embolden

Submission to the Government of South Australia for the 2027-28 State Budget

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Acknowledgement of Country

Embolden is based on Kaurna Country. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional and ongoing custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and we pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded. It always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relationship with Country and the ongoing importance of their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws. We acknowledge Aboriginal peoples' rights to self-determination and continuing connections to land, waters and community.

About Embolden SA

Embolden is the statewide peak body for organisations in South Australia that work to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence. Embolden members are services that specialise in supporting people experiencing violence to be safe, recover and thrive, and programs that work towards the elimination of gender-based violence. We recognise that domestic, family and sexual violence is most often perpetrated by men against women and children, and that gender-based violence impacts people across diverse gender identities, social and cultural contexts, and within various types of intimate and family relationships. Embolden represents providers of specialist services in South Australia's domestic, family and sexual violence sector, including Aboriginal specialist services and services that work with people who use violence.

This submission has been developed with, and is submitted on behalf of, Embolden's sector members.

The case for investment in specialist DFSV services

Increased investment in South Australia's specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services is essential to meet rising demand for specialist safety services, respond to the needs of marginalised population groups, deliver programs that prevent avoidable harm, and ensure the Government's reform agenda translates into meaningful safety outcomes for victim-survivors, families and communities across the state.

Following the 2025 Royal Commission, South Australia has the opportunity to transform responses to domestic, family and sexual violence and build an integrated, best practice and nation-leading response system. Realising this potential will depend not only on implementing reform to build system-wide capability, but on ensuring the specialist sector has the capacity to provide the services and practice leadership that are essential to the effectiveness of the reforms in practice.

The five investment priorities outlined in this submission are founded on the need for:

- A strong, sustainable and appropriately resourced specialist DFSV sector that can deliver specialist services and programs across the continuum of prevention, early intervention, crisis response, recovery and healing;
- A specialist workforce that is recognised, valued and adequately resourced to continue its critical role in driving practice excellence, system improvement and innovation in responses to domestic, family and sexual violence;
- Specialist programs that enable people to act on early signs of violence, intervene before harm escalates, and disrupt known pathways to severe and ongoing victimisation; and
- Specialist services that are designed and delivered to meet the needs of population groups at heightened risk of domestic, family and sexual violence and/or who face systemic and structural barriers to appropriate support.

The specialist DFSV sector: foundation of an effective response system

South Australia’s specialist DFSV sector provides the practice infrastructure on which an effective response system depends. Specialist services provide the expertise, risk assessment and safety response capability, practice leadership, trusted relationships and intervention capacity required to respond safely and effectively to the complexity of domestic, family and sexual violence. They deliver crisis responses and, when adequately resourced, provide early intervention, recovery and healing support, prevention initiatives, community education, specialist consultation and system leadership. The sector supports police, health, justice, child and family services, and other mainstream agencies to recognise DFSV and respond to violence and abuse appropriately.

This capability has been built over decades. It is a public asset that should be strengthened rather than allowed to erode. Yet South Australia's specialist sector has operated for many years in a funding environment of chronic underinvestment, short-term funding cycles and fragmented commissioning.

Funding has not kept pace with rising demand, the increasing complexity of people's needs, or the broadening scope of specialist services to improve safety, recovery and prevention outcomes. While services continue to achieve strong outcomes, this too often relies on organisations stretching limited resources, absorbing financial and operational risk, and operating beyond their funded capacity.

The consequences of under-investment are increasingly apparent. Resourcing that has not kept pace with rising demand has forced many services to concentrate scarce resources on responding to the most immediate and acute risks. At the same time, the increasing demands on specialist practitioners means services face growing difficulty attracting and retaining experienced practitioners. As a result, capacity has progressively reduced in areas that are critical to long-term system effectiveness, including recovery and healing support so that safety can be sustained, and programs that help people achieve safety before violence escalates.

The result is a system increasingly oriented towards crisis response, with diminishing capacity to intervene earlier, prevent harm and support sustained recovery. **South Australia is losing critical opportunities to prevent violence from escalating, reduce the severity and duration of harm, and deliver the longer-term interventions that enable victim-survivors, including children and young people, to live free from violence. Without increased investment in specialist capacity, opportunities to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of domestic, family and sexual violence will continue to be missed.**

Reform will increase demand for and reliance on specialist services

The South Australian Government has made a substantial commitment to DFSV system reform, including $673.6 million over ten years to implement accepted recommendations of the Royal Commission. Investment to date has been primarily directed towards government, including for a new DFSV police service.

As mainstream systems become better equipped to recognise and respond to DFSV, demand for specialist services will inevitably increase. Improved identification by police, health, child and family, education and other mainstream services will lead to increased disclosures and help-seeking by victim-survivors, and referrals for specialist support. Specialist services must have the capacity to respond to this demand. Investment in the specialist sector must therefore be commensurate with investment in the broader service system.

