



## How the Second Action Plan helps *Indigenous Women*

### What is the National Plan?

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*, also called the National Plan, is a long-term plan agreed by all Australian governments. The National Plan's vision is that:

**Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities.**

We know that different groups of women have different experiences of violence and can be more vulnerable. Statistics show that Indigenous women experience high levels of violence. In 2008-09, Indigenous women were 31 times more likely than non-Indigenous women to go to hospital because of assaults related to family violence.<sup>1</sup>

### What is the Second Action Plan?

The Second Action Plan is the second of four stages of the National Plan. It runs from 2013 to 2016 and has 26 practical actions that all governments say are important for improving women's safety.

During the First Action Plan, important foundations were put in place to stop and respond to violence against Indigenous women and their children. We did this by providing opportunities for Indigenous women to speak up about family violence and for local communities and government to hear their stories.

But we know there's much more to be done to help Indigenous women and children. The Second Action Plan has a very strong focus on listening to and helping women and communities that have different experiences of violence, including Indigenous women, and on working better across services and systems.

With your help we can learn about what works in communities to help protect the women and children you know. Reducing violence against women and their children is a community issue – it needs effort from all of us.

### What's happening under the Second Action Plan to help Indigenous women?

During the Second Action Plan we'll be helping Indigenous women and their children by:

- Working with all governments to make sure that remote Indigenous communities are safer for women and their children, including through **establishing a permanent police presence** in some communities.
- **Building local initiatives to improve community safety**, including safety planning, infrastructure, and behavioural and attitudinal change within Indigenous communities.
- **Working with the Northern Territory and the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children** to strengthen primary prevention work in Indigenous communities.
- **Strengthening and expanding the work of *The Line*** to reach young Indigenous people.
- **Consulting with Indigenous women and communities** including through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance and the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.
- **Funding Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety to research** 'what works' for Indigenous communities and for Indigenous women and their children experiencing domestic and family violence and/or sexual assault.
- **Developing a communications strategy to improve access to information and resources for Indigenous women and communities** and to show what **opportunities there are for participation and leadership**.
- **Providing additional funding for White Ribbon to increase engagement** in both CALD and Indigenous communities.

<sup>1</sup> Productivity Commission, 2011, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2011*, Canberra.



## What have we done so far to help Indigenous women?

Together, over the past three years, we've:

- **Launched *The Line – Respect Each Other***, a campaign that helps young Indigenous people build healthy relationships where men and women are equal.
- **Established the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance** to strengthen Indigenous women's leadership, representation, safety, wellbeing and economic status.
- **Developed and trialled new ways to improve police responses and community planning** in Indigenous communities, including in remote areas, so families are safe.
- **Provided training to nurses and Aboriginal health workers through DV-alert** to help them recognise and respond to women and children experiencing family violence.
- **Funded a national telephone counselling service** for people to get support when they're experiencing, or are at risk of, family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault. **1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)** is free, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and all information is kept private.

## Do you need help?

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic and family violence or sexual assault, get help by calling:

- **000** if you, a child, or another person is in immediate danger
- **1800 RESPECT – 1800 737 732**
- Relationships Australia – **1300 364 277**
- Mensline – **1300 789 978**

## Want to know more?

The National Plan and the Second Action Plan are available online at [www.dss.gov.au/nationalplan](http://www.dss.gov.au/nationalplan)

