2017-2018 Federal Budget

Budget measures to address violence against women

AWAVA has expressed concern that the Government’s commitment to address violence against women has not resulted in any substantial additional funding.[[1]](#footnote-1) The 2017-2018 Budget is not taking any substantive measure to reduce gender inequality, which is recognised as a cause of violence against women. Diverse groups of women such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and women with a disability are not receiving any additional funding to meet their needs despite the outcomes of the evaluation of the Second Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

In order to deliver a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children by 2022, the Commonwealth Government needs to invest urgently, significantly and according to the existing need. It also need to communicate in a transparent manner its decisions and measures.

# **SUMMARY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **New** | **Continuing** | **Missing** |
| * Family law improvements * Expansion of Domestic Violence Units (in legal centres) * Funding for Family Law Consultants * Funding for Parenting Management Hearings * Reversed Funding Cuts to Community Legal Centres * Plan to develop new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) * Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse | • Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children  • Core ongoing funding under the National Plan, including:  - DSS administration and coordination  - ANROWS  - Our Watch  - 1800RESPECT  - DV-Alert   * Women’s Safety Package | • Ongoing dedicated funding to support Perpetrator Intervention Programs  • Dedicated measures to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women  • CPI increase for National Women’s Alliances  • Adequate level of funding to meet the rising demand for homelessness services  • Adequate funding to meet the needs for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services  • Adequate funding to meet the rising demand for legal assistance  • Secure funding to services working with women trafficked for sexual exploitation and women in the sex industry |

# **MEASURES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

## **Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women**

The 2017-2018 Federal Budget papers do not explicitly account for the funding allocated for the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (the National Plan), as this was previously announced (on 28 October 2016).[[2]](#footnote-2) Although the Department of Social Services has responsibility for the National Plan, the Government’s ongoing commitment to funding for the National Plan and Third Action Plan is directly mentioned only in the Ministerial statement ‘Regional Australia’. There is no new or increased funding allocation for the National Plan / Third Action Plan as such, although the Attorney-General’s Department has received additional funding for the improvement of the Family Law system and extension of Domestic Violence Units (see below).

The recently released evaluation of the Second Action Plan[[3]](#footnote-3) reported that two underperforming areas of the National Plan are perpetrator interventions programs and meeting the specific needs of diverse groups of women including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and women with a disability. The evaluation notes a lack of data related to high risk groups including women with a disability

and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women as a major gap. Yet this budget does not provide any further funding to the perpetrator intervention programs, or additional funding for diverse groups of women (beyond the already announced Third Action Plan funding).

Overall the 2017-2018 Budget papers lack transparency on the funding commitment under the National Plan. The $100 million allocated under the Third Action Plan does not appear, the exact funding for 1800RESPECT beyond 2019 is still not public, and the same information is also missing for Our Watch and ANROWS. The lack of transparency in the Budget papers undermines the government’s capacity to collaboratively pursue its commitment to ending violence against women. AWAVA continues discussions the Department of Social Services and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet about ways to improve information-sharing and meaningful reporting on funding.

The $100 million package of the Third Action Plan is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Communications and Arts, the Attorney-General’s Department (AGD), and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). It is divided into six funding areas as indicated on the chart below.

*Chart 1. The Third Action Plan Package.*

**Prevention & Early Intervention** funding ($19.4 million) encompasses the following:

* $5.8m - empower women to identify violence and develop a workforce agenda;
* $4.6m –development of prevention strategies for diverse communities and local governments;
* $3.3m - resources to support bystanders to reinforce positive attitudes, and;
* $5.7m - funds to reach out to men and fathers.

DSS is the Commonwealth Agency responsible for the above.

**Frontline Services** funding ($15.3 million) includes:

* $5.8m - funding for 1800RESPECT
* $4.2m - housing innovation fund
* $5.3m - development of new approaches to innovative service delivery for vulnerable women.

DSS is the Commonwealth Agency responsible for the above.

**Tech-facilitated abuse** funding ($7.8 million) includes:

* $4.8m to develop an online complaints portal (see note below) (Department of Communications responsible)
* $3m to respond to the impact of pornography on young people (DSS responsible)

**Data & Research** funding ($6.7 million) includes:

* $1.5m to identify gaps and impediments to information collection and sharing
* $5.2m to strengthen research and data collection on diverse forms of violence

DSS is the Commonwealth Agency responsible for the above.