To date, additional investment in existing specialist DFSV services has been modest relative to the scale of reform. While significant funding has been directed towards mainstream responses, comparatively little has flowed to the frontline specialist services that provide risk assessment, safety planning, case management, recovery support, specialist advocacy and system navigation supports that are crucial to sustainable safety. Without corresponding investment in specialist sector capacity, reforms designed to improve the identification of DFSV risk may simply direct more people towards services that are already operating beyond capacity.

Building mainstream capability to recognise and respond appropriately to DFSV is essential. However, mainstream services cannot effectively respond to DFSV in isolation from the specialist sector. A high-performing DFSV response system depends on specialist services not only delivering direct support, but also providing secondary consultation, workforce development and practice leadership to the broader service system. **South Australia cannot build a best-practice DFSV response system by expanding mainstream capacity while allowing the specialist infrastructure that underpins the entire system to weaken. Doing so risks creating a system that can identify DFSV victim-survivors but cannot provide the support required for them to be safe.**

Investment will reduce downstream costs

Domestic, family and sexual violence is a significant and avoidable driver of public expenditure. Australian economic analysis has demonstrated that governments incur substantial costs in responding to violence across justice, health, housing, child protection and community service systems, amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars annually in a jurisdiction the size of South Australia, with the broader economic and social costs estimated to exceed $2 billion each year[1].

Effective specialist intervention can reduce the severity, duration and recurrence of violence, helping to prevent escalation into more acute and costly forms of service involvement. Investment in specialist services therefore has the potential to reduce future demand on crisis, statutory and tertiary service systems, while improving safety and wellbeing outcomes for victim-survivors, children, families and communities[2]. Sustained investment in specialist DFSV services is therefore both a social imperative and a prudent fiscal strategy.

What is required now is sustained investment that reflects the scale of demand, the real cost of specialist service delivery, and the sector's essential role in supporting the broader DFSV response system. Without a strong, sustainable and adequately resourced specialist sector, South Australia's reform investments risk falling short of their intended impact.

Put simply, the success of South Australia's DFSV reform agenda depends not only on identifying more people affected by violence, but on ensuring specialist services have the capacity to respond when they do. **Without a strong, sustainable and adequately resourced specialist sector, South Australia's DFSV reform ambitions cannot be fully realised.**

[1] Based on Cost-of-family-violence-in-Victoria.pdf and adjusted for South Australia
[2] Final-Public-Report-PwC-The-Benefits-of-Providing-Access-to-Justice1-January-2023.pdf

Summary of recommendations

Priority 1: Specialist services able to meet demand and need

Recommendation 1: Resource the frontline to meet demand and respond to need

Increase baseline funding for frontline specialist services for victim-survivors (adults, young people and children) and people at risk of/using violence by 20 per cent in the 2027-28 Budget, with increases each year to reach a total of 50 per cent above baseline by 2030-31.

Cost estimate: Total funding of $20,403m for frontline specialist domestic and family violence crisis response services in 2027-28, rising to $27,157m in 2030-31.

Cost estimate: Total funding of $4,990m for frontline specialist services for people using violence, rising to $6,641m in 2030-31.

Recommendation 2: Access to specialist services irrespective of location

Apply a remoteness loading to baseline funding for specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services in outer regional, remote and very remote areas.

Priority 2: Address critical gaps in specialist recovery services

Recommendation 3: Financial recovery and sustainable safety

Allocate funding to increase specialist DFV financial recovery services.

Cost estimate: $308,472 in 2027-28, rising to $641,980 in 2030-31.

Recommendation 4: Specialist therapeutic support for children and young people

Increase investment to ensure that more children and young people impacted by DFSV can access specialist therapeutic services.

Cost estimate: $591,944 in 2027-28, rising to $636,980 in 2030-31.

Priority 3: Respond to risk early to prevent foreseeable harm

Recommendation 5: Access to SA's world-leading early intervention program

Provide more people with early specialist support via the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and promote equitable access statewide.

Cost estimate: $732,670 in 2027-28, rising to $789,446 in 2030-31.

Priority 4: Specialist sector and workforce development

Recommendation 6: Specialist sector and workforce development

Fund Embolden to lead specialist workforce development and sector capability initiatives that support workforce planning, professional development, practice leadership and sector capability building across South Australia's DFSV sector.

Cost estimate: $345,943 in 2027-28, rising to $372,836 in 2030-31.

Recommendation 7: Ongoing specialist practice development

Fund additional capacity across all specialist DFSV services for specialist practitioners' continuous professional development and to resource their critical role in improving responses to DFSV system-wide.

Priority 5: Population groups at heightened risk

Recommendation 8: LGBTIQA+ people

Increase investment in specialist services for LGBTIQA+ people experiencing DFSV.

Cost estimate: $303,372 in 2027-28, rising to $325,990 in 2030-31.

Recommendation 9: People with disability

Allocate funding to improve service access and outcomes for people with disability experiencing DFSV and strengthen response capability across the DFSV specialist sector.

