

Executive Summary:

Submission to inform the Second Action Plans under the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children and the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse

August 2026

Jesuit Social Services welcomes the opportunity to inform the Second Action Plans under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032* (the National Plan) and the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2030* (the National Strategy). We are making a combined submission to inform both Action Plans because data, research and our practice experience show that family and sexual violence and child sexual abuse are deeply interconnected – not least because men make up the vast majority of people who use family and sexual violence against adults and who sexually abuse children.

Our submission focuses on issues where Jesuit Social Services has specific expertise to offer – in particular, violence prevention and early intervention with men and boys, including child sexual abuse prevention and early intervention. We recognise that other organisations and experts are better placed to comment on critical issues such as support for victim-survivors, but we do echo calls for increased and ongoing funding for specialist family and sexual violence response services.

Through the lens of violence prevention work with men and boys, our central proposition is that – across both Action Plans – Australia must maintain strong primary prevention efforts while building the missing early intervention, response and healing capacity needed to act earlier, respond effectively and reduce the recurrence of violence and abuse.

Efforts must remain grounded in victim-survivor and child safety, gender equality, intersectionality, First Nations self-determination and compassionate accountability. By compassionate accountability, we mean engaging people with dignity, care and curiosity while remaining clear about safety, responsibility and the impacts of harm. Effective practice with those who cause harm recognises and manages the pull to collude: recognising experiences and needs without reinforcing blame, entitlement or minimising harm, and choosing when and how to challenge in ways most likely to support responsibility and sustained change.

Our submission focuses on the policy settings and system changes required to scale up work with men and boys across the violence prevention continuum, while also highlighting gaps and examples of promising practice from our work and experience. We argue that, to make meaningful and lasting progress towards ending family and sexual violence and child sexual abuse, the Second Action Plans must commit governments to:

- Build the system architecture necessary to expand, coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of work with men and boys, including building the evidence base and capabilities of workforces;
- Prevent and respond to online harms;
- Maintain and strengthen primary prevention and continue to innovate and refine the approach;
- Invest in healing and recovery for children and young people who have experienced family violence and child abuse;
- Scale up early intervention with men and boys at higher risk of using violence or showing earlier signs of causing harm; and
- Expand options for responding to people who use violence.

Because the Second Action Plans will be national in scope, the recommendations in our submission are directed at all governments – unless otherwise specified. However, we also emphasise the important leadership role that the Federal Government must play in driving systemic reforms, for example, in coordinating efforts, setting standards and driving workforce

development. In some policy areas – in particular, preventing and responding to online harms – the Federal Government holds the key policy and regulatory levers and must take strong action.

1. Context and key concepts

A coordinated approach to end family and sexual violence and child sexual abuse

Despite the important intersections between family and sexual violence and child sexual abuse, policy, funding, research and service development remain fragmented across national frameworks, government portfolios and jurisdictions. This contributes to gaps and duplication, inconsistent service pathways, missed opportunities for earlier intervention and unclear responsibility for cross-cutting issues. The coordinated process to develop the Second Action Plans must flow into coordinated governance and implementation across social services, health, education, child safety, justice, communications and Attorney-General's portfolios, and across Commonwealth, state and territory governments. Coordination can also support shared learning, multidisciplinary research and practice development.

Coordination must not dilute the distinct implementation focus required for sexual violence, including its particular dynamics, specialist expertise and service pathways.

Violence prevention work with men and boys

Family and sexual violence and child sexual abuse are overwhelmingly perpetrated by men and boys, and the prevalence of men's violence is alarmingly high. Around one-third of adult men in Australia report having used intimate partner violence, and one in five Australian adult men report having sexual feelings towards and/or having sexually offended against children. Even though government investment has been overwhelmingly directed towards crisis response and criminal justice system interventions, the vast majority of men who use violence never have contact with the criminal justice system or receive any kind of specialist intervention.

The research and data clearly demonstrate that our failure to prevent, intervene early in, respond effectively to, and support healing and recovery from men's violence is putting women, children and other victim-survivors at risk. While there has been increased emphasis in policy and media discourse in recent years on the importance of engaging men and boys in violence prevention, and there are pockets of promising practice, current prevention and early intervention efforts with men and boys are fragmented, underfunded and delivered at nowhere near the scale required to address the magnitude of the problem. The Second Action Plans must therefore scale up work with men and boys across the violence prevention continuum – from primary prevention to early intervention, response and recovery.

