

Consulting on the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children Summary of Survey Results

September 2018

About the survey

The National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2010-2022 (the National Plan) is a major policy framework that has the potential to help achieve gender equality and end violence against women. The National Plan acts as the primary Australian policy on reducing sexual assault and domestic and family violence.

Support for the National Plan has been an important part of AWAVA's work since the inception of the Plan. We have provided advice on the development of the three Action Plans so far, and have provided feedback on their implementation.

This survey is a part of AWAVA's work to contribute to evaluations of the Third Action Plan (3AP) and consult on the development of the Fourth Action Plan (4AP). The survey aims to identify gaps, issues and positive steps that can inform the creation of the Fourth Action Plan.

The survey was structured to collect separate data from individuals (people speaking on their own behalf only, and not on behalf of any organisation), and representatives of service providers and peak bodies. Part 1 of this report combines responses from service providers and peak bodies. Part 2 summarises responses received from individuals. Part 3 combines diversity data.

The survey ran from May to June 2018. In total, **243 people** responded to the survey. Among them there were **79 service providers** (48 full and 31 partial responses), **7 peak bodies** (4 full and 3 partial responses) and **157 individual** responses. Partial responses were used in the analysis to the extent possible. Where appropriate we indicate the total number of responses received to a given question. We would like to thank everyone who completed the survey, and all the individuals and organisations who circulated it within their networks.

This document presents a summary of responses.

Abbreviations:

DFV	Domestic and family violence
Fourth Action Plan / 4AP	Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children
LGBTIQ	People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and/or queer
National Plan	National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children
NOSPI	National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions
Third Action Plan / 3AP	Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children
VAW	Violence against women

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Summary of findings

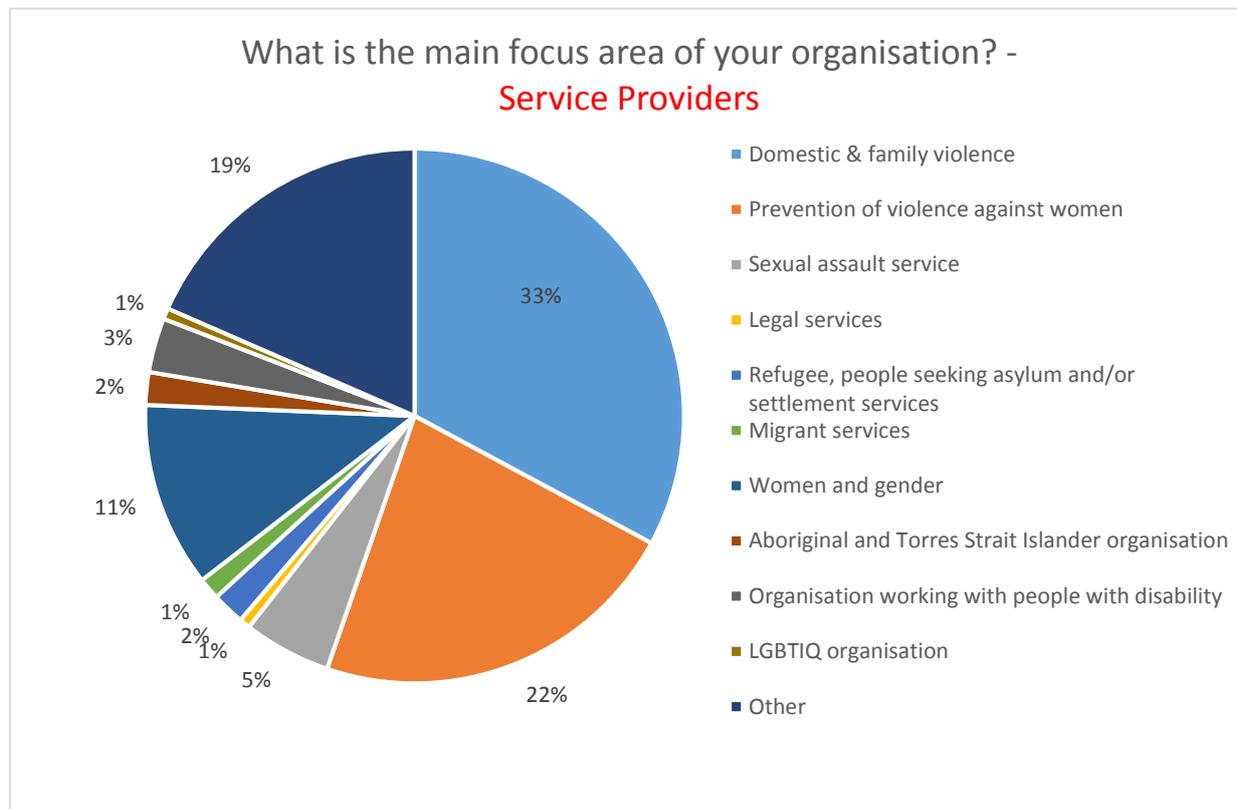
1. There has been **some positive progress** in relation to reducing violence against women and their children. This progress is manifested most strongly through **community awareness** about the rates and unacceptable nature of domestic and family violence.
2. Ongoing work to **mainstream gender equality** and challenge patriarchy is required to end violence against women and their children.
3. **Primary prevention** is one of the activities that is most visible to respondents, yet for a sustainable change primary prevention needs to be ongoing and implemented through intersectional and culturally-sensitive lenses.
4. Increased awareness about DFV has led to increases in **service demand**; however, available funding does not reflect these increases. As a result, services struggle to meet demand.
5. **Adequate, sustainable and long-term funding** is required to meet demand for services.
6. Despite positive progress, **service gaps** remain. These include the availability of services especially in regional, rural and remote areas, the availability of housing options for women facing violence, and the availability of culturally competent, inclusive and accessible services.
7. There are a number of **systemic barriers** in the responses to violence against women. Addressing them requires reforms to the justice system (family law, criminal justice, immigration and child protection), strengthening police responses, improving health responses, developing the workforce, and ensuring perpetrator accountability.
8. There is a need for **intersectional approaches** addressing violence against diverse groups of women that take into account the need for tailored responses. Addressing violence against diverse groups of women requires **meaningful consultation, co-design and community-led initiatives** to be at the centre of response efforts.
9. Violence against **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disability, LGBTIQ people, and young women** is still not sufficiently addressed.
10. Violence against other groups is increasingly of concern. These include **older women** (in the context of elder abuse, homelessness and economic insecurity), **women on temporary visas who are experiencing violence, women in prisons, children, women in sex work and women in offshore immigration detention centres**.
11. **Sexual violence** requires visibility and resourcing in its own right separate from DFV service provision.
12. More work needs to be done to increase awareness and improve responses to various manifestations of violence against women including **technology-facilitated abuse, trafficking and sexual exploitation, forced marriage, dowry abuse, and labour, domestic and sexual servitude**.
13. There is a need to develop a robust **monitoring and evaluation framework** that is implemented from the beginning of an Action Plan. Transparent evaluation results should inform the development of policies and future plans.
14. **Lack of consistency and coordination** between the Commonwealth, States and Territories undermines a national commitment to reduce violence against women.
15. The **commitment to end violence against women** and their children should be sustained. Working toward ending violence against women is an **ongoing project** that requires ongoing support and **strong government leadership**.

PART 1: Service Providers and Peak Bodies

About respondents

What is the main focus area of your organisation or peak body?

