



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

First Action Plan

2020-2022

Path to Safety

Western Australia's strategy to reduce family and domestic violence 2020-2030

Introduction

Everyone should be safe in their own home. Always.

Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020-2030 (the Strategy) is a long-term vision that sets out a whole of government and community plan for reducing and responding to family and domestic violence in Western Australia.

A whole of government and community plan for reducing family and domestic violence is integral to realising the vision “A Western Australia where all people live free from family and domestic violence”. Having listened to Aboriginal people and communities, we know that a dedicated strategy for Aboriginal family safety must sit alongside the overarching Strategy. This will create a more equitable and culturally appropriate roadmap for reducing family and domestic violence across our State. Actions outlined in the First Action Plan have a focus on Aboriginal family safety to indicate the importance of working with Aboriginal people to ensure we deliver culturally appropriate and safe information, advice and services across all actions.

Three action plans will support the implementation of the Strategy through the next decade. An initial two-year action plan implemented between July 2020 - June 2022 will include initiatives that respond to particular needs arising during the COVID-19 emergency response and recovery phases. This action plan will consolidate the foundations and strengthen existing partnerships that will support the long-term outcomes of the Strategy. The momentum of the first Action Plan is enhanced by the passing of the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill by State Parliament in June 2020. This important milestone sees the most comprehensive family violence law reform package ever seen in Western Australia.

Implementation of the second Action Plan between 2022-2026 will build on foundations and innovate for progress. It will put in place both tactical and long-term initiatives and expand strategic and practice intersections that have a role in addressing family and domestic violence. During this phase we will build capability, support safety and collaboration and increase accountability.

The third Action Plan between 2026 – 2030 will focus on driving long term outcomes that prevent violence, drawing on a strong evidence base. This phase is also the time to measure the impact of our actions and identify remaining challenges and opportunities as we sustain change into the next decade.

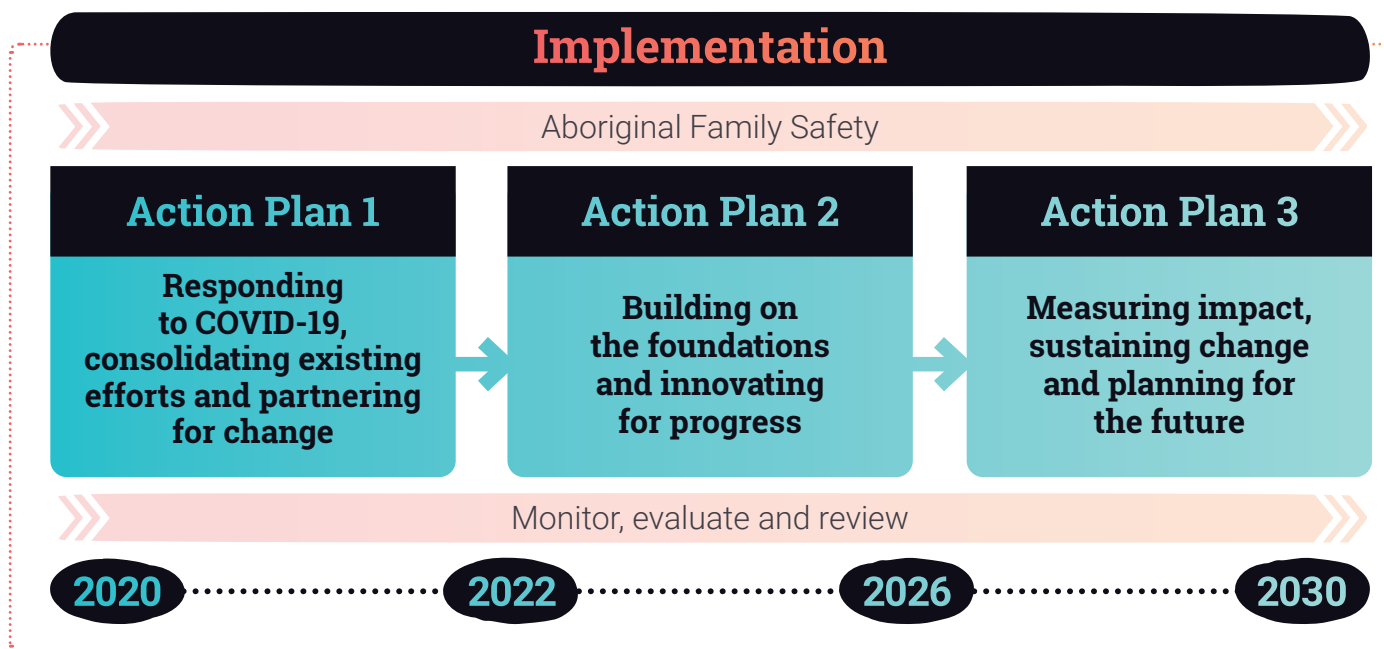
The **four focus** areas outlined in the Strategy have intersecting and mutually reinforcing outcomes. Informed by research, the lessons we have learnt so far and through community consultations, the focus areas outline our framework for change and ensure efforts are directed at the areas of need.