**Family Law** funding ($29.7 million) for the following:

* $18.5m - frontline family violence services in family law court registries
* $6.3m - Family Relationship Centres
* $4.9m - extension of domestic family units established under the Women’s Safety Package (see below).

AGD is the Commonwealth Agency responsible for the above. Note that new funding measures in the area of Family Law were announced (in addition to the above) in the 2017-18 Budget – see details below.

**Indigenous** funding ($25 million) for the following:

* $18.5m – to pilot and test “innovative service to reduce Indigenous and domestic violence”
* $6.5m -Indigenous victim services.

PM&C is the Commonwealth Agency responsible for the above.

The funding for flagships initiatives of the National Plan (ANROWS, Our Watch, 1800RESPECt and DV Alert) are continuing; however, some of the contracts are under review or still being negotiated. ANROWS is funded until 2021, Out Watch is currently funded until 2017 and funding for Our Watch’s The Line program is due to expire this year too. There is still no confirmed information on the amount of funding available. AWAVA will follow this with the DSS at the beginning of the 2017-18 financial year. Similarly, 1800RESPECT’s funding is currently under negotiations and at this stage it is funded until 2018. DV Alert is funded until 2019. Their funding will continue further as a part of the National Plan, ye the exact measures are to be announced.

Note: The list above totals $104 million. The difference between this figure and the $100 million announced is due to $4 million being re-purposed from the Technology Trials measure of the Women’s Safety Package to be used in the development of an online complaints portal to respond to the distribution of intimate images without consent.

The Third Action Plan Package as outlined above does not appear in the Budget papers and was made available to AWAVA on request.

## **Women’s Safety Package**

The $101.2 million Women’s Safety Package was announced on 24 September 2015[[4]](#footnote-4) and is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Communications and Arts, the Attorney-General’s Department (AGD), the Department of Health, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the Department of Education and Training. It is divided into 3 funding areas as indicated on the chart below.

*Chart 2. Women’s Safety Package*

**Practical actions to keep women safe** include the following funding:

* $12m – to trial with states the use of innovative technology to keep women safe (see note above - $4m of this repurposed to an online reporting portal to respond to unauthorised sharing of intimate images); (DSS together with State/Territory governments responsible)
* $5.1m – safe technology for women, including working with telecommunication companies to distribute safe phones to women (DSS and Dept of Communications responsible)
* $17m - keeping women safe in their homes by expanding successful initiatives such as the Safer at Home Programs (DSS responsible)
* $5m - further expansion of 1800RESPECT (DSS responsible)
* $2m – increased funding to Mensline for tools and resources to support perpetrators not to reoffend (DSS responsible)
* $12.5m – extend and expand prisoner rehabilitation services for Indigenous perpetrators (PM&C responsible)
* $2.5m – enhance police responsiveness to calls for assistance from victims in the Torres Strait (PM&C responsible)
* $3.6m – Cross-Border Domestic Violence Intelligence Desk to share information on victims and perpetrators who move around the cross-border region to WA, NT and SA (PM&C responsible).

