

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan consultation – communication resource kit

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Help us create real and lasting change – Developing Australia’s first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children

## Introduction

Consultation for Australia’s first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children is now open.

The Action Plan will embed the strength of culture, traditional knowledge, families and community in its design. It will be outcomes-focused and aligned to the Priority Reforms under Closing the Gap, and the priorities of the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032* (National Plan).

Clear actions to implement the National Plan will be outlined in two supporting 5-year Action Plans and a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan. These Action Plans will detail the investment, efforts and actions the federal, state and territory governments will take to address the focus areas in the National Plan.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan (Action Plan) is being developed in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence. This puts into practice one of the key objectives under the National Plan, to “Listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices”.

The Australian Government, in partnership with states and territories, have committed to ending gender-based violence within a generation. The recently released [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032](#) describes how all areas of society need to work together to end violence against women and children.

The National Plan includes building the workforce and strengthening data collection systems. It also includes increasing accountability for people who choose to use violence, and providing person-centred and holistic responses to support victim-survivors through their recovery and healing.

The National Plan commits to working with victim-survivors and advocates to inform policies and solutions.

A range of culturally appropriate consultations will be conducted in safe and accessible settings across remote, regional and metropolitan Australia. This ensures consideration of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and lore, the geographic distribution of communities, and diversity of social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Help us spread the message

This communication resource kit contains information about consultation on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.

### In this kit

- ▶ Web/e-newsletter content
- ▶ Social media content
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions

We encourage you to share this information with your networks and communities to encourage public and advocacy participation in the consultation at: [www.engage.dss.gov.au](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au).

By all of us pulling in the same direction, we can make positive change to support the family safety needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

### Resources

Electronic copies of the National Plan are available at: <https://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence>

## Web/e-newsletter content

### Help support a violence-free future – Consultation now open on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children

Consultation for Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children is now open.

The Action Plan will support work undertaken by Australian, state and territory governments on the recently released [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2023](#).

The National Plan provides the foundations for a whole-of-society approach to ending gender-based violence in one generation. The National Plan commits to working with victim-survivors and advocates to inform policies and solutions.

Clear actions to implement the National Plan will be outlined in two supporting 5-year Action Plans and a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan. These Action Plans will show the steps the federal, state and territory governments will take to address the focus areas in the National Plan.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan is being developed in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence. This puts into practice one of the key objectives under the National Plan, to "Listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices".

The Government has committed a significant funding investment to deliver the Action Plan. It confirms the Government's strong commitment to urgent action towards addressing the unacceptable rates of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.

The Action Plan will embed the strength of culture, traditional knowledge, families and community in its design. It will be outcomes-focused and aligned to the Priority Reforms under Closing the Gap, and the priorities of the National Plan. This Action Plan will focus on addressing immediate needs and will lay a strong foundation to support ongoing and long-term change. Approaches will be community led, culturally safe, strengths based and healing informed.

We all have a role to play in ending violence in our communities, visit:

[www.engage.dss.gov.au](http://www.engage.dss.gov.au)

For more information, visit: [www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence](http://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence)

## Social content

Post # 1	<p>Consultation for Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children is now open.</p> <p>The Action Plan will support work undertaken by Australian, state and territory governments on the recently released <a href="#">National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2023</a>.</p> <p>This Action Plan will focus on addressing immediate family safety needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities and will build a strong foundation to support ongoing and long-term change.</p> <p>Consultation takes 20 - 30 minutes to complete and will close on 23 February 2023.</p> <p>Have you say, visit: <a href="http://www.engage.dss.gov.au">www.engage.dss.gov.au</a></p> <p>You can read the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children at: <a href="http://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence">www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence</a></p>
Post # 2	<p>There is still time to have your say. Your feedback matters – help inform the vital work to develop Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.</p> <p>We are seeking input on the topics being considered for the Action Plan and on development needs of the family, domestic and sexual violence services sector. We're also looking for examples of successful innovative approaches to delivering place-based services.</p> <p>Find more information on the Action Plan in the consultation guide on <a href="http://engage.dss.gov.au">engage.dss.gov.au</a>.</p> <p>The survey takes 20 - 30 minutes to complete and will close on 23 February 2023, visit: <a href="http://www.engage.dss.gov.au">www.engage.dss.gov.au</a></p> <p>If you or someone you know needs support regarding domestic, family or sexual violence, you can also visit <a href="http://1800Respect.org.au">1800Respect.org.au</a> or call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732). This service is free, confidential and operates 24 hours a day.</p>

## Social tiles



## Frequently asked questions

### **Q: What is the Action Plan and how is it different from the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children?**

A: The [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) (National Plan) is the overarching national policy framework that will guide actions towards ending violence against women and children over the next 10 years. It highlights how all parts of society, including governments, businesses and workplaces, media, schools and educational institutions, the family, domestic and sexual violence sector, communities and all individuals, must work together to achieve the shared vision of ending gender-based violence in one generation.

