

NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children: Annual Report Card 2019-20



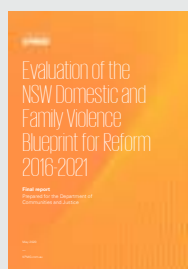
The NSW Government is implementing a range of initiatives to reform the domestic and family violence (DFV) service system. These include the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021 (the Blueprint), and the NSW Government Premier’s Priority to reduce the number of domestic violence (DV) reoffenders by 25 per cent by 2023.

Throughout 2019-20, we have continued to build a DFV service system that prevents violence, intervenes early with vulnerable communities, supports victims, holds perpetrators accountable, and delivers evidence-based, quality services to make victims safer and support their recovery.

In 2019-20, the COVID-19 pandemic (COVID-19) had a significant impact on all aspects of life in NSW. With growing evidence that women were facing unique health, economic and workforce challenges because of COVID-19, the NSW Government committed to protecting victim-survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence and to supporting frontline services to respond and adapt to these increased challenges. On 26 May 2020, the Attorney General announced a significant additional investment of more than \$21 million for the DFV sector.

EVALUATION OF THE BLUEPRINT

Women NSW engaged KPMG to undertake a process and outcome evaluation of the Blueprint while it was in its third year of implementation. The full evaluation report was published on the Women NSW website in August 2020.



Key findings from the evaluation show:

- The Blueprint has largely been implemented in line with its initial design, in accordance to its planned timeframes and within budget.
- There have been improvements in collaboration, information exchange and service coordination with more than **60% of respondents** (n=600) to an online survey of NSW frontline workers and managers in DFV, believing that there was a common understanding and vision of the DFV service system; and more than **70% reporting** that

they are able to share DFV-related information with other providers more easily than three years ago.

- Access to services for victims and perpetrators of **DFV has improved** under the Blueprint.
- Aboriginal people have a vital role in leading solutions to problems within their communities. For example, an evaluation of the Tackling Violence program found that Aboriginal facilitators with community connections and local knowledge were key to the successful delivery of the program. Furthermore, stakeholders reported that **Safer Pathway** can better support Aboriginal victims when there is an Aboriginal Specialist Worker involved who understands the needs of Aboriginal people within the context of their families and communities.



In 2019-20, we:

Delivered **MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY - CHILD WELFARE** is now being delivered in

15 priority locations

across the state, **supporting**

1,194 families

including

315 Aboriginal families

where there has been substantiated physical abuse and/or neglect of a child or young person.

In addition, the **Stronger Families, Better Communities program**, delivered by Children Australia (OzChild), delivers **functional family therapy** that addresses the complexities associated with **adolescent violence**. The program works with young people and families in Wyong, Central Coast.



The NSW Government joined Our Watch on 1 July 2019 and contributed to the development of the **FOURTH ACTION PLAN** of the **National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022**, and the accompanying implementation plan, to align NSW Government domestic and family violence responses with **national good practice**.



The NSW Government continued to embed early intervention and prevention strategies into policy and program development under the **NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Early Intervention Strategy 2017-2021**—for example: 34 grants awarded through the annual small grants program for Local Domestic and Family Violence Committees to support community-level awareness raising and community education activities.



Premier's Priority to reduce the number of DV reoffenders by 25 per cent by 2023

Across the Domestic and Family Violence service system, almost half of the actions undertaken in 2019-20 were reported to either directly or indirectly support the Premier's Priority to reduce the number of Domestic Violence reoffenders by

25 per cent

by 2023.



In 2019-20, the NSW Government continued to deliver a significant and innovative program of work to reduce Domestic Violence reoffending:

- **Men's Behaviour Change Programs** – delivered in 35 locations across NSW.
- **Community Corrections' Practice Guide for Intervention** – aims to improve corrections officers' capability to deliver cognitive behavioural interventions.
- **Suspect Target Management Plans** – NSW Police officers have been trained to identify

and target serious recidivist DV offenders and proactively address their re-offending.

- **High Risk Offender Teams** – specialist NSW Police teams apply complex investigative techniques to high risk, prolific offenders and conduct intensive monitoring and engagement to prevent immediate re-offending.
- **Sentencing reform** – sentencing laws include the presumption that DV offenders will either receive a supervised community-based sentence or be imprisoned.
- **Remand DV** – a voluntary program targeting defendants on remand being trialled across eight Correctional Centres, providing them with knowledge and skills in healthy relationships and recognising abuse.
- **High Intensity Programs Unit (HIPUs)** – ten custody-based rehabilitation facilities across seven Correctional Centres, providing behaviour change programs to offenders with short custodial sentences.

Perpetrator accountability – stopping the violent and abusive behaviour of perpetrators

The **expansion** of **men's behaviour change programs** (MBCPs) to

20 sites

continued through to 30 June 2020.

In 2019-20, **940** men were referred to MBCPs from voluntary and mandated sources – this total included **177** men who identified as **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**.