**Measures to improve support and services for women** include the following funding:

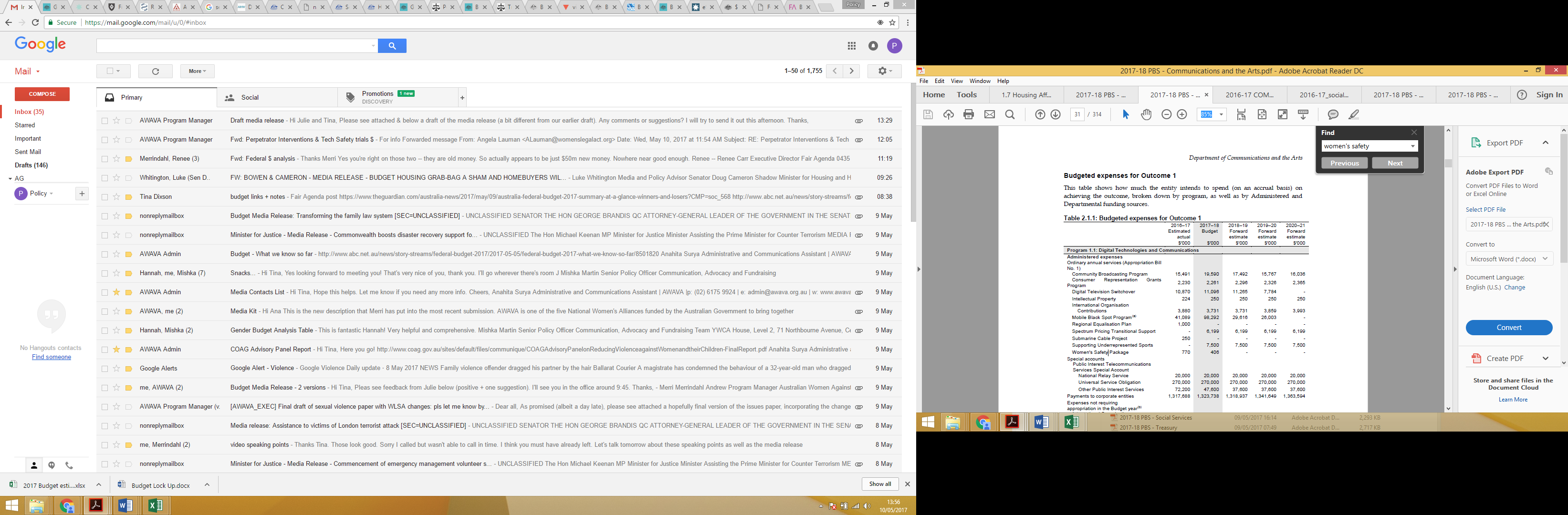
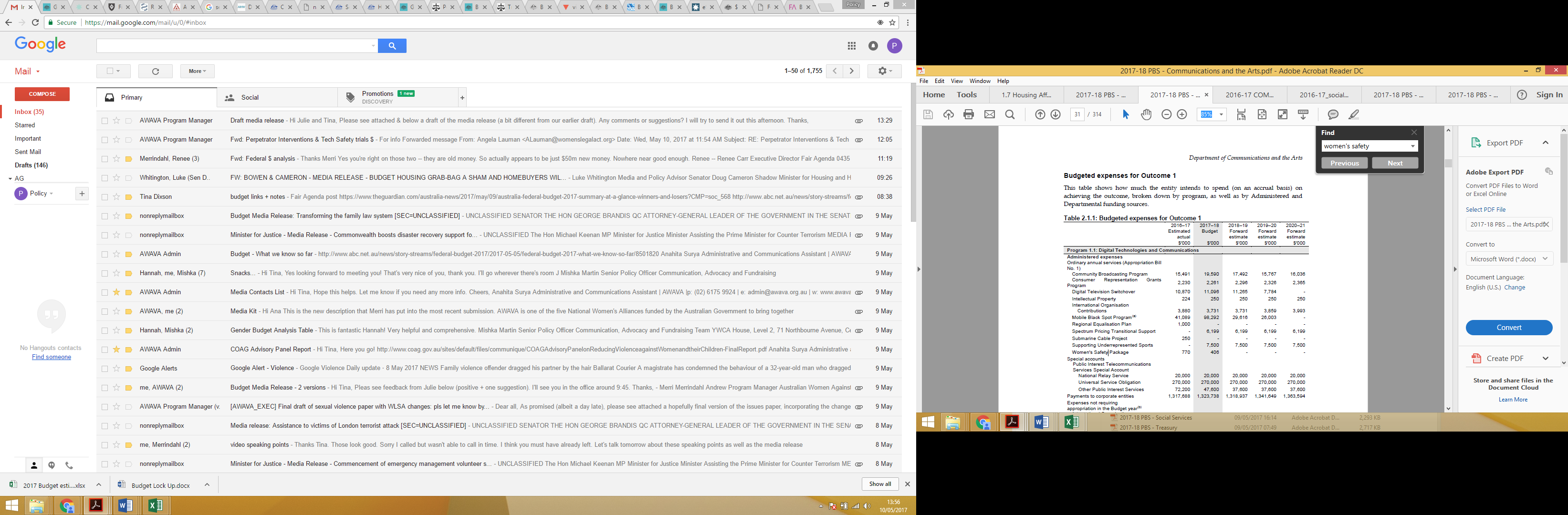
* $14m – expand the DV-alert training program to police, social workers, emergency department and community workers (DSS and Department of Health responsible)
* $15m – establish specialised domestic violence units to provide coordinated wrap around services (AGD responsible)
* $5m - local support coordinators to support women including housing, safety and budgeting services (DSS responsible);
* $1.4m – extend support for Community Engagement Police Officers in remote Indigenous communities (PM&C responsible)
* $1.1m – help promote Indigenous communities prevent and better respond to the incidence of domestic violence through targeted support (PM&C responsible).

