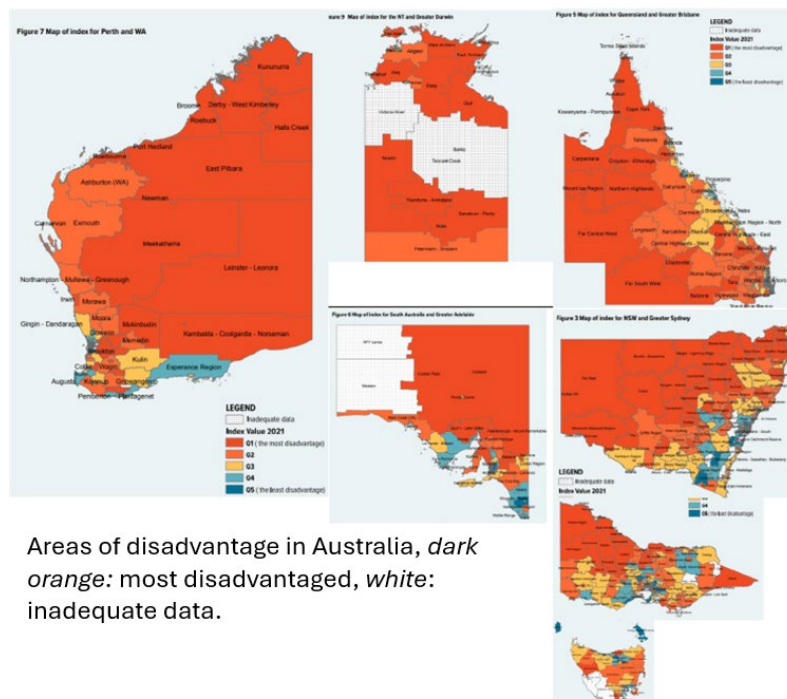


National Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network

<https://clcs.org.au/4rs-network/>



Submission to the Consultation on the 2nd Action Plan (National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022– 2032); 10 August 2026



Areas of disadvantage in Australia, *dark orange*: most disadvantaged, *white*: inadequate data.

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the lands, waters and sky Country of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and we express our respect to elders past, present and emerging. We express respect for the courage, strength and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are the First Peoples of Australia.

Preliminary

About the 4Rs Network

1. The National Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network (4Rs Network) consists of over 200 individuals in all states and territories directly reflecting about 110 community-based legal assistance services, networks and peaks. Most provide legal and related assistance in or to regional, rural, remote or very remote (4Rs) areas. This includes participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and non-Indigenous organisations.
2. The Network calls for **Justice where we live. Every community. Every person. Everywhere.** This includes full geographic access to justice to promote rights, justice, inclusion and wellbeing.
3. Unmet legal needs and justice issues, including systemic and structural injustice, are related in multiple ways to the safety of women and children from violence and abuse. Unmet legal needs often interconnect with adverse health determinants and factors contributing to health inequity and socio-economic inequity in 4Rs areas.
4. The efforts Family Violence Prevention Legal Services ('FVPLS') across the country are being held back by under-resourcing and an array of systemic barriers.¹The same applies to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS) in their work in urban and 4Rs areas². Funding models for these ACCO community based legal assistance services, ACCO Community Legal Centres

¹ FNAAFV, 'Submission for Consultation on the Second Action Plan (National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032)', FNAAFV (Submission, June 2026) <<https://fnaafv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Second-Action-Plan-FNAAFV-Submission.pdf>>.

² National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, 'Submission to the Inquiry into racism, hate and violence directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people', *Australian Parliament House* (Submission, August 2026) <https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Aboriginal_and_Torres_Strait_Islander_Affairs/Responsestoracism/Submissions>.

and Community Legal Centres in and for 4Rs areas are not responsive to the nature and extent of legal needs, the size of service areas or the costs of service provision. The 4Rs Network has called for at least a doubling of funding to all these services, due to the extent and effects of the shortfall.³

5. Many current federal, state and territory issues highlight that strategies and approaches are often highly problematic for people experiencing disadvantage in 4Rs areas. Most of the participants, services, and groups in the 4Rs Network are working day by day in their communities, seeing approaches to 4Rs areas by external contributors, including governments, which not aligned in so many ways – many of which could be addressed through much better listening and more responsiveness.
6. **Other submissions by the 4Rs Network** which may provide more background or tools relating to the submission which follows, are hosted on the Community Legal Centres Australia web site;⁴ the web updates in progress are at **Attachment 1**. Many previous 4Rs Network submissions are relevant to issues raised in relation to the development of the 2nd Action Plan.

About the 2AP consultation

7. It is noted that the [Department of Social Services information](#) relating to the Consultation below and welcome the use of the input in this submission in these and related ways.

“Information provided during the Consultation will be used by the Department to inform the development of Action Plans under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032, and to support related policy development and implementation activities, including the:

- *Second Action Plan required to be delivered under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032;*
- *the Second Action Plan for Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2021–2031;*

³ For submissions by the 4Rs Network relating to unmet legal needs in 4Rs areas, see: <https://clcs.org.au/4rs-network/> including the [Federal Pre-Budget Submission 2026-7](#) which includes the 4Rs Network 2026-7 Legal Assistance Report Card

⁴ Ibid.

- *Second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan for Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–2031;*
- *First Action Plan supporting implementation of Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026-2036; and*
- *the Attorney-General's Department's National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030."*

About this submission

8. This submission is about why an intersectional geographic lens should be applied to developing the 2nd Action Plan to centre the plan on where women and children at risk of gender-based violence are located.
9. The background includes a Mapping of the National Plan, which is at point 4 below. This mapping indicates that the plan does not have a principled, thematic and integrated geographic lens.
10. The aspatial approach of the National Plan was largely carried through into the 1st Action Plan (1AP). This can be seen in the review of 1AP at point 5 below, which includes comments and submissions for development of the 2nd Action Plan.
11. The section immediately below is a synthesis with key recommendations.

1. The 2AP must start with maps

12. The 2nd Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children should start with maps, representations and reflections to bring the Plan home to where women and children at risk live, and are located, throughout Australia, in urban and 4Rs areas.
13. The map on the front page of this submission is a compilation from *Dropping off the Edge 2021: Persistent & multilayered disadvantage in Australia*.⁵ It is a reminder that the circumstances and contexts in which women and children are

⁵ Robert Tanton et al, 'Dropping Off the Edge 2021: Persistent and multilayered disadvantage in Australia', *DOTE2021* (Report, 19 November 2021) <<https://www.dote.org.au/>>.

at risk, vary substantially and in many intersectional ways.

14. The mind-maps and representations of intersectionality which do not conceptualise and reflect power-relations which adversely affect safety nets for women and children in non-urban areas, must be addressed.
15. Maps created by narratives which make 4Rs areas peripheral, must be re-drawn. We must make maps that have no peripheries to achieve the objective that no woman or child, or anyone at risk of gender-based violence, is left behind.

2. Applying an intersectional geographic lens

16. The long-term goal of National Plan is to end all forms of gender-based violence in a country where:

*All people live free from gender-based violence and are safe in all settings including at home, at work, at school, in the community and online. We recognise that in order to achieve this we must reshape the social, political and economic aspects of our society that allow gender inequality and discrimination to continue. Across Australia – **in cities and regional, rural and remote communities alike** – every individual's humanity and worth must be respected and valued, regardless of their age, gender identity, sexuality, sex characteristics, disability, race and culture.*⁶

17. This submission is about **making where women and children live in regional, rural, remote and very remote communities fully part of the National Plan through the 2nd Action Plan (2AP).**
18. The major changes this objective requires, includes uplifting *the approach* to 4Rs areas across many national, state and territory portfolios, parliamentary practices, legislation and many other aspects. As outlined in the submissions in relation to 1AP (at 5 below), 2AP should visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas. This is also what is required for the momentum to seriously address needs related to ending gender-based violence and contexts of human rights shortfalls and disadvantage in many 4Rs areas.
19. While many national plans could provide the impetus, 2AP has one of the strongest rationales. Any policy priority which provides leadership of this kind,

⁶ Department of Social Services, 'National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032: Ending gender-based violence in one generation', *DSS web site* (National Plan, 2022) 15 <<https://www.dss.gov.au/national-plan-end-gender-based-violence>>.

will aim to clear obstacles to the intended outcomes under its umbrella relating to people, peoples and communities in 4Rs areas – which will produce a multiplier effect for numerous other priorities, including national, state and territory.

20. The centrepiece of this submission is visualised in the screen shot at [Image 1](#) below. This is a screen shot of ‘Population groups’ selected on the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare web site for the National Plan Outcomes](#). [Image 2](#), is a screen shot of part of the home page showing the tabs which include ‘Population groups’.

21. Applying a geographic lens, as part of an intersectional approach, it is immediately apparent that the **‘Population groups’ do not include ‘People in regions and remote areas’**.

- How could that be?
- How could this happen?
- Who is adversely impacted, and does it matter?
- How could *this happening* - be conceptualised?
- If this is happening all the time and, in many contexts (which it does) – to the point that it is treated as normal - what is the Theory of Change to address that?