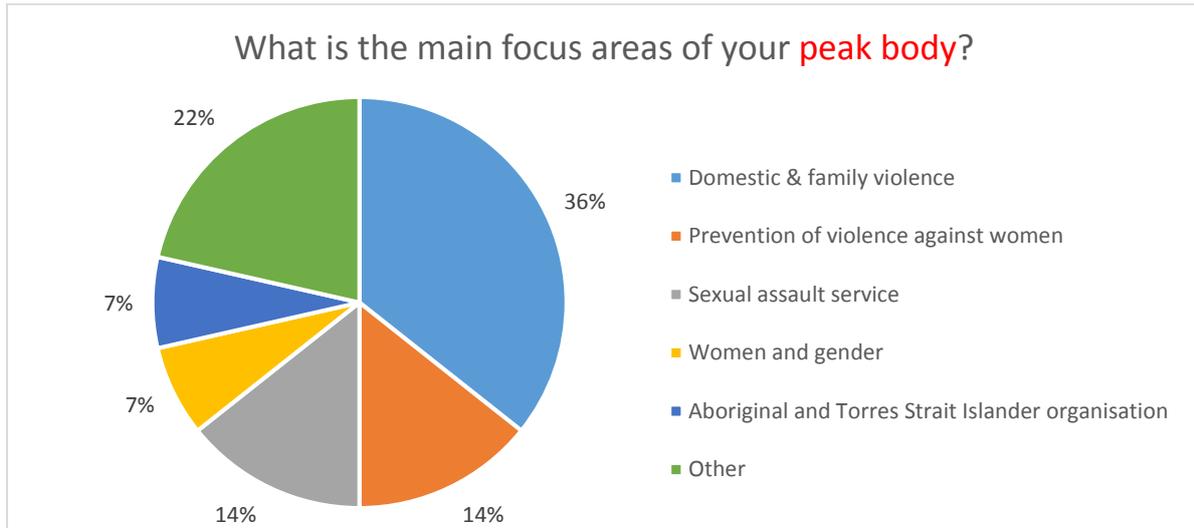
Service Providers



Services described as 'Other' include:

- A range of community services for adults including homelessness services, prisoner reintegration, and financial counselling;
- Support for domestic animals whose owners experience domestic and family violence;
- Family Dispute Resolution;
- Health services;
- Specialist homeless services;
- Education services;
- Family support services and youth services;
- Alcohol, drug services and mental health;
- General counselling services;
- Men's behaviour change programs;
- Sexual and reproductive rights service (pregnancy);
- Child protection services;
- Industrial relations support and advice for vulnerable women workers;
- Research;
- Workplace support and advocacy for women;
- Equity, diversity and inclusion.

Peak Bodies



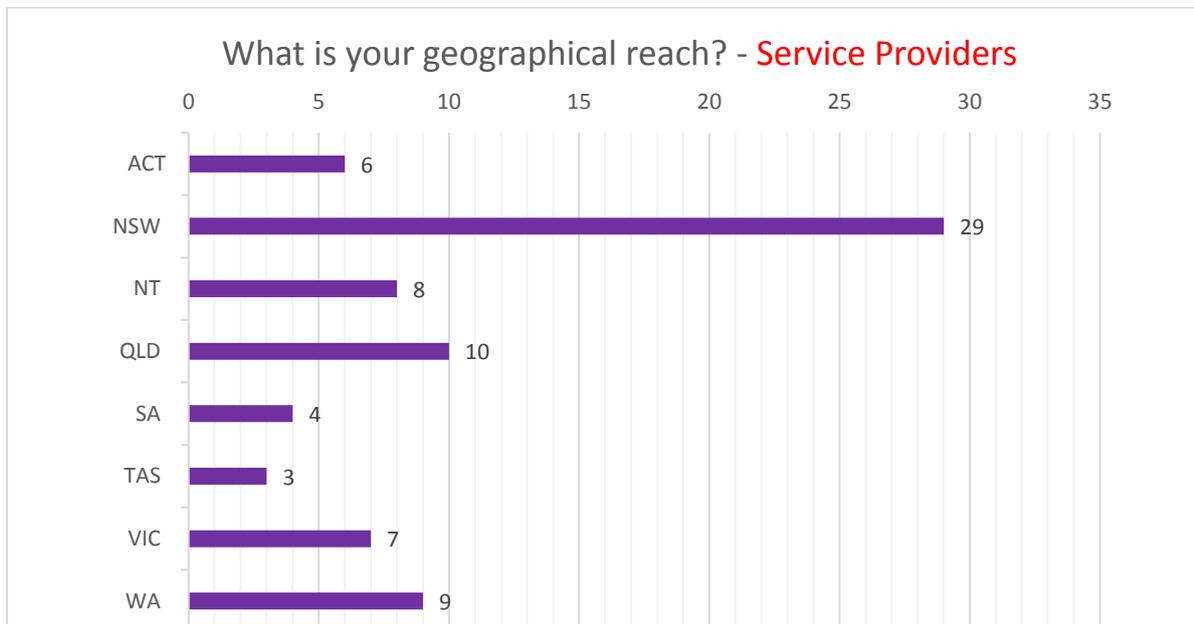
'Other' includes men's behaviour change programs and intersectional feminist framework.

What is your geographical reach?

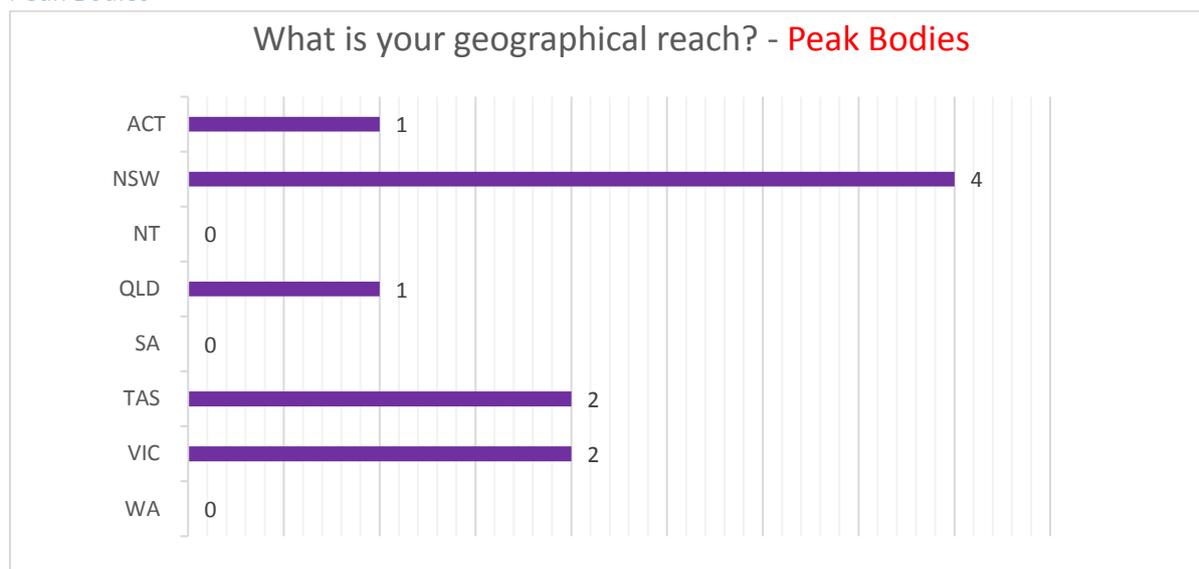
Service Providers

The largest proportion of service providers work in NSW (38%). The next largest groups are located in QLD (13%), WA (12%) and NT (11%).

Of all service providers, 15% have national coverage, 16% are working at the regional level, 16% identified as being a local service provider and 6% are working in more than 1 state or territory.



Peak Bodies



Two of the peak bodies are working at the national level. No peak bodies from NT, SA and WA participated in the data collection.

Evaluation of progress up to date and pressing issues.

Peaks and service providers identified some positive change, especially in the area of increased awareness and reporting and to a lesser extent changes in community attitudes and engagement.

