

NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children: Annual Report Card 2018-19



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

Throughout 2018–19, we have continued to build a domestic and family violence 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 2018-19, we:

Made available

10

days of PAID DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE LEAVE

each year for NSW Government employees.



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**.



Delivered **MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY – CHILD WELFARE** in

15

priority locations

across the state, **supporting**

979

families

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



Continued to embed **EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES** into policy and program development under the **NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017–2021**—for example: respectful relationships education was included within the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabus for K-10 across all schools.



Perpetrator accountability: stopping the violent and abusive behaviour of perpetrators

6 NSW Police Force **HIGH RISK OFFENDER TEAMS** are now operating across NSW to curb high risk offender behaviour, **including recidivist offenders**, leading to a reported **increase in the number of persons of interest targeted and charged**.

Locations:

- Central Metropolitan Region
- North West Metropolitan Region
- South West Metropolitan Region
- Northern Region
- Western Region
- Southern Region – newly created



Launched **the automatic referral pathway** to the **MEN'S TELEPHONE COUNSELLING AND REFERRAL SERVICE** in January 2019.

From January to June 2019:

- NSW Police Force made **14,629 referrals** to the Men's Telephone Counselling and Referral Service via the automatic referral pathway
- **213 perpetrators** accepted referral information to an external service provider



What's Your Plan? supports Aboriginal defendants with a plan to **comply with their ADVO**. Across



50 local courts,
2,012 clients were supported to make
299 plans – program **uptake is 40%.**

Continued the 2018 **expansion** of **COMMUNITY-BASED MEN'S BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAMS** to



12 sites in **previously un-serviced areas, rural and remote areas**, and areas with **high rates of domestic and family violence reoffending**.

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 **2018–19 NSW Budget** delivers **\$390 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 **was increased to \$431 million** over four years in the 2019–20 budget and 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**.

TACKLING VIOLENCE has now expanded to

40 clubs,

including three new clubs:

- Awabakal RLFC
- Bellingen/Dorrigo Magpies RLFC
- Bundjalung United

29 clubs signed a **commitment to refrain from perpetrating domestic and family violence**.

Delivered domestic and family violence awareness sessions to **20 clubs**.



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



- **893** domestic violence offenders participated in an EQUIPS program in custody
- **1,789** domestic violence offenders participated in an EQUIPS program in the community
- **48** domestic and family violence-specific EQUIPS programs were run in NSW correctional centres
- **90** domestic and family violence-specific EQUIPS programs were run in the community

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

Across the DFV service system, almost **half of the actions** undertaken in 2018–19 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 June 2019, there were

1,736 DV assault reoffenders,



representing a **4.2% decline**.

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

SAFER PATHWAY is now fully operational in

48 sites

state-wide, after being rolled out to the remaining five sites in November 2018:

- Central Sydney
- North Sydney
- Fairfield
- Parkes
- Auburn/Granville



NSW Police made

138,477 referrals

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

Safer Pathway **provided support to**

39,765 male victims –

25% of referrals for male victims were for incidents between parents and children, with most of the alleged offenders being adult children.

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

47,902 women

experiencing domestic and family violence through Safer Pathway – a 9% increase on 2017–18. WDVCAS **made 264,303 referrals for clients**



A **35% increase** on 2017–18.

Expanded the **STAYING HOME LEAVING VIOLENCE** program to six new sites, bringing the total up to



33 sites

across NSW that support domestic and family violence victim-survivors to **maintain safe and stable accommodation of their choice**.

START SAFELY continues to support women escaping DFV to **move into safe, secure and affordable private rental accommodation**. In 2018–19, Rent Choice Start Safely assisted



4,007 households –



A **24% increase** over the previous year.

NSW Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund

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.



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

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