This must include transforming masculinities, which means challenging restrictive and harmful expectations about what it means to be a man, and the behaviours, cultures and systems that reinforce them and opening up more diverse ways for men and boys to live and relate—ways that value care, consent, connection, shared responsibility and accountability, and contribute to safety and freedom from violence, gender equality, respectful relationships and wellbeing. Transforming masculinities does not mean that masculinity, men or boys are inherently harmful, or that one narrow model of the “good man” should replace another.

While we often refer to “men and boys” when discussing shared gendered influences and a life-course approach, boys are children, not younger versions of adult men. Policies and interventions involving boys must be child-centred and developmentally appropriate, recognise their rights and capacity for change, and avoid automatically applying adult labels or intervention models. This is particularly the case for those children and young who come

contact with the criminal justice system – many of whom have themselves experienced victimisation and not received the care they need to heal and recover.

To understand, and respond effectively to, the diverse experiences both of people at greater risk of experiencing violence and of people who use, or are at greater risk of using, the Second Action Plans should also require all actions to be designed, implemented and evaluated through an intersectional lens. This includes resourcing community-led violence prevention approaches.

Scaling up prevention work with men and boys also requires reframing the public narrative – recognising that the same gendered expectations that can contribute to poor health for men and boys also shape relationships, caregiving, attitudes to equality, and use of violence. We need to build a positive vision for men that promotes models of masculinity grounded in care, connection and wellbeing, while remaining clear about power, responsibility and harm.

Recommendation 1: Governments should establish formal cross-plan, cross-portfolio and intergovernmental coordination and accountability arrangements for the National Plan and National Strategy, while preserving their distinct mandates and establishing a clear interface with the self-determined governance of *Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices*.

Recommendation 2: Governments should embed an intersectional approach across all actions in the Second Action Plans, and strengthen and resource community-led, self-determined and locally responsive violence prevention approaches and programs.

Recommendation 3: The Federal Government should build on the Australian Institute of Family Studies' work to define healthy masculinities by funding and evaluating a long-term national public engagement and narrative change program for men and boys. The program should develop a positive, inclusive vision centred on care and 'caring manhood' – supporting men and boys to care for themselves and others, share responsibility, build respectful relationships and contribute to safety, gender equality and wellbeing. It should counter misogynistic and anti-equality narratives and connect public messaging with practical opportunities for learning, help-seeking and action.

Recommendation 4: The Federal Government should incentivise states and territories to implement evidence-based approaches to youth justice that are consistent with human rights, child rights and Closing the Gap targets, including through financial incentives and penalties.

2. Build the system architecture, workforce capability and evidence base to strengthen violence prevention work with men and boys

There is a growing recognition in public policy of the importance of engaging men and boys in violence prevention, but this recognition is not matched by the resourcing and infrastructure needed to effectively address the scale of the challenge. Embedding effective violence prevention work with men and boys across the continuum requires a systemic, national approach – coordinating and strengthening capacity across the many organisations and workforces that regularly engage with men and boys but lack the mandate, capacity and resourcing to contribute to safe, accountable and effective violence prevention work.

This systemic approach should be underpinned by coordinated governance for the National Plan and National Strategy and supported by an integrated implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework for the Second Action Plans to promote accountability. Each significant Action Plan commitment should identify a lead government and portfolio, delivery partners, dedicated funding, milestones and timeframes, intended outcomes and measures, public reporting arrangements and independent oversight.

It also requires dedicated infrastructure to expand, coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of work with men and boys: a national coordination mechanism, shared practice standards, a national policy framework, workforce capability-building, investment in evidence, and sustainable resourcing. This should build on work already under way, including the pilot of a national MenEngage network and work to discern the “practice elements” of safe, accountable and effective violence prevention work with men and boys being led by Jesuit Social Services and Our Watch in partnership.

Building workforce capability for violence prevention work with men and boys is a critical component of driving practice change. The small number of men who engage with specialist family violence or justice services and the small size of the specialist workforce working with men and boys means that, to achieve a meaningful reduction in men’s violence, we need to build violence prevention capability across a range of workforces who engage with men and boys in other services and settings – including those who can positively influence men and boys in universal and community settings (such as schools and sports clubs), those engaging with men and boys at higher risk points in their lives (such as health, settlement and employment services), and those working with men and boys at higher risk of using violence (such as substance use and child and family services).