The **Stopping the violence** stream allocated $5m for the Department of Education and Training “to expand the Safer Schools website to include resources for teachers, parents and students on respectful relationship education”.[[5]](#footnote-5)

All of the above budget measures have been previously announced and do not appear as separate items, or even as aggregated amounts, in the 2017-2018 Budget. The information above was provided by the Department of Social Services at AWAVA’s request.

### Children’s eSafety Commissioner

The Communication and Arts Portfolio includes $1 million already allocated to the Children’s eSafety Commissioner as a part of the Women’s Safety Package.



The 2017-2018 Budget has allocated more funding to the Children’s eSafety Commissioner, but the Budget papers lack detail about the exact measures. As noted above, a new online reporting tool for people subjected to image-based abuse will be developed using funding redirected from the Women’s Safety Package technology trials.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Reference: Communication and Arts Portfolio, Program 1.3 – Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner (p.21, 94, 101)

### Women’s Safety Package – technology trials

National Partnership on the Women’s Safety Package — Technology Trials(a)



1. State allocations are yet to be finalised.

This program will support a series of trials to test new technologies or innovative uses of existing technologies to improve the safety of women and children affected by family and domestic violence. DSS has confirmed to AWAVA that it is currently finalising agreements with States and Territories for the roll-out of these trials.

This budget measure has been previously announced.

Technology trials are currently at the stage of final arrangements with the States and Territories. Announcements will follow. These measures have been repurposed to the Treasury.

Reference: Budget Paper 3 (p. 41), Treasures Portfolio (p. 34)

### Domestic Violence Units

In 2016-2017 under the Women’s Safety Package there was $4.9 million allocated to extend funding for the specialist domestic violence units until 2019. The 2017-18 Budget allocates an additional $3.4 million over two years to expand this program.

Reference: Ministerial Portfolio Regional Australia (p. 26); Attorney-General’s Portfolio (p.15).

## **National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention (NOSPI)**

There is no additional funding beyond 2016-2017. The 2016-2017 funding was $1.8 million.

National Partnership on National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions



In 2015 the COAG endorsed the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions (NOSPI)[[7]](#footnote-7). It was intended that a range of National Outcome Standards implementation materials would be developed for Ministers’ consideration in 2016, based on the results of the stakeholder consultations. However, no further information has been yet released. Besides, no additional money has been allocation for the perpetrator intervention program to improve its effectiveness and performance as recommended by the evaluation of the Second Action Plan. [Reference: Budget Paper 3 (p.38), Treasurer Portfolio (p. 34)].

Despite no specific funding allocation for 2017-2018, NOSPI remains one of DSS’s priorities. 2016-2017 funding has been used as a reform tool to develop an implementation strategy. DSS has told AWAVA that it is working with the States and Territories to improve data collection, and indicated that a report by the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council on the NOSPI will be released by the end of the year.[[8]](#footnote-8)

# **FUNDING FOR FREE LEGAL SERVICES**

## **Community Legal Centres**

This budget has reversed planned funding cuts to Community Legal Centres with an additional small funding increase as a part of the $55.7 million allocation. The actual funding increase constitutes only about $5.5 million per year.

While the reversal of the funding cuts provides some funding stability and security to community legal centres, the allocated funding does not meet the increasing demand for legal assistance. NACLC in their media release points to the need to follow the recommendation of the Productivity Commission in terms of the funding scope.[[9]](#footnote-9)

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Funding**

$16.7 million were allocated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS) as the reversal of funding cuts, yet this does not ensure that this amount allows legal centres to meet the diverse needs of clients.

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) did not receive any further funding increase following the extra $9 million the previous year. NACLC has concluded that the allocated funding increase does not fully cover the magnitude of the need, and in the case of FVPLS does not ensure the full geographical coverage[[10]](#footnote-10). Funding to FVLPS constitutes $112 million through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy to provide culturally appropriate assistance.