Cost estimate: $318, 472 in 2027-28, rising to $340,990 in 2030-31.

Recommendation 10: Migrant, refugee and multicultural communities

That the South Australian Government increase investment through the 2027-28 Budget and in subsequent budgets, to strengthen community-led approaches to DFSV within migrant, refugee and multicultural communities and to build response capability across the DFSV specialist sector.

Cost estimate: $464,205 in 2027-28, rising to $495,832 in 2030-31.

Detailed recommendations for priority investment

Priority 1: Specialist services able to meet demand and need

> **Recommendation 1: Resource specialists to meet demand and respond to need**
> That the South Australian Government increase baseline funding for frontline specialist services for victim-survivors (adults, young people and children) and people at risk of/using violence by 20 per cent in the 2027-28 Budget, with increases each year to reach a total of 50 per cent above baseline by 2030-31.

This uplift will ensure South Australia's specialist sector has the capacity to:

- **Respond effectively to existing demand and unmet need**, enabling specialist services, including Aboriginal-led services, to provide high-quality support that addresses victim-survivors' immediate safety needs, supports longer-term recovery and healing, and strengthens accountability and behaviour-change outcomes for people at risk of or using violence.
- **Strengthen specialist responses for children and young people,** including dedicated specialist roles, programs and practice capability that recognise children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right and respond to their distinct experiences and support needs.
- **Meet further increased demand** generated by reform and population need, including increased disclosures, referrals and help-seeking resulting from implementation of *Building Safer Futures*.
- Develop and deliver **flexible and innovative programs outside of crisis contexts**, preventing future violence by intervening earlier and supporting longer-term recovery and healing.

Chronic underfunding in the context of rising demand

South Australia's specialist DFSV services face a widening gap between demand for support and the resources available to respond. Services consistently report rising demand for specialist assistance alongside clear evidence of unmet need.

Over the past decade, rates of reported domestic and family violence have increased significantly. Between 2014 and 2024, the rate of domestic and family violence assaults reported to South Australia Police increased by 46 per cent, with even greater increases recorded for Aboriginal South Australians.[3]

This trend is reflected across the specialist service system. Between the 2022-23 and 2025-26 financial years, DFV Safety Alliance data shows a 32 per cent increase in the number of adults, many with accompanying children, placed in unsuitable emergency accommodation (hotels/motels). This increase is indicative not only of demand for crisis response services, but

[3] AIHW recorded crime data - https://www.aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/resources/data-downloads

also the increased demand on the specialist services that provide ongoing support to those families. Over the same period, however, the total number of support periods delivered by DFV Safety Alliance crisis response services increased by only 10 per cent. The disparity between growing demand and service capacity is compounded by funding that has not kept pace with rising workforce costs, service delivery expenses, or the increasing complexity of clients' needs. As a result, services have been required to absorb greater demand within largely static funding envelopes, stretching staff, infrastructure and operational capacity beyond levels that existing funding is designed to accommodate. In a context where rising demand continues to outstrip available resources, an ongoing expectation that specialist services do more with less is not sustainable.

Without increased investment, the gap between service demand and service capacity will continue to widen and further limit specialist services' ability to support people to achieve safety and wellbeing.

South Australia's DFSV investment is below other jurisdictions

Analysis of 2022-23 state and territory budgets prepared by the Australian Services Union and provided to the South Australian Government found that South Australia's investment in specialist DFSV services was substantially lower than that of any other Australian jurisdiction.

While there have been modest funding increases for South Australian specialist DFSV services since that analysis was undertaken, these investments have largely assisted organisations to absorb escalating service delivery costs rather than expand service capacity. As a result, there is little evidence that South Australia's relative funding position has materially improved.

Embolden acknowledges the limitations of comparing investment in specialist DFSV services across jurisdictions, particularly given variations in budget reporting and the level of detail available in public budget papers. However, a review of subsequent state and territory budgets indicates no significant shift in relative investment levels that would alter South Australia's relative position as a low-funded specialist DFSV service system.

Of particular relevance is comparison with Western Australia and the Northern Territory, jurisdictions that share several characteristics with South Australia, including the delivery of services across vast geographic areas, the provision of specialist responses in remote and very remote communities, and cross-border service demand. Western Australia is also the jurisdiction most comparable to South Australia in population size.

As shown in Table 1, government-identified specialist DFSV expenditure in 2026-27 equates to $24.34 per person in South Australia, compared with $57.26 per person in Western Australia and $236.19 per person in the Northern Territory.

Table 1: Government specified funding for DFSV, 2026-27 Budgets[4]

Jurisdiction	DFSV budget	Population	Per capita
Northern Territory	$63,511,000	268,900	$236.19
South Australia	$46,647,000	1,916,800	$24.34
Western Australia	$177,056,000	3,092,200	$57.26

The significance of disparities in DFSV investment is highlighted when service demand and delivery are considered. For example, Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council supports women experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence across the cross-border regions of South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, covering more than 350,000 square kilometres and serving approximately 6,000 Anangu people. While South Australia's contribution to specialist DFSV investment across the NPY service footprint is substantially low in comparison to WA and NT, South Australia accounts for approximately 37 per cent of NPY Women's Council's DFSV service delivery.