The Australian Government has committed to the development of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan (Action Plan) as part of the implementation of the National Plan. This will ensure that approaches to end violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are community-led, culturally safe, strengths-based and healing-informed.

The Action Plan aims to address the immediate family safety needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities, and lay the foundations for longer-term structural change. It will serve as an interim measure while a standalone First Nations National Plan is developed.

The Action Plan will also support the Government's commitment to addressing Target 13 of the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) ('Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe').

### **Q: What is the First Nations National Plan?**

A: The Australian Government has committed to delivering Australia's first standalone National Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family safety. This acknowledges the need to listen and work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with a willingness and commitment to doing things differently.

The development of the standalone First Nations National Plan is expected to take some time. This will allow for a consultative process that supports genuine partnership and shared decision-making as articulated in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The delivery of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan, as part of the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032](#) will ensure progress is being made to address the immediate family safety needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan will be transitional and will take effect in the short-term while the future standalone First Nations National Plan is developed.

### **Q: Who is leading the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan?**

A: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence (Advisory Council), established in July 2021, is leading the development of the Action Plan in partnership with the Department of Social Services. The Advisory Council is an external entity consisting of 16 recognised and respected Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander leaders from a wide range of backgrounds and geographic locations across Australia. They represent a mix of frontline service delivery practitioners, academics and policy-makers with knowledge and expertise on family violence and the multiple issues that intersect with family and sexual violence.

The Advisory Council will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, Elders, communities, community-led organisations and governments. Together they will build effective pathways, services and responses for both victim-survivors and perpetrators of family violence.

**Q: How will the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan intersect with the other Action Plans under the National Plan?**

A: Ending violence against women and children requires a whole-of-society approach. The two other Action Plans under the National Plan seek to implement actions that are inclusive of all peoples.

As such, measures of the other Action Plans will aim to address violence against all women and children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.

The dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan will work alongside and support the other Action Plans. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan will provide targeted guidance and implement specific measures aimed at ending violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.

**Q: How will the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan work with states and territories?**

A: Once the Action Plan has been finalised, it will need to be agreed to by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. This is because the implementation, delivery and monitoring of the Action Plan will be the shared responsibility of Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

Noting, that state and territory governments have primary responsibility for funding frontline services to respond to family, domestic and sexual violence.

As such, all state and territory governments are being consulted in the development of the Action Plan. This is to ensure collective agreement and combined policy delivery, including funding and implementation, across the country.

**Q: What is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan Framework?**

A: The Framework is the first step in the development and consultation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan. The Framework lays the foundations and outlines the guiding principles for the Action Plan.

The Framework can be found on page 5 of the Consultation Guide, which is available for viewing or download on the [DSS Engage survey landing page](#).

**Q: What is Closing the Gap and Target 13 and how do they influence the Action Plan?**

A: The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is a national agreement enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and governments to work together to overcome the

inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians.

The [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) sets out 17 socio-economic targets across areas that impact the wellbeing of and life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Target 13 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap states: by 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced by 50%, as progress towards zero.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan is an important mechanism for implementation of Target 13.

For more information on Closing the Gap and Target 13, please visit: <http://www.closingthegap.gov.au>.

**Q: What does my feedback contribute to and how will it be used?**

A: The Department will share feedback with the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will consider the opinions provided by individuals and organisations in this survey when guiding the development of the Action Plan.

**Q: Will information captured during the consultations be published?**

A: The Department will not be publicly publishing the individual responses captured during this consultation. Data collected during this consultation will only be shared in line with this survey's privacy principles, found on the [DSS Engage survey landing page](#).

**Q: Will my submission be responded to?**

A: The Department will not be responding to survey submissions. The aim of the survey is to draw on the knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and build support for and contribute to the design process of the Action Plan.

**Q: When does the survey close?**

A: The survey closes on 23 February 2023.

**Q: Do I need to answer all the questions?**

A: No, none of the questions in the survey are mandatory. You may only answer the questions that you feel comfortable responding to.

**Q: How can I provide further information or feedback?**

A: If you wish to provide further information or feedback in addition to responding to the survey questions, you can upload a submission at the end of the survey. Further information on uploading a submission can be found on the [DSS Engage survey landing page](#).