However, peak bodies and service providers identified pressing issues:

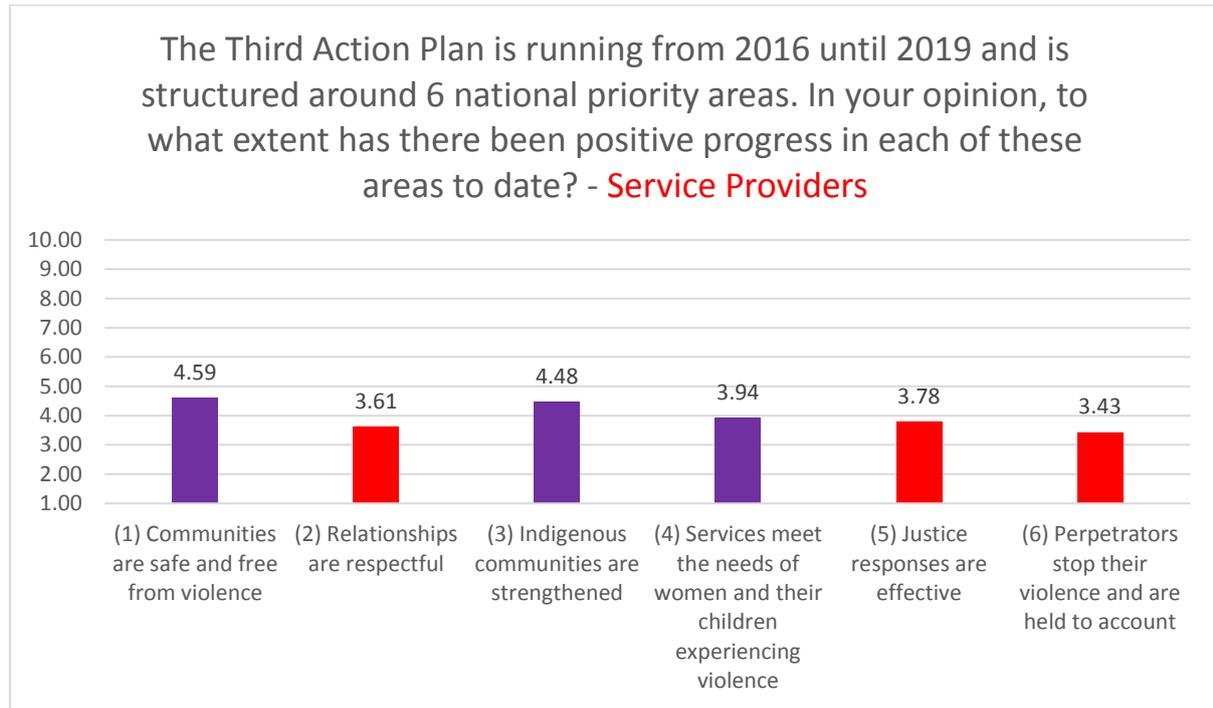
- The endemic nature of VAW – gendered drivers and responses (both challenging & reinforcing) intertwined with limitations in attitudes, norms, service systems;
- Housing and homelessness – need for more services and affordable housing, especially for women and their children escaping violence;
- Invisibility and lack of funding to sexual assault services;
- Need for adequate and long term resourcing for services, especially impacting on staffing capacity and workforce issues;
- Service demand and lack of funding to meet it;
- Gaps in particular service areas:
 - o Services and/or behaviour change programs for men who are perpetrators of violence;
 - o Services for children;
 - o Services for parents;
 - o Services for adolescents;
 - o Specialised trauma DFV counselling in regional, rural and remote areas in particular;
 - o Access to legal services in regional, rural and remote areas;
 - o Lack of long-term, specialised trauma counselling for survivors of violence;
 - o Disconnect between family violence, child protection and drug and alcohol services; and
 - o General difficulties and lack of services when working in regional areas.
- Need for better assistance to women on temporary visas, especially in regional areas (mainstream services not including access to interpreters, need for better cultural competency);
- Need for stronger commitment from governments at all levels, and resourcing from governments;

- Ongoing problems at the intersection of child protection and family law;
- Justice system, child removal and incarceration are major issues; and
- National consultation, coordination and resourcing for men’s behaviour change, primary prevention engaging with men, and implementing the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions (NOSPI).