The scale of the funding gap suggests that South Australia's specialist DFSV service system is expected to deliver outcomes comparable to peer jurisdictions despite operating with substantially fewer resources. This underinvestment constrains service availability, limits the sector's capacity to meet growing demand, exacerbates workforce pressures and undermines the sector's ability to contribute to successful implementation of the Government's DFSV reform agenda.

The impacts of chronic underfunding are increasingly apparent

The consequences of chronic underfunding are increasingly evident across South Australia's specialist DFSV sector. Services report being forced to prioritise people experiencing the most immediate and acute risk, leaving less capacity to provide the early intervention, sustained case management, and recovery and healing support that are critical to achieving long-term safety. Specialists consistently identify a growing disconnect between what evidence and best practice indicate is required, and what current funding arrangements enable them to deliver. Too often, services are responding to crisis after harm has occurred rather than intervening earlier to prevent violence from escalating.

This gap is particularly apparent in responses to children and young people. **The South Australian Government has rightly prioritised meeting the needs of children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right. Yet compounding underfunding together with rising demand has**

[4] **Northern Territory**, *Budget Paper No. 3 Agency Budget Statements*, Department of Children and Families Output 'Domestic, family and sexual violence services' (p. 237)
South Australia, Agency statements, Budget Paper 4 – Volume 3, Department of Human Services program 'Women, Equality and Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention' (p. 111)
Western Australia, *Budget Statements, Budget Paper No. 2 volume 2*, Community Services portfolio, 'Preventing and Responding to Family and Domestic Violence' (p. 485)

meant that some dedicated specialist positions to support children and young people have been discontinued, in order to redirect resources to assist people experiencing acute and imminent risk. This is inconsistent with both evidence and policy objectives. Best-practice responses recognise that recovery and healing support should begin as early as possible and continue over time. However, **current system constraints mean opportunities to support victim-survivors, including children and young people, to achieve sustainable safety and recovery are being missed.**

CASE EXAMPLE

"I'd rather get them in this program than our case management program."

DFV service manager, regional SA

A specialist DFV service in regional SA developed a pilot program for teenage girls because a gap was identified in therapeutic and specialist DFSV support for adolescent girls. The program supports young people who:

- have experienced violence within their families
- are experiencing violence in intimate relationships
- have experienced sexual assault
- need support navigating recovery and life transitions

Growth in referrals from local schools, SAPOL, Headspace and child protection services suggests the program has become embedded within the local support ecosystem and addresses an otherwise unmet need. There is now a waiting list for young women seeking to participate in the program.

However, the philanthropic funding for the 2-year pilot ends soon. Despite demonstrated demand and positive outcomes, the future of the program is uncertain.

The need for greater early intervention capacity applies equally to specialist services supporting victim-survivors and services working with people at risk of, or using, violence. While additional investment in the Abuse Prevention Program is welcome, many people who use violence continue to receive little or no meaningful intervention until they come into contact with the justice system. Too often, incarceration becomes the first point at which men are able to access structured support to address their use of violence.

> *"So often we hear from men in the remand centre, 'I had to get arrested to get some help, finally'."*
>
> Specialist service for people who use violence

Expanding specialist services' capacity would enable earlier engagement with people at risk of/using violence, increase access to evidence-informed behaviour change programs, strengthen accountability and improve safety outcomes for victim-survivor adults and children.

Cost estimate

An uplift to baseline funding is required of 20 per cent in 2027-28, with subsequent increases each year to 50 percent by 2030-31, as follows:

	2027-28 $'000	2028-29 $'000	2029-2030 $'000	2030-2031 $'000
Frontline specialist victim-survivor services				
	+20%	**+10%**	**+10%**	**+10%**
Base funding*	**20,403**	**22,444**	**24,688**	**27,157**
Increase on previous year's	3,401	2,040	2,244	2,469
Cumulative increase	3,401	5,441	7,685	10,154
Frontline services for people using violence				
	+20%	**+10%**	**+10%**	**+10%**
Base funding**	**4,990**	**5,489**	**6,037**	**6,641**
Increase on previous year's	832	499	549	604
Cumulative increase	832	1,331	1,879	2,483

***Note** – *2026-27 funding for DFV Safety Alliance services (excluding the Domestic Violence Crisis Line and Safe at Home) = $17,002, 759. Indexation to be applied.*

****Note** – *In scope: State Government funded services for people using violence (ODFSV and CAA)*

The funding uplift should apply to the following frontline specialist services for victim- survivors (adults, young people and children):

