

Building a safer future

We all deserve to live, learn and work free from violence, in a society in which we can all thrive.

To build that future, we must first address our past. The legacies of colonialism - including state violence and racism - continue to impact our lives and communities. The foundations of many of our current systems, laws and institutions were set during the violent dispossession and oppression of First Nations communities. These systems have ongoing negative impacts today, and continue to marginalise, discriminate against and disadvantage First Nations people. These systems also have ramifications for everyone that calls this land home. They influence our everyday lives, and impact our safety - shaping many of the obstacles we face in building safer futures, our access to support, and the barriers we face to seeking justice.

The next National Plan can only succeed if it works for every one of us.

Solutions have already been laid out. Existing expertise and leadership in First Nations communities has been captured in the *Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report* and *Warawarni-gu Guma Statement*. It is now up to governments to act.

Our governments hold the power to shape the systems, policies and structures that can reduce violence. Advocates have laid out a blueprint that can lay the foundation for that safer future.

Governments can unlock it through investment in transformative, systemic change.

The next National Plan will form the framework to address gender-based violence for the next 12 years. This is a vital, urgent moment to lay strong foundations to make change happen.

FAIR
AGENDA

To Women's Safety Ministers

I support the joint call for governments to:

1. Build stronger foundations in our community to prevent violence before it starts.
2. Prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community led initiatives.
3. Increase capacity across our communities to recognise and respond to early signs of abuse.
4. Increase and extend investment in specialist support services.
5. Increase and expand the focus on sexual violence.
6. Shift the burden to the person who uses violence.
7. Recognise children and young people as victims in their own right.
8. Expand research to build evidence-based services.
9. Reform the Family Law system.
10. Tailor initiatives and responses to community needs.
11. Expand victim-survivor choice and control through expanded pathways for support and accountability beyond police and criminal courts.
12. Invest in programmes with long-term funding, to give them enough time to work.

I urge you to commit to these as priority areas for action, and as foundational to the next National Plan.

Signed,

205 organisations

5,000+ individuals

Organisational signatories

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance
Change the Record
Domestic Violence Victoria / Domestic Violence Resource
Centre Victoria
Engender
Fair Agenda
inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence
National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence
National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services
No To Violence
Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre
Settlement Services International
Sexual Assault Services Victoria
WESNET
WIRE
Women's Health NSW
Women's Health Queensland
Women's Health Victoria
Women's Safety Services of Central Australia
Youth Against Sexual Violence Australia
YWCA Australia
Amnesty International Australia
Central Australian Women's Legal Service
Doctors Against Violence Towards Women
Access Health and Community
ActionAid Australia
A Cry For Justice Blog
AdPrint Digital
Allambee Counselling Inc
Art for Soothing & Strengthening
Australia Solidarity with Latin America
Australian Centre for Leadership for Women
Australian Childhood Foundation
Australian Federation of Business & Professional Women
Australian Graduate Women
Baptistcare
Basic Rights Queensland
Big hART
Body Safety Australia
Broken Crayons Still Colour Foundation
C3 Church Thirroul
Catherine Booth House
CC Management Consulting Pty Ltd
Celine Martine
Central West Women's Health Centre Inc
Centre for Non-Violence
Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing
Checklist Legal
Children by Choice
CHIRP Community Health
Community Information and Support Victoria
Council of Single Mothers and their Children