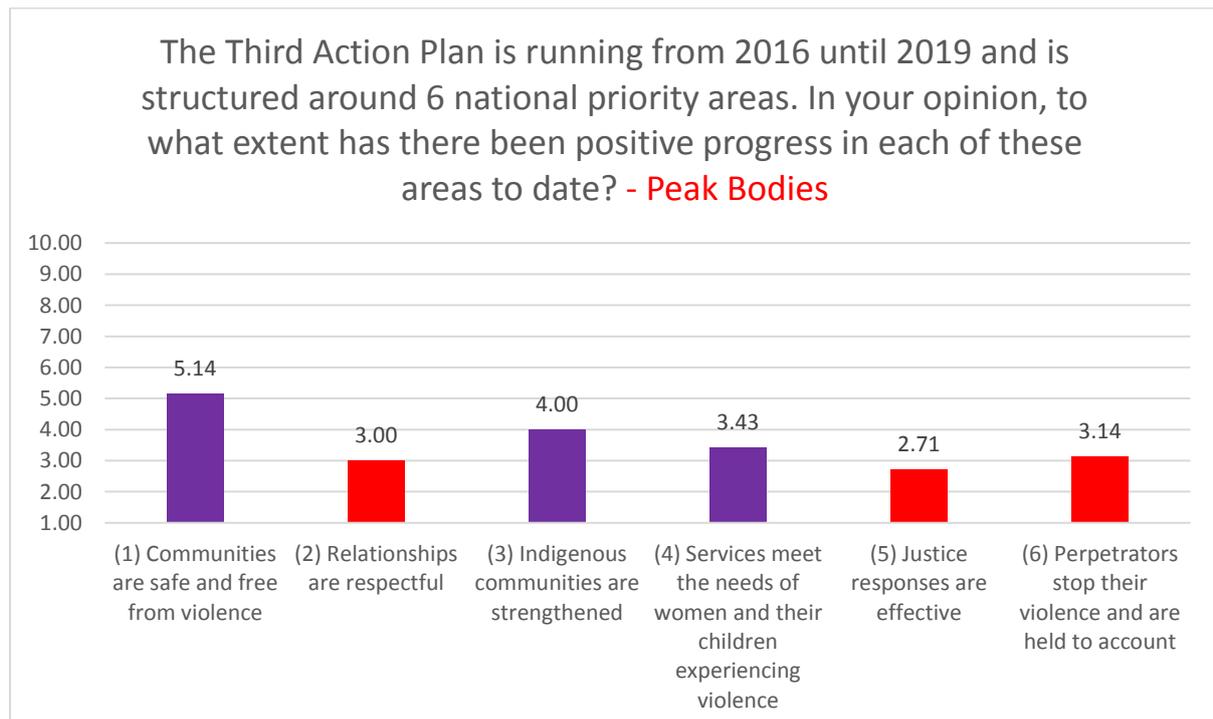
Towards the Fourth Action Plan

Evaluation of national priority areas as addressed through the Third Action Plan

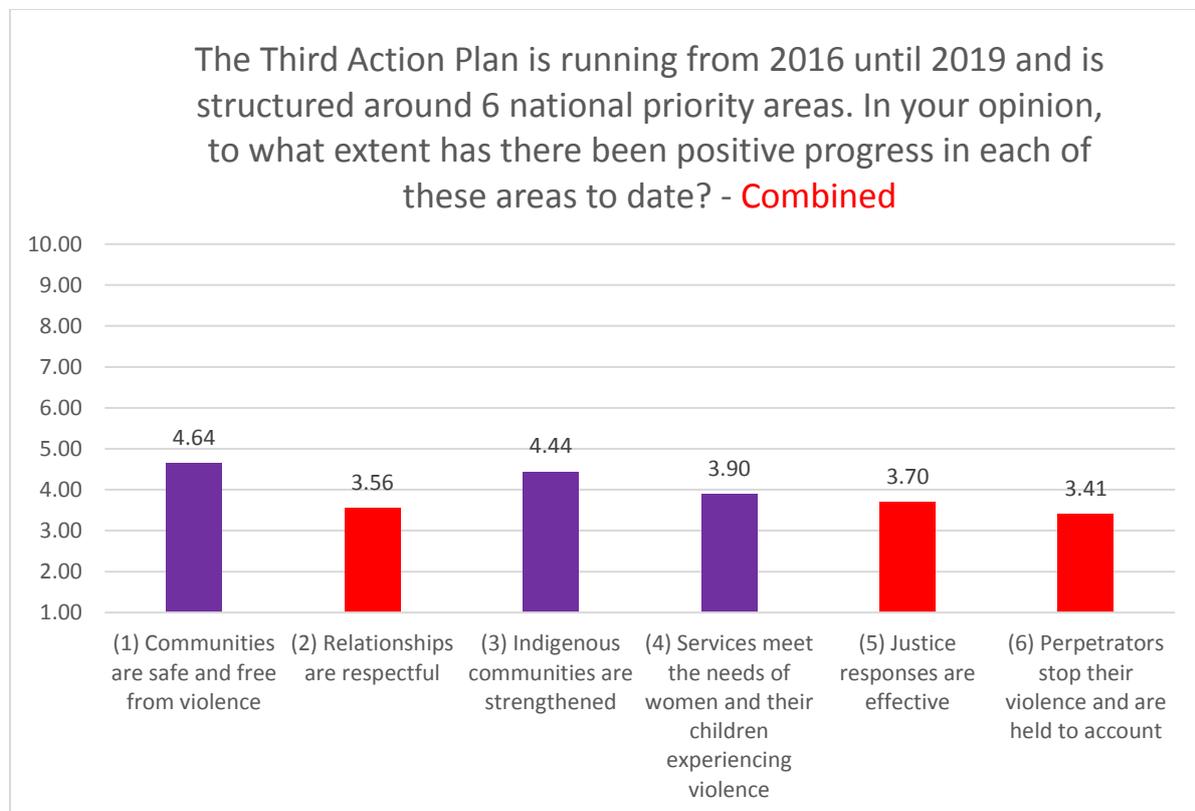
Service Providers



Peak Bodies



Both service providers and peak bodies have given low ratings for the progress achieved under the Third Action Plan. Three priority areas (relationships are respectful; justice responses are effective; and perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account) were rated the lowest. This is consistent with other comments provided throughout the survey, including by individuals.



Progress under the Third Action Plan: Activities and initiatives

In the Third Action Plan actions, activities in the areas of prevention and early intervention were most visible and perceived as having made progress. However, many gaps were still identified, including the need for a more intersectional lens on prevention activities.

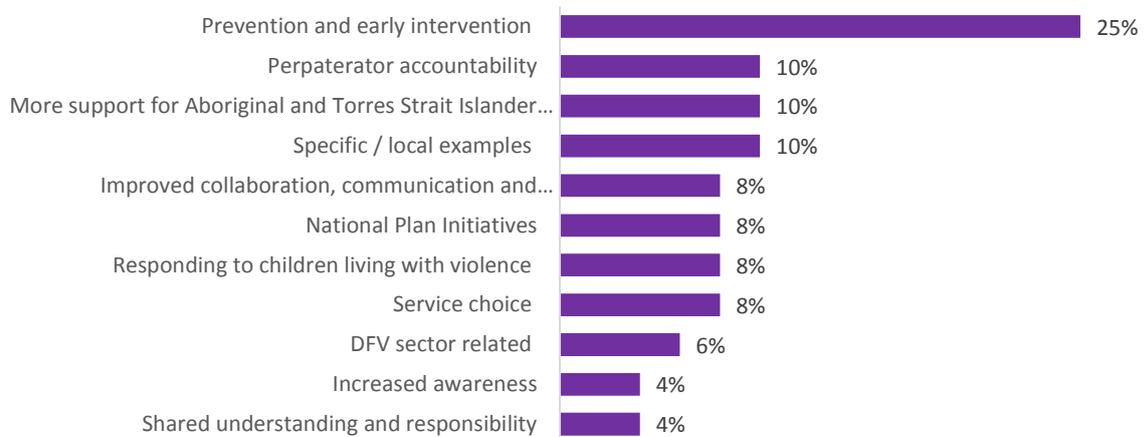
“There has been greater emphasis on primary prevention advertising campaigns which is fantastic - i.e. Stop It At The Start advertising campaign - but minimal/ piecemeal approaches to practice on the ground. Additionally, the primary prevention advertising campaigns only focus on heteronormative, Western-Anglicised understandings of gender, relationships and power & control. A diverse and intersectional lens is vitally needed.” [R185]

Other areas under the 3AP on which respondents perceived progress were the choice of services and the National Plan flagship initiatives (1800RESPECT, Our Watch, ANROWS).

Respondents noted that for progress to be sustained and have a long term impact, ongoing action is required.

Activities that respondents perceived as working well can be summarised as follows:

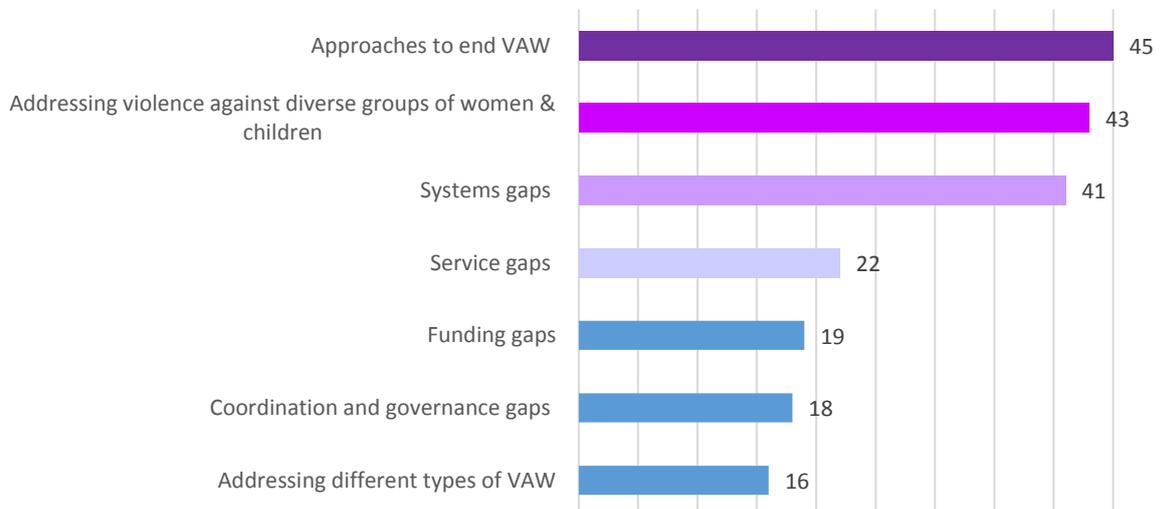
If you are familiar with the planned activities of the Third Action Plan, in your opinion, which of them have worked well?



Gaps to date: towards the Fourth Action Plan

Identifying the gaps so far in addressing violence against women and the priorities to be addressed in the Fourth Action Plan, respondents highlighted seven major areas. (These thematic groupings were defined through content analysis of survey responses.)

What would an effective and sustainable Fourth Action Plan look like?



1. Approaches to End Violence against Women

Primary prevention and early intervention work need to continue and be done through intersectional and culturally-sensitive lenses. More work is required to shift community attitudes towards violence against women, mainstream gender equality and achieve change in societal attitudes.

“Ground up prevention through respectful relationships education and what is happening within the men’s sphere. The only way to prevent violence against women is to shift attitudes towards women as a whole”. [R268]

2. Addressing Violence against Diverse Groups of Women & Children

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing violence were identified as one of the groups whose needs have not yet been properly addressed. Responses to violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women need to be co-designed and community-led.

Women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTIQ women and transgender women in particular, women with disability and women from regional, rural and remote areas were also identified as groups for whom not much progress has been made.

Additionally, there need to be responses tailored for women who are in particularly precarious circumstances such as women on temporary visas experiencing violence.

Children who are witnessing and/or experiencing violence were also identified as needing support.

3. Strengthening Systems

Systemic gaps included a number of areas such as:

- Addressing the barriers within the justice system that disempower women;
- The need for a better training on VAW for the judiciary;
- Addressing the faults and inconsistencies between the family law and child protection systems (especially child protection system having punitive approaches towards women who are experiencing family violence);
- Stronger efforts to keep perpetrators accountable including adherence to the NOSPI;
- The need to strengthen attitudes and train police on VAW;
- Lack of VAW training for health and education organisations/stakeholders; and
- Lack of focus on workforce development

"Family Law system that focuses on keeping women & children safe & perpetrators accountable". [R235]

"A greater focus/investment in perpetrator accountability: keeping men who use family violence accountable and visible across all justice and social service systems. This will genuinely alleviate violence against women, children and other men". [R185]

"It has left the workplace behind, it's time to re-focus on DFV as an industrial issue, especially in light of the fair work commission modern award decision and government committing to the inclusion of DFV leave in the national employment standards." [R257]

4. Strengthening Services

The lack of housing options and the risk of becoming homeless for women who are facing violence were among the major gaps identified. Additionally, the lack of free legal assistance, lack of funding to specialist women's services and as a result high demand and long waiting lists as well as lack of services for perpetrators were identified as areas that need to be addressed.

