

# National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children

## Have your say and help shape the future of reducing family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia

### Survey: Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032

This consultation invites public comments on the draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (draft National Plan) from both individuals and organisations.

The survey will be open from Friday 14 January 2022 until Monday 31 January 2022.

The survey questionnaire aims to capture your reflections on the draft National Plan and on the national approach to ending gender-based violence in Australia.

The scoping questionnaire is based on the draft National Plan and requires the respondent to have read or be familiar with the draft National Plan. The scoping questionnaire will take around 10 minutes to complete and your responses on the draft National Plan will help inform the final version. Your answers will be anonymous.

For feedback or complaints, please email [complaints@dss.gov.au](mailto:complaints@dss.gov.au)

- 1. Are you responding as an individual or as a representative of an organisation?**
  - I'm responding on behalf of an organisation
- 2. Which organisation are you representing?**
  - Family Planning NSW
- 3. Does your organisation provide family, domestic, and sexual violence services or work within the family, domestic and sexual violence sector?**
  - Yes
- 4. What family, domestic, and sexual violence services does your organisation provide?**
  - **Helplines**
  - Legal services
  - Crisis services
  - Support services
  - Accommodation services
  - **Counselling services**
  - **Advocacy**
  - **Health services**
  - **Prevention focused services**
  - Men's behaviour change services
  - **Referral and connection services**
  - **Research**
- 5. Where are your organisation's services available?**
  - **NSW**
  - **Online**

- Telephone

**6. Where are your organisation's face to face services available?**

- Very remote
- Remote
- Outer regional
- Inner regional
- Major cities
- Online
- Telephone

**7. Does your organisation target services to the following client groups?**

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Members of the LGBTIQ community
- CALD people
- Migrants and refugees
- People with disability
- People experiencing homelessness
- Children or young people
- Older people
- People from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas
- Other groups

**8. In regard to people working in organisations who provide services to people experiencing gendered violence, but are not specialised family, domestic and sexual violence series, what services do you offer?**

- General health
- Medical and allied health
- Disability services
- Educational
- Prevention
- Research

**9. The draft National Plan includes a clear explanation of the prevalence, drivers, and different forms of gender-based violence in Australia.**

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

Family Planning NSW is concerned that there is very little detail about prevalence and drivers of violence against children as well as against people who are sexuality and/or gender diverse. Currently only limited statements are included which do not do justice to this cohort.

Reproductive coercion is an increasingly recognised part of women's experiences of family, domestic and sexual violence and must be recognised within the Plan.(1-3)

Additionally, the existing descriptors of the drivers of violence are limited and should be explored in

greater depth. There is an abundance of recent Australian research that prioritises exploring drivers of violence.

**10. The draft National Plan meaningfully reflects issues highlighted through stakeholder consultations and the National Summit on Women’s Safety, including the experiences of victim-survivors.**

- Strongly disagree
- **Disagree**
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

Family Planning NSW cannot comment on whether the draft National Plan reflects issues highlighted through stakeholder consultations and the National Summit on Women’s Safety as the Monash consultation report has not been released.

Family Planning NSW is disappointed that this information has not been publicly released to inform the next decade of work to address violence against women and children in Australia. Consultation and co-design are integral elements of any successful shift in public policy. It is vital that transparent consultation remains central to ongoing work and that the quality of this consultation is evaluated.

**11. The four Foundation Principles (gender equality, the diverse lived experiences of victim survivors are informing policies and solutions, Closing the Gap, and intersectionality) appropriately underpin the National Pillars and actions within the National Plan.**

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- **Neutral**
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

Family Planning NSW supports the Foundation Principles, however, there are insufficient linkages between them or connection demonstrating why they are important in framing the National Plan. The principles stand alone and do not feed into the pillars nor the strategies. It would be good to see more of a connection made between how the principles lay the foundation for the pillars to support the family, domestic and sexual violence service system.

**12. The four National Pillars in the draft National Plan provide a holistic approach to identifying and responding to gender-based violence.**

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- **Neutral**
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

Family Planning NSW support the four National Pillars, however, call for greater depth of information to be provided on how the activities under the focus areas will be implemented. The Plan does not lay out a cohesive whole-of-government response led by the Commonwealth. The recognition of the role of different levels of government and departments within government, their responsibilities, and the interaction between them needs to be clearer.

Stronger emphasis is needed on preschool/school programs for violence prevention. Children need respectful relationship and sexuality education, consent education and emotional literacy programs from a young age to promote positive, equal and respectful relationships between people of all genders, in all contexts.

