

Title:	Submission to the Consultation on the Second Action Plan (National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032)
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1. Focus

This submission seeks to inform and influence the Second Action Plan's response to violence against women by recognising that:

- disaster is a critical context in which such violence can emerge and escalate;
- such violence harms women and affects the safety and wellbeing of women and children at a time when they may also be experiencing other disaster-related vulnerabilities, such as insecure income and housing; and
- violence creates additional barriers that can limit women's access to support and their ability to recover after disaster.

As climate change increases the frequency, severity and complexity of disasters, embedding a gender lens within disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery, and explicitly recognising disaster as a setting of heightened risk for violence against women, is an increasingly urgent national priority. Disasters are not gender neutral. They intensify existing gender inequalities, increase the risk of family violence, disrupt access to safety and support, and compound harm for women and children.

2. Context

The [Consultation Paper in support of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032](#) recognises disaster as both a contextual change capable of influencing patterns of violence and service system demand (Page 13), and a reinforcing risk factor associated with violence (Page 27).

International disaster risk reduction frameworks recognise the importance of gender-responsive approaches to disaster risk reduction and the need to address gender-based violence in disaster contexts. The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#) calls for the integration of a gender perspective across all disaster risk reduction policies and practices, while the [Sendai Gender Action Plan 2015–2030](#) explicitly identifies the prevention of and response to gender-based violence in disaster contexts as a priority for action.

In Australia, work to better understand and address violence against women in disaster contexts is underway. The [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) states: “We need to make sure that addressing men’s violence against women forms part of our emergency response strategies, and that preventing this violence is integral to our work to build community resilience.”

[Gender and Disaster Australia](#) has been funded by the Australian Department of Social Services under the National Action Plan to deliver [Lessons in Disaster training](#) and develop resources (including the [Gender and Emergency Management \(GEM\) Guidelines](#)) to support governments, emergency management organisations, services and communities to better understand and respond to the gendered impacts of disasters, including increased risk of family violence. This work has contributed to a growing body of knowledge, strengthened sector awareness, and supported practical responses to the risks experienced by women before, during and after disasters.

Important progress has been made; however, this work is ongoing and emergency management organisations, emergency and community services and communities themselves continue to report that more needs to be done to strengthen this area of policy and practice. Continued and expanded attention under the Second Action Plan will build on strong foundations, strengthen cross-sector awareness and collaboration, and ensure that prevention and response efforts are equipped to address the increased risks and barriers faced by women in disaster contexts.

3. Key Insights across all Priority Areas

GAD Australia recommends that the Second Action Plan recognise the following issues across all priority areas:

- **Disasters are a critical context for family violence prevention and response.** Risk of violence increases before, during and after disasters and this knowledge must inform plans and actions taken by all groups, organisations and sectors involved in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
- **Gender-informed practice is critical in disaster.** GAD Australia's work is grounded in the evidence that women, men and LGBTIQ+ people experience disasters differently, and that existing inequalities can be amplified in disaster contexts. It is crucial that organisations working in a disaster context are trained to understand the impacts of disaster, through a gendered lens, including the increased risk of violence against women and children.
- **Family violence risk is often visible outside specialist systems.** Emergency services, local councils, relief centres, recovery workers, schools, workplaces and community organisations may be among the first to identify risks, respond to concerns or support affected individuals. It is therefore essential that a holistic approach is taken to understanding and responding to increased risks of violence in the disaster context.
- **Responses must remain clear about accountability for violence.** Disaster-related stress, trauma or loss may increase risk, but they do not excuse violence. Clear messaging and training are essential so that individuals, groups, organisations and sectors that are active before, during and after disasters understand this.
- **Non-specialist organisations and government portfolios can unintentionally increase gendered harms in a disaster context.** Policy and practice developed and implemented across seemingly unrelated areas of government and society, can unintentionally place women and children at greater risk of gender-based harms including violence. For example,

eligibility requirements and processes to access social or emergency housing, family law processes about custody and access to children between separated couples during an emergency, and initiatives such as AusAlert (led by NEMA), can expose women to greater risks of violence and reduce their access to support services and safety. Without education, and coordination across portfolios, these unintended consequences will continue.