5. Funding

Funding gaps are intertwined with other areas and have a tremendous impact on progress in relation to ending violence against women. There is a lack of funding to specialist women's services and shelters. There is no sufficient funding for culturally appropriate services as well as a lack of funding to address sexual assault.

Available funding is not proportionate to the existing service demand, which is increasing. There is a lack of government commitment in relation to adequate funding and resourcing.

6. Improving Coordination and Governance

A lack of consistency and coordinated responses across States and Territories as well as a lack of transparent and timely evaluation of the progress made under the National Plan undermines the commitment to reduce violence against women.

“Given that this is the final Action Plan, I would like to see an honest and measurable assessment of progress against the targets of the first three Action Plans, including dollars spent. This would then allow a really targeted and deliberative response to what needs to be done in the Fourth Action Plan to close the circle”. [R102]

7. Addressing Different Types of Violence against Women.

Sexual violence is a major gap and an area that needs to be acknowledged, addressed and resourced on the same level as DFV. Reproductive rights and coercion particularly in situations of DFV or as a manifestation of DFV are rarely considered. The issue of elder abuse needs to be looked at through a gender lens.

Areas for attention in the Fourth Action Plan

Answers about the areas that need to be addressed in the Fourth Action Plan reinforced responses about the major gaps left unfilled by the Third Action Plan. The main areas identified were:

- Ongoing primary prevention;
- Responses to sexual violence;
- Housing and homelessness services for victims/survivors of violence including housing affordability;
- Reproductive coercion (eg. the intersection between unplanned pregnancy and violence);
- Perpetrator accountability and engaging men in prevention;
- The role of the workforce and its development in relation to DFV;
- Impact of violence on children;
- Better access to justice for women especially in the context of financial abuse (property settlement, superannuation etc);
- Family law reforms including a ban on direct cross-examination;
- Intersectional approaches to responding to violence against diverse groups of women; and
- Longitudinal research to show the longer term impacts of policies.

Activities to reduce violence against women with multiple sources of marginalisation

Respondents identified several activities that are needed in relation to women with multiple sources of marginalisation:

1. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: emphasis on the need for community developed and led activities, supported by funding and other systems; for mainstream services to be culturally competent.
2. For women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds: emphasis on the need for more culturally competent and responsive services, more culturally appropriate community education, the need for community-developed and -led activities.
3. For LGBTIQ women: emphasis on improving community awareness of DFV alongside destigmatising experiences and seeking help, and more competent and responsive services.

4. For women with disability: emphasis on more competent and responsive services, and reform of the justice system.
5. For women in remote, regional and rural areas: lack of services and barriers to access, funding to address these factors.
6. For young women: education (especially respectful relationships), better service responses (both improving VAW understanding/competence in youth services and more specific services for young women in VAW service sector) and action to address technology-facilitated abuse.
7. Groups of increasing/emerging concern: particularly older women (especially in the context of homelessness and economic insecurity), and migrant women. Others mentioned include homeless women who are ineligible to access refuges given the historic/protracted nature of DFV, women in prisons, children, women in sex work and women in offshore immigration detention centres.

In any efforts to address violence against diverse groups of women an intersectional lens and approaches are essential for success. This means recognising women's specific needs but not 'othering' or singling out particular groups. It is vital that diverse communities are consulted in developing responses and that they are taking a lead in their implementation with appropriate levels of funding and resourcing.

"There is a great need for a range of activities - in community response services that are led by community for community and prevention programs for the community that empower men to be leaders in their community." [R395]

"The Plan should take an intersectional approach taking into account the compounding impacts of different forms of inequality and discrimination. This requires both an intersectional approach to universal initiatives and tailored initiatives focusing on particular groups and communities." [R392]

Addressing different types of violence against women

Given the specific nature of the next set of questions, they were answered by a smaller proportion: approximately twenty to thirty percent (20-30%) of all respondents.

Progress and service needs for an effective response to sexual violence

The main message in relation to effective responses to sexual violence is the need for a higher prioritisation and visibility in its own right.

Current service provision is perceived as good, but with gaps depending on location and other factors. This includes the availability of services especially in regional, rural and remote areas, having accessible services for women in the sex industry, more counselling options for victims/survivors, crisis support, housing options, culturally competent services, and ongoing prevention work that addresses all forms of VAW and highlights sexual violence as a distinct form of VAW.

"It depends on where you live. My experience of Melbourne is different to remote Central Australia." [R245]

More funding is needed, as well as improved linkages and collaboration.

"More resources to ensure enough staff to effectively support victims and reduce waiting lists and increase support length." [R158]

"Ability to respond to victims 24/7 on a face-to-face basis. For example, if a person presents to ED and discloses sexual violence to ability to have a specialised worker to respond to give support throughout the process especially if a forensic examination is required." [R179]

There are some major gaps in systems' responses including health, police, and justice. Respondents indicated the need to ensure greater justice for victims/survivors, consistent sentencing, reform of the justice systems in light of ALRC recommendations¹ and cultural change within the justice system to empower women. In addition, respondents identified the need to include consent in legislation, reform the legislation around pornography and ensure appropriate training of judiciary officers. The need for consistent legislation and response to sexual violence was highlighted.

Police need to be trained and specialised units need to be established to provide trauma informed response when dealing with sexual violence cases.

"Need more focus on perpetrator accountability, safety in reporting sexual crime, a legal system that does not traumatise the victim through a prolonged and exposing/unsafe legal process. The legal system is an example of a system that has minimal accountability with much power, that is out of reach for average Australians. It is intimidating, punitive, protracted and out of date." [R260]

"I believe the legal system is still one of victim blaming." [R363]

"Educate police, courts on sexual violence, drivers, women's experience." [R392]

"Feminist analysis of sexual violence should extend to police etc." [R14]

Trafficking and sexual exploitation

Responses to this set of questions highlighted that human trafficking and sexual exploitation are among the areas with which respondents had the least engagement.

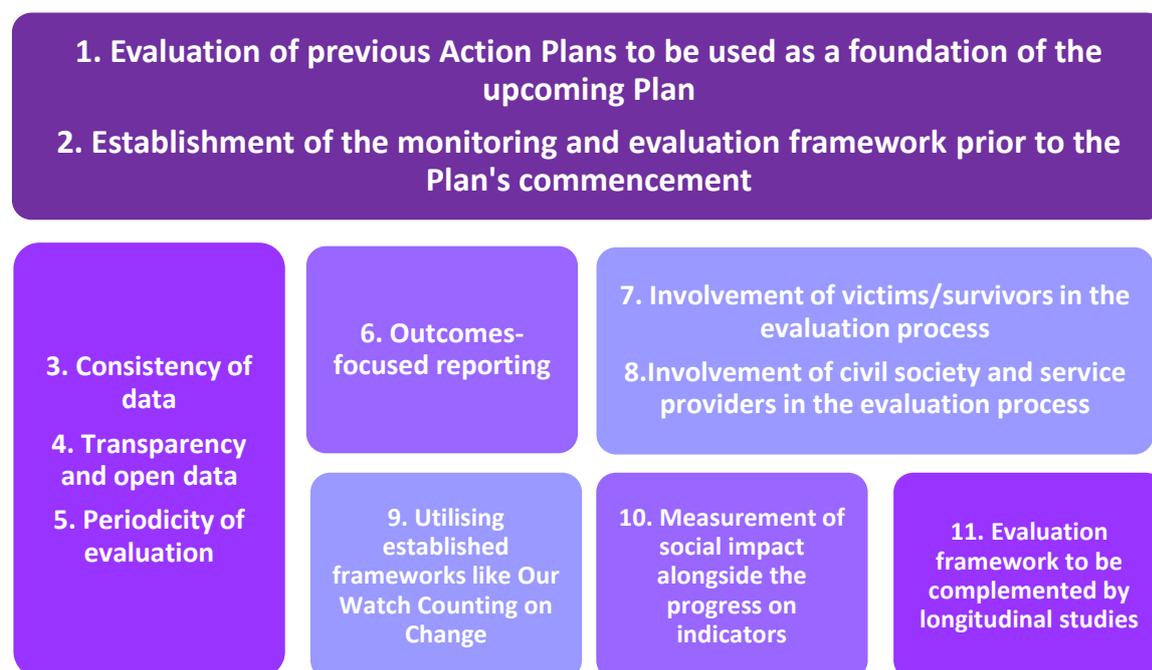
Responses noted that there is limited discussion of these issues in Australia and that this perpetuates a myth that Australia is immune from trafficking and sexual exploitation of women. Respondents identified that more community awareness and education is needed to raise the profile of these issues. Specialist staff and training to other specialists is required to deal with such cases appropriately. In addition, some respondents said there is a need to decriminalise sex work to ensure that women in the sex industry have relevant legislative protections.

