



7 August, 2026

Dear Second Action Plan Team,

RE: VPA Submission: Second Action Plan Consultation

Thank you for the extension to 7 August 2026, and for the opportunity to contribute to the Second Action Plan consultations.

Violence Prevention Australia (VPA) welcomes the Action Plan's continued focus on ending violence against women and children and wishes to highlight one area we believe is significantly underutilised in the current National Plan architecture: the role of primary health care practitioners, particularly GPs and family physicians, in primary and secondary violence prevention.

GPs and family physicians occupy a unique position in the prevention landscape. They see patients repeatedly, over years, often across entire family units, and are trusted with sensitive disclosures long before a crisis point is reached. Yet the National Plan's current settings orient primary care almost exclusively toward *response*, recognising and referring after violence has occurred, rather than equipping practitioners to intervene earlier, before violence occurs.

VPA is currently trialling new conversational strategies and clinical techniques, developed for and with primary care and community health settings, that are showing considerable promise in making it easier for practitioners to raise the risk of violence with patients proactively, without requiring specialist referral, additional technology, or significant extra consultation time. Early results suggest that when practitioners are given a simple, structured way to open and navigate these conversations, they are far more willing and able to engage in prevention-oriented dialogue as a routine part of care.

We believe there is genuine appetite within the primary health workforce to engage more fully in violence prevention, rather than treating women and children only after violence has already occurred. We would welcome the opportunity to see the Second Action Plan more explicitly recognise and resource this workforce as a primary prevention asset and would be glad to discuss our trial findings further as they become available.

Thank you again for considering VPA's contribution.

Kind regards,

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