- **Non-specialist workforces need practical capability.** Emergency management organisations, government employees, communities and related sectors do not need to become family violence specialists, but they do need to recognise risk, prepare adequately, respond safely and refer appropriately.

4. Detailed Response to Priority Area 2 – Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention and early intervention must reach the settings where violence risk first becomes visible. In disaster contexts, this includes emergency services, local government, relief and evacuation centres, community and social services, recovery programs, health services, schools, workplaces, community organisations and informal community groups and support networks.

Disasters do not create violence in isolation. However, they can intensify the conditions in which violence occurs, reduce opportunities for help-seeking, and make it harder for services and communities to identify and respond to risk. Prevention and early intervention under the Second Action Plan should therefore include a clear focus on disaster preparedness, emergency response and long-term recovery, and training and support for organisations, services and communities active in the disaster context, as part of the broader national effort to prevent violence against women.

4.1 What would make the biggest difference in preventing and ultimately ending violence?

It is essential to recognise that preventing and ending violence against women and children requires a broad systemic approach. Multiple sectors, organisations, groups and individuals in communities must be supported to activate, if we are to succeed.

It is also essential to recognise that different contexts, including the disaster context, must be actively recognised, included and supported. Given the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, disaster preparedness, response and recovery are core settings for prevention and early intervention of violence, they are not peripheral or exceptional circumstances.

Current prevention efforts rightly focus on the places where people live, work, learn and connect. Disaster contexts are part of this landscape. During emergencies and during recovery, people in affected communities will have increased contact with services and systems that are not usually seen as part of the family violence response. These contact points create opportunities for earlier identification, safer referral and practical support, but only if the relevant workforces have the awareness, knowledge, capability, confidence and pathways to

respond effectively. This knowledge and capability must be developed in the context of the intersection of gender and disaster.

Recommendation/s:

1) Recognise disaster preparedness, response and recovery settings as contexts for prevention and early intervention.

The Second Action Plan should explicitly identify disaster preparedness, emergency response, relief and recovery as settings where violence against women can emerge, escalate or become more difficult to address. This should include emergency planning, evacuation and relief centres, recovery hubs, temporary accommodation, local recovery programs and long-term recovery services.

4.2 How can existing efforts to prevent violence be strengthened or built upon at the individual, community, organisational, institutional and societal levels?

Existing prevention work can be strengthened by embedding gender-informed disaster evidence and practice across multiple levels of the system.

At the individual and community level, people need clear information about how family violence can increase or escalate during and after disasters, where support is available, and how to respond safely when someone observes or discloses violence.

At the organisational and institutional level, emergency management organisations, local governments, health services, workplaces, community organisations and recovery services need practical tools, training and referral pathways that support safe, effective and consistent responses.

At the societal level, disaster resilience must be understood as more than physical preparedness or infrastructure recovery. A resilient community is also one in which women and children are safe, gendered harms are understood, and systems are prepared to respond to violence before it escalates.

Recommendation/s:

2) Build family violence capability across all areas of government and society, including those involved in policy development, program delivery, and service provision.

Governments should invest in practical, role-specific training and resources for key policy, program and service delivery agencies and other workforces that may influence the outcomes for victim-survivors or people using violence before, during and after disasters.

This capability should include:

- understanding the implications of policy and program design, and service delivery, for increasing or reducing the risk of violence against women and children
- understanding how gendered expectations and inequalities can shape life outcomes including disaster impacts;
- recognising family violence risk, including coercive control and non-physical abuse; and

- avoiding policies, programs and service delivery design that unintentionally increase the likelihood of violence or other gendered harm.

3) Build family violence capability across emergency management, recovery and other non-specialist workforces with a role in disaster preparation, response or recovery.