22. Working through the menu options under ‘Population groups’ starting with ‘Key findings’, ‘Young women’ and proceeding to the final group ‘LGBTIQ+ people’:

- Why is there so little or no focus on 4Rs areas and on geographic location under these topics?
- The questions just above, need to be asked all over again – this time considering the layers, nature and extent of geographic invisibility.

Image 1: Screen shot showing 'Population groups' tab selected

aihwh.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/resources/national-plan-outcomes

Caution: Some people may find parts of this website content confronting or distressing

Call 1800RESPECT | Help and support >

Family, domestic and sexual violence

Quick exit ↗

Home Understanding FDSV Types of violence Responses and outcomes **Population groups** Resources

Key findings	→	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	→	Children and young people	→
Young women	→	Pregnant people	→	Mothers and their children	→
Older people	→	People with disability	→	LGBTIQ+ people	→
People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	→	Veteran families	→		

The [Outcomes Framework 2023–2032](#), under the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) (the National Plan) identified:

- 6 long-term outcomes, supported by sub-outcomes, to monitor change in the short, medium and long-term
- 6 national level targets, including Closing the Gap Target 13. As part of Target 13, there are 4 First Nations measures that will be tracked.

Image 2: Screen shot showing the [Home page](#)

Family, domestic and sexual violence

Quick exit ↗

Home Understanding FDSV Types of violence Responses and outcomes Population groups **Resources**

Home > Resources > National Plan Outcomes

National Plan Outcomes

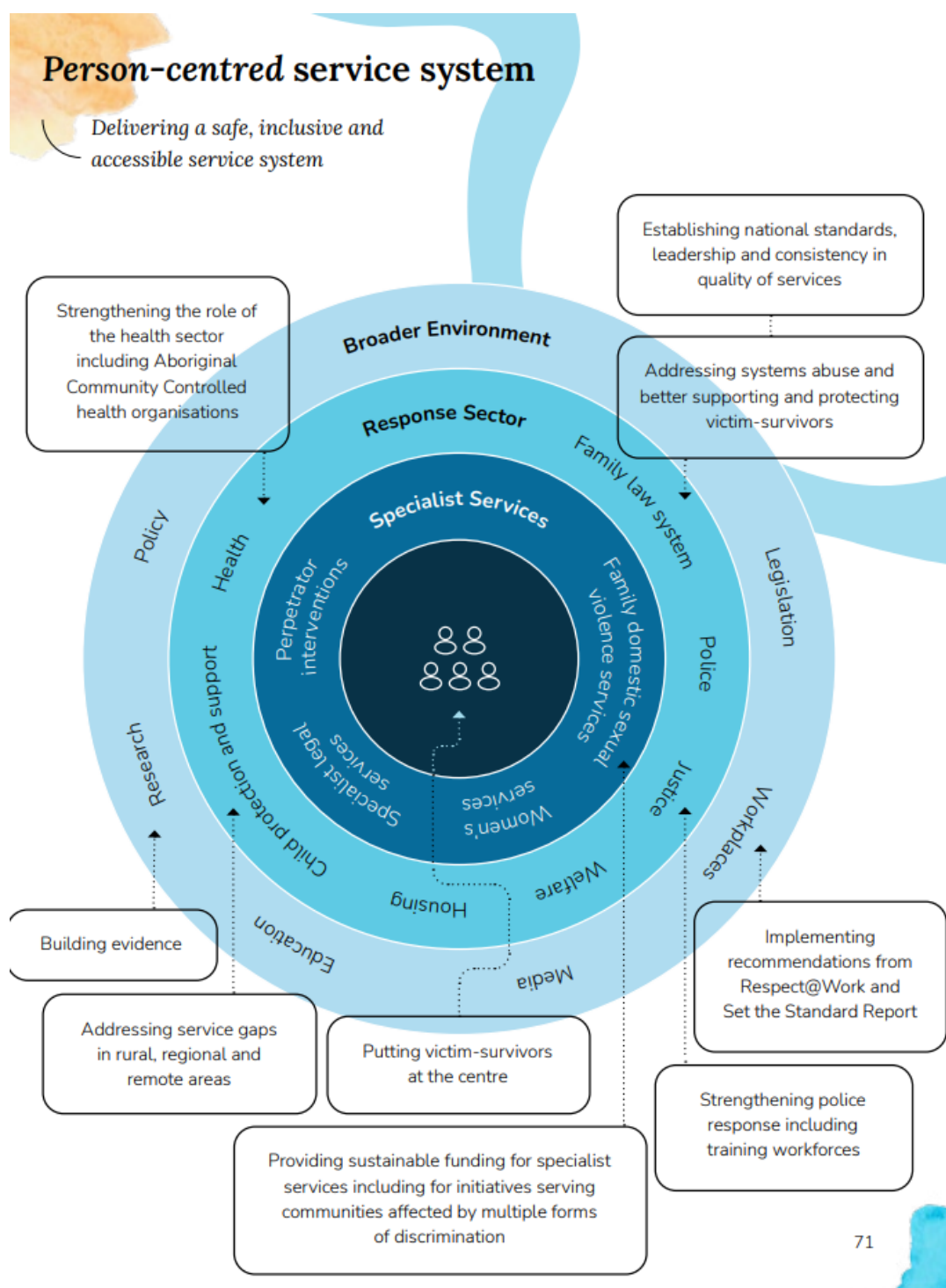
The Outcomes Framework links actions and activities being undertaken by the Australian, state and territory governments with the aim to end gender-based violence in one generation.

The [Outcomes Framework 2023–2032](#), under the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) (the National Plan) identified:

- 6 long-term outcomes, supported by sub-outcomes, to monitor change in the short, medium and long-term
- 6 national level targets, including Closing the Gap Target 13. As part of Target 13, there are 4 First Nations measures that will be tracked.

3. The National Plan 4Rs and the National Plan

23. Currently the National Plan is aiming to put victim-survivors at the centre but has not centred, and centrally focused, on where victim-survivors are geographically located. This can be seen from the diagram on p. 71 of the National Plan (shown below) and from the Mapping of the National Plan at 4 below.



Gap in planning and resourcing in 4Rs areas

24. The failure to expressly name and consider the experiences of victim-survivors in 4Rs areas means a corresponding gap in planning and resourcing across the 4 pillars of the National Plan.
25. The submissions about 2AP related to 1AP at 5 below, include establishing a principle and cross-cutting them to achieve full, visible, intersectional and effective inclusion of 4Rs areas.
26. The adjusted additions to the graphic above, shown on the next page aim to represent putting where women and children live in the centre.

Case study: Technology-facilitated abuse in 4Rs areas

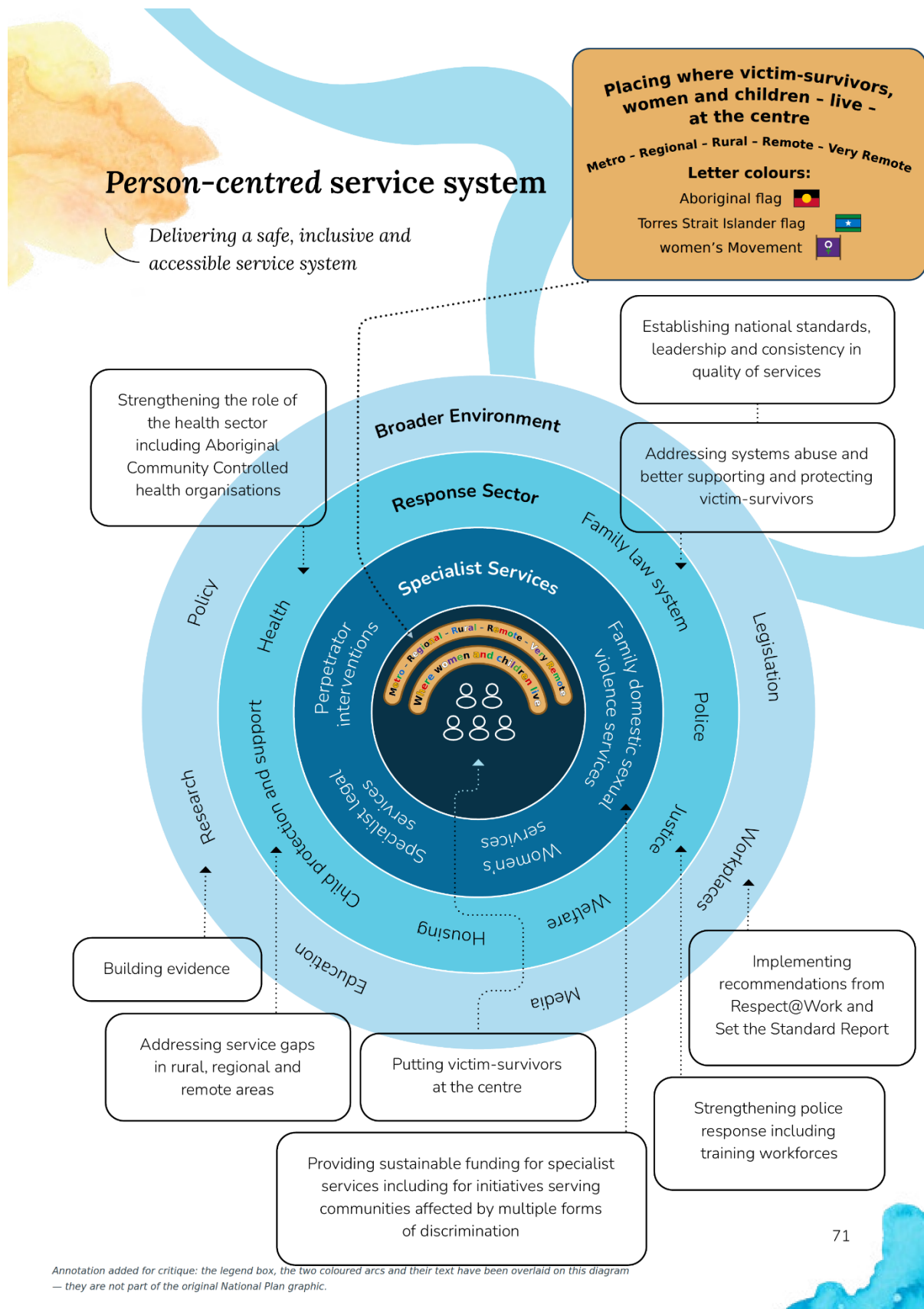
For example, whilst there is growing understanding and attention paid to technology-facilitated abuse (also called “spaceless violence” or “digital coercive control”) in Australia, there is little data or examination of the differences in the way this happens and is responded to in 4R areas. This is a significant gap, given that specific “place (geographic location) and space (geographic and ideological features of locations, such as conservative values) will shape both experiences of and responses to harm.”⁷ Examination of the unique manifestations of technology-facilitated abuse has prompted research, resources, and responses, so too should the unique manifestations of family violence in 4R areas.