- Ceduna Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Services
- Coober Pedy Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Service
- First Nations Healing
- Fleurieu and KI Domestic Violence Service
- Mt Gambier and Limestone Coast Domestic Violence Service
- Murray Mallee and Adelaide Hills Domestic Violence Service
- NPY Women's Council Domestic and Family Violence Service
- Port Augusta Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Service
- Riverland Domestic Violence Service
- Sanctuary House, The Salvation Army
- Whyalla Regional Domestic Violence Service
- Women's Safety Services SA
- Yarredi Services, Port Lincoln
- Yorke & Mid North Domestic Violence Service

The proposed funding uplift should also apply to the following services working with people using violence:

- KWY Aboriginal Corporation
- OARS Community Transitions
- Relationships Australia SA

Equitable access to specialist services statewide

> **Recommendation 2: Access to specialist help irrespective of location**
> That the South Australian Government apply remoteness loadings to baseline funding in recognition of the higher cost of specialist domestic, family and sexual violence service delivery in outer regional, remote and very remote areas.

These loadings would:

- **Recognise the higher cost of regional and remote delivery**, which increases service complexity and costs, including travel, accommodation, face-to-face support, safety upgrades and relocation options.
- **Ensure statewide equity**: Support equitable access to high-quality services and safety outcomes, regardless of location.
- **Improve funding parity**: Bring per capita expenditure closer to Western Australia and the Northern Territory, which face comparable challenges in geographic coverage, remoteness and demand for specialist services.

Specialist DFSV services operating in outer regional, remote and very remote South Australia face service delivery conditions that are fundamentally different from those experienced in metropolitan areas. A regional/remote loading on baseline funding is essential because the costs of delivering specialist services in these locations are substantially higher, yet funding models often fail to adequately reflect this reality.

> *"Regional case management is often more intensive and complex because there are fewer services to share the workload. We spend much more time directly supporting clients."*
>
> Specialist DFV service in remote SA

In remote communities, specialist practice requires far more than expertise in violence, risk and trauma. Practitioners must navigate geographic isolation, limited housing and transport options, sparse service systems, cultural obligations, community dynamics and cross-border complexities. Because alternative supports are often unavailable, specialist DFSV services frequently become the default response for a range of needs that would normally be shared across multiple services.

Workers undertake intake, risk assessment, case management, crisis response, advocacy, service coordination, practical support and prevention activities, often across vast geographic areas.

The additional costs associated with remoteness have a direct impact on service capacity. Extensive travel, outreach, staff accommodation, transport to safety, relocation assistance, brokerage support, workforce recruitment and retention, and cross-border coordination must all be funded from the same limited budgets that support frontline service delivery. Every dollar absorbed by the additional costs of remoteness is a dollar unavailable for direct client support, workforce expansion or increased community coverage.

As a result, services are often forced to make difficult decisions about where they can maintain a presence, how frequently communities can be visited and how many women and children can be supported. Current staffing levels leave some remote communities with little or no regular specialist casework support, despite significant need. Small teams carry large caseloads, high-risk work and extensive after-hours responsibilities, increasing workforce pressures and limiting opportunities for prevention, early intervention and recovery-focused support.

Effective responses require culturally informed, community-led and relationship-based approaches that prioritise safety while maintaining connections to family, community and Country. Building and sustaining this capability requires ongoing investment in local relationships, cultural knowledge and workforce stability.

Without funding that reflects the realities of remoteness, these communities will continue to receive less service despite often facing some of the greatest barriers to safety and support.

Proposed remoteness loadings

The following proposed remoteness loadings, applied annually to baseline funding, would recognise the actual cost of delivering specialist DFSV services in outer regional, remote and very remote settings:

- 20% for outer regional services (RA3)[5]
- 35% for remote services (RA4)
- 50% for very remote services (RA5)

In the absence of publicly available information on remoteness loading for domestic, family and sexual violence services, the proposed formula aligns with common public sector funding models and cost multipliers used in health, education and social services.
The specialist services that are in scope are:

- Ceduna Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Services (RA5)
- Coober Pedy Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Service (RA5)

[5] Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Area classification, Australian Bureau of Statistics

- NPY Women's Council Domestic and Family Violence Service (RA5)
- Fleurieu and KI Domestic Violence Service (RA3/RA4)
- Mt Gambier and Limestone Coast Domestic Violence Service (RA3)
- Murray Mallee and Adelaide Hills Domestic Violence Service (RA3/RA4)
- Port Augusta Regional Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Service (RA4/RA5)
- Riverland Domestic Violence Service (RA3)
- Whyalla Regional Domestic Violence Service (RA3/RA4)
- Yarredi Services, Port Lincoln (RA3)
- KWY, Port Lincoln (RA3)
- Yorke & Mid North Domestic Violence Service (RA3/RA4)

Priority 2: Address critical gaps in specialist recovery services

DFSV can result in the loss of safety and agency, psychological distress, chronic trauma, financial hardship, housing instability and profound forms of entrapment that continue long after a relationship ends. Recovery from DFSV is not achieved through short-term case management or crisis stabilisation alone. It requires intentional service design, dedicated investment and clear measures of success, rather than being treated as an implied outcome of crisis, post-crisis or practical support services.