Governments should invest in practical, role-specific training and resources for emergency services, local government, disaster recovery workers, health services, workplaces, schools, community organisations and other non-specialist workforces that may come into contact with victim-survivors or people using violence during and after disasters.

This capability should include:

- understanding how gendered expectations and inequalities can shape disaster impacts;
- recognising family violence risk, including coercive control and non-physical abuse;
- responding safely to disclosures;
- protecting privacy and safety in disrupted or communal environments;
- making appropriate referrals; and
- avoiding responses that minimise, excuse or unintentionally increase harm.

4) Embed family violence risk into disaster planning before emergencies occur.

Increased family violence risk should be considered in disaster preparedness and planning, not only during crisis response, relief or recovery. This should include incorporating family violence considerations into emergency planning, relief and evacuation centre planning, local recovery planning, disaster exercises and after-action reviews.

4.3 How can governments, communities, schools, workplaces, online platforms and others better support people to recognise and respond to harmful attitudes and behaviours?

The Second Action Plan should support consistent, practical messaging that helps people identify harmful attitudes and behaviours without reinforcing excuses for violence.

In disaster contexts, there can be a tendency to explain violence through increased stress, trauma, financial pressure, displacement or loss. These factors may increase risk or reduce safety, but they do not cause or excuse violence. Prevention messaging must remain clear that responsibility sits with the person using violence.

Governments, communities, schools, workplaces and services can also strengthen prevention by helping people understand what safe support looks like. Many victim-survivors first disclose to someone they know and trust. This makes community awareness and capability especially important during disasters, when formal services may be disrupted or harder to access.

Recommendation/s:

5) Strengthen community capability to recognise and respond safely to family violence in disaster contexts.

The Second Action Plan should support community education and practical resources that help people recognise and respond safely to family violence before, during and after disasters.

This should include clear messages that:

- family violence can increase or escalate during and after disasters;
- disaster-related stress does not excuse violence;
- safety and privacy matter when responding to disclosures;
- help is available; and
- communities have an important role in supporting safety and help-seeking.

Resources should be developed based on evidence and lived experience and should be tailored to support diverse groups within communities to ensure effective outcomes.

4.4 What prevention and early intervention approaches appear most promising or effective, and what is needed to strengthen or expand them?

Promising approaches are those that translate a strong evidence base into practice. In disaster contexts, this means moving beyond general recognition that risk can increase after disasters, and building a strong evidence base to support the systems, tools and resources, training and awareness, and workforce capability needed to respond earlier and more effectively to eliminate violence in a disaster context.

Gender and Disaster Australia's work provides a practical model for this approach. 'Lessons in Disaster' training, the Gender and Emergency Management Guidelines and related resources support organisations and communities to understand the gendered impacts of disaster and to apply this knowledge in preparedness, response and recovery. This work is strongest when it is embedded in local planning, supported by referral pathways, and connected to specialist family violence expertise.

Recommendation/s:

6) Expand practical, disaster-informed prevention and early intervention approaches.

The Second Action Plan should support the expansion of practical approaches that help non-specialist workforces recognise and respond to family violence risk in disaster contexts. These workforces include paid and unpaid workers in emergency services, local government, relief and evacuation centres, community and social services, recovery programs, health services, schools, workplaces, community organisations and informal community groups and support networks. This expansion of practical approaches should include training, and local tools, referral pathways and resources for use in emergency planning, relief centres, recovery hubs, temporary accommodation settings, community recovery programs and workplaces.

7) Support stronger links between specialist family violence services and disaster systems.

Specialist family violence services should be connected into emergency planning and recovery coordination, at all levels of the system, before disasters occur. This would strengthen local preparedness, improve referral pathways and reduce reliance on ad hoc relationships during crisis. It would also improve planning at regional, state and national levels to enable more consistent and effective outcomes.

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

The Second Action Plan should explicitly identify and address the growing intersection between climate-related disasters, gender inequality and violence against women.