Case study: Regional mining communities

Another example is the experience of women in a regional mining community where drivers of gendered violence are exaggerated at the intersection of remoteness, industry, intergenerational 4R families, and alcohol and drug use. Women whose partners grew up in mining towns were nearly twice as likely to experience socio-psychological abuse as those whose partners grew up elsewhere. Significant associations with socio-psychological abuse were also found for male partners being employed in mining⁸. Responses must be attuned to local contexts, needs and dynamics.

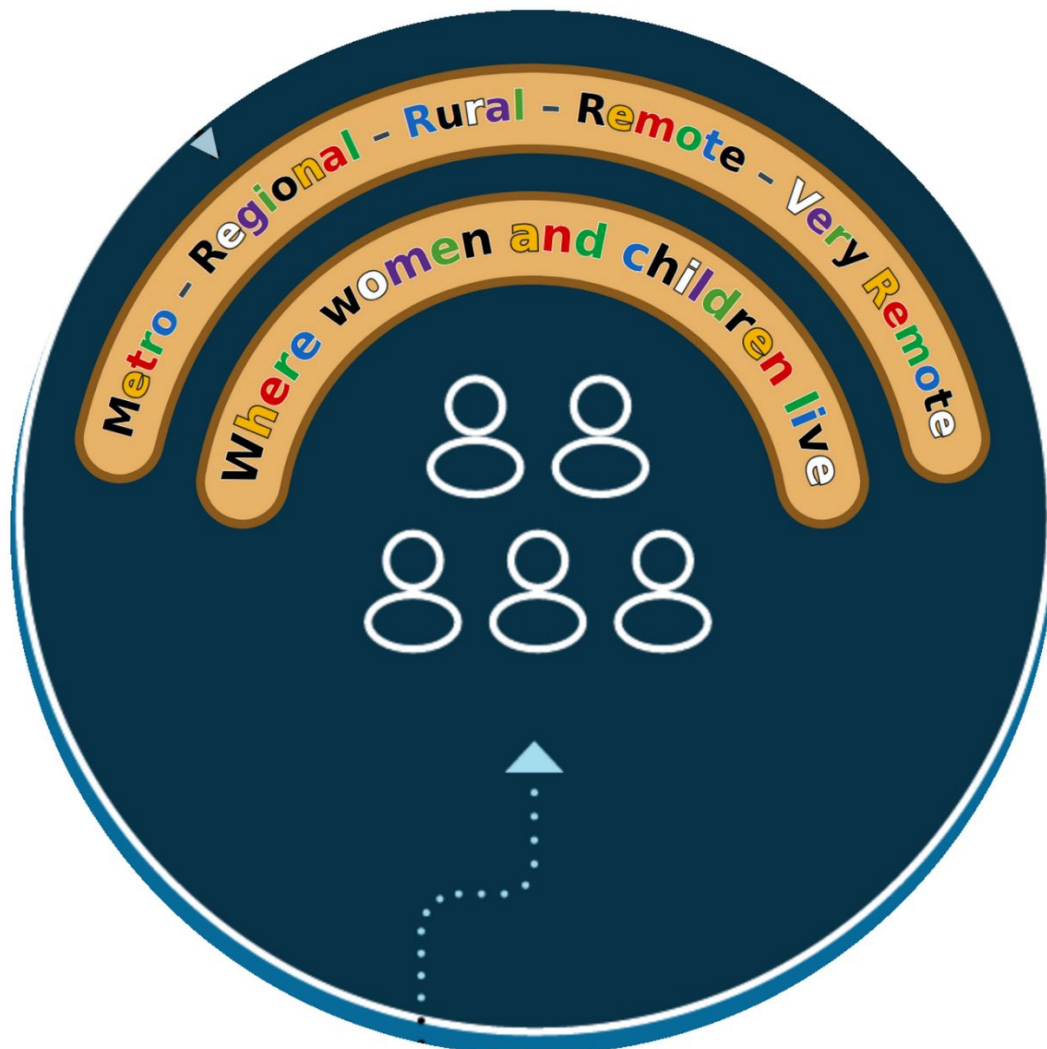
⁷Bridget Harris and Delanie Woodlock, 'Spaceless violence: Women's experiences of technology-facilitated domestic violence in regional, rural and remote areas', *Trends and Issues in Criminal Justice* (Research report, February 2022) 9 <https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-02/ti644_spaceless_violence.pdf>.

⁸Heather Nancarrow, Stewart Lockie and Sanjay Sharma, 'Intimate partner abuse of women in a Central Queensland mining region', *Publications* (Research report, July 2009) <<https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi378>>.



27. An enlarged version of the added central element is on the next page. The arcs bring where women and children live into the centre and reflect metro-regional-rural-remote

and very remote areas. The text colours include the colours on the Aboriginal flag, the Torres Strait Islander flag and green and gold for Australia.



4. Mapping the National Plan in relation to 4Rs

Mapping the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) (the National Plan) for treatment of urban areas and regional, rural, remote and very remote (4Rs) areas

The table below is a mapping of the National Plan for treatment of urban and 4Rs areas.

- The table shows headings (Levels 1–3) on the National Plan with the printed page numbers, giving a full table of contents (TOC). This achieves a more detailed TOC compared to the

TOC at the start of the Plan. Additionally, a heading was added for the infographic ‘Violence Against Women’, at p. 76 of the Plan.

- The columns with grey shading indicates the search terms used, with the returns shown in their relevant column/s. The final ‘Other search terms’ column, is for searches on: **‘geo-’, ‘distant’, ‘distance’, ‘farm’, ‘mine’, ‘isolation’/‘isolated’, ‘local’/‘localised’/‘locality’, ‘place-based’**.
- Each column contains the search returns with the text quoted, the page number is shown, and the return is placed number under the nearest preceding TOC heading. Where a phrase contains more than one of the search terms (e.g. “regional, rural and remote areas”), this is shown as ‘same’ and the page number in the other relevant column/s.
- Empty cells mean the term does not occur within that heading’s section.
- **Green shading** on the text, which was a search return, means that regional, rural, remote and/or very remote location were not clearly signalled by the returned text.

Totals (count of occurrences in each column)

- Columns 1-5 per the headings: urban (2), metro (1), city (0) cities (2); regional (16), rural (8), remote (19), very remote (4)
- Column 6 ‘Other search terms*’
 - **geo*** (5) geographic barriers and geographically accessible (p.63), “Geographic disadvantage”(p.77) geographic settings (p.93), geographic location (Glossary, p.129) (0) “Geo” in a person’s name excluded.
 - **distant / distance / distances** (0) absent; **farm / farming / farmer** (0) absent; **mine / miner / mining** (1) return on “data mining” (p.137), not a mining community; treated as nil and excluded; **isolation / isolated** (10) occurrences but used in the SOCIAL sense (a tactic of coercive control, or following separation or disaster), figuratively (“gender inequality does not exist in isolation”), or as “isolated incidents” — NOT geographic/physical isolation.
 - **locality / localities** (0) absent; **local/locally** (8); **localised** (2); **place-based** (2); relates to place: local government, local services, local level, local communities, and place-based responses.