Ongoing and sustainable funding is crucial for FVPLS as these services are often the only options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access in rural areas. FVPLS have a distinct role in representing the victims/survivor of family violence or sexual assault while ATSILS would often represent alleged perpetrators.

Given that the Victorian government has committed to allocate $33.5 million[[11]](#footnote-11) over four years for preventing and responding to the severity of family violence experienced by Aboriginal people (as a part of recently announced $1.9 billion package to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence), the Commonwealth government should respond with a similarly ambitious budget measures.

Reference: Attorney General’s Portfolio.

# **FAMILY LAW**

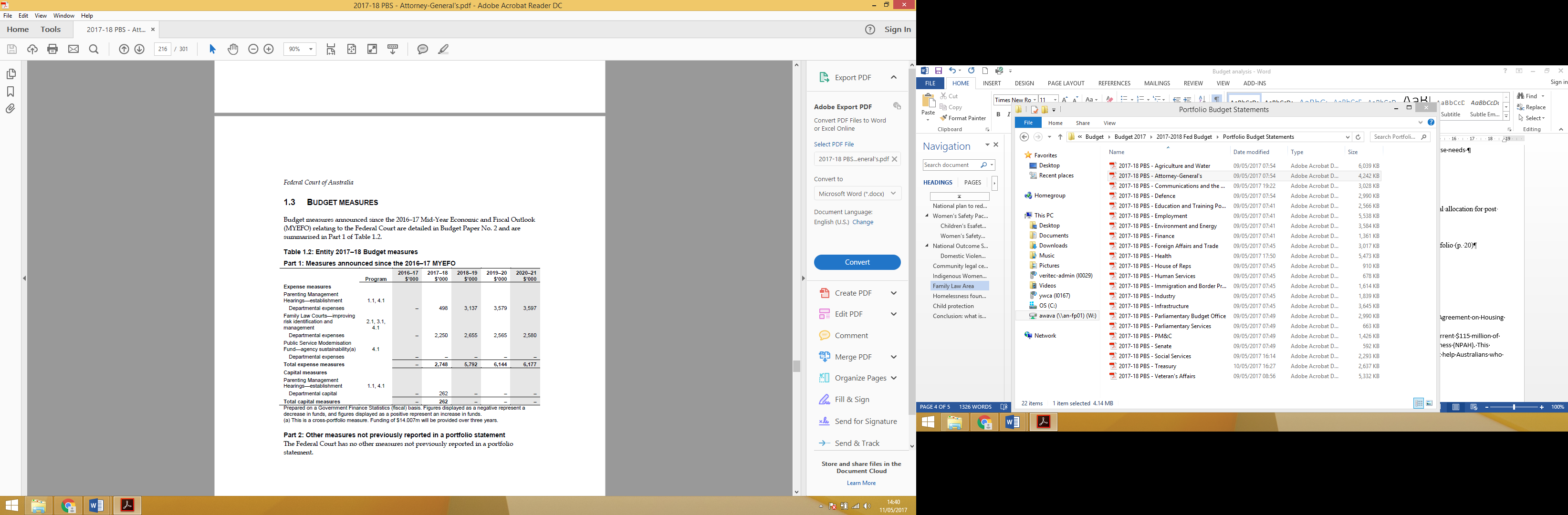
The 2017-18 Budget has allocated funding to improve the Family Law system. Announcements alongside the Budget indicated the Commonwealth’s intention to ban direct cross-examination in domestic and family violence cases, yet there is no funding allocation in the Budget to implement these measures. As Women’s Legal Services Australia (WLSA) has pointed out, “proper funding to implement these amendments will be essential to success.”[[12]](#footnote-12)

The Family Relationships Services Programme has received $166.3 million (no increase) with a special allocation for post separation services under the family law stream to the amount of $158.5 million.

Amongst the new budget measures are the establishment of the Parenting Management Hearings with the total funding of $12.7 million that includes capital measures. Parenting Management Hearing are intended be a non-adversarial forum for resolving complex family law disputes between self-represented parties.

The Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court did not receive any significant increase in funding. The need for increased funding to courts to enable high quality services to women subjected to family violence within appropriate time frames has been noted.[[13]](#footnote-13) In this Budget, Family Law Courts will receive some additional funding over four years to improve the risk identification and management. The Attorney-General’s Officer announced further review of the family law system to be undertaken by the Australian Law Reform Commission. Specific budget measures have not been advised.