**13. The four National Pillars in the draft National Plan reflect the family, domestic and sexual violence service system.**

- Strongly disagree
- **Disagree**
- **Neutral**
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

There is currently a lack of prevention-focussed approaches in the current service system. Actioning the Prevention Pillar is particularly important, including widespread, readily accessible comprehensive sexuality education programs from a very young age.

Additionally, a greater focus on professional development training in trauma-informed responses and identification of behaviours of concern/risk of violence is essential within each of the Pillars, particularly for health professionals. Training should be mandatory rather than optional.

**14. The draft National Plan reflects the needs and experiences of women and children.**

- Strongly disagree
- **Disagree**
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

Family Planning NSW is concerned that the voices of women and children are not clearly expressed within the draft National Plan. Further work is needed to convey, acknowledge and build upon the diverse experiences of women and children, and acknowledge their expertise.

**15. The draft National Plan reflects the needs and experiences of diverse communities and individuals.**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Aboriginal and Torres			<b>X</b>		

Strait Islander peoples					
Migrant and refugee women		X			
Women with disability		X			
Children and young people		X			
LGBTIQ people		X			
Brotherboys and Sistergirls		X			
Women in rural, regional and remote communities		X			
Older women		X			

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

Family Planning NSW does not believe the Plan deeply reflects the needs and experiences of diverse communities.

Additionally, Family Planning NSW do not support the statement ‘Give women and girls with disabilities the tools and confidence to challenge sexism, harassment and the specific forms of violence and abuse...’.

Family Planning NSW asserts that the onus to challenge sexism, harassment and violence should be on women with disability. Focus should be on preventing these behaviours and holding perpetrators accountable. The National Plan should also utilise and embed findings from the Royal Commission into Violence, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

**16. The draft National Plan supports building further evidence on what works for gender based violence prevention, early intervention, response and recovery.**

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- **Agree**
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

**17. The draft indicators and outcome measure provide a strong framework for measuring progress towards the next National Plan goals.**

- Strongly disagree

- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

If you disagree with this statement, please explain why. (100 words)

Family Planning NSW believe that more 'education specific' measures and indicators relating to programs delivered in educational settings need to be incorporated into the National Plan. As the National Plan has a focus on intergenerational trauma, and recognises young people as the future leaders of Australia, it is important to have indicators and outcome measures on programs and activities that specifically target young people around addressing respectful relationships education, consent education and gender equality.

**18. What would you not change about the draft National Plan?**

- **Emphasis on the requirement for national definitions**
- Understanding of gender-based violence
- **The four pillars (prevention, intervention, response, recovery)**
- The foundation principles
- Targets
- Outcome framework
- Other

**19. What would you change about the draft National Plan?**

- Emphasis on the requirement for national definitions
- **Understanding of gender-based violence**
- The four pillars (prevention, intervention, response, recovery)
- The foundation principles
- **Targets**
- Outcome framework
- Other

**20. Is there any other feedback or additional information you wish to provide? (250 words)**

Family Planning NSW is the state's leading provider of reproductive and sexual health services. As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, we recognise that everybody in every family should have access to high quality clinical services and information. Family Planning NSW provides clinical services to more than 31,000 clients annually. We have five fixed clinics in NSW and use innovative partnerships to deliver services in other key locations across the state. We provide information and health promotion activities, and best practice education and training in reproductive sexual and health for doctors, nurses, teachers and other health, education and welfare professionals.

Family Planning NSW strongly encourages the Government to include reproductive coercion in the National Plan, as reproductive coercion is an increasingly recognised part of women's experiences of family, domestic and sexual violence.(1-3)

Family Planning NSW first introduced routine domestic violence routine screening in 2012 and added routine screening for reproductive coercion in 2018. During 2020-21, 7,448 women were screened for domestic violence, with 299 domestic violence disclosures (4 % disclosure rate) and 180 reproductive coercion disclosures (2% disclosure rate).

Family Planning NSW welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this important National Plan. Due to the importance and scale of the Plan, we were pleased to see the consultation period extended for the Draft Plan. We also recommend further consultation undertaken to inform the development of the National Plan, particularly with key stakeholders, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women with disability, LGBTIQ people, women in rural, regional and remote communities and women and girls with lived experience.

#### **References**

1. Cheng Y, Wilson EG, Botfield JR, Boerma CJ, Estoesta J, Peters LJ, et al. Outcomes of routine screening for reproductive coercion in a family planning service. *Sexual Health (Online)*. 2021;18(5):349-57.
2. Tarzia L, Hegarty K. A conceptual re-evaluation of reproductive coercion: centring intent, fear and control. *Reproductive Health*. 2021;18(1):87.
3. Grace KT, Anderson JC. Reproductive Coercion: A Systematic Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. 2018;19(4):371-90.