



How the Second Action Plan helps *Women with Disability*

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 diverse experiences of violence and can be more vulnerable. This includes women with disability, who are more likely to experience violence, which can be worse and last for longer. Women with disability who experience violence can also face unique challenges when they're trying to get support and justice.

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 better understand the experience of violence amongst women with disability and what support these women need. But there's more to be done. The Second Action Plan has a strong focus on women and communities that have diverse experiences of violence, including women with disability, 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 girls 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 women with disability?

In the next three years we'll be helping women with disabilities through:

- **Implementing key outcomes from the *Stop the Violence* project, including through bringing together and talking about good practice information** on preventing violence against women with disability.

The *Stop the Violence* project was driven and led by Women with Disabilities Australia, and overseen by Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick. The project investigated ways to improve access and responses by services for women and girls with disability experiencing or at risk of violence. Women with Disabilities Australia consulted with many experts and organisations across Australia, involving an online national survey, which sought feedback from over 350 organisations, and a national symposium, held in late 2013. *Stop the Violence* has created a greater understanding about the experience of violence amongst women with disability, and will help to guide future policies and programmes to assist women with disability.

- **Providing training for frontline workers** to prevent violence against women and girls with disability.
- **Improving data collection** on violence against women with disability.
- **Working with the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children** to strengthen the focus on women and girls with disability.
- **Funding Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety to continue building the evidence base on 'what works'** for women and girls with disability experiencing violence and/or sexual assault.
- **Developing a communications strategy to improve access to information and resources for women with disability** and to show what opportunities there are for participation and leadership.



What have we done so far to help women with disability?

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

- Funded Women with Disabilities Australia to lead the **Stop the Violence project**.
- Funded People With Disability Australia Incorporated to develop and deliver a **Domestic Violence Abuse and Neglect Training package** directed towards women with intellectual disability, staff and service providers.
- Funded La Trobe University to develop and deliver a **peer led primary prevention program for young people with cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities**, which focused on values, attitudes, safety and rights in respectful relationships.
- Funded Montagu Community Living to develop the **Find a Friend, Keep a Friend project to promote social inclusion and building the capacity of women living with a disability** to negotiate respectful relationships, recognise abusive relationships and support those who may be at risk of entering abusive relationships.
- **Linked the National Plan with the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020** (the Strategy). Under the Strategy, which was agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2011, a key action area designed to reduce violence, abuse and neglect of people with disability is to ensure that the National Plan focuses on improving the safety and wellbeing of women and children with disability.
- **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

