

**Submission related to the Second Action Plan (National Plan to
End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032)**

Submission dated: 29 July 2026

Prepared for: Ministers responsible for the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

To: The Minister for Social Services, **The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP**

Cc:

- The Minister for Women, **Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher**
- The Assistant Minister for Social Services and Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, **The Hon Ged Kearney MP**

Prepared by: She Gives

She Gives is a Noble Ambition initiative focused on recognising and growing women's giving in Australia. Launched in 2024 as a campaign to grow giving at any scale, for any cause, to accelerate positive social change, She Gives has now become a movement mobilising thousands of women across Australia.

She Gives welcomes the opportunity to contribute to consultation on the Second Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032.

This submission is informed by the largest mixed-methods research report on women's giving to date, *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving*, launched with the Governor-General in 2026 and capturing the voices of more than 2,000 women.

Women across Australia told *She Gives* they want their giving to be more bold, strategic and collaborative, and that domestic violence prevention and women's health are particular priorities now and into the future, shaped by their own lived experience and that of their families and friends.

It is also informed by how women are leading giving in their families and communities – through collective, collaborative and place-based models, as well as significant individual donations.

For more information about She Gives and the Research Report go to: <https://shegives.com.au/>

She Gives participated in the philanthropy stakeholder roundtable in Sydney on 28 July 2026, which asked three questions relating to where the greatest impact can be made over the next five years and how collective giving and strategic investment can strengthen Australia's response. This submission responds to the questions from the perspective of women's philanthropy and the broader philanthropic ecosystem.

Submission focus

This submission is guided by three principles:

1. Government holds the primary responsibility to fund and steward the essential service system that keeps women and children safe.
2. Philanthropy is most effective when it complements, rather than substitutes for, government funding and government responsibility.
3. Progress is strongest when government and philanthropy share a clear, collective understanding of their respective roles and intentionally play to their distinct strengths in a coordinated way.

From this standpoint, She Gives sees the Second Action Plan as a chance to clarify how government and philanthropy can work together on agreed priorities, so each can play to its strengths and act with greater confidence to bring about an end to violence against women and children.

1. Where can we have the biggest impact over the next five years to keep people safe from domestic and family violence, and sexual violence across all life stages?

From a philanthropy perspective, one of the greatest opportunities for impact over the next five years is to convert strong willingness to contribute into focused, practical, and sustained action. The women who participated in the She Gives research told us that there is real **appetite to do more** in ending violence against women and children, but that the scale and complexity of the issue can also feel overwhelming. Many women are asking what government's priorities are, what role philanthropy is being invited to play, and where their contribution would be most impactful.

This is consistent with the research findings that women's giving is often values-led, collaborative and motivated by a desire to create meaningful change in ways that are connected to community need. The research also highlighted that women often engage most strongly when pathways are clear, collective models are available, and where there is confidence that their contribution will have practical impact.

In that context, the greatest impact is likely to come from **identifying the right priorities** and **making it easier for philanthropy to respond** in a disciplined and useful way.

Clearer guidance about government priorities, clearer articulation of the role philanthropy can most usefully play, and clearer signals about where partnership is genuinely sought would help translate goodwill into action. This points to three practical opportunities:

1. Identify the priority areas within the Second Action Plan where philanthropic partnership is actively invited.
2. Make clear where philanthropy can add value without substituting for core public responsibility.
3. Provide practical pathways for engagement so that philanthropic actors can respond with confidence, coordination and purpose.

2. How can collective giving and strategic investment strengthen Australia's response to ending violence against women?

Australia's philanthropic landscape includes institutional philanthropy, women's giving, local collective giving and major donors with both interest and capacity to contribute. Many funders are

looking for practical ways to engage more deeply with the issue of violence against women and children, but are seeking clarity about priorities, role and the most useful forms of contribution.

Collective giving and strategic philanthropy can strengthen the response when they are **aligned with** clear public priorities and **complement** government action.

In line with She Gives' research, it is our submission that philanthropy, collective giving and strategic investment are most effective when they:

- back innovation, pilots and demonstration projects where there is a credible pathway to learning or scale
- support community-led and place-based approaches that benefit from flexibility, trust and local knowledge
- participate in matching or other leveraged approaches that align public purpose with private generosity and help mobilise women's giving and collective models
- invest in evaluation and evidence-building so that successful approaches can inform wider practice.

3. How can government work with philanthropy to improve outcomes for people experiencing violence or harm?

The strongest partnerships are those in which each party plays to its strengths. Government brings mandate, scale, stewardship and responsibility for the service system. Philanthropy can bring flexibility, speed, convening power, local relationships and patient capital for testing and learning.

A key role government can play is to **provide clarity**. Philanthropy is more confident and more effective when government clearly articulates:

1. What it will fund
2. Where partnership is welcome
3. The outcomes it is seeking to advance, and
4. The role partners can play in achieving those outcomes.

This clarity matters for two reasons. First, it preserves the essential principle that philanthropy should not be expected to underwrite core public responsibilities. Second, it enables philanthropic actors to focus their effort where it is clear that they can contribute distinct value to the shared goal of ending violence against women and children.

A practical model for collaboration could involve:

- government identifying clearly defined challenges within the Second Action Plan
- philanthropy co-investing in pilots, capability building or place-based responses linked to those challenges
- simple arrangements for capturing and sharing learning from pilots and partnerships so that useful approaches can inform wider practice
- a pathway for successful initiatives to inform future policy and funding decisions.

This approach would mobilise additional resources and civic participation without blurring the boundary between public obligation and philanthropic contribution. Importantly, it would enable both government and philanthropy to act with greater confidence, and support more coordinated progress towards the goals of the National Plan.

Framing for the Second Action Plan

As ministers consider work towards delivery of 2AP, there is a timely opportunity to harness the growing influence of women's giving and broader philanthropic networks.

For that reason, She Gives encourages the Second Action Plan to:

- articulate clear priorities and outcomes where partnership is sought
- clarify the respective roles of government and philanthropy
- support practical partnership structures that enable innovation, learning and shared progress
- make use of matched or leveraged approaches where appropriate
- commit to continued dialogue with philanthropy and community as implementation evolves.

Across institutional philanthropy, major donors and collective giving, there is clear appetite to contribute more meaningfully to ending violence against women and children. What is needed now is clearer articulation of the role philanthropy can most usefully play so that the power and influence of women's giving and philanthropy more broadly can be fully realised.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission on behalf of She Gives.

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