As disasters become more frequent, severe and complex, prevention and early intervention strategies need to account for the conditions that can heighten risk and reduce safety. These include displacement, housing insecurity, financial stress, isolation, reduced privacy, service disruption, trauma and uncertainty.

These conditions can also be used by people using violence to increase control, monitor or access victim-survivors, restrict help-seeking or exploit systems that are already under pressure. The Second Action Plan should treat disaster-related family violence risk as a high-priority area of prevention and early intervention work.

Recommendation/s:

8) Address disaster-related risk factors without shifting responsibility for violence.

The Second Action Plan should recognise the conditions that can increase the risk of violence against women or reduce women's safety during and after disasters, while maintaining a clear focus on gender inequality, power, control and accountability. Risk factors can be addressed through more inclusive disaster planning processes, and by establishing relationships between emergency services and domestic violence or community services.

9) Create earlier pathways for people using or at risk of using violence in disaster and recovery settings.

Disaster and recovery settings may provide earlier opportunities to identify people using, or at risk of using, violence. The Second Action Plan should support safe early intervention pathways through health, mental health, housing, workplace, community, emergency management and recovery settings. These pathways must prioritise victim-survivor safety, avoid collusion, support accountability and connect people to appropriate support services.

The Second Action Plan should identify and invest in processes that support awareness and behaviour change for perpetrators (and potential perpetrators) of violence. It must also engage all members of society, including those engaged in disaster planning, response and recovery, to actively and safely support women who are or might become victim-survivors.

10) Invest in evidence and evaluation.

The Second Action Plan should support research and evaluation of disaster-informed prevention and early intervention approaches, including workforce training, relief and evacuation centre practice, referral pathways, community education, disaster planning and long-term recovery programs.

4.6 Headline Recommendation for Priority Area 2

The Second Action Plan should embed disaster-informed family violence prevention and early intervention across emergency management, local government, health, workplace, community and recovery systems, recognising these as settings where risk can be identified earlier and harm can be prevented.

5. Detailed Response to Priority Area 5 – System Integration and Workforce

People experiencing violence often need to navigate multiple systems at once, including specialist family violence services, health, housing, policing, justice, education, child protection and community services. During and after disasters, this complexity can increase. Victim-survivors may also be dealing with displacement, insecure housing or temporary accommodation, disrupted services, reduced privacy, financial pressure, trauma and heightened safety risks.

System integration and workforce capability are therefore essential in disaster contexts. Specialist family violence services remain critical, but they cannot carry responsibility alone. Emergency services, councils, relief and recovery services, health services, housing providers, workplaces, schools and community organisations may all come into contact with victim-survivors or people using violence. These systems need clear roles, shared pathways and practical capability.

5.1 What would make the biggest difference in creating a more coordinated and connected system response for people affected by violence and people using violence?

The biggest difference in the disaster context would be to connect family violence systems with disaster preparedness, emergency response and recovery systems before disasters occur.

Too often, coordination is built under crisis conditions, when services are already stretched and communities are under pressure. A safer and more effective approach is to establish relationships, protocols and referral pathways in advance, so that disaster and recovery systems know how to identify risk, respond safely and connect people to appropriate support. This coordination must be developed and implemented at all levels of the system, from governments and policy, through to State or regional coordination, and on the ground at the community or local level.

Recommendation/s:

11) Recognise emergency management and recovery systems as part of the broader family violence response.

The Second Action Plan should recognise emergency management, relief and recovery systems as part of the broader response to violence against women and children and other forms of gender-based violence. By explicitly identifying the disaster context as a significant time of increased risk to women and children, the Plan can then support coordinated planning, and the development of safer responses before, during and after disasters.

12) Strengthen coordination between family violence, disaster, housing, health and recovery systems.

The Second Action Plan should support stronger coordination between specialist family violence services and the systems that become central during disasters, including emergency management, local government, housing, health, mental health, financial support, schools, workplaces and recovery programs.