Priority actions across the four focus areas set the high-level direction to achieve the outcomes of the Strategy. Each Action Plan will detail the specific initiatives that support the priority actions, along with the agency that will be responsible for delivering them.

Not all of our work is described in each Action Plan. Our policy development, service design and delivery and ways of working will continue to be informed by:

- Involving service users and people with lived experience in design and evaluation processes including children and young people.
- Building capacity of Aboriginal controlled organisations to respond to and deliver family and domestic violence services, to meet community needs.
- Acknowledging the drivers of discrimination and disadvantage experienced by specific groups of people in our community and doing our best to promote inclusion and access.
- Valuable expertise of independent mechanisms such as death reviews and own motion investigations conducted by Ombudsman WA, the Coroner's Court of Western Australia and parliamentary committees to name a few.

The action plans will guide the reforms and set the timeline for realising the vision: *"A Western Australia, where all people live free from family and domestic violence."* Our State Action Plans will also take into account the policy context at the national level, primarily through the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 – 2022* and future plans.



Our Vision

A Western Australia where all people live free from family and domestic violence

Guiding Principles

- Everyone has a role in stopping family and domestic violence
- The safety and wellbeing of victims is the priority
- Children and young people exposed to domestic violence are victims
- Perpetrators are solely responsible for their behaviour - victims must not be blamed
- People in Western Australia should be safe in their relationships and in their homes
- Women's safety is linked to gender equality
- Effective solutions are locally tailored, culturally safe and trauma informed
- Men and boys are integral to the solution
- There is a 'no wrong door' approach to service delivery

Implementation

Action Plan 1 - July 2020 - June 2022



COVID-19 response and recovery, consolidating existing efforts and partnering for change

Action Plan 2 – 2022 – 2026

Building on the foundations and innovating for progress

Action Plan 3 – 2026 – 2030

Measuring impact, sustaining change and planning for the future

Strategy focus area	Outcomes
 We will work with Aboriginal people to strengthen Aboriginal family safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal family safety is supported and achieved, enabled by a dedicated strategy co-designed and led by Aboriginal people
 Act now to keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult and child victims are safe and supported to recover and thrive • Perpetrators are visible, held to account and supported to change • People at risk of experiencing or using violence are identified early and supported to access effective, evidence-based interventions • Responses meet people's diverse and intersecting needs
 Grow primary prevention to stop family and domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole community acts to prevent family and domestic violence • People engage in respectful relationships across all areas of life • Conditions supporting victim blaming, violence, discrimination and inequality are challenged and addressed
 Reform systems to prioritise safety, accountability and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety is improved through better information sharing and data collection • The right attitudes, skills and knowledge are in place to keep people safe • Supports are person centred and easy to access • Legislation, policy and procurement enables an effective, coordinated response

First Action Plan

Strategy Focus Areas



We will work with Aboriginal people to strengthen Aboriginal family safety



Act now to keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account



Grow primary prevention to stop family and domestic violence



Reform systems to prioritise safety, accountability and collaboration

*This Action Plan includes proposed partners that are considered key contributors to the ability to meet outcomes. It is anticipated that the capacity of a partner agency to contribute to this process may vary throughout the life of the Action Plan and that additional partners may contribute as appropriate.