At a systems level there is a need for legislative change to delink responses to trafficking from the criminal and migration systems and instead treat trafficking as a human rights issue. This also means affording people who are not permanent residents with the same rights as those who are permanent residents or citizens. Additionally, there is a need for better police training and attitude change.

¹ ALRC (2010), *Family Violence – A National Legal Response*

Monitoring and evaluation of the National Plan

There is a need to develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system for the Fourth Action Plan that would consider the following:



“Looking at the application of national programs and cross-referencing with areas of work covered by States and Territories. Monitoring and Evaluation using the same measures across jurisdictions would allow for clear understanding of the progress of action plans and effectiveness on the lives of women in Australia.” [R267]

“Monitoring and evaluation needs to occur at regular intervals. It is important to review systems and services at all levels by being on the ground and having voices from rural and regional areas not just metro. Rural and remote have limited services to support and this can impact on recovery and repeat victims.” [R133]

“I would love to see an online platform tracking performance of all four Action Plans, similar to what the Victorian Government has established to keep Victorians informed around the implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations.” [R102]

“Broad consultation and feedback, open to the public.” [R360]

Life beyond the (first) National Plan

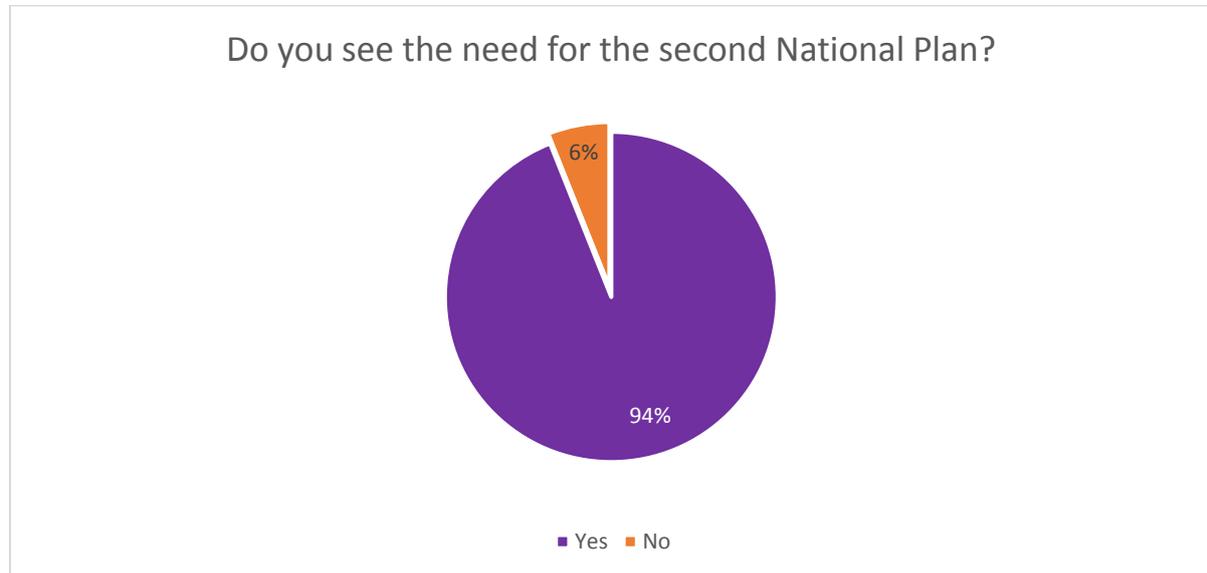
There was strong support from survey respondents for another National Plan beyond 2020.

While respondents stated that the subsequent National Plan needs to address major gaps such as sexual violence, they also identified a strong need to continue focusing on activities like primary prevention (that is done in a culturally competent and intersectional way), community awareness raising, and driving attitudinal and cultural change.

Respondents believed the commitment to end violence against women and their children should be sustained. Respondents indicated that this is an ongoing project that requires an ongoing support. They also stated that this requires a strong commitment from the government and keeping the momentum as well as building on the achieved progress.

Respondents also indicated that they wish to see the continuation of such initiatives as 1800RESPECT, Our Watch, ANROWS and DV Alert.

Out of sixty (60%) responses provided to this question, ninety-four (94%) affirmed the need for the second National Plan.



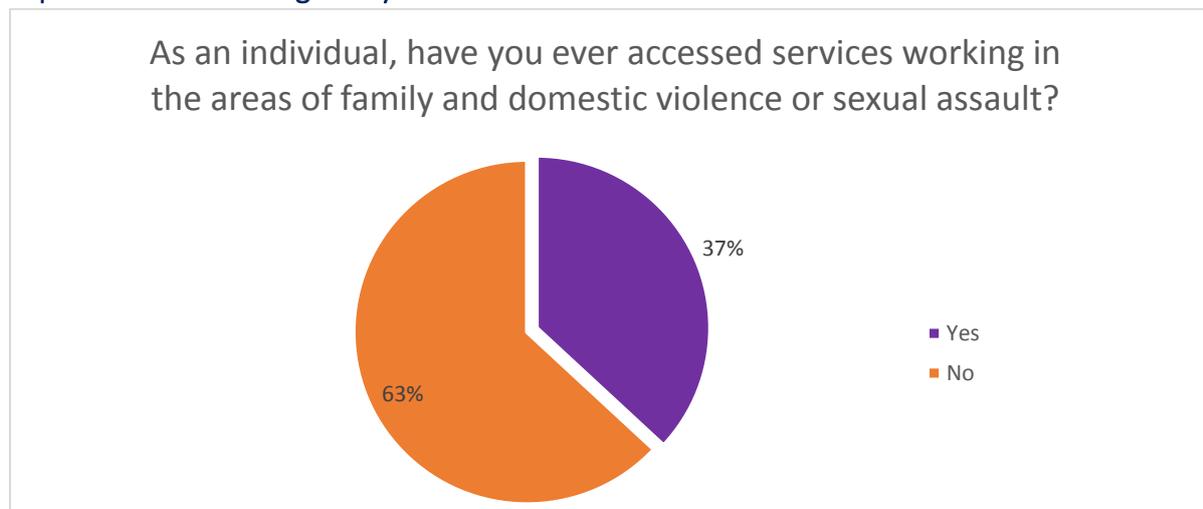
“Primary prevention and upscaling of key initiatives to evidence diverse needs and intersectionalities (eg. Respectful relationships in CALD communities, SAFE schools, whole school approach). Research and evidence (women’s leadership, gender equity). Developing opportunities for women’s advocacy and advisory panels to support recovery and contribute to change.” [R115]

“Whatever has not been addressed adequately in the first plan. Australia has been leading the way on a comprehensive national approach to this issue, but we are kidding ourselves if we think 12 years is enough. We need to back our commitment by having a second plan that acknowledges that deep cultural and social change on gender based violence is a generational commitment.” [R247]

“Cultural and societal change will take generations - this work, including respectful relationship programs into all levels of school and workplaces, needs to continue. Sustained commitments to funding primary, secondary and tertiary responses to domestic and family violence must be of a high priority and across all tiers of government.” [R104]

PART 2: Individuals

Experience of accessing family and domestic violence or sexual assault services



Sixty percent (60%) of respondents indicated that their needs were met. Analysis of responses to this question identified the following gaps:

- Support provided at the point of crisis but a very limited capacity to provide follow up or long term support;
- Very limited housing options for women (and their children) escaping family violence;
- Systemic issues with the police that included victim blaming, disbelief, prioritising a perpetrator over a victim/survivor, and further re-traumatisation;
- Systemic issue with the justice system that included very low income thresholds for the removal of eligibility for free legal assistance, courts system that is not responsive to the needs of a victim/survivor, insufficient safety protections in courts, courts decisions that are not providing any justice.
- Systemic issue with other stakeholders like health or victims of crime compensation;
- Lack of services for perpetrators and lack of measures to held them to account; and
- Availability of services in regional areas.