The recovery and healing phase remains one of the least visible elements of the DFSV service system. It is often under-recognised in policy and service design, difficult to capture through traditional performance measures, and frequently overlooked in funding models. Yet sustained specialist recovery support is critical to enabling victim-survivors, including children and young people, to rebuild their lives, achieve long-term wellbeing, and reduce vulnerability to ongoing or future violence.

Financial recovery and preventing systems abuse

> **Recommendation 3: Specialist support for financial recovery and sustainable safety**
> That the South Australian Government allocate funding in the 2027-28 Budget, and over subsequent budgets, to increase specialist DFV financial recovery services.

This investment would:

- **Provide direct support**: Increase capacity to deliver specialist financial recovery services to victim-survivors, addressing significant unmet need.
- **Build system capability:** Strengthen the DFSV system's capacity to prevent, identify and respond effectively to financial and systems abuse.

Financial abuse is a pervasive and often enduring form of domestic and family violence, with impacts that can continue long after a relationship has ended. Victim-survivors commonly face coerced debt, damaged credit histories, barriers to accessing financial resources, reduced workforce participation and ongoing financial insecurity. Achieving sustainable safety and recovery therefore requires practical support to rebuild financial wellbeing and independence.

Financial recovery should be recognised as a specialist domestic, family and sexual violence intervention rather than a welfare or financial service alone. It involves specialist expertise in financial abuse and DFV/coercive control, service navigation, advocacy and practical life rebuilding, including support to engage with banking institutions, legal services, Centrelink, housing systems, employment services and other complex service networks.

Despite the critical role of DFV-specialist financial recovery services in supporting long- term healing and preventing re-entry into cycles of violence and disadvantage, investment in financial counselling and recovery services has been insufficient. Over the two year period to June 2026, the Zahra Foundation experienced a 40% increase in financial counselling enquiries. As at November 2026, more than half of the women on Zahra's wait list had waited more than 6 weeks for support. The demand for DFSV-related financial counselling and recovery supports is anticipated to grow further, as broader DFSV services demand continues to increase and coercive control criminal offences come into force. Greater investment in these services would strengthen recovery outcomes while reducing future demand for crisis responses. Community education and workforce capability are also essential, with continued efforts needed to improve recognition of financial abuse and coercive control and to strengthen the capacity of services and institutions to recognise financial abuse and respond effectively.

Financial recovery is not an optional adjunct to safety. For many victim-survivors, it is the foundation on which safety, recovery and independence depend.

Investment outcomes and cost estimate

Investment in specialist financial recovery services is an investment in sustained safety, reduced re-victimisation and improved long-term outcomes for victim-survivors and their children.

The investment would provide for specialist family violence financial counselling and recovery positions within organisations with demonstrated expertise in delivering specialist DFV financial recovery supports. The roles will comprise delivery of financial counselling and recovery services for people escaping and/or recovering from domestic and family violence, along with activities to build service sector capability in recognising and responding to financial and systems abuse.

The cost estimate for these activities is for 2.0 FTE at SCHADS level 5, increasing to 4.0 FTE by 2030-31 plus program expenses, as follows:

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-2030	2030-2031
FTE cost	232,060	240,762	499,582	518,316
Oncosts (20%)	46,412	48,152	99,916	103,663
Set up costs	10,000	-	12,000	-
Program expenses	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total new investment	**308,472**	**308,915**	**631,498**	**641,980**

***Note** – wage increase 3.75%*

Specialist therapeutic support for children and young people

Recommendation 4: Specialist therapeutic support for children and young people
That the South Australian Government allocate funding in the 2027-28 Budget and in subsequent years, to increase specialist therapeutic services for children and young people affected by DFSV.

This investment would:

- **Support children and young people to heal and recover** from the impacts of DFSV-related trauma.
- **Address critical service gaps and improve access** to specialist therapeutic support for children and young people across South Australia.
- **Prevent future harm** and disrupt intergenerational cycles of violence by providing early, evidence-informed support that strengthens long-term safety and wellbeing.

Children and young people affected by domestic, family and sexual violence require access to specialist therapeutic interventions that are developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed and responsive to the complexity of their experiences. Effective responses must extend beyond immediate safety concerns to address the cumulative impacts of violence and the effects of disadvantage and marginalisation.

Children and young people who experience DFSV are over five times more likely to develop some mental health issues such as PTSD.[6] We know that many of these children and young people continue to struggle in relationships, care, educational and community settings. While specific mental health or behaviour management interventions are often helpful, children and young people's trajectories are unlikely to meaningfully change without skilled, specific interventions which helps them to heal from the neurobiological, social and relational impacts of violence and abuse. Helping children to feel safe, to recognise that violence was not their fault and to rediscover positive and hopeful identity is the most crucial element of therapy.