Action Item No.	Action	Strategy Focus Areas	Lead Agency	Proposed Partners*
First Action Plan				
1.	<p>The COVID-19 Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce will plan and develop actions as part of the National Partnerships Agreement on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses. The Taskforce will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The needs of women and children experiencing, or at risk of domestic violence. Ensuring the visibility and accountability of perpetrators. 	   	Department of Communities	



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Action Item No.	Action	Strategy Focus Areas				Lead Agency	Proposed Partners*
2.	Track and respond to demand variances that relate to victims and perpetrators of family and domestic violence, as a consequence of COVID-19.					Department of Communities	Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; Stopping Family Violence; WA Police Force; Department of Justice
3.	Implement online Family Violence Restraining Orders and electronic monitoring trial for family and domestic violence offenders as per the provisions of the Family Violence Legislation Reform (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020.					Department of Justice	WA Police Force; Department of Communities
4.	Develop a family and domestic violence dashboard that tracks and reports demand data, to support monitoring and analysis of current and emerging data trends and inform planning.					Department of Communities	Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; Stopping Family Violence; WA Police Force; Department of Justice; WA Health
5.	Co-design the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy with Aboriginal people and communities.					Department of Communities	Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Aboriginal Advisory Panel; WA Police Force; WA Health
6.	Develop a corporate engagement framework to support a coordinated and strategic approach to seeking investment in family and domestic violence prevention.					Department of Communities	



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Action Item No.	Action	Strategy Focus Areas				Lead Agency	Proposed Partners*
7.	Explore best practice models for engaging and responding to the needs of children and young people impacted by family and domestic violence.					Department of Communities	Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; Stopping Family Violence; Commissioner for Children and Young People; WA Health – Child and Adolescent Health Service and Child and Adolescent Mental Health
8.	Establish and monitor service delivery of the new Peel and Kwinana refuge models.					Department of Communities	Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; Mental Health Commission; service provider/s
9.	Set up and monitor implementation of the two new one-stop family and domestic violence hub pilots.					Department of Communities	Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; service provider/s; WA Police Force
10.	Develop a framework for improving WA's perpetrator response system that considers and integrates the emerging national and international evidence relevant to this work.					Stopping Family Violence/ Department of Communities	Department of Justice; Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; Academia; WA Police Force; WA Health – Next Step and Mental Health Services
11.	Support community-led prevention activity and efforts, such as 16 Days in WA - Stop Violence against Women campaign, and draw on established expertise, such as Our Watch, to ensure alignment with good practice in primary prevention.					Department of Communities	Our Watch; Stopping Family Violence; Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia; Women's Community Health; Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service; Ethnic Community Council of WA; Department of Education; WA Health



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12.	<p>Strengthen approaches to risk management and information sharing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework. Exploring suitable information sharing practices across justice, health and community services. Bolstering these practices in the Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams. Introducing a family and domestic violence specific tool (DVSI-R) to identify offender treatment needs in both community and custody settings and designed to inform case management actions and outcomes. Updating practice in health settings through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A state-wide mandatory policy for family and domestic violence screening. b. Strengthening antenatal responses to family and domestic violence. c. Developing a family and domestic violence framework for responding to family and domestic violence for all Health Service Providers. 	   	<p>Department of Communities</p> <p>Department of Communities</p> <p>Department of Communities</p> <p>Department of Justice</p> <p>Department of Health</p>	<p>WA Police Force; Department of Health; Department of Justice; Stopping Family Violence; Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA ; Department of Communities</p>