Reference: Ministerial Statement, Regional Australia, p 27; Attorney –General’s Department Portfolio



An extra $10.7 million has been allocated for additional family consultants to deal with family law cases and to provide sensitive and trauma-informed support.

The Department of Social Services has confirmed its intention to be a part of the Working Group led by the Attorney General’s Department to ensure that reform measures work for the benefit of women who have been subjected to violence.

# **NATIONAL HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS AGREEMENT (NHHA)**

The Commonwealth together with State and Territory governments announced a new National Agreement on Housing and Homelessness (NHHA), replacing and combining NAHA and NPAH.

The new agreement will provide $375 million over three years from 2018-19, maintaining the current $115 million of annual homelessness funding provided under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). This funding will be ongoing and indexed, to maintain and provide certainty to front line services that help Australians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The funding to NPAH has been extended for another year.

National Partnership on homelessness



*\* In 2017‑18, supplementation of $2.2 million will be provided in relation to the Equal Remunerations Order for Social and Community Services workers.*

The funding for homelessness services will be made ongoing from 2018.

National Housing and Homelessness Agreement(a)



1. Funding includes $116.6 million in 2018‑19, $118.4 million in 2019‑20 and $120.0 million in 2020‑21 for homelessness.

The new agreement is intended to provide an overarching framework for a bilateral process where States and Territories are responsible for setting their own aims, funding priorities and targets, as well as outcomes, in negotiation with the Commonwealth. NHHA will be reviewed every 5 years, with States and Territories reporting on their outcomes annually. It is still not clear what tracking and accountability measures will be considered and whether they will differ from state to state or if there will be any unified standards. Good practice standards are especially important in delivering services to women who had violence inflicted on them, and AWAVA is seeking opportunities to influence the development of the NHHA and related frameworks to this end.

There is also no information on consultation mechanisms with stakeholders to ensure that women’s voices are able to inform the developments and again this is a much-needed element that AWAVA will be actively pursuing. There has been no information about how the process might take into account the findings of the Productivity Commission’s Human Services Inquiry, especially whether and how safeguards will be created to ensure that principles of ‘contestability’ do not undermine service quality, integrated service networks, and the proven good practice standards developed in women’s specialist services and related services.

AWAVA has been informed that a Homelessness Policy Framework being developed by DSS will be used alongside the NHHA to ensure an intersectional approach is taken that acknowledges violence against women, homelessness, mental health and child prevention within the priorities of the agreement.

While we welcome the certainty of funding for homelessness services, it is concerning that the funding for services responding to the needs of women affected by violence are not prioritised or specifically allocated. This makes it particularly challenging to work at the State and Territory level to embed this sector as a distinctive, well-understood and well-resourced part of the homelessness service system.

It is imperative that the State and Territories recognise the existing need to provide services to women subjected to violence, but also address the specific needs of diverse groups of women such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait women, women with a disability, older women, and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In 2013, 46% of domestic violence service providers reported being unable to meet demand for services, and 59% of domestic violence services reported having to limit service levels to try and meet demand.[[14]](#footnote-14) Since then, demand has continued to rise, while (with a few exceptions) funding nation-wide has not.

Having to limit service levels to try to meet demand means that services such as refuges and shelters are less able to respond to the diversity of women’s needs, restricting their capacity to expand programs for groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and women with disabilities. Stabilising funding is only the beginning of what must be a much more ambitious commitment.

Overall new funding announced under NHHA constitutes only a small increase. While we welcome the plan to index funding, the funding should also be expanded to reflect current service demands. It should also be noted that the current budget does reverse the $44 million cut in capital funding for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness which was implemented in the 2014 Budget.

AWAVA would like to see more collaboration between Commonwealth and States and Territories governments, service providers and peak bodies to ensure that the funding is allocated according to the existing service demands and taking into account the need for a diversity of services. We would also like to see more clarity in the specific funding allocations for specialist women’s services funding under the general homelessness.

References:

Current NPAH funding: Treasures Portfolio p.34; Budget Paper 3 (p. 44)

New NHHA: Fact Sheets 1.7 Housing Affordability – New Agreement; Budget Paper 3 (p. 43)

# **CHILD PROTECTION**

The National Framework for the Protection of Australia’s Children as well as the Third Action Plan under that Framework (2015-2018) are not addressed directly in the Budget papers (except as mentioned in the Ministerial Statement on Regional Australia). These budget measures have been previously announced and funding is being maintained at the same level.