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
Acknowledgements	5						
Dedication	7						
A statement from victim-survivors	8						
Help and support	10						
Family, domestic and sexual violence support	10						
Crisis support and suicide prevention	11						
Mental health support and advice	11						
Other support	12						
Find services near you	13						
Our vision - Ending violence in one generation	14	[cities] <i>“To achieve this, we must reshape the social, political and economic aspects of our society that allow gender inequality and discrimination to continue. Across Australia – in cities and regional, rural and remote communities alike – every individual’s humanity and worth must be respected and valued, regardless of their age, gender...” (p.15)</i>	Same (p.15)	Same (p.15)	Same (p.15)		

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
The ripple effects of violence against women and children	17						
About the National Plan	18						
National Plan - At a glance	20						
Responding to sexual violence in all settings	22						
Statement from delegates at the 2021 National Summit on Women's Safety	24						[place-based] “– Recognise the importance of community-led and place-based responses by promoting lasting partnerships with community organisations.” (p.25)
Specific and measurable targets	26						
Outcomes Framework	27						
Steps towards reducing prevalence	27						
Indicators of success	30						
What we know about violence against women and children	32						

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
A shared understanding	32						
Violence against women is serious, prevalent and driven by gender inequality	34						
Scope of the National Plan	35						
Violence against women and children	35						[isolation] <i>“Coercive control behaviours including intimidation, harassment and stalking, threats and endangerment to children, legal abuse, economic abuse, isolation and discrediting can continue for years after separation.”</i> (p.36)
Gender-based violence	36						
Key terminology and definitions: Working towards national consistency	37						
Violence affects women across all life stages	39						
Prevalence and patterns of violence against women and children	39						

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
Violence affects women at every life stage	40						
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children	41						
The impacts of violence against women and children	41						
Violence impacts people in different ways	41						
Women with disability	43						
Women and children from culturally diverse, migrant and refugee backgrounds	43						
The need to recognise children in their own right	44						
Gender-based violence against LGBTIQ+ people	45						
Other experiences that impact on the prevalence and unique forms of violence against women	47						
Incarceration	47						
Sex workers	47						

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
The COVID-19 pandemic	48						[isolation] “...violence started or escalated after the pandemic began. COVID-19 related social restrictions exacerbated the isolation of victim-survivors from their workplaces, extended families and friends.” (p.48) [isolation] “Grief, trauma, social isolation and loss of support networks can also amplify women’s experiences of violence during and following a disaster.” (p.48)
Key areas of focus for addressing gender-based violence in Australia	49						
Coercive control	49						[isolation] “...behaviours to regulate and control the day-to-day lives of victim-survivors, including through threats, humiliation, isolation from friends and family, restricting a person’s movement, rigid rules, financial abuse, stalking and monitoring. Non-

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
							<i>physical abusive...</i> (p.49)
Sexual violence and harassment	50						
Intimate partner homicide	50						
Pornography	52						
Economic abuse including financial abuse	52						
Technology-facilitated abuse	54						[isolation] <i>"This can compound isolation, restrict access to support and services and further reduce their full economic and social participation. Technology and internet access..."</i> (p.54)
Addressing structural barriers to achieving change	55						
Strengthening the sector, building the workforce	55		<i>"...are additional challenges and barriers to attracting, developing and retaining skilled and qualified staff in regional, rural and remote communities, including the availability of adequate infrastructure and housing, which need to be reflected in funding..."</i> (p.55)	Same (p.55)	Same (p.55) Same (p.57)	Same (p.57)	

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
Safe, affordable, and accessible housing is key to ending violence against women and children	58		<i>"This is further complicated by overcrowding in crisis accommodation, particularly prevalent in regional, remote and very remote areas." (p.57)</i>				[isolation/local] <i>"leaving a violent relationship, which can lead to homelessness, economic insecurity, social isolation and the loss of employment, income, assets, and support networks. These impacts can be much worse for women living in areas where there has been underinvestment in local services and institutions, as well as insecure housing, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children living in certain communities. There is a need to have adequate services and infrastructure with culturally safe options for victim-survivors. ..."</i> (p.59)⁹ [local] <i>"Other ways to remove barriers</i>

⁹ Unshaded section treated contextually as reflecting / including non-urban such as remote and very remote.

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
							include providing: ... – affordable local public transport, so women and children can travel to safety and access services, employment and their social networks – affordable childcare,...” (p.59) ¹⁰
Addressing barriers to create safety for victim-survivors	59						
Social security	60						
Improving service systems and eliminating systems abuse	60						
Improving the family law system	61						
Improving criminal justice responses	62						
Journey through the justice response	63						
Access to justice for different communities	63		‘Currently, many communities do not have safe and equitable access to justice. This may be due to geographic barriers. For example, family		Same (p.63) “...including those on temporary visas, who may have a first language other than English, and victim-		[geo] “This may be due to geographic barriers.” (p.63) [geo] “...access to justice involves

¹⁰ Ditto.

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
			<i>dispute resolution services are not available in many regional and remote areas.’ (p.63)</i>		<i>survivors living in remote areas.” (p.63)</i>		<i>making sure that systems are culturally, linguistically, physically and geographically accessible to diverse communities...” (p.63)</i>
Cross-cutting principles	66						
Advance gender equality	67						[isolation] “Gender inequality does not exist in isolation.” (p.67)
The diverse lived experiences of victim-survivors are informing policies and solutions	68						
Closing the Gap	68		<i>“Shared access to data and information at a regional level.” (p.69)</i>				[localised] “Putting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the forefront of the National Plan is critical to achieving real change. This will mean: ... organisations, businesses, and governments collaborating and sharing with Aboriginal and

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
							<i>Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities in a process of two-way learning to deliver localised best-practice responses” (p.69)</i>
Person-centred coordination and integration	70		<i>“Addressing service gaps in rural, regional and remote areas.” (p.71)</i>	Same (p.71)	Same (p.71)		[local] “A cross-cutting focus of the National Plan is to ensure that all stakeholders, from governments right through to locally based specialist service organisations, communicate effectively and share information.” (p.70)
Intersectionality	72						[isolation] “...deeply held cultural views relating to veterans in Australian society mean veterans and their families can be isolated and face complex barriers to help seeking – both as victim-survivors and perpetrators – during and after military service has ended.” (p.73)
People who choose to use violence are held accountable	73						

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
Violence against women (infographic)	76	[cities] “Women living in regional and remote areas experience higher rates of intimate partner violence compared with women in capital cities (21% compared to 15% since age 15).” (p.77)	Same (p.77)		Same (p.77)		[geo] ““Geographic disadvantage” — shown as an intersecting form of disadvantage on the intersectionality diagram (the diagram notes this results in higher rates of violence and can make it more difficult for these women to access support).” (p.77)
A holistic approach: Focus areas across the continuum	78						
Prevention	79						
Early intervention	82						
Response	84			“...confidentiality – considers local place-based models of service to meet the needs of victim-survivors including in remote and rural communities, and those delivered by local governments.” (p.85)	Same (p.85)		[local] “Frontline response services are delivered by states and territories and local government and are supported at Commonwealth level with national programs and investment.” (p.84) [local/place-based] “...has strong mechanisms for information sharing that safeguard women and children’s

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
							confidentiality – considers local place-based models of service to meet the needs of victim-survivors including in remote and rural communities, and those delivered by local governments” (p.85)
Recovery and healing	86		“Recovery services are still lacking in many areas, particularly regional, remote and very remote areas. There are also gaps in appropriate support and recovery for victim-survivors experiencing multiple compounding...” (p.87)		Same (p.87)	Same (p.87)	[isolation] “...sometimes permanent disability, as well as trauma-related mental health problems, financial hardship and social isolation. Recovery is an essential component of the holistic approach under the National Plan as it recognises that victim-survivors need additional...” (p.86)
Working together to achieve change	90						
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family safety	92				“Furthermore, remote and very remote communities, specifically Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in those geographic settings, face challenges in preventing and addressing violence against women and children.” (p.93)	Same (p.93)	[geo] Same (p.93) [localised] “The National Plan commits to improving and building capacity in mainstream government institutions, services

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
							<i>and responses in line with Priority Reform Three of Closing the Gap, so that these are culturally safe and can better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. The National Plan also simultaneously supports building the community controlled sector to enable community-driven, strengths-based, localised approaches to prevent violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in line with Priority Reform Two" (p.93)</i>
Driving culturally appropriate, community-led solutions that recognise truth-telling	93						
Developing a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan	93						
Setting the foundations for the standalone First Nations National Plan	94	[urban] "...Elders, LGBTQIA+ people, Brotherboy and Sistergirl communities, people with disability, and those who live in urban,	Same (p.94)		Same (p.94)		

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
		<i>regional or remote areas.” (p.94)</i>					
Business and industry responses to violence against women and children	96						
Alignment to broader reforms	98						
International context	100		<i>“Australia advocates for gender equality, and specifically for tackling discrimination and violence against women and girls, in a range of international and regional forums.” (p.101)</i>				
Violence against women and children is a human rights issue	102						
Appendix 1: Actions to achieve the objectives of the National Plan	104						
Prevention	105		<i>“– For regional, rural and remote communities, consider funding models that address complexity of services, workforce challenges and access issues on a community-by-community basis.” (p.107)</i>	<i>“...disability, children and young people, older women, migrant and refugee women, women on temporary visas and people in remote and rural communities.” (p.105)</i> Same (p.107)	Same (p.105) Same (p.107)		
Early Intervention	110		<i>“This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disability, women from regional and remote areas, women from migrant</i>	<i>“...and refugee women including those on temporary visas, LGBTIQ+ people, young women, older women and women in rural and</i>	Same (p.113) Same (p.114)		