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Action Item No.	Action	Strategy Focus Areas	Lead Agency	Proposed Partners*
13.	<p>Enhance family and domestic violence learning and development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Developing a family and domestic violence workforce capability framework across all agencies and services in the sector to improve safe and effective responses to family and domestic violence. b. Implementing the Safe and Together Program model throughout Department of Communities child protection staff. c. Identifying opportunities for education and raising awareness of Non-Fatal Strangulation. d. Undertaking comprehensive family violence training that is reported in the WA Police Force Annual Report. 	   	<p>Department of Communities</p> <p>Department of Communities</p> <p>Department of Justice</p> <p>WA Police Force</p>	<p>WA Health - Department of Health Service Providers; Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; Department of Communities; Academia; WA Police Force</p>
14.	<p>Develop and deliver cultural competency training for family and domestic service providers and multicultural organisations to enable them to respond to clients experiencing family and domestic violence.</p>	  	<p>Department of Communities</p>	<p>Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Service; family and domestic violence service providers; various multicultural services; WA Health (and funded agencies)</p>



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Action Item No.	Action	Strategy Focus Areas				Lead Agency	Proposed Partners*
15.	Develop culturally appropriate programs to improve the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal women and their children experiencing family and domestic violence, ensuring that Aboriginal women and children benefit from all support services available to them.					Department of Communities	Langford Aboriginal Association; family and domestic violence service providers; ACCO's
16.	Support the development of family and domestic violence prevention strategies and raise awareness about referral pathways for CaLD and refugee communities.					Department of Justice	Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors
17.	Explore options to improve early access to legal advice for victims and perpetrators of family and domestic violence.					Department of Justice	Department of Justice; Legal Aid; Community Legal Centres; Aboriginal Legal Service WA; Aboriginal Family Law Service; Stopping Family Violence; Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA; WA Police Force
18.	Continue to deliver the Respectful Relationships Teaching Support Program to participating WA schools.					Department of Communities	Starick; Department of Education
19.	Develop a Code of Practice for the response and investigation of family violence reports with a specific focus of reports involving Aboriginal victims.					WA Police Force	Extensive state-wide consultation with government and non-government agencies and the community



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Action Item No.	Action	Strategy Focus Areas			Lead Agency	Proposed Partners*
20.	Create an incident report for all family violence reports to the WA Police Force and record the incident report number on an intra-departmental database.				WA Police Force	
21.	Implement the key provisions of the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Criminal Code Offences (Strangulation and Suffocation and Persistent Family Violence). • Shuttle conferencing for contested Family Violence Restraining Order matters. • Serial Family Violence Offender Declarations. • Enhancements to the Restraining Order Act 1997. • Changes to the Road Traffic Act aimed at protecting the victim of family violence from further violence. 				Department of Justice	WA Police Force
22.	Conduct an electronic monitoring trial for family and domestic violence offenders.				Department of Justice	WA Police Force



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23.	Conduct a public consultation in relation to cyber bullying and online harm. Results of the consultation will inform potential law reform opportunities including in relation to technology facilitated abuse in the context of family and domestic violence.					Department of Justice – Commissioner for Victims of Crime	Department of Communities; Department of Education; Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Commissioner for Children and Young People
24.	Provide a respondent duty lawyer service at the Joondalup Magistrates Court for respondents to Family Violence Restraining Orders.					Department of Justice	Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre
25.	Develop a Department of Justice Family and Domestic Violence Strategy.					Department of Justice	
26.	Develop a Department of Justice Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy.					Department of Justice	




Women's Domestic Violence Helpline
9223 1188 or 1800 007 339

Men's Domestic Violence Helpline
9223 1199 or 1800 000 599

Kids Help Line
1800 551 800

1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732



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