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

Workforces need practical, consistent and role-specific capability. Non-specialist workers do not need to become family violence specialists, but they do need to understand their role in recognising risk, responding safely and referring appropriately.

This is particularly important in disaster settings, where privacy may be limited, services may be disrupted and people may be seeking help through unfamiliar pathways. Workers from a wide range of organisations and services need to understand the gendered impacts of disasters, the ways violence can be hidden or excused in disaster contexts, and the safety risks that can arise in relief, recovery and temporary accommodation settings. These paid and unpaid workers need to have the skills and capabilities to support and safely refer women to appropriate services.

Recommendation/s:

13) Build workforce capability in gender-informed, trauma-informed and inclusive practice.

The Second Action Plan should invest in workforce development that supports emergency management, local government, health, housing, education, workplace, community and recovery workforces to:

- recognise family violence risk, including coercive control and non-physical abuse;
- understand how disaster conditions can affect safety and help-seeking;
- respond safely to disclosures;
- protect privacy and confidentiality;
- refer to specialist services;
- avoid collusion with people using violence;
- support culturally safe and inclusive practice; and

- understand the different ways disaster and violence risk may be experienced by women, children, First Nations communities, LGBTIQ+ people, people with disability, migrant and refugee communities, and people in rural and remote areas.

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

The most effective approaches are those that create relationships and shared understanding and practice before crisis occurs. In disaster contexts, this means developing local protocols, identifying shared referral pathways, undertaking cross-sector training, developing agreed privacy and safety principles, and undertaking consultation and joint planning between specialist family violence services and disaster-related systems.

Integrated models should be practical and locally relevant. They should support safe information sharing without creating additional risk for victim-survivors, and they should make it clear when non-specialist workers should seek specialist advice or support.

Recommendation/s:

14) Develop shared tools, referral pathways and local protocols.

The Second Action Plan should support the development of practical tools and local protocols that help workforces recognise risk, respond safely and connect people to support. These should be suitable for use in emergency planning, relief and evacuation centres, recovery hubs, temporary accommodation, community services, schools and workplaces.

Tools and protocols should cover:

- safe disclosure;
- referral pathways;
- privacy and information sharing;
- immediate safety considerations;
- secondary consultation with specialist services;
- inclusive and accessible communication; and
- responses where a person using violence is present in the same setting or system.

15) Embed family violence expertise in disaster planning and recovery coordination.

Specialist family violence expertise should be included in disaster preparedness and recovery planning where possible, at all levels of the system. This includes at the national and state policy and planning levels, the regional planning level, and including local emergency management structures, recovery committees, relief centre planning and the conduct of after-action reviews.

5.4 What supports do specialist and universal services need to provide inclusive, accessible and responsive services?

Specialist and universal services both need support to respond to the different ways people experience violence in a disaster context.

Universal services need clear guidance, awareness raising and training, and referral pathways so they can act safely within their role. Specialist services need adequate resourcing and stronger connections with disaster and recovery systems so that they are not overloaded at times of disaster or left to respond to increased demand without sufficient support.

Inclusive and accessible practice also requires attention to the needs of communities who may face additional barriers to accessing safety and support, including First Nations women and children, migrant and refugee communities, LGBTIQ+ people, people with disability, older people, people in rural and remote communities, and people experiencing housing insecurity.

Recommendation/s:

16) Design relief and recovery settings with family violence safety in mind.

Emergency relief centres, temporary accommodation and recovery services should be planned and assessed with family violence safety in mind. This includes privacy, safe disclosure options, referral information, inclusive facilities, staff capability and measures to reduce opportunities for perpetrators of violence to monitor, isolate or further harm women and children.

17) Support inclusive and accessible practice across specialist and universal services.

The Second Action Plan should invest in practical supports that help services respond safely and inclusively in disaster contexts. This should include accessible resources, culturally safe practice, inclusive communication, bilingual and bicultural capability where needed, and stronger partnerships with community-controlled and community-led organisations. Particular focus should be given to supporting First Nations led approaches, the development of resources, and provision of training in appropriate practices by First Nations groups working at the intersection of gender and disaster.