[6] Haslam, D., Mathews, B., Pacella, R., Scott, J. G., Finkelhor, D., Higgins, D. J., Meinck, F., Erskine, H. E., Thomas, H. J., Lawrence, D., & Malacova, E. (2023). The prevalence and impact of child maltreatment in Australia: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study: Brief report. Australian Child Maltreatment Study, Queensland University of Technology.

As part of this, more children and young people in South Australia need access to specialised DFSV services that help them to make new meanings of their experiences. These services need to be delivered by expert trauma-focused professionals who are skilled in working with children and young people in ways that allow them to tell their stories of DFSV and to recover from the self-blame, secrecy and shame that is invariably used as part of perpetrator tactics.

Another current service gap involves children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse, either by another child/young person or adult, and young people engaging in harmful sexual behaviours. The Australian Child Maltreatment Study found that one in three women and one in five men experienced sexual abuse during childhood, with approximately two-thirds of sexual touching offences against a child perpetrated by another child or adolescent.[7] Despite the prevalence of this issue, therapeutic responses are still varied and developing.

Specialist therapeutic supports for children and young people remain under-resourced in South Australia, with funding levels failing to reflect either the scale of demand or the complexity of need. As a result, services are often constrained in their ability to provide the intensity, duration and continuity of support required to achieve meaningful recovery outcomes.

Increased investment is essential to ensure children and young people affected by domestic, family and sexual violence can access timely, sustained and specialist support when it is needed. This will improve recovery outcomes, reduce the likelihood of future harm and help break intergenerational cycles of violence.

While not a focus of this submission, Embolden recognises that there is also a need for greater investment in longer-term therapeutic supports for adults who have experienced sexual violence.

Investment outcomes and cost estimate

The investment would increase the capacity of non-government services with suitable expertise to deliver specialist DFSV therapeutic support and interventions for children and young people. It will resource:

- Provision of place-based and school-based outreach services for children and young people in locations of high need.
- Increased access to therapeutic and counselling services for children and young people on long-term guardianship orders who have experienced DFSV.
- Increased access to in-clinic individual and group therapy with non-offending parents and their children who require support and confidence to strengthen responsive, safe and healing relationships.

[7] Ibid

- Increased access to services for children and young people who have either used harmful sexual behaviours towards another child or young person, or who have been a victim of sexual abuse (by an adult or another child/young person).

It is estimated that the funding would enable more than 300 additional children and young people to access intensive, specialist DFSV therapeutic support per year.

The cost estimate to deliver these additional services is for 4.0 FTE at SCHADS 5 over four years plus program expenses, as follows:

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-2030	2030-2031
4.0 FTE specialist counsellors	464,120	481,525	499,582	518,316
Oncosts	92,824	96,305	99,916	103,663
Set up costs	20,000	-	-	-
Program expenses and clinical supervision	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total new investment	**591,944**	**592,830**	**614,498**	**636,980**

***Note** – wage increase 3.75%*

Priority 3: Respond to risk early to prevent foreseeable harm

> **Recommendation 5: Increase access to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme**
> That the South Australian Government increase funding to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, to provide more people with early specialist support via the DVDS and to promote equitable access statewide.

Consistent with Recommendation 59 of the Royal Commission, this investment would:

- **Enable more people to access SA's world-leading early intervention response**, helping to identify risk and prevent foreseeable harm before violence escalates.
- **Improve safety and wellbeing** for more adults and children across South Australia.
- **Reduce future demand on crisis, statutory and justice responses** by supporting earlier action and intervention.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) is delivered through a unique partnership between specialist domestic and family violence services and SAPOL. The Scheme enables people who are concerned about a current or former partner's behaviour to access information, specialist support, risk assessment and safety planning before abuse becomes entrenched.

The DVDS is a proven model of genuine early intervention. It provides authoritative information and professional support that helps participants recognise patterns of coercive control and abuse, build confidence in their own judgement, and make informed decisions about their safety. For many participants, the Scheme provides crucial validation that what they are experiencing is abuse, helping them move from uncertainty and self-doubt to informed action.

A key strength of the Scheme is its partnership model. Disclosure meetings bring together a SAPOL officer and a specialist DFSV practitioner to meet directly with applicants, ideally face-to-face. This combination of police-held information and specialist domestic and family violence expertise enables a more comprehensive, informed and safer response than either service could provide alone.

> *"I walked out of the disclosure with a sense of relief, it took a huge weight off my shoulders that it wasn't me, it was the same pattern of abuse to his prior girlfriends. It gave me a feeling of being shame and guilt free. I cannot articulate the freedom I feel now. This was the start of my recovery. It helped beyond words."*
>
> Client of DVDS, cited in evaluation report[8]

The benefits of the DVDS extend beyond individual participants. By supporting people to recognise risk and act on early signs of abuse, the Scheme has the potential to reduce future demand for crisis, statutory and justice responses, while improving longer-term safety outcomes. It also strengthens system integration through collaboration between specialist services and SAPOL. For individuals and communities that may be reluctant to engage directly with police, the Scheme can build trust and increase future help-seeking.