Our vision is that relevant workforces interacting with men and boys should be equipped—in ways proportionate to their role and setting—to challenge restrictive and harmful gender norms, build protective factors against violence and apply compassionate accountability. This means building enough trust to engage; recognising and managing the pull to collude; validating experiences and needs without reinforcing blame, entitlement or minimising harm; and choosing when and how to challenge in ways most likely to support safety, responsibility and change. Workforces should also be able to respond safely when concerns emerge, including by activating earlier pathways to help, with specialist services retaining responsibility for risk and needs assessment and more intensive therapeutic or behaviour-change interventions.

Key workforces—including school staff, health workers, psychologists and social workers—also need greater capability to recognise and respond appropriately to indicators that a child or young person may be engaging in harmful sexual behaviours, or that an adult may be perpetrating or at risk of perpetrating child sexual abuse. Core violence and child sexual abuse prevention capabilities should be embedded in relevant pre-service qualifications and adequately resourced through ongoing professional development, supervision, reflective practice and specialist consultation or coaching.

Finally, the evidence base underpinning violence prevention work needs strengthening to build confidence about what works, for whom, in what circumstances, and how effects can be sustained over time. This requires investment in more rigorous evaluation and research. Key research needed includes: a national perpetration survey; research into the drivers, dynamics and pathways to perpetration (including the role of online environments); longitudinal and intersectional masculinities research; and research into the risk and protective factors for child sexual abuse perpetration and victimisation.

Recommendation 5: Governments should take a national, systemic approach to drive the systems and practice change necessary to embed effective violence prevention work with men and boys across the continuum from primary prevention to early intervention, response and recovery. This involves coordinating, aligning, strengthening and resourcing violence prevention capacity across the many organisations and workforces that regularly interact with men and boys.

Recommendation 6: Governments should create and resource the infrastructure needed to embed and advance work with men and boys across the violence prevention continuum. This

should be underpinned by coordinated governance for the National Plan and National Strategy and supported by an integrated implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework for the Second Action Plans. The infrastructure needed to expand and enhance violence prevention work with men and boys includes:

- a national coordination mechanism;
- shared practice standards;
- a national framework with which organisations working with men and boys should align their systems, policies and practice;
- organisational and workforce capacity-building;
- investment in evaluation and research to build the evidence base; and
- mechanisms for knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Recommendation 7: Governments should adopt a broad definition of the “prevention” workforce – including those who work with men and boys who are using or at risk of using violence – and ensure this workforce is equipped to contribute to violence prevention by challenging restrictive and harmful gender norms, building protective factors, applying compassionate accountability, recognising and managing collusive dynamics, and responding and referring safely. Funding models should be reformed to match expanded role expectations and support professional development, alongside immediate investment in priority activities to build workforce capacity.

Recommendation 8: Governments should build the capability of workforces working with both adults and children (including health workers, psychologists and social workers) to prevent and intervene earlier in child sexual abuse, including in particular, capability to identify indicators that a child or young person may be engaging in harmful sexual behaviours and indicators that an adult may be perpetrating or at risk of perpetrating child sexual abuse, and to respond to each appropriately.

Recommendation 9: Governments should work with professional bodies to ensure core violence prevention (including child abuse prevention) capabilities are embedded in curricula for a range of relevant qualifications and supported and operationalised through in-service professional development (including training, supervision support and coaching, reflective practice and secondary consultation). Professional development for workforces with a role in family violence and child abuse prevention and response should be better sequenced and coordinated.

Recommendation 10: The Federal Government should commission the development of an evidence framework for the prevention of family and sexual violence and child abuse across the continuum. The framework should include standards of evidence and be supported by funding for more rigorous and long-term evaluation.

Summary of recommendations 11–14: In these recommendations we call on Governments and/or research organisations, such as ANROWS and the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse, to engage further with the sector to identify and develop research priorities to ensure the family and sexual violence and child sexual abuse research agenda. Research priorities under the Second Action Plans should include: a national perpetration survey; research into the drivers, dynamics and pathways to perpetration (including the role of online environments); longitudinal and intersectional masculinities research; and research into the risk and protective factors for child sexual abuse perpetration and victimisation.

3. Prevent and respond to online harms

The 'online' and 'offline' worlds are not separate – online environments are an integral part of modern life – but technology companies, services and products have often escaped obligations to meet safety standards that apply to physical products and services. This is despite the fact that online environments and technological tools can cause, facilitate and amplify family and sexual violence, child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours. For example:

- Online child sexual exploitation and abuse is rife, with evidence pointing to continued increases in online grooming, the use of Generative AI to facilitate the creation and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) at scale, and continued gaps in the action of major technology platforms to address known risks.
- The widespread availability of online pornography is contributing to the increase in harmful sexual behaviours among young people.
- Algorithmic recommender systems push hateful and extreme content that is shaping attitudes and behaviours that can lead to violence.