The NSW Government continued to implement **ENGAGE - a brief, voluntary intervention** to address a gap in delivery of early intervention options for Domestic Violence perpetrators.



ENGAGE was expanded from **two to nine trial sites** - trial sites are located in Bankstown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Wollongong, Blacktown, Penrith, Cessnock, Raymond Terrace and Maitland.

464 people

completed an **ENGAGE workshop**. Of those,

27% reported

engaging with other programs and services when contacted 6 weeks after completing a workshop.

What's Your Plan? supports Aboriginal defendants with a plan to comply with their apprehended domestic violence orders (ADVOs). Across



50 local courts,

1,749 clients

enrolled in the program,

463

 were offered plans and

255 clients

 made plans

 A program uptake is **48%**

Continued the **global position system (GPS) tracking** of Domestic and Family Violence offenders:



- As at 22 July 2020, **354 offenders** had participated in the DVEM program.
- **45 victims** had been provided with a victim-monitoring device to help monitor the offender's contact with the victim outside the monitored exclusion zone.

Continued to implement **EQUIPS behaviour change programs** in custody and in the community:

1,472

domestic violence offenders participated in an **EQUIPS** program in custody.

2,068

domestic violence offenders participated in an **EQUIPS** program in the community.

55

domestic and family violence-specific **EQUIPS** programs were run in NSW correctional centres.

74

domestic and family violence-specific **EQUIPS** programs were run in the community.



Supporting victims to be safe and choose to access supports that meet their needs and preferences

SAFER PATHWAY is now fully operational state-wide

NSW Police made

150,695 referrals

to Safer Pathway for domestic and family violence victim-survivors.

Local Support Services through Safer Pathway provided support to

5,905 male victims

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) assisted

53,527 women

experiencing DFV through Safer Pathway

↑ A **11% increase** on 2018-19

WDVCAS made

307,430 referrals

for clients

↑ A **16.3% increase** on 2018-19



START SAFELY continues to support women escaping DFV to move into safe, secure and affordable private rental accommodation. In 2019-20, Rent Choice Start Safely assisted



4,792 households

with

8,431 children

↑ A **20% increase** over the previous year

Funding

To support the actions outlined in the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children*, the **2019-20 NSW Budget** delivers **\$431 million** over four years to specialist domestic and family violence initiatives, an increase from the \$350 million commitment in the 2016-17 NSW Budget. This investment is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars the government spends each year to combat domestic and family violence through mainstream services in **justice, police, health, child protection, social housing and homelessness services.**



NSW Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund

The NSW Government invested almost **\$12 million over three years**, from 2018–19 to 2020–21, in **13 projects** through the second round of the **NSW Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund**. This is in addition to the **\$4.8 million** committed to **seven projects** through round one of the Innovation Fund in 2016–17.



Key

- Location specific
- Regional coverage
- ★ Statewide

ROUND ONE	ROUND TWO	
<p>1 Leaving Prison/Leaving Violence Community Restorative Centre</p> <p>2 Safe Families RSPCA</p> <p>3 Linking Communities Education Van Linking Communities Network Ltd</p> <p>4 Respectful Relationships Peer Educators People with Disability Australia</p> <p>5 Building Access for Women with Disability People with Disability Australia</p> <p>6 Toolbox Talks Sutherland Shire Family Services</p> <p>7 Kalypi Paaka Mirika Healing Program Maari Ma</p>	<p>8 From The Ground Up to Equality Arab Council Australia Inc</p> <p>9 Early Signals. First Response. Early Childhood Australia</p> <p>10 Firmer Foundations Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand</p> <p>11 Black Box Parenting Grand Pacific Health Limited</p> <p>12 Finding Safety: Asylum Seeking and Refugee Women Free From Violence Jesuit Refugee Service Australia Incorporated</p> <p>13 Fixed Address Kempsey Families Incorporated</p> <p>14 The Men's Accountability Project Men & Family Centre Inc</p>	<p>15 Let's Talk: mitigating the risk and responding early to elder abuse Relationships Australia (NSW) Limited</p> <p>16 Building Stronger Families (formerly: Safety Without Borders) Relationships Australia (NSW) Limited</p> <p>17 ReThink! Anti-Violence Project 2Connect Youth & Community Incorporated</p> <p>18 the DV project: 2650 Wagga Women's Health Centre Inc.</p> <p>19 The Key to End Violence: Young men and boys promoting respect and equality White Ribbon Australia</p> <p>20 Stronger Families, Better Communities Children Australia Inc (OzChild)</p>

Getting help:



For information and support call the **NSW Domestic Violence Line** on 1800 656 463 or **1800 RESPECT** on 1800 737 732



For crisis accommodation and referral call **Link2Home** on 1800 152 152



For men wanting to address violence behaviour call **No To Violence Men's Referral Service** on 1300 766 491