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
			and refugee backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ communities and military and veteran families.” (p.113)	remote communities, while recognising the intersections with other forms of discrimination experienced by women across a range of backgrounds...” (p.114)			
Response	115		“Enhance services in regional, remote and very remote locations – for example, provide perpetrator interventions and other services for men using violence, hold them...” (p.115) ref 1 “– Recognise the particular housing challenges faced by women and children with disability, LGBTIQ+ communities, migrant and refugee women, women in remote and regional communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.” (p.117)		“– Ensure service arrangements take into account the increased costs of providing services in remote communities.” (p.115) Same (p.115) ref 1 Same (p.117)	Same (p.115) ref 1	
Recovery and healing	119						[local] “– Support communities of practice at a national, state and territory and local level to enhance networking, skill sharing, research and the improvement of healthcare pathways.” (p.119) [local] “...access to holistic and flexible care models that are responsive to the

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
							<i>needs of diverse population groups and local communities and that focus on repairing the often undermined mother-child relationship.”</i> (p.121)
Appendix 2: Roles and responsibilities	122						
Appendix 3: Membership of National Plan advisory bodies	124						
Glossary	126						[isolation] “...coercive control reflects a shift from specific, isolated incidents (of primarily physical violence) to a recognition of a person’s pattern of behaviours over time... (Glossary)” (p.127) [geo] “Intersectional approach...including (but not limited to) race, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, ability or class... (Glossary)” (p.129)

Heading	Page	1. Urban / Metro / City / Cities	2. Regional	3. Rural	4. Remote	5. Very remote	6. Other search terms *
Notes	135	[urban] "...Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)..." (p.136) [metro] "...Block, RQuiazon and D Webb, Promoting community led responses to violence against immigrant and refugee women in metropolitan and regional Australia: The ASPIRE Project: State of knowledge paper, ANROWS Landscapes 12/2015, ANROWS, 2015. 75 M Campo, Children's..." (p.138)	Same (p.138) "...S Wendt, D Chung, A Elder, A Hendrick and A Hartwig, Seeking help for domestic and family violence: exploring regional, rural, and remote women's coping experiences: Key findings and future directions, ANROWS Compass 06/2017, ANROWS, 2017. 141" (p.141)	Same (p.141)	Same (p.141)		

5. Submissions about 2AP related to 1AP

1st Action Plan Under the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032

The table below relates to the [1st Action Plan](#) (1AP). Column 1 is headings in 1AP; column 2 contains the page number in 1AP; column 3 contains the question ‘Does it [meaning the content in 1AP] visibly relate the location of women and children in non-urban areas. The responses are in this column for each row. Column 4 includes further comments about the contents of 1AP as submissions about matters to be addressed in 2AP.

Italics indicates a direct quote from 1AP or from another related source as indicated.

Submissions (Columns 3 & 4)			
Column number 1	2	3	4
First Action Plan	Page number	Does it visibly relate the location of women and children in non-urban areas?	Comments about 1AP as submissions about matters to be addressed in 2AP
Front page including front page artwork		Does not visibly relate the location of women and children in 4Rs areas (‘Doesn’t)	- The front page, including front page artwork, communicates and sets a tone. There may be an aspect of the ‘eye of the beholder’ in whether the 1AP front page communicates inclusion of 4Rs areas, the diversity, including socio-economic profiles and humanitarian dimensions. - The 2AP front page and artwork should visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas.
Colour pallet		Doesn’t	The shades of pale blue colour pallet of the 1AP associates 1AP with the National Plan. However, the intentions of the colour pallet are not explained. Explanation could help project inclusion of everyone in all areas,

			including 4Rs. • Perhaps pale blue is evocative of themes in the artwork by Carmen Glynn-Braun on p. 4 of the National Plan, however the artist's statement about the artwork, and/or other description, was needed. • Perhaps the pale blue is intended to be evocative of the sky above and sky Country - wherever located and resonate with dreaming / The Dreaming / and/or visioning. • The 2AP colour pallet should be evocative for all, including in 4Rs areas, and a description to facilitate this should be included.
Ending gender-based violence in one generation		Doesn't	• This is a shorter version of the words of high commitment in the National Plan (p. 14) which appear to include 4Rs areas, but do not see / perform /respond to a need for this to be stated explicitly. The words in the National Plan (p. 14) are immediately followed by some statistics which do not apply a geographic lens. • The words in the National Plan (p. 14) are amplified at p. 15 by the following under the subheading 'Violence against women and children is not inevitable': <i>To achieve this, we must reshape the social, political and economic aspects of our society that allow gender inequality and discrimination to continue. Across Australia – in cities and regional, rural and remote communities alike – every individual's humanity and worth must be respected and valued, regardless of their age, gender identity, sexuality, sex characteristics, disability, race and culture.</i>

			▪ However, these words, while explicitly inclusive of 4Rs areas, do not engage with discriminatory norms which operate in ways which must be called out and countered to overcome discrimination, subordination, marginalisation which often attacks ‘age, gender identity, sexuality, sex characteristics, disability, race and culture’ – being the factors listed. ▪ 2AP should visibly, intersectionally and effectively include people in 4Rs areas, and address discrimination, subordination and marginalisation which often uses 4Rs location against people there.
Acknowledgment	2	For First Nations people to determine	• 1AP includes an Acknowledgment, part of which is quoted below. <i>We acknowledge and pay respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia, who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waters and of the oldest continuous living culture on Earth. We pay respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the positive legacy left by ancestors – which is lore and strength of culture</i> • The Acknowledgment in 2AP should reflect how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia wish to be acknowledge and the factors and connections they wish to be highlighted. The challenges to remote area community living are existential in a range of remote and very remote First

			Nations communities, including in the Torres Strait, ¹¹ Arnhem Land ¹² and elsewhere in the Northern Territory ¹³
Dedication	2	Does not visibly relate the location of women and children in 4Rs areas ('Doesn't')	Visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas in 2AP
Table of Contents	3	Doesn't	Visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas in headings in 2AP which show on the Table of Contents
Endorsement of Women's Safety Ministers	4	Doesn't	- The endorsement of Women's Safety Ministers in 1AP does not visibly communicate 4Rs inclusion. - Include narrative in 2AP outlining the scope of Women's Safety Ministers regarding women and children in metropolitan and 4Rs areas. - Consider broadening endorsement to more portfolio groups to reflect intersectional portfolio approach including 4Rs location and themes.
Foreword	5	Doesn't	The 1AP Foreword does not apply a geographic lens to visibly include 4Rs areas.

¹¹ Maria Nawaz, 'Has the government failed to protect Torres Strait culture from rising seas? The full Federal Court is about to decide', *The Conversation* (Article, 27 July 2026) <<https://theconversation.com/has-the-government-failed-to-protect-torres-strait-culture-from-rising-seas-the-full-federal-court-is-about-to-decide-287687>>.

¹² Mark Yingiya Guyula, 'Member for Mulka, Hon Yinyiya Guyula MLA Speech at the Garma Festival', *Garma Festival YouTube* (Video recording, 1 August 2026) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLfBQB_a2WM>.

¹³ NT Land Councils, 'Territory Land Councils call on Commonwealth to hold the NT government to account for failing Aboriginal Territorians', *Northern Land Council* (Media release, 9 June 2026) <<https://www.nlc.org.au/joint-statement-territory-land-councils-call-on-commonwealth-to-hold-the-nt-government-to-account-for-failing-aboriginal-territorians>>.

			Visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas in 2AP
Seeking support	6-10	Doesn't	- The information in 1AP does not address issues about where people seeking support live and the relevance of this to the contacts given – such as for the diversity of contexts in 4Rs areas. - Include narrative in 2AP which explains accessibility of support contacts for the diversity of women and children in metropolitan and 4Rs areas specifically considering intersectionalities with geographic location.
Introduction	11-12	Doesn't	- The Introduction in 1AP does not expressly include women, girls and people in 4Rs areas. This contributes to questions about how 1AP is intended to apply across metropolitan and 4Rs areas. - Visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas in 2AP as a cross-cutting principle and theme. For example, using 1AP to illuminate, this would enhance the list in 1AP (at p. 12) which in context reads: <i>“Implementing the National Plan</i> <i>Through the National Plan, the Australian, state and territory governments committed to implement actions and investments across four domains:</i> <i>1. Prevention</i> <i>2. Early intervention</i> <i>3. Response</i> <i>4. Recovery and healing</i> <i>6 cross-cutting principles have also been agreed to, to be applied when delivering policies, programs and services:</i>