Views on efforts to end violence against women in Australia

Respondents identifies a set of activities needed to end violence against women. They are consistent with the responses provided by service providers and peak bodies.

"I think education and understanding to change the general attitude of what DV, Family Violence, Sexual assault and respectful relationships really are. Courses to be run within workplaces, schools, sports clubs, social and community bases. These courses compulsory within all services from Judges to Centrelink. Encourage our communities and individuals to have the courage to speak out and were possible act." [R280]

"We need to address gender and patriarchy." [R124]

"Promote gender equality and positive relationships in all spheres of life: education in schools, media representation, workplaces, churches etc. Reshaping gender stereotypes and expectations: ideas of femininity and masculinity." [R203]

Responses to this question have been grouped thematically as follows.

<p>Education, awareness raising and attitudes change</p>	<p>Education (respectful relationships, consent; challenging victim blaming attitudes; human rights);</p> <p>Mainstreaming gender equality;</p> <p>Attitudinal and cultural change around gender roles;</p> <p>Awareness raising</p>
<p>Addressing systemic issues</p>	<p>Police (training and attitude change in relation to violence against women (i.e. addressing victim blaming, technology-facilitated violence); improved investigation practices for sexual assault cases</p> <p>Legislative reforms and access to justice (changes in the family law system, improved risk assessment and safety for women in courts; training for family law system professionals on DFV; addressing systems abuse; better funding to ensure that women have access to free legal representation)</p> <p>Perpetrator accountability;</p> <p>Housing (increasing housing options for women who are escaping DFV; need for tenancy reform to be responsive to DFV; increasing availability of shelters and refuges).</p> <p>Health (recognising the role of the health system in response to DFV, ensuring appropriate training, in particular for GPs);</p> <p>Workforce development (recognising workplaces' role in response to DFV, ensuring appropriate training; introducing paid domestic violence leave).</p>
<p>Service responses</p>	<p>Availability of services for women escaping DFV (free legal services, trauma counselling);</p> <p>Increased availability of shelters and refuges;</p> <p>Service availability for children and adolescents;</p> <p>Availability of men's behaviour change programs;</p> <p>Ensuring support (including income from Centrelink) for women on temporary visas experiencing DFV.</p>
<p>Funding and resourcing</p>	<p>Better resourcing of specialist women's services;</p> <p>Better funding for shelters and refuges;</p> <p>Ensuring that funding is sustainable and long-term;</p> <p>Better and specific funding to sexual assault services.</p>
<p>Approaches to end violence against women</p>	<p>Intersectional lens on primary prevention;</p> <p>Addressing violence against children and responding to children living with violence, including addressing childhood trauma of having witnessed DFV;</p> <p>Improved data collection across all jurisdictions;</p> <p>Recognising gendered dimension of elder abuse;</p> <p>Engaging men in prevention, being role models, and speaking up;</p>
<p>Governance and coordination</p>	<p>Stronger government leadership on violence against women;</p> <p>Coherent government responses across states, territories and at the federal level through policy and funding;</p> <p>Better coordination between different organisations and other relevant stakeholders.</p>

Evaluation of progress up to date

Similar to the responses provided by peak bodies and service providers, fifty-seven percent (57%) of individual respondents identified some positive change in relation to reducing violence against women. The most common positive change identified was greater awareness. This included comments that DFV is talked about more widely, DFV is destigmatised, more information about services is available, more advertising and public campaigning is available, and more education about DFV is offered. Other comments included positive feedback on DFV services that are co-located in courts, improved interagency collaboration, availability of specialist women's services and trauma counselling, and increase in research.

"Yes, I am hopeful with each campaign of bringing awareness to the public that more and more people understand what the violence looks like and are more likely prepared to take steps to address this whether a victim or a perpetrator." [R31]

"It's a national conversation and one that is considered important and vital - it is no longer dismissed, trivialised or relegated to the periphery." [R153]

"Discussions within schools and youth spaces is becoming more frequent. Campaigns such as The Line have helped to address the issue at a young age." [R340]

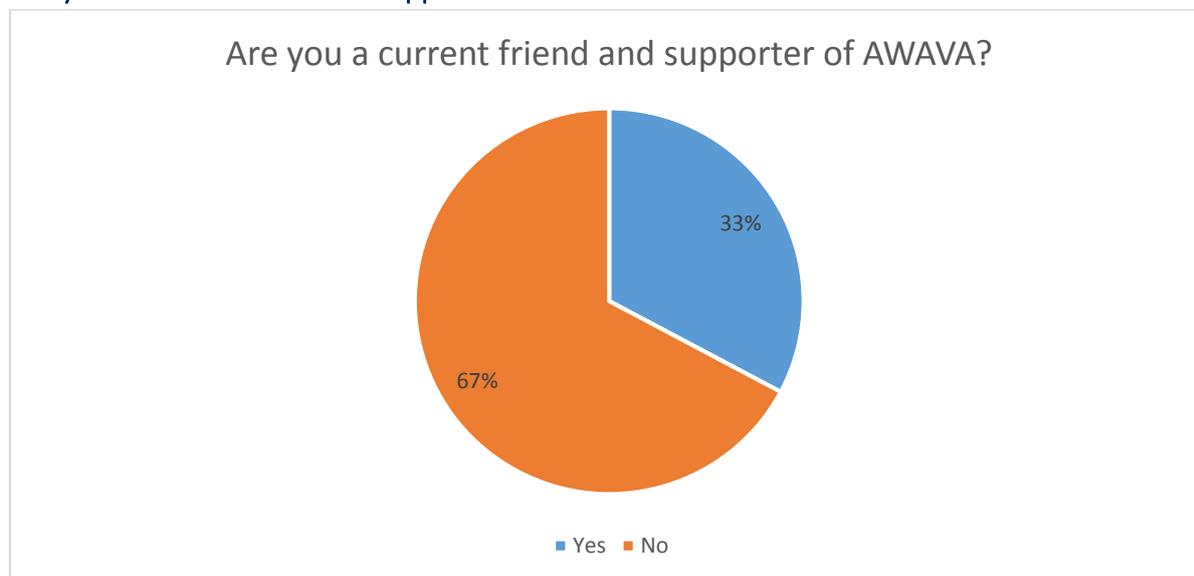
Alongside positive change, barriers have been identified. This includes lack of attention to sexual violence, lack of funding to meet the service demand, lack of housing options, entrenched sexism in society, barriers in the justice system, lack of perpetrator accountability, lack of culturally sensitive response, removal of funding from specialist women's services and redirection to non-specialist organisations, and the problem of women's refuges beings subsumed within the broader homelessness service sector.

Positive change is also contingent upon sustained, long-term and committed action to reduce violence against women.

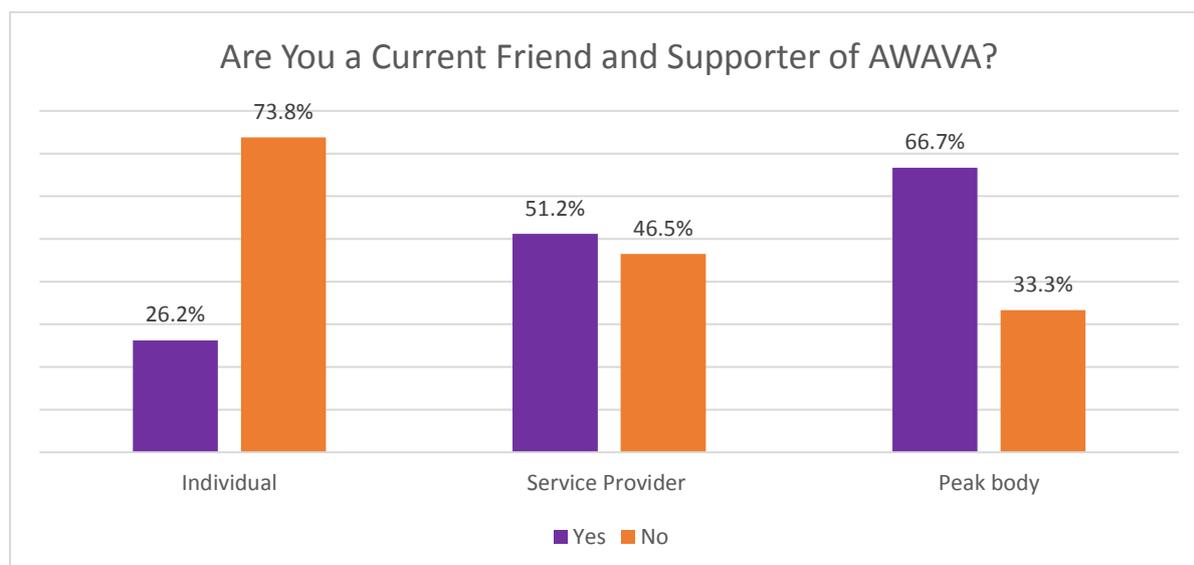
PART 3 Diversity data

Out of the 243 respondents 187 agreed to provide diversity information about themselves.