5.5 What evidence, workforce or system gaps should the Second Action Plan prioritise to strengthen implementation and improve outcomes over time?

The Second Action Plan should prioritise building and sharing evidence of strong and effective practices that reduce or eliminate violence against women in a disaster context. The Plan should also focus on implementation gaps at the intersection of disaster, gender and violence against women.

There is already important work underway, but further attention is needed to understand what works, what can be scaled, and how systems can respond more consistently in different disaster contexts.

Priority gaps include:

- how family violence risk is identified and managed in emergency planning, relief and recovery;
- how relief centres and temporary accommodation can be made safer for victim-survivors;
- what training models are most effective for emergency management, recovery and other non-specialist workforces;
- how referral pathways operate when services are disrupted or overloaded;
- what supports and services victim-survivors need during long-term disaster recovery;
- how people using violence may exploit disaster conditions, displacement or system disruption or overload;
- how to support inclusive responses for groups and communities who face additional barriers to accessing safety and support; and
- how integrated systemic models can be evaluated and adapted across different jurisdictions and local contexts.

Recommendation/s:**18) Invest in evidence-building, evaluation and practice translation.**

The Second Action Plan should support evaluation of disaster-informed family violence prevention, early intervention, response and recovery. This should include evaluation of awareness raising and training for paid and unpaid disaster workforces, referral pathways in a disaster context, disaster relief and evacuation centre practice, integrated service models, development of community resources and long-term disaster recovery supports.

5.6 Headline Recommendation for Priority Area 5

The Second Action Plan should strengthen coordination and workforce capability across family violence, emergency management, local government, housing, health, education, workplace and recovery systems, so victim-survivors receive safer, more connected and more effective support before, during and after disasters.

6. Summary of Recommendations

Gender and Disaster Australia recommends that the Second Action Plan:

1. Recognise disaster preparedness, response and recovery settings as contexts for prevention and early intervention.
2. Build family violence capability across all areas of government and society, including those involved in policy development, program delivery, and service provision.
3. Build family violence capability across emergency management, recovery and other non-specialist workforces with a role in disaster preparation, response and recovery.
4. Embed family violence risk into disaster planning before emergencies occur.

5. Strengthen community capability to recognise and respond safely to family violence in disaster contexts.
6. Expand practical, disaster-informed prevention and early intervention approaches.
7. Support stronger links between specialist family violence services and disaster systems.
8. Address disaster-related risk factors without shifting responsibility for violence.
9. Create earlier pathways for people using or at risk of using violence in disaster and recovery settings.
10. Invest in evidence and evaluation.
11. Recognise emergency management and recovery systems as part of the broader family violence response.
12. Strengthen coordination between family violence, disaster, housing, health and recovery systems.
13. Build workforce capability in gender-informed, trauma-informed and inclusive practice.
14. Develop shared tools, referral pathways and local protocols.
15. Embed family violence expertise in disaster planning and recovery coordination.
16. Design relief and recovery settings with family violence safety in mind.
17. Support inclusive and accessible practice across specialist and universal services.
18. Invest in evidence-building, evaluation and practice translation.

7. Conclusion

The Second Action Plan is an important opportunity to strengthen national action on domestic, family and sexual violence by recognising disaster as a key context in which risk increases, becomes more complex and can be harder to address.

Gender and Disaster Australia recommends that additional priority and support is provided to ensure that approaches to eliminate violence against women and children in a disaster context are strengthened across government and across the various sectors that activate before, during and after disasters.