Children and young people are frequently early adopters of new technologies, posing challenges for legislative frameworks which are often playing catch up. This has been evident in delayed Federal Government responses to AI technologies such as 'nudify' apps, which were only banned after numerous reports of these apps being used to create AI-generated sexual exploitation material of students in Australian schools; and children's easy access to online pornography, with age verification requirements for pornography websites only recently coming into force and their effectiveness still unproven.

The Second Action Plans must have a strong focus on addressing the technological, behavioural and social factors that contribute to online harms, including online harmful sexual behaviours and CSAM; as well as the way in which online environments and technologies act as tools and amplifiers of family and sexual violence. This requires coordinated action across Federal Government agencies, given legislative, regulatory and programmatic levers sit in different portfolios – chief among them communications, but also education, social services and the Attorney-General's portfolio.

A critical underpinning of safer online environments will be an effective digital duty of care, which the Government has committed to legislate. The duty of care must require technology companies to adopt 'safety by design' and take greater responsibility for preventing, detecting, deterring and disrupting online harms that occur on – or are facilitated by – their platforms. A specific focus on algorithmic recommender systems is required, given they have been shown to push harmful content to children and young people, yet operate without any transparency or oversight. Separate to the duty of care, the Federal Government must strengthen the regulation of online pornography, in particular to address the widespread availability of pornography that depicts sexual violence and incest or child abuse themes.

The Second Action Plans should also include actions to equip children, young people, parents, carers and workforces to safely navigate online environments; update justice system responses to online harmful sexual behaviours; and support initiatives seeking to disrupt harmful online behaviour and support help seeking.

Summary of recommendations 15–17: In these recommendations, we call for the Second Action Plans to have a strong focus on addressing online harms, underpinned by a well-designed and appropriately enforced digital duty of care which strengthens the accountability of the technology industry for the harms occurring on, facilitated by, and directly caused by,

their products and services – in particular online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and the promotion of violent and harmful content by algorithmic recommender systems.

Summary of recommendations 18–23: In these recommendations we call on governments to take a range of additional actions to prevent and address online harms, including:

- strengthening regulation of online pornography;
- reforming police and criminal justice responses to online harmful sexual behaviours;
- supporting online interventions that disrupt and deter harmful online behaviour, such as the Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Deterrence Centre; and
- providing support to young people concerned about their sexual thoughts and behaviours, for example through *What's ok? Australia* (see recommendation 37).

4. Maintain and strengthen primary prevention and continue to innovate and refine the approach

To achieve meaningful, long-term change at a population level, the Second Action Plans must build on the gains already made in building the infrastructure and evidence base for effective prevention practice – including the critical national leadership role played by Our Watch and efforts under way to embed masculinities work into all prevention efforts. At the same time, they must continue to be refined and evolve to respond to emerging evidence, contemporary challenges and what works to engage men and boys and prevent violence and harm.

Population-level approaches remain essential, but we should not accept that those who are resistant, disengaged or least reached by current efforts are simply beyond prevention. Some may also be experiencing greater complexity or showing attitudes, behaviours or circumstances associated with elevated risk of harm. Primary prevention should test more tailored, relational and sustained approaches for these audiences and settings. Where elevated risk or early signs of harm emerge, universal prevention should connect directly to more intensive early intervention – so response and justice systems do not become the first point of meaningful contact.

Respectful relationships education (RRE) is a foundational pillar of primary prevention. Realising the vision of the new National RRE Framework requires sustained investment in professional development for teachers and school staff, including training in masculinities work with boys and young men – such as the Modelling Respect and Equality (MoRE) in Schools program. The national RRE curriculum must also be reviewed and updated more frequently.

Primary prevention should start earlier, including through embedding RRE in early childhood settings and investing in evidence-informed prevention programs that work with fathers. Prevention efforts in non-school settings, such as workplaces and sports clubs, should be scaled up and extended to new settings where young people can be reached.

Prevention programs must keep pace with contemporary challenges facing young people, including the impacts of pornography and other online harms, such as digital surveillance and image-based abuse; support boys and young men to cope with rejection; and address the persistence of homophobic and transphobic attitudes among boys and men. To address anti-LGBTQIA+ prejudice, governments must also commit funding to expand LGBTQIA+-led education, violence prevention and workforce capacity-building.