			1. <i>Advancing gender equality</i> 2. <i>The diverse lived experiences of victim-survivors are informing policies and solutions</i> 3. <i>Closing the Gap</i> 4. <i>Person-centred coordination and integration</i> 5. <i>Intersectionality</i> 6. <i>People who choose to use violence are held accountable”</i> • Various wording could achieve this. For example, the following, which includes adjustments for coverage and continuity (underlining shows adjusted wording compared to the above): ‘The following cross-cutting and interlinking principles have been agreed to, to be applied when <u>implementing the National Plan, including all aspects of developing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating policies, programs, and services and all intended initiatives and solutions:</u> 1. Advancing gender equality <u>of all women and girls.</u> 2. <u>Addressing where women and girls are located including in metropolitan, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas.</u> 3. <u>Reflecting that</u> the diverse lived experiences of victim-survivors are informing <u>of</u> all aspects. 4. Closing the Gap <u>accountability of all Governments and expectations that actors and services will facilitate and align.</u> 5. Person-centred <u>safety is integrated, coordinated and effective everywhere women and children are located.</u> 6. Intersectionality <u>including geographical dimensions.</u> 7. <u>Accountability of</u> people who choose to use violence.
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			- That the principles are pivotal to t1AP is outlined at p. 12: <i>“The 6 cross-cutting principles have been applied in the development of the 10 Actions of the First Action Plan, and will be applied by the Australian, state and territory governments in the delivery of activities under the First Action Plan.”</i> - The further t input below highlights that where women and children live or are located, including in 4Rs areas, is not visibly developed in 1AP. This suggests that the absence of treatment in the 1AP principles is linked to the absence of treatment in the rest of the Plan.
Summary of Actions	13	Doesn't	- Actions in 1AP do not visibly reflect 4Rs areas. - Actions in 2AP should visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas.
How the Action Plan was developed Delivering outcomes against the National Plan Drawing on diverse expertise	14-15	Doesn't	- The 1AP outlines how it was developed, which included a plethora of contributing processes and drawing on substantial expertise. 1AP also outlines the following three key documents: the National Plan 2022-32, the Theory of Change 2022-32 and the Outcomes Framework 2023-2032. - While the National Plan refers to women and children in 4Rs areas, the mapping at 4 (above) highlights the effects of the absence of an overarching and cross-cutting principle and theme to drive geographic – and particularly 4Rs – inclusion. - Further, the Theory of Change and the Outcomes Framework are at a level of generality and neither visibly promote momentum for 4Rs coverage and inclusion. For example the 6 long-term outcomes in the Outcomes

			Framework (shown below) do not visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas. <i>1. Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by violence.</i> <i>2. Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.</i> <i>3. Community attitudes and beliefs embrace gender equality and condemn all forms of gendered violence without exception.</i> <i>4. People who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and stop their violent, coercive and abusive behaviours.</i> <i>5. Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.</i> <i>6. Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, political, cultural and social equality.</i> • The 6 long-term outcomes in the Outcomes Framework are applied, in 1AP, to the 10 Actions (pp. 22-60) to express ‘What difference we will make’. This results in the absence of a geographical lens in the 6 long-term outcomes being applied and normalised across the Action Plan. • 2AP is developed should visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas. • Development of 2AP should include constructive critical reflection about requirements for visible, effective and intersectional 4Rs inclusion including about how imbalances and dynamics relating to urban and non-
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			urban areas operate. Research relating to health equity and determinants of health are likely to be particularly useful. ¹⁴
Collective action for change	15-17	Doesn't	▪ This section in 1AP is aspatial and does not reflect on the diversity of community circumstances and factors which impinge on successful collective action. Among other things it expresses requirements for health services and aged care, however funding models for these and other essential services in 4Rs areas – including access to legal assistance - are key. ▪ 2AP should consider case studies and apply lived experience and related learnings and knowledge about: ○ How capacity for successful collective action can be facilitated in 4Rs areas – what do people impacted need? What do communities need? ○ Principles for Governments and other key actors which reflect full inclusion across all diversities and intersectionalities including across all geographic locations. ○ How human rights can be engaged and developed, especially in support of human rights of all in 4Rs areas and for all whose human rights are at risk. ○ Safety nets to achieve human rights standards for all in 4Rs areas and all parts of the country.
The roles of governments Actions to drive change	18-21	Doesn't	▪ This section in 1AP mainly describes the roles of federal, state and territory governments.

¹⁴ See for example: 4Rs Network, 'Submission to the reivew of the Disability Discrimination Act (Cth)', *4Rs Network* (Submission, 28 November 2025) <<https://clcs.org.au/4rs-network/>>.

			▪ 2AP should state the standards to be achieved. ○ For example, in relation to access to legal assistance the standard to be achieved should be full geographic access to legal assistance including for people in 4Rs areas. Funding models should correspond.¹⁵ ▪ 2AP should ensure the capabilities of all key national organisations to address gender-based violence in 4Rs areas.¹⁶ ▪ 2AP should include collaborative review of all existing initiatives (like those at p.19-20) and the National Access to Justice Partnership Agreement, to strengthen capabilities for contributing to ending gender-based violence in 4Rs areas.
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¹⁵ Regarding community based legal assistance services in 4Rs areas, see for example: First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence, 'Submission to the Inquiry into Racism, Hate and Violence Directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (submission no 285)', *Australian Parliament House* (Submission, March 2026) <<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=e5a7821a-9479-4528-98ef-1c47d28c8efa&subId=790412>>; First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence, 'Submission for Consultation on the Second Action Plan (National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032)', *Research and Submissions* (Submission, June 2026) <<https://fnaafv.org.au/research-submissions/>>; National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (n ; National Regional Rural Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network, 'Letter to the Commonwealth Attorney-General and to all State and Territory Attorney-Generals in response to the Report of the Independent Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership with Attachment', *Submissions* (Submission, 2 September 2024) <<https://clcs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2-Sept-24-4Rs-Network-letter-to-AGs-with-Report-Card-and-Backgrounder.pdf> and <https://clcs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2-Sept-24-Att-1-to-Backgrounder-to-4Rs-Report-Card.pdf>>; National Regional Rural Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network, 'Attachment 1 To The Backgrounder to the 4Rs Legal Assistance Report Card – Aug 24 Incorporating response to the Report of the Independent Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement', *4Rs Network* (Submission, 1 September 2024) <<https://clcs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2-Sept-24-Att-1-to-Backgrounder-to-4Rs-Report-Card.pdf>>; 4Rs Network, 'Submission to the inquiry into Northern Australia Workforce Development', *Submissions* (Submission, 8 November 2024) <<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=8c40cf55-7d4a-4a6c-8418-921937165edd&subId=769503>>; 4Rs Network, '4Rs Network 2026-7 Federal Pre-Budget Submission', *Community Legal Centres Australia* (Submission, 30 January 2026) <<https://clcs.org.au/4rs-network/>>; Women's Legal Services Australia, 'The Second Action Plan: Submission by Women's Legal Services Australia', *Women's Legal Services Australia* (Submission, August 2026) <<https://wlsa.org.au/submissions/>>.

¹⁶ The reasoning for this includes how urban normativity can unintentionally play out. The 4Rs Network most recent federal prebudget submission (2026-27) called for resourcing of non-profit legal sector peaks to further address these issues.

Action 1 Advance gender equality and address the drivers of all forms of gender-based violence, including through initiatives aimed to improve community attitudes and norms toward family, domestic, and sexual violence.	22	One reference to remote and rural communities which isn't overarching or integrated.	▪ This action in 1AP is underdeveloped in relation to 4Rs areas. ▪ The 'differences we will make' in 1AP does not reflect visible, intersectional and effective inclusion of 4Rs areas as can be seen from the quote below. <i>What difference will we make?</i> <i>Implementing this action will work towards the following outcomes as identified in the Outcomes Framework:</i> • <i>Community attitudes and beliefs embrace gender equality and condemn all forms of gendered violence without exception.</i> • <i>People who choose to use violence are accountable for their actions and stop their violent, coercive, and abusive behaviours.</i> • <i>Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by gender-based violence.</i> • <i>Women are safe and respected in all settings, and experience economic, social, political and cultural equality.</i> • <i>Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.</i> ▪ 2AP should visibly, intersectionally and effectively include 4Rs areas – for example, through intentional language inclusion (additions compared to the above, in bold): <i>“Implementing this action will work towards the following outcomes as identified in the Outcomes Framework in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas:”</i> ... (alternative drafting each outcome)
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			<i>‘• Community attitudes and beliefs in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas embrace gender equality and condemn all forms of gendered violence without exception.’</i>
Action 2 Improve the national evidence base by working towards consistent terminology and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and by increasing collection and sharing of data and evidence.	26	Doesn't	1AP Action 2 does not reflect the importance of visibility of 4Rs areas, terminology for 4Rs inclusion and data or addressing data gaps (and infrastructure and research capacity gaps) regarding 4Rs areas. 1AP expressed (p.26): <i>‘We will expand disaggregated data collection for groups who experience forms of structural violence, expand disaggregated data collection for diverse groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, those from diverse cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds, including migrant and refugee women and children, older women, women and children with disability, and people with diverse sexualities and gender and/or intersex variations. This expanded data will be used to develop targeted activities and track progress toward outcomes.’</i> - This expression is aspatial and does not apply a geographic lens. - It is unclear whether non-inclusion of people in 4Rs areas as a population group for the National Outcomes on the AIHW monitoring web site is indicative of a chain of thought which includes 1AP, but the non-inclusion needs explanation, critical reflection, momentum for deliberation and sharing by all actors and stakeholders and correction.

