencies, universities, health providers and community organisations to deliver programs involving:

- Community safety
- Mental health
- Women's wellbeing
- Digital literacy
- Health promotion
- Youth leadership
- Community resilience
- Climate resilience
- Gambling harm prevention
- Community engagement
- Social inclusion

Through trusted relationships with diverse communities, AMAN regularly identifies emerging issues, facilitates early intervention and connects vulnerable individuals with specialist services.

Our Vision

Australia should become a nation where:

- every woman lives free from violence
- every child grows up safe
- every family can access support without fear or stigma
- every community actively rejects violence
- every institution contributes to prevention.

Violence should never be accepted as inevitable.

It is preventable.

Overarching Principles

AMAN recommends that the Second Action Plan be guided by seven principles.

1. Prevention First

The greatest return on investment comes from preventing violence before it occurs.

Australia must invest far more in prevention than crisis response.

2. Community Leadership

Communities are not passive recipients of services.

Communities are partners in creating solutions.

3. Cultural Inclusion

Australia's diversity should be reflected throughout prevention, policy design, workforce development and service delivery.

4. Shared Responsibility

Violence cannot be addressed by governments alone.

Ending violence requires leadership from:

- schools
 - employers
 - sporting clubs
 - technology companies
 - faith communities
 - media
 - community organisations
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5. Innovation

Emerging technologies require innovative responses.

The Action Plan must anticipate future risks rather than responding after harm occurs.

6. Long-term Investment

Behavioural change occurs over years—not funding cycles.

7. Evidence-Based Policy

Programs should continuously evolve through evaluation, research and lived experience.

Priority Area 1

Victim-Survivors

AMAN recommends:

Expand culturally safe services

Victim-survivors should receive services that reflect:

- language
 - culture
 - faith
 - disability
 - gender identity
 - migration experience
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Community Navigation Model

Many CALD families struggle to navigate multiple service systems.

AMAN proposes funding:

Community Safety Navigators

Trusted bilingual workers who help victim-survivors:

- understand rights
 - access services
 - navigate legal systems
 - connect with housing
 - receive health support
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One Story Model

Victim-survivors should never need to repeatedly tell their story.

Integrated case management should become standard practice.

Digital Recovery Support

Provide secure digital tools helping victim-survivors:

- safely document abuse
 - store evidence
 - access services
 - receive emergency support
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Priority Area 2

Prevention and Early Intervention

AMAN believes prevention should become Australia's largest investment area.

Recommendations:

National Respect Initiative

Deliver lifelong education through:

- early childhood
 - schools
 - universities
 - workplaces
 - sporting organisations
 - community organisations
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Community Prevention Grants

Fund local organisations to deliver culturally tailored prevention initiatives.

Communities understand their own challenges.

Solutions should be community-led.

Parents as Prevention Partners

Develop national multilingual resources helping parents discuss:

- respect
- consent
- healthy relationships
- digital safety
- emotional wellbeing

Faith and Cultural Leaders Program

Train respected leaders as ambassadors for violence prevention.

These leaders can significantly influence community attitudes.

Priority Area 3

Children and Young People

Children must be recognised as individuals—not simply witnesses.

Recommendations:

National Child Voice Framework

Children should help design:

- policies
 - education
 - support services
 - digital safety initiatives
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Safe Digital Childhood Strategy

Address:

- AI-generated abuse
 - online grooming
 - gaming environments
 - social media
 - image-based abuse
 - cyber coercion
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Youth Leadership Network

Establish young ambassadors promoting:

- respect
- consent
- inclusion
- bystander action

Healing Through Community

Support recovery through:

- arts
- sport
- mentoring
- cultural identity
- peer connection

Priority Area 4

People Who Use Violence

AMAN supports early intervention while maintaining victim safety.

Recommendations:

Earlier Behaviour Change

Identify risk factors earlier through:

- schools
- health
- workplaces
- justice

Positive Masculinity Initiative

Support boys and men to develop:

- empathy
- emotional regulation
- respectful relationships
- healthy help-seeking

Technology and Violence

Behaviour change programs should address:

- online abuse
- digital coercive control

- AI misuse
 - cyber harassment
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Accountability Framework

Behaviour change programs must:

support rehabilitation

while

maintaining accountability.

Priority Area 5

System Integration

AMAN recommends:

National Community Partnership Framework

Create structured partnerships between:

Government

Specialist services

Community organisations

Universities

Private sector

Integrated Digital Referral Platform

Secure referrals across:

- health
- police
- housing
- community organisations
- legal services
- mental health

Workforce Strategy

Prioritise:

- trauma-informed practice
- cultural safety
- digital capability
- interpreter services
- wellbeing

Community Capability Investment

Invest in:

- multicultural organisations
- Aboriginal organisations
- local community leaders
- volunteers

Innovation Agenda

AMAN proposes establishing:

National Community Violence Prevention Innovation Fund

Supporting:

- AI prevention tools
- multilingual education
- digital safeguarding
- community pilots
- youth innovation
- research partnerships

Emerging Challenges

The Action Plan should prepare for:

- Artificial Intelligence abuse
- Deepfake exploitation
- Digital coercive control
- Financial abuse

- Online radicalisation
- Algorithm-driven misogyny
- Social isolation
- Climate-related family stress
- Gambling-related family violence

These emerging risks require national leadership.

Measuring Success

Success should include:

- earlier help-seeking
 - reduced violence
 - increased community awareness
 - stronger gender equality
 - increased cultural inclusion
 - improved workforce capability
 - greater digital safety
 - improved recovery
 - stronger community resilience
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A New National Initiative

AMAN proposes:

Safe Communities Australia Partnership

A national movement bringing together:

Government

Schools

Community organisations

Universities

Businesses

Technology companies

Faith organisations

Sporting organisations

Multicultural organisations
to deliver coordinated prevention.

The Role of Multicultural Organisations

Multicultural organisations should become recognised partners in:

- prevention
- awareness
- education
- leadership
- digital literacy
- referrals
- community engagement
- workforce development

Their trusted relationships enable earlier intervention.

Future Vision

The Second Action Plan should move Australia from:

Responding to violence

towards

Preventing violence

From:

Service delivery

towards

Community ownership

From:

Fragmented systems

towards

Integrated partnerships

From:

Short-term funding

towards

Long-term social investment

Conclusion

The Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) strongly supports the development of the Second Action Plan and commends the Australian Government for adopting a collaborative consultation process.

We believe this Action Plan has the potential to become a landmark national framework that not only responds to violence but fundamentally changes the conditions that allow violence to occur.

To achieve this, Australia must embrace a new model of partnership—one that places prevention at its core, recognises the strengths of diverse communities, invests in trusted community organisations and empowers every sector of society to contribute to lasting change.

Violence against women and children is not inevitable. It is preventable. Through courageous leadership, sustained investment, evidence-informed policy and genuine collaboration, we can build an Australia where every woman, every child and every family can live free from fear, violence and discrimination.

AMAN stands ready to work alongside governments, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, specialist services, researchers, businesses and community leaders to help realise this vision. Together, we can create safer communities, stronger families and a future where respect, equality and dignity are the foundation of every relationship.