Because in-person interventions alone cannot achieve the reach and scale required, these interventions must be complemented by evidence-based digital tools that equip parents, teachers and other influential people in young men's lives to support them to identify

behaviours of concern and have confident conversations on sensitive topics, including masculinities, sexuality, online safety and violence.

Recommendation 25: Governments should invest in testing more tailored, relational and sustained primary prevention approaches for audiences and settings who are resistant, disengaged or least reached by current efforts. Where elevated risk or early signs of harm emerge, universal prevention should connect directly to more intensive early intervention – so response and justice systems do not become the first point of meaningful contact.

Summary of recommendations 26–31: In these recommendations, we call on governments to strengthen primary prevention efforts by:

- embedding content in RRE and other primary prevention initiatives that supports staff to address restrictive and harmful gender norms, contemporary challenges impacting young people (including harmful online influences), and homophobia and transphobia;
- supporting implementation of RRE and other primary prevention initiatives through professional development, including building skills and knowledge of staff to effectively engage boys and men, for example through rolling out the Modelling Respect and Equality (MoRE) program;
- starting prevention earlier, including by incorporating RRE into early childhood settings and by targeting new and young fathers, and scaling up prevention efforts in non-school settings; and
- investing in digital tools and resources to support and scale prevention and early intervention efforts.

5. Invest in healing and recovery for children and young people who have experienced family violence and child abuse

Understandings of the prevalence of children's experiences of violence and abuse have evolved substantially in recent years. The 2023 Australian Child Maltreatment Study described child maltreatment in Australia as 'endemic', with children experiencing high rates of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and childhood exposure to family and sexual violence, which can have profound and long-term impacts on their lives. Addressing the harms of victimisation, and supporting young victim-survivors to recover and heal, is not only essential for supporting their long-term health and wellbeing, but also represents a crucial opportunity to intervene earlier to disrupt intergenerational cycles of violence, and set young people on a path to living safer, happier lives.

Yet despite the scale and impacts of violence against children, the current service response for children and young people is severely lacking. In addition to a shortage of specialist healing and recovery supports specifically designed for children and young people, adjacent systems that regularly encounter children and young people who have experienced violence – such as child protection, mental health, substance use and homelessness services – often fall short in their efforts to respond to the needs of these children.

Summary of recommendations 32–34: In these recommendations we call on governments to design, coordinate and fully fund dedicated, multi-sector responses for children and young people who have experienced violence or abuse. This should include:

- mapping current demand and capability gaps across all relevant sectors; establishing robust mechanisms to measure and monitor service demand, access and completion; setting clear targets for service access and publicly reporting on progress;

- building the capability of the health, social services, legal and justice workforces to deliver joined-up, child-centred, trauma-informed and culturally safe responses; and
- making a substantial investment in targeted, developmentally appropriate therapeutic services to support children's long-term healing and recovery.

6. Scale up early intervention with men and boys at higher risk of using violence or showing early signs of causing harm

There is a significant disconnect between the prevalence of men's violence and the focus of policy and investment. Population-level prevention work is essential but often struggles to reach and engage higher risk cohorts of boys and men, while government investment remains directed overwhelmingly to the small number of people using violence who come into contact with police and the criminal justice system.

There is a critical need for greater investment in early intervention with boys and men – particularly young men – who are showing early signs of violence or are exposed to risk factors such as violent victimisation, disengagement from education, and high levels of adherence to restrictive and harmful gender norms. The increasing prevalence of harmful sexual behaviours among children and young people also points to the need for earlier intervention with those concerned about their sexual thoughts, behaviours or use of pornography. To address this gap, we need a systemic approach to early intervention that targets boys and young men exposed to risk factors or showing early signs of harmful behaviours, including problematic sexual thoughts or pornography use.

Universal and frontline settings—such as schools, health and social services—regularly identify at-risk individuals and families, but currently lack the capacity, training and referral pathways to intervene effectively. Connected early intervention pathways should be established so concerns are noticed early, risks are triaged, and people are connected with appropriate, coordinated supports before more intensive intervention is needed. Governments should pilot and evaluate place-based approaches that aim to connect prevention and early intervention across universal and community settings (such as schools) with clear service pathways and specialist support, in places where the gaps are greatest.