The 2017-2018 Budget commits an initial amount of $3.4 million for the establishment of the Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, as well as ongoing support for survivors. Exact budget measures are not published for privacy reasons.

Funding continues for another year (as previously announced) for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and for the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

Reference: Ministerial Portfolio Regional Australia (p. 186); Attorney-General’s Portfolio (p.14, 22).

# **OTHER FUNDING FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE**

A new commitment of $2.9 million over four years from 2017-2018 was announced for the Productivity Commission to enhance its role in Indigenous policy evaluation and to expand the Commission to include an additional Commissioner with relevant experience in Indigenous policy.

These funds are allocated within the $52.9 million announced over four years to implement a whole-of-government research and evaluation strategy for policies and programs affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Government will also invest $50 million over four years to establish an Indigenous Research Fund and strengthen evaluation of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.[[15]](#footnote-15)

# **OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN**

## **Higher education package**

The new announcement of changes to higher education will directly impact on women. The increase in the fees and lowering the threshold for repayment will further restrict access for women especially from low socioeconomic backgrounds. This, in turn, only further perpetuates the cycle of gender inequality and limits opportunities for women to fully exercise their potential. We are also concerned that Permanent Residents and New Zealand citizens will have to pay fees at the level of international students. Viewed through the lens of violence against women, this creates potential risks that women who are not Australian citizens or Humanitarian entrants will be less able to be independent in their relationships, will have restricted access to education and accordingly may have less opportunity to pursue lives free of violence.

## **Enhanced Residency Requirements for Pensioners**

The new budget has proposed changes to residency requirements before residents can access their pensions. From 1 July 2018, claimants will be required to have 15 years of continuous Australian residence before being eligible to receive the Age Pension or Disability Support (or 10 continuous years of Australian residence including at least five years during their Australian working life; or 10 continuous years of Australian residence and proof they have not received activity tested income support for cumulative periods of five years or more). Such measures will significantly affect women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who either were not able to work in Australia due to existing barriers in the area of employment[[16]](#footnote-16) or have only recently arrived to Australia in the older age as humanitarian entrants or migrants and do not have sufficient savings.

This measure risks becoming a form of state-sanctioned economic violence, as women may have no capacity to leave their relationships in cases of violence and abuse, due to financial hardship and the lack of financial support. AWAVA is seeking meetings with relevant officials in DSS to discuss the possibility of exemptions or other protections for women in such circumstances.

Reference: Budget Paper 2 (p 148).

## **Failure to achieve marriage equality**

The budget still maintains $170 million allocated for the marriage equality plebiscite. The lack of action on affirming marriage equality has direct implications for violence against people who are LGBTIQ, their mental wellbeing, and ability to fully enjoy equal rights within family law or access to other services such as homelessness services. This is a major concern, particularly as same-sex attracted people are more likely to experience higher levels of abuse, violence and assault.[[17]](#footnote-17)

In their statement on Marriage Equality, Relationships Australia notes that “strong links have been identified between legal bans on same-sex marriage and homophobic abuse, and higher psychiatric morbidity, feeling unsafe, excessive drug use, self-harm and suicide attempts, and decreased life satisfaction for same-sex attracted people.”[[18]](#footnote-18)

## **No funding to Safe Schools programs**

The federal funding to the Safe Schools programs is finishing in July 2017. The government has not announced any replacement of this funding or whether the funding increase to schools announced in the budget would include any of the components previously provided through Safe Schools. While the Student Wellbeing Hub has received additional funding under the Women’s Safety Package to provide respectful relationships resources (see above), the LGBTIQ-focused work contributed by Safe Schools is an essential component. Ensuring equal and respectful treatment of people who are LGBTIQ is a step forward in ensuring gender equality and addressing violence against diverse groups of women.

## **Funding to Project Respect**

The Attorney-General’s Portfolio papers do not provide any detail about the Department’s intention to continue funding Project Respect, an organisation providing support and referral service for women trafficked for sexual exploitation and women in the sex industry.