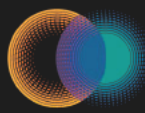
It is essential that the Plan supports and strengthens approaches that are working effectively, so that disaster-affected communities and the organisations that support them are equipped to prevent, recognise and respond safely to family violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

GAD Australia is well placed to support this work through research, training, consultation, the development of practical resources, and the provision of policy advice. This includes supporting governments, non-government organisations, emergency services and emergency management organisations, and others to apply gender-informed approaches, strengthen workforce capability and translate evidence into practical action to eliminate violence against women and children before, during and after disasters.

8. Additional Resources

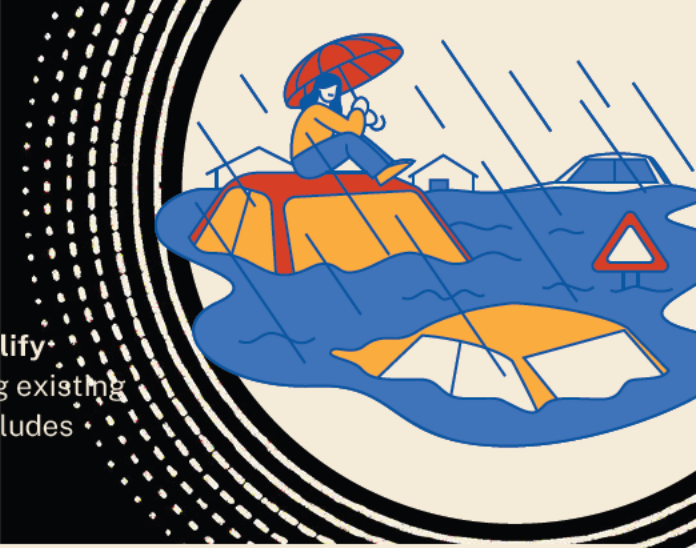
The following resources are provided for your additional information:

GADAus Factsheet	Why Violence Can Increase After Disasters (Attachment below)
GADAus Factsheet	<u>Women & LGBTQIA+ Leadership in Disaster</u>
GADAus Factsheet	<u>Gender and Drought in Australia</u>
GADAus Video Series	<u>Gender and Disaster Video Explainer Series</u>
GADAus Project	<u>Creating Safe Shelter Spaces</u>



Why Violence Can Increase After Disasters

Disasters do not **cause** gender-based violence (GBV). They **amplify** existing drivers of violence and can increase the risk by making existing issues and unsafe situations worse. Gender-based violence includes physical and non-physical behaviours used to control, coerce, intimidate, isolate or harm a person because of their gender.



WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS

- Evidence from more than **50 studies across 14 countries** confirms that violence against women commonly increases after disasters.
- International studies have reported that violence against women increased by more than 50% and, in some cases, nearly doubled after disasters including multiple hazards.
- Following Victoria's 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, family violence rates were up to **7 times higher** in some of the most severely affected communities. Research described family violence as a "hidden disaster" that persisted long after the fires, with increases in both the frequency and severity of violence against women.
- Around **1 in 4 Australian women** has experienced intimate partner violence since turning 15.
- For First Nations communities, disasters occur in the context of deep trauma associated with colonialism. First Nations women are **27–32 times** more likely to be hospitalised due to family or domestic violence-related assault than non-Indigenous women.
- LGBTIQ+ people, people with disability, First Nations people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities may face compounded risks due to intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion.

WHY VIOLENCE CAN INCREASE AFTER DISASTERS

Disasters can intensify conditions associated with increased risk of violence, including:

- Housing insecurity and overcrowding
- Financial hardship and unemployment
- Reduced access to support services
- Social isolation and disrupted social and community networks
- Stress, trauma, grief and loss
- Increased alcohol and other drug use



WHAT WORKS

- Strengthen partnerships between emergency management, health, housing, policing, and family violence services.
- Integrate family and domestic violence prevention and response into disaster planning, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Maintain access to policing, legal protection, housing and financial support throughout disaster response and recovery.
- Collect and use gender-disaggregated data to inform planning, response, and recovery.
- Promote gender equality and prevent violence by addressing its underlying drivers.

Gender based violence is predictable. Gender based violence is preventable.