			2AP should visibly, intersectionally and effectively ensure inclusion of 4Rs areas in data language, specification, monitoring, evaluation frameworks, data collection and sharing of data and evidence.
Action 3 Increase and strengthen the capability of mainstream and specialist workforces to deliver quality services across the four domains, that are tailored to respond to the unique experiences of all victim-survivors.	30	Doesn't	1AP Action 3 does not address 4Rs areas, although workforce also arises in Action 4 where there is reference to 4Rs areas. 2AP should apply a geographic lens to all issues covered by 1AP Action 3, to fully engage with and respond to issues in 4Rs areas.
Action 4 Build the capacity of services and systems that support victim-survivors to provide trauma-informed, connected and coordinated responses that support long-term recovery, health and wellbeing.	34	Insufficient engagement, one reference to regional, rural and remote communities' – not overarching or sufficient.	1AP includes reference to challenges in 4Rs areas through the inclusion below but this does not reflect the seriousness and effects of workforce issues in many 4Rs areas which generally increase with remoteness: "There are additional challenges and barriers to attracting, developing and retaining skilled and qualified staff in regional, rural and remote communities." (p. 35) - Workforce issues in 4Rs areas often reflect a combination of issues. - For example for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and ACCO and mainstream Community Legal Services in and/or for 4Rs areas funding models are inadequate for levels of disadvantage and need, the cost and staffing required for services areas. Salary levels,

			conditions and workforce supply must be addressed.¹⁷ 2AP should address workforce in 4Rs areas across all relevant roles, including all roles in community based legal assistance services (FVPLS, ATSILS, ACCO and non-ACCO CLCs) in and for 4Rs areas.
Action 5 Strengthen systems and services to better hold people who choose to use violence to account, and provide opportunities to support people who have used violence, or are at risk of using violence, to change their behaviours, with the aim of protecting the safety and wellbeing of current and future victim-survivors.	38	Doesn't	- Action 5 in 1AP is aspatial and does not engage with 4Rs areas including the extent of shortfalls in relation to basic needs, safety nets, systems and services. - The section quoted below (p. 40), does not reflect spatial engagement. <i>What difference will we make?</i> <i>Implementing this action will work towards the following outcomes as identified in the Outcomes Framework:</i> • <i>Children and young people are safe in all settings and are effectively supported by systems and services.</i> • <i>Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by gender-based violence.</i> • <i>Services and prevention programs are effective, culturally responsive, intersectional and accessible.</i> • <i>Women are safe and respected in all settings, and experience economic, social, political and cultural equality.</i> 2AP should apply a geographic lens to develop and frame Actions for implementation and effectiveness inclusive of 4Rs areas.

¹⁷ See the references at footnote 15 above.

Action 6 Improve action to address sexual violence and harassment in all settings, across the four domains of the National Plan.	42	Doesn't	▪ Action 6 in 1AP is aspatial and does not reflect compounding circumstances, lack of access to services in many 4Rs areas, which can include no police presence and little if any access to legal support. <i>'Community mistrust can adversely affect victims' and survivors' treatment through the justice system, as myths and misconceptions can undermine police, legal and juror perceptions about the seriousness and credibility of sexual assault allegations. The fear of not being believed is also a key factor in whether women identify their experience as sexual assault, disclose their assault to informal support networks or report their assault to authorities.'</i> ▪ WA Police withdrawal of police court security in remote circuit court locations is a recent example of systems failing geographic locations.¹⁸ Other examples are reduction court registry access on non-sitting days in Victoria.¹⁹ Many other dimensions relating to services, supports and safety-nets in 4Rs locations are related to improving action to address sexual violence toward women and children in 4Rs areas where whole systems, ecological, fully contextual, local models are needed.²⁰ ▪ 2AP should reflect the diversity of circumstances in 4Rs areas and actions to overcome shortfalls.
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¹⁸ Mietta Adams and Alistair Bates, 'More than 20 courthouses across regional WA set to close due to lack of security', *News* (News report, 15 May 2026) <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-05-15/courts-close-in-remote-western-australia-police-security/106684268>>.

¹⁹ Sandra Moon and Sarah Krieg, '10 more regional Victorian courts to shut doors on non-sitting days', *News* (News report, 17 July 2025) <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-17/regional-victorian-court-closures-non-sitting-days/105529294>>.

²⁰ See for example the submissions by FNAAFV referenced earlier.

Action 7 Work in formal partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure policies and services are culturally competent, strengths based and trauma informed and meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, aligning with the goals of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan.	46	Doesn't	▪ Action 7 in 1AP does not reflect where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are located, which is in metro, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas. This matters to addressing needs, targeting responses, funding models, facilitation and responsiveness. ▪ There are risks of projecting levels and dimensions of violence and abuse as being geographically homogenous across Australia. This issue is not about devaluing the experiences of any victim/survivors, it is about achieving the responses for all at risk, wherever located including in 4Rs areas. Addressing needs in 4Rs areas, including in remote and very remote areas, can align with many federal, state and territory policy imperatives and directions – however a more active, intentional, inclusive, responsive and accountable approaches are needed. ▪ Action 7 pre-dates the establishment of Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026–2036, which must inform the development of 2AP. ▪ 2AP must be geographically informed and effective for First Nations people and communities in all urban and non-urban areas.
Action 8 Develop and implement age appropriate, culturally safe programs across all four domains, informed by children and young people, that support recovery and healing from	50	Doesn't	▪ Action 8 in 1AP is aspatial and does not reflect or engage with where children and young people are located in metro, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas. ▪ Numerous federal, state and territory policy imperatives and directions are related. 2AP should include reviewing the full range to encourage visible, intersectional and effective inclusion of children and young people in 4Rs

trauma, and intervene early to address violence supportive behaviours.			areas across all dimensions included in 1AP Action 8. 2AP should reflect and visibly, intersectionally and effectively respond to where children and young people are in 4Rs areas.
Action 9 Improve police responses and the justice system to better support victim-survivors through the provision of trauma-informed, culturally that promote safety and wellbeing, and hold people who choose to use violence to account.	54	Doesn't	- Action 9 in 1AP does not address police, justice system or related issues with a geographic lens. The treatment is aspatial and does not make geographic patterns or needs visible. - Some issues relating to 4Rs areas have been highlighted in comments above, however the issues are vast as amplified in material referenced and by other submissions relating to 2AP in 6. Conclusion – below. - A geographical lens should be applied in a comprehensive way to addressing issues in 1AP Action 9 in relation 2AP. 2AP should visibly, intersectionally and effectively address victim/survivors in 4Rs areas in the treatment of these issues.
Action 10. Improve access to short-term, medium and long-term housing for women and children experiencing violence, including those living in institutional settings, and supporting women to stay in their own homes when they choose to do so.	58	Doesn't	- Action 10 in 1AP does not address housing needs for women and children experiencing violence in different locations, including city, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas. 2AP should address that short-, medium-, and long-term housing for women and children experiencing violence has different dimensions in different locations. Access to safe house, women and children's refuge support must be achieved wherever women and children at risk are across the country. This includes very remote, remote, rural, regional and metro areas.

			▪ 2AP should address geographical diversity, including: ○ support for women to stay in their own homes must be geographically comprehensive, noting that approaches are likely to differ substantially for contextual, intersectional and other reasons. ○ housing options including social housing supply, affordability, social housing maintenance, energy poverty, transport poverty, health equity and many other contextual housing related issues in 4Rs and metro areas. ²¹ ○ raising the rate of social security including Remote Area Allowance, making social security systems and processes geographically competent and attuned, are among the many measures required. ²² ▪ These aspects further highlight why a geographic lens should be applied in 2AP to all Actions and outcomes. The text below is the 1AP Action 10
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²¹ Elsie Lange and Matt Garrick, 'Papunya residents living in extreme heat sue NT government over unsafe housing', *ABC News* (News report, 22 April 2026) <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-04-22/papunya-sues-nt-government-unsafe-housing-extreme-heat-climate/106566892>>; Rachael Knowles, 'Papunya temperatures often soar above 40 degrees. Now residents are suing the government over unsafe housing', *NITV* (News report, 22 April 2026) <<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/this-remote-aboriginal-community-is-suing-the-nt-govt-for-unsafe-housing/7hs1svjvg>>; Kimberley Community Legal Services Inc., 'Stuck in the Heat: Lived Experiences of Public Housing Tenants in the Kimberley', *Shelter WA* (Research report, 2022) <<https://www.shelterwa.org.au/stuck-in-the-heat/>>; Liam Grealy, 'Governing disassembly in Indigenous housing' (2023) 38(2) *Housing Studies* 327; 4Rs Network, 'National Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Determinants of Regional Airfares', *Productivity Commission* (Submission, 15 March 2026) <<https://assets.pc.gov.au/2026-03/sub095-regional-airfares.pdf?VersionId=VpBQpjf8vJmnLiAGRO.VsU0z8VNv1m.B>>; Rohan Best et al, 'Energy Inequality for Indigenous Australians: Evidence on Structural Drivers Across Two Decades, Working Paper No 06-2025', *Ideas*, 18 September 2025).