Accessible digital platforms – including anonymous online early intervention services such as *What's ok? Australia*, which targets young people concerned about their sexual thoughts or behaviours – can intercept harmful trajectories before justice involvement becomes necessary, and have an important role to play in the early intervention 'system'. Crucially, investment in awareness, screening, disclosure, deterrence, help-seeking or referral must be paired with investment in services to respond to increased demand.

The systemic approach should be complemented by scaled-up investment in targeted programs working directly with boys and men at higher risk of, or showing early signs of, using violence. This includes scaling up programs like *Change Makers* and adapting and expanding this model to other cohorts and settings; investing in community strengthening initiatives in communities less likely to seek help from specialist services; and expanding access to restorative interventions that interrupt escalation into the criminal justice system.

Recommendation 35: Governments should pilot and evaluate an intensive place-based early intervention initiative in a small number of local government areas that would work at both the system and community levels – for example, with police, child and family services, schools, health services and local community groups. The pilots would target at-risk young people and families and seek to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk factors for use of violence.

Each pilot would be adapted to the unique contexts and strengths of the particular place and community.

Recommendation 36: Governments should build accessible pathways to earlier help for boys and men who have experienced violence, are concerned about their own behaviour, or are showing early signs of violence or other harm. Accessible pathways should include anonymous and low-barrier ways to seek help, assessment and triage, brief intervention, therapeutic and behaviour-change support, and clear referral and escalation pathways. Parents, peers and frontline workers should be equipped to offer support and activate these pathways. Efforts to encourage help-seeking should be backed by investment in increased service capacity.

Summary of recommendations 37–38: The Federal Government should commit to fully funding the national roll-out and evaluation of *What's ok? Australia*, an anonymous online early intervention service for children and young people at risk of engaging in harmful sexual behaviours, accompanied by increased investment in therapeutic services to respond to increased demand.

Summary of recommendations 39–41: In these recommendations, we call on governments to scale up investment in promising early intervention programs that work directly with boys and young men, such as *Change Makers*, and adapt and evaluate these programs in other settings where we can reach boys and young men at higher risk of using violence, for example in flexible learning schools, residential out-of-home care, and with young fathers exposed to risk factors for use of violence. We also recommend governments to invest in community strengthening initiatives in communities less likely to seek help from specialist services, and expand access to restorative interventions for young people that interrupt escalation into the criminal justice system.

7. Expand options for responding to people who use violence

The failure to respond effectively and at scale to people using violence compromises the safety of women, children and other victim-survivors. Options for responding to people who use violence remain largely limited to Men's Behaviour Change Programs, yet No to Violence estimates that less than 3% of the estimated 2.5 million men using domestic and family violence in Australia receive any form of behaviour change intervention. Research also suggests these programs are not suitable for all people who use violence.

There is a critical need to expand options beyond this model. This includes investment in evidence-based programs for fathers who have used violence and expansion of access to restorative justice responses that foster accountability and promote long-term safety. There is also an opportunity to recognise and leverage opportunities for violence prevention in existing programs and interventions that are not specific to, but engage with, men who have used violence. For example, we see an opportunity to scale up integrated responses for men exiting prison, such as the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility model, which is showing promise in promoting desistance from violence. This model could also be adapted to provide specialised, supported housing for young people involved in the criminal justice system to disrupt offending trajectories.

The Federal Government should also address the gap in prevention-focused therapeutic programs for adults perpetrating or at risk of perpetrating child sexual abuse offences, especially people who commit CSAM offences and adults with sexual thoughts towards children (complementing the brief, anonymous support available through *Stop It Now! Australia*). Drawing on successful international models, these should ideally be available to both detected and undetected/at-risk individuals across community and correctional settings.

Interventions must be responsive to diversity and local context, including through genuine investment in the self-determination and capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to design, lead and govern services tailored to their communities.

Compassionate accountability should also guide responses to people using violence: services should recognise trauma, disadvantage and other needs without treating them as excuses, and combine clear boundaries, risk management and consequences with support for responsibility, behaviour change and safer lives.

Summary of recommendations 42–45: In these recommendations, we call on governments to expand, diversify and scale the suite of evidence-based responses for people who use or are at risk of using violence or committing child sexual abuse offences. This should include:

- targeted programs for fathers who use violence;
- restorative justice pathways that enable the safe resetting of relationships;
- scaling and adapting transitional supported housing models for people exiting prison who have been convicted of violent offences;
- interventions responsive to diversity and local context, including through investment in ACCOs; and
- in-depth therapeutic programs for individuals engaging with CSAM or with sexual thoughts towards children.