# **CONCLUSION**

While we welcome some budget announcements on family law and homelessness services, we remain concerned that without substantial investment and collaboration, we will not be able to prevent or properly respond to violence against women. The funding announced only forms a basic platform for what is needed: a genuine and shared effort to resource services so that they can meet all the needs of the diverse groups of women who are attempting to build lives free of violence.

Measures restricting income support, access to pensions and tertiary education also have the potential to undermine the enabling environment for women, as financial independence and access to education are key to women’s safety and well-being.

We also need a more well-developed and consultative approach to addressing housing affordability, which disproportionately impacts on women.

The Victorian government has allocated $1.9 billion to preventing and responding to family violence in just one state. By contrast, the 2017-18 Australian Government budget includes only around $50 million of “new money” on initiatives relating to violence against women. Announced additional funding does not follow the recommendation obtained from the evaluation of the Second Action Plan namely any funding for Perpetrator intervention programs or better engagement and addressing the needs of diverse groups of women like Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

It is unclear whether any funding will be made available for the future development of policy and programs that focus on addressing the particular needs of women and their children who have been exposed to sexual violence as per evaluation outcomes.

AWAVA reiterates its call for rigorous, transparent reporting of all Commonwealth spending relating to violence against women, across the different portfolios, to enable monitoring by civil society and as a platform for collaborative efforts. Consultation with the federally-funded National Women’s Alliances is another important means by which the Australian Government can help advance gender equality. CPI increases are still not accounted for in the funding of the National Women’s Alliances, resulting in a cut in real terms of approximately $29,000 per Alliance over the four years from July 2016 to June 2020 (assuming a CPI of 2.5%pa). This again limits the ability of National Women’s Alliances to provide input to government on behalf of the diverse range of women and women’s organisations, and to represent this diversity in decision making and policy outcomes.

1. AWAVA, 'Violence against women: Some Budget positives but big gaps remain', media release 10 May 2017 <http://awava.org.au/2017/05/10/announcement/2017-18-budget> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Media release by the Prime Minister, Minister for Women and Minister for Social Services, ‘ Government strengthens investment to reduce violence against women’, 28 October 2016 <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/2016-10-28/government-strengthens-investment-reduce-violence-against-women-and-children> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Evaluation of the Second Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022, KPMG 2017 <https://www.dss.gov.au/women/publications-articles/evaluation-of-the-second-action-plan-of-the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children-2010-2022> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, ‘Women’s Safety Package to #StoptheViolence’, media release 24 September 2015, <https://www.malcolmturnbull.com.au/media/release-womens-safety-package-to-stoptheviolence> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This website can be found at <https://www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/> (information provided by DSS) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Office of the Children’s e-Safety Commissioner, ‘”Revenge porn” complaints mechanism’, media release 28 October 2016, <https://esafety.gov.au/about-the-office/newsroom/media-releases/image-based-abuse-complaints-mechanism> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions. Council of Australian Government 2015 <http://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/nospi_coag_paper.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. See also the May 2017 Communique of the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council, available at <https://www.ag.gov.au/About/CommitteesandCouncils/Law-Crime-and-Community-Safety-Council/Documents/19-May-LCCSC-Communique.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <http://www.naclc.org.au/cb_pages/news/Over160000peopleturnedawayfromCommunityLegalCentreseveryyear.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <http://www.naclc.org.au/cb_pages/news/Over160000peopleturnedawayfromCommunityLegalCentreseveryyear.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <http://www.fvpls.org/images/files/FVPLS%20Victoria%20Media%20Release%20-%20Victorian%20State%20Budget.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Women’s Legal Services Australia, ‘An end to direct questioning by abusive partners in family law proceedings’, media release 10 May 2017, <https://putsafetyfirst.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/media-release-budget-2017-wlsa.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Family Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia, ‘Family law system needs more resources to deal with an increasing number of cases involving family violence’, media release 20 June 2016, <http://www.federalcircuitcourt.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/fccweb/reports-and-publications/media-releases/2016/mr200616> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. COAG Advisory Panel on Violence against Women, Final Report, 2016, <http://www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/communique/COAGAdvisoryPanelonReducingViolenceagainstWomenandtheirChildren-FinalReport.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/news-and-media/announcements/minister-scullion-coalition-government-support-indigenous-jobs-and> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <http://eccv.org.au/library/doc/ECCVDiscussionPaper3-RealJobs.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
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