Australian Women's Health Network
Domestic Violence NSW
Ending Violence Against Women Queensland
Equality Rights Alliance
Harmony Alliance
Institute of non-violence
National Foundation for Australian Women
NTCOSS
Older Women's Network Australia Inc
Relationships Australia
SPEAQ (Services and Practitioners for the Elimination of
Abuse in Queensland)
TasCOSS
Women with Disabilities ACT
Women with Disabilities Victoria
Women's Legal Service Tasmania
Women's Legal Services Australia
Women's Legal Services NSW
Women's Legal Service Queensland
Women's Legal Services Victoria
GEN VIC
Melbourne City Mission
National Council of Jewish Women Australia
National Older Women's Network
National Sikh Council of Australia
Cumberland Women's Health Centre
Democracy in Colour
Domestic Violence Action Centre
Domestic Violence Information Library (Australia)
Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc.
Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc
Emerge women and children's support network
EMILY's List Australia
Empower Me Enterprises
Equality Rights Alliance Young Women's Advisory Group
Erinyes Autonomous Activist Lesbians
ESD Australia - Wisdom for Women
Eve Today
Family Law Action Group
Family Life
Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation
Fitted for Work
Foundation for Young Australians
Fyregear
GABRIELA Filipino Women's Group
Geelong Inter-Church Social Justice Network
Gender Equality and Inclusion Hub
Georgina Martina Inc
Get Out Alive World
Gippsland Women's Health
Good Samaritan Inn

Organisational signatories

- Graduate Women Victoria
Housing Trust Tenants Association of South Australia
Hunter Women's Centre
I AM University
Indian Crisis & Support Agency
Innerstrength Healthcare
Interact Health Group
International Association of People's Lawyers
Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services
ITS Management
International Women's Development Agency
Jewish Care Victoria
Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service
Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church
Learning Consent
Lirata
Local Community Ventures
Lokahi Foundation
Mallee Sexual Assault Unit / Domestic Violence Services
Marie Stopes Australia
Maternity choices Australia
Mates Group Ltd
McAuley Community Services for Women
Mindful Counselling Australia
Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group
Mountains Community Resource Network (MCRN)
Niue Australians Vagahau Association
Noosa Shire Women's Collaborative Network
Northern Centre against Sexual Assault
Odyssey House Victoria
Older Women's Network NSW
OVIS Community Services
Pacific Australian Women's Association (PAWA)
Peninsula Lighthouse
Perfect Again Breast Forms Pty Ltd
Plan International Australia
Pledge Knox
Project Respect
Preventing Violence Against Women
Quantum Support Services
Queen Victoria Women's Centre
Rationalist Society of Australia
Red Rose Foundation
SA Council for Civil Liberties
S.A.F.F.O.K. INC Securing Australia's Future For Our Kids
SA Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust Inc.
Safe Futures Foundation
Safer Families Centre
Sexual Assault Family Violence Centre
She's A Crowd
SHQ Counselling
Sisters in Law Project
Sisters4Sisters Support Services
Sisu society
Soroptimist International of Burnie
Soroptimist International Brisbane Water Inc.
Soroptimist International Fremantle
Soroptimist International of Hobart
Soroptimist International of Hornsby
Soroptimist International of South Australia
South Coast PCP
Southern Aboriginal Corporation
Southern Habitat (NSW) Pty Ltd
Southern Women's Action Network
Southern women's support network
St Vincent de Paul Welfare
Taster Property Incorporated
TFSS
The Blue Wren Foundation
The Centre For Women & Co.
The Feminine Pathway
The Graduate Union of The University of Melbourne Inc.
The Metis Centre
The Salvation Army
Think + DO Tank Foundation
Tilenni Stiles & Associates
Top End Women's Legal Service Inc.
TQBT
Tumut Regional Family Services Inc.
Unchain My Heart
Upstream Investigations
Victorian Immigrant & Refugee Women's Coalition
Victorian Women's Guild
Violence Prevention Australia
WAACI
WAVE: Women in Adult & Vocational Education, Inc.
Western Sydney Community Legal Centre
Whittlesea Community Connections
Wild Calm Therapies
Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
Women Illawarra Inc.
Women in Super
Women's Health Goulburn North East
Women's Health Grampians
Women's Health in the South East
Women's Health Loddon Mallee
Women's March Sydney
Women's Property Initiatives
Women's Self Defence Network
Yoowinna Wurnalung Aboriginal family
Zonta Club of Launceston Tasmania
Zonta Club of the Blue Mountains Inc
Zonta International District 22 Ltd
Zonta International District 24