²² Economic Justice Australia, 'Social Security for Women Outside Our Cities - Part 1: Service Delivery Barriers', *Reports*, May 2025) <https://www.ejaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Womens-access-project-report-FINAL_All-Chapters.pdf>; Economic Justice Australia, 'Social Security for Women Outside Our Cities Part 2: Issues of Eligibility', *Research Reports*, August 2025) <<https://www.ejaustralia.org.au/social-security-for-women-outside-our-cities-issues-of-eligibility-report-2-of-3/>>; Economic Justice Australia, 'Social Security for Women Outside our Cities Part 3: Intersectional Issues', *Economic Justice Australia* (Report, 31 March 2026).

			outcomes statement (p. 60), which should be addressed in 2AP. <i>‘What difference will we make? Implementing this action will work towards the following outcomes as identified in the Outcomes Framework:</i> • <i>Systems and institutions effectively support and protect people impacted by gender-based violence.</i> • <i>Women are safe and respected in all settings and experience economic, social, political and cultural equality.’</i> • 2AP should: ○ Conceptualise intersectionality, inclusive of 4Rs areas,²³ ○ Build dialogues and communities of practice, and ○ Fully engage with dynamics and contexts for the safety of women and children from GBV applying a geographic lens in relation to metro and 4Rs areas.
Accountability Governance structure	62		• Accountability and governance for 2AP should visibly, intersectionally and effectively include geographic inclusion of metro and 4Rs areas and emphasis on elaborating and advancing a geographic lens across aspects and dimensions.

²³ See the discussion in the following: 4Rs Network, 'Submission to the review of the Disability Discrimination Act (Cth)' (n ; Harrison National Rural Women's Coalition, Judy, 'Submission regarding draft CEDAW General Recommendation No. 41 on Dismantling Gender Stereotypes and the Unequal Power Relations that Sustain them', *OHCHR* (Submission, 11 May 2026) <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2026/call-comments-draft-general-recommendation-gender-stereotypes>>; National Rural Women's Coalition and Judy Harrison, 'Input on Draft Guidelines on identifying and addressing intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities', *Submissions* (Submission, 29 June 2026) <<https://www.nrwc.com.au/resources/position-papers/submissions>>; *ibid.*

Monitoring and reporting Public reporting	65		• 2AP should guide monitoring and reporting to visibly, intersectionally and effectively apply a geographic lens which enables patterns to be compared considering remoteness structure, the Modified Monash Model and other spatial taxonomies. • Capabilities for these efforts under 2AP should include diverse specialist expertise in relation to statistics, data and reporting concerning spatiality and 4Rs areas.
Glossary	66	Insufficient	▪ 1AP Glossary refers to ‘geographic location ‘ in the entry for ‘Intersectional approach’ however: ▪ The 1AP Glossary does not include entries for: ○ ‘Geographic location’ including as a concept (see ‘Conceptualising dynamics’ below ○ Remoteness areas, SEIFA, the Modified Monash Model and other relevant geographic classifications and indicators
References	77	Insufficient	▪ 1AP References were insufficient for visible, intersectional and effective inclusion of 4Rs areas in 1AP.

6. Conclusion

28. 2AP should apply a cross-cutting principle and theme to drive 4Rs inclusion. This will require applying a geographical lens intersectionally to develop 2AP and promote a strong community of practice for implementation.
29. Applying a geographic lens intersectionally is likely to focus and improve responses to gender-based violence. In a broader sense, this leadership from the National Plan through 2AP can also be propelled to spur on momentum across portfolio areas for mutual benefit.
30. Intersectional dimensions involving place are likely to receive more attention, including race-place / race-place-disability/ gender-place/ age-place and other many intersectionalities.
31. Achieving geographic inclusion is likely to become a strong focus which in turn is likely to encourage conceptualisation of power relations, which is essential to improving theories of change and actions. Urban normativity (the urban as a norm) and structural urbanism (the urban as a power structure) may become major tools in overcoming obstacles. 'Equity' is likely to become a bigger topic in relation to responses to gender-based violence, in a similar way that health equity focuses on spatial equity, human rights and inclusion.
32. Finally, the following submissions are also endorsed:

[Central Australian Women's Legal Service](#)

[Domestic Violence NSW, 31 July 2026](#)

[First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence](#)

[The Loddon Consortium for Gender Equality and Violence Prevention, 31 July 2026](#)

[National Alliance of DFV Specialist Services, Thematic report: Consultations to inform the Second Action Plan, 31 July 2026](#)

[National Women's Alliances Joint submission](#)

[Women's Electoral Lobby submission](#)

[Women's Legal Services Australia](#)

[Women With Disabilities Australia](#)

[YWCA Australia, July 2026](#)

Attachment 1 – 4Rs Network web updates in progress

In progress at 10 August 2026

NSW Human Rights Bill 2025

July 2026

Coordination for a Human Rights Act for NSW is led by the [HRA4NSW campaign](#). A [NSW parliamentary committee is considering the NSW Human Rights Bill 2025](#).

The 4Rs Network submission about the Bill supported HRA4NSW positions and called for the Bill to visibly and effectively include human rights wherever people are in NSW including in regional, rural, remote and very remote areas.

See the Committee page

Link is <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/parliamentary-business/committees/inquiry-details?committeeInquiryId=3183>

As no submissions have been published yet by the Committee so that's the best link

NDIS (Future Generations Bill)

July 2026

The Committee's Interim Report for the inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 was tabled on 23 June 2026, followed by a short extension for further inquiry.

The 4Rs Network made a second submission on 17 July highlighting that a high proportion of the 2,000+ submissions published by the committee by 9 July 2026 raised substantial concerns about adverse impacts in 4Rs areas for people with disability, carers, families, workforce and communities. The submission outlined that the Interim Report was not reflective of the volume of submissions raising these concerns or the seriousness of the concerns.

Read the submission

Link is <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=a0ccc6c8-ecf5-4a57-8209-095c4d375770&subId=793029>

Statement to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons, by CLCA

July 2026

Bill Mitchell, Principal Solicitor, Townsville Community Law, represented Community Legal Centres Australia at the First Session (13-17 July 2026) of the Intergovernmental Working Group in Geneva. The Statement highlighted why geographic disadvantage and isolation should be recognised in the text of the intended Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

Read the Statement

Link to the statement

Link to the video of Bill delivering the statement:

<https://transcripts.un.org/en/asset/k1h/k1hzvd5jlx?t=5015>

NDIS (Future Generations Bill)

June 2026

The federal Government introduced the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 into parliament on 14 May 2026. The Bill was referred to a parliamentary committee for inquiry and report on the same day, with a short window for submissions and reporting.

The submission by the 4Rs Network endorsed serious concerns about the Bill expressed by numerous peak organisations including People With Disability Australia; First Peoples Disability Network, Women with Disabilities Australia and the Disability Action Network Australia. The 4Rs submission highlighted and endorsed the submission by Darwin Community Legal Service/NT Consortium outlining how metropolitan assumptions and other aspects of the Bill which would disproportionately disadvantage people with disability especially in rural, remote and very remote areas.

Read the DCLS/NT Consortium submission

Link is <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=ba4d1d34-f5ce-45ba-ad84-61b5a2a2c5fe&subId=791090>

Read the 4Rs submission

Link is: <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=bd04d0d5-1022-447a-b8af-a14ec724af29&subId=793029>

Care and Protection of Children Legislation Amendment (Every Child Matters) Bill 2026 Northern Territory

May 2026

This Bill stood to reduce the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle and increase the likelihood of Aboriginal children being removed, while not addressing chronic issues with child protection directions and operations in the Northern Territory. The Bill was opposed for these reasons by most of the 150 written submissions, including the 4Rs Network submission, and by most of the witnesses who gave evidence. The Committee did not undertake community hearings in centres and communities around the NT.

The CLP majority report recommended that the Bill be passed.

Read the submissions and the Committee's report

Link <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/committees/list/legislative-scrutiny-committee/67-2026>

Read the 4Rs submission

Link https://parliament.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1615127/Submission-No.-138-4Rs-Network.pdf

Practical Legal Training Review

May 2026

The LACC Consultation Paper released in April 2026 proposed reduction of Practical Legal Training (PLT) from about 6 months to 4 weeks with some content reallocated to the law degree and to post legal admission to legal practice. LACC proposed PLT be in-person subject to minimal exceptions. Student access to FEE-HELP for PLT would probably cease.

The 4Rs Network submission outlined that the proposals lacked relevant principles and objectives and required substantially more work. Recommended directions included: First Nations justice inclusion; addressing urban normativity; ensuring equity and inclusion for students including for the diversity of students in or from 4Rs areas; ensuring legal education and PLT properly contribute to legal workforce supply especially in 4Rs areas. The submission also outlined major synergies between legal education and access to justice which could become possible through a revised approach.

Read the submission

Submission link is <https://legalservicescouncil.org.au/content/dam/dcj/legal-services-council/documents/plt->

[submissions/national_regional_rural_remote_and_very_remote_community_legal_network.pdf](#)

Read other published submissions

<https://legalservicescouncil.org.au/consultations/current-consultations.html#Consultation2>