Are you a current friend and supporter of AWAVA?



One third (33%) of respondents indicated they were a current friend and supporter of AWAVA.



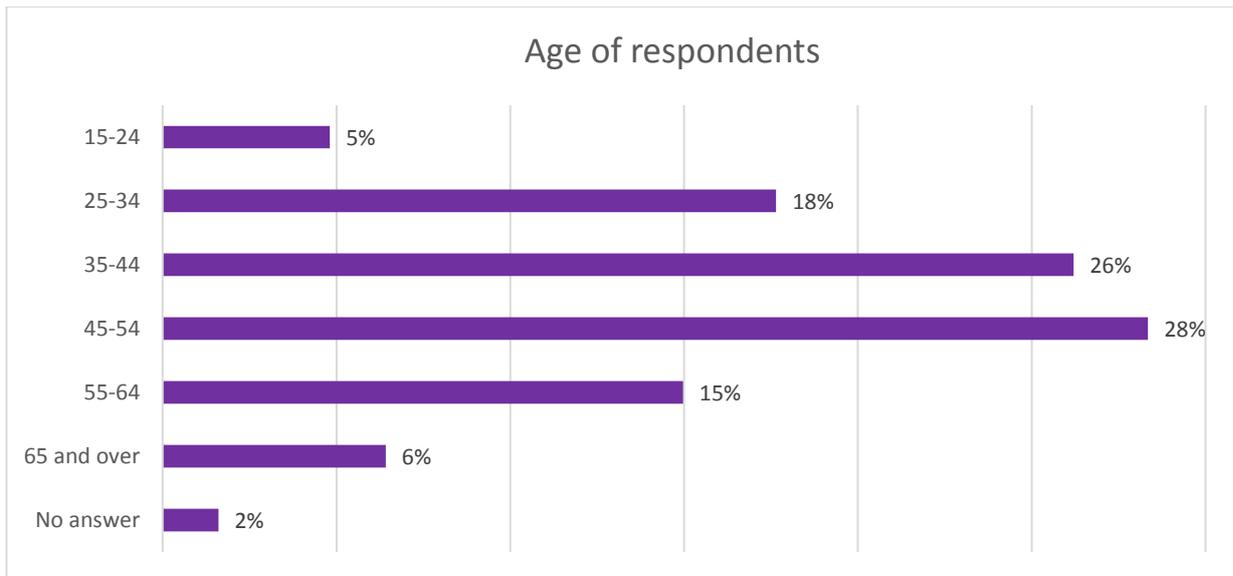
Gender of respondents

The question asked respondents to select between 'female', 'male', 'non-binary', 'other', and 'prefer not to say'. Ninety-three per cent (93%) of respondents identified as female, 5% as male and 3% preferred not to say.

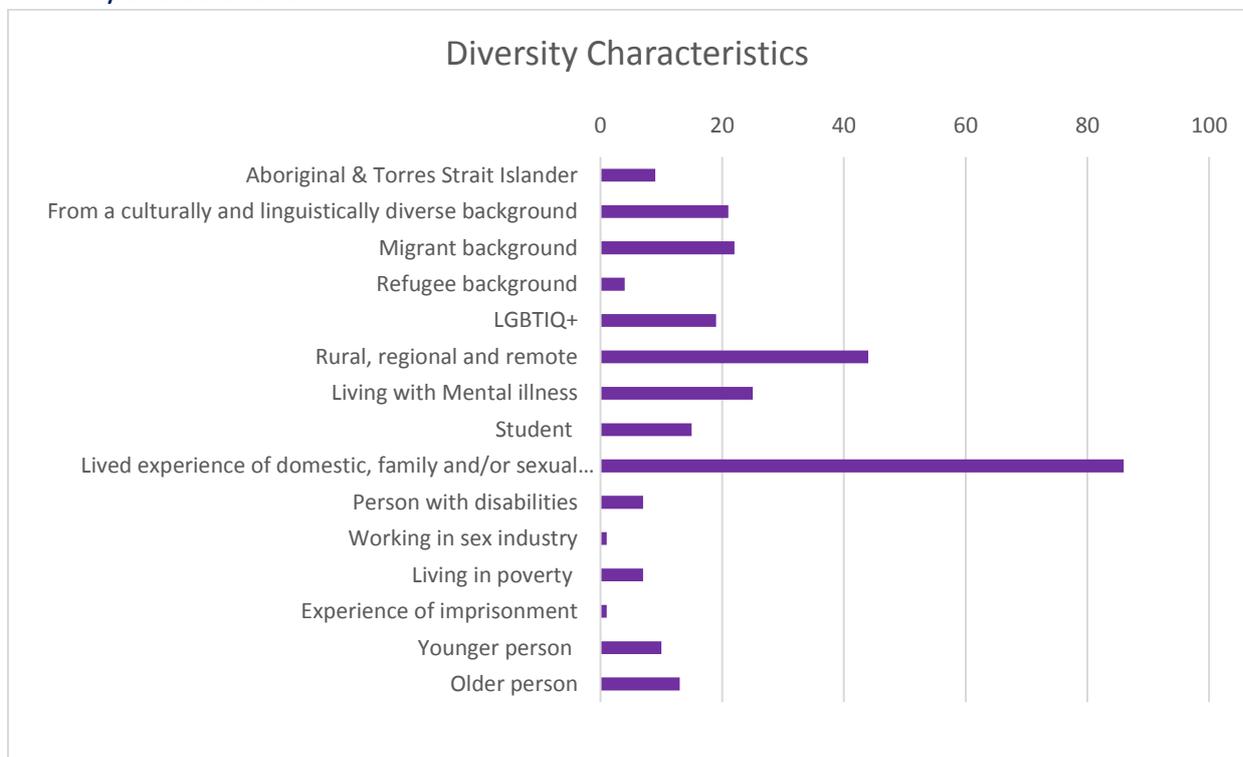
Age of respondents

The age breakdown was the following:

15-24	5%	35-44	26%	55-64	15%
25-34	18%	45-54	28%	65 and over	6%
No answer	2%				



Diversity characteristics



- Out of nine (9) people who identified as **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**, one (1) was living in poverty, one (1) was LGBTIQ, and one (1) had a disability and a background of imprisonment.
- Out of twenty-one (21) people from **culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**, five (5) reported a lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence, and two (2) were living in a rural, regional or remote area.
- Out of twenty-two (22) **people from a migrant background**, one (1) identified as LGBTIQ and is a DFV survivor, and eight (8) other people reported they have a lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence too.
- Out of four (4) **people from a refugee background**, two (2) reported having a lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence.

- Out of nineteen (19) **people who identified as LGBTIQ**, four (4) had a disability, three (3) were living in poverty, one (1) was previously a sex worker and eight (8) reported having a lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence. Seven (7) out of eight (8) people who indicated that they are DFV survivors were living with mental illness. Two (2) were living in the regional, rural or remote area.
- Out of forty-four (44) **people living in the regional, rural or remote area**, half had a lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence.
- Out of seven (7) **people living in poverty**, five (5) had a lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence.
- A total number of eighty-six (86) people, which is thirty-five percent (35%) of all respondents reported having a **lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence**.
- Thirty (30) respondents selected 'Exclusive/none of the above option'.