Demand for the DVDS has increased by more than 200 per cent since its introduction. Despite demonstrated effectiveness and rapidly growing demand, funding has remained static. As a result, wait times have grown to double the ideal 14-day response time set by the provider, and many South Australians who could benefit from the Scheme are unable to access it, including people living in regional and remote communities and those who face additional barriers to accessing support.

> *"If we had capacity to respond to demand, we would promote it everywhere – on the back of toilet doors"*
>
> DFV service in remote South Australia

Recognising the Scheme's effectiveness, the Royal Commission recommended increased ongoing investment to improve statewide accessibility and reach (recommendation 59) through:

- additional service delivery partners to improve accessibility and inclusivity for groups including young people, LGBTIQA+ people, Aboriginal people, migrant and refugee/multicultural communities, people with disability and male victim-survivors;
- increased funding for regional and remote service delivery partners to facilitate travel for face-to-face disclosure meetings; and
- improvements to the online application process, including moving the portal from SAPOL's website to the government's central DFSV website once developed.

[8] The South Australian Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme 2018-2024: An independent review. Katerina Hadjimatheou (University of Essex) and Kate Seymour (Flinders University), 2024, p.20 https://repository.essex.ac.uk/39915/1/Independent%20Review%20of%20the%20South%20Australian%20DVDS%202018-2024.pdf

The State Government accepted Recommendation 59 in principle and for future consideration, meaning it will not be progressed during the current five-year reform period. **This decision leaves a proven and evidence-based early intervention opportunity underutilised despite increasing demand and clear evidence of benefit. Delaying investment means delaying opportunities to identify risk earlier, prevent foreseeable harm, strengthen safety outcomes, and reduce pressure on more costly crisis and statutory responses.**

Investment outcomes and cost estimate

Additional investment to increase access to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme would:

- Provide more people with specialist support to act on early indicators of violence and abuse.
- Enable services to address access barriers and respond to the needs of under- represented priority communities.
- Provide equitable access to timely, in-person support across metropolitan, regional and remote communities.
- Support system integration and strengthen collaboration between SAPOL and specialist DFSV services.
- Reduce demand on crisis, statutory and justice systems.

The additional investment required to expand access to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme over four years is estimated as follows:

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-2030	2030-2031
2.4 FTE - 4 metropolitan regions	300,584	311,856	323,551	335,684
2.0 FTE – 3 regional/remote regions	250,487	259,880	269,626	279,737
Set up	20,000			
Consultancy to support access and response	75,000	76,875	78,797	80,767
Total new investment	**732,670**	**737,375**	**762,957**	**789,446**

***Note** – wage increase 3.75%*

Priority 4: Specialist sector and workforce development

Recommendation 6: Specialist sector development

Fund Embolden to lead specialist workforce development and sector capability initiatives through 2.0 FTE dedicated positions, together with program delivery costs, for four years. This investment would support workforce planning, professional development, practice leadership and sector capability building across South Australia's DFSV sector.

This investment would:

- **Strengthen Embolden's capacity** to engage its members, to ensure that specialist expertise is central to DFSV system reform and implementation.
- Enable Embolden to **partner with government** on the development and implementation of South Australia's DFSV Workforce Strategy.
- **Develop practice leadership** on specialist practice standards, model fidelity and emerging practice issues.
- Facilitate **communities of practice and peer learning opportunities** across the specialist sector.
- **Strengthen sector data and evaluation capability**, including outcomes measurement, impact reporting and practice-informed evidence generation.
- **Support collaboration** across the specialist DFSV sector, government, statutory agencies and other service systems.

The importance of resourcing specialist DFSV workforce development and sector capability is recognised by other state and territory governments. For example, even a decade past Victoria's Royal Commission into family violence, Victoria's DFV peak body Safe and Equal currently has 7 dedicated FTE to deliver state-funded sector and workforce development projects, and has at times had up to 12 FTE.

The specialist workforce is central to preventing violence and supporting victim-survivors to achieve safety, recovery and healing. Ensuring the workforce remains capable, sustainable and effective will require long-term investment and coordinated planning. South Australia's workforce reform agenda presents a significant opportunity to strengthen workforce capability, wellbeing, diversity, leadership pathways and workforce supply, particularly in regional, rural and remote communities. Realising these ambitions will require dedicated investment in Embolden's sector leadership role and recognition of the expertise that exists across the specialist sector.

In the current reform context, strengthening sector-wide data, evaluation and evidence capability is a particular priority. Specialist services generate rich practice-based evidence regarding victim-survivor experiences, service outcomes and system performance, yet many organisations lack the resources and infrastructure needed to consistently capture and demonstrate this impact. Investment in workforce capability, outcomes measurement and fit-for-purpose data systems would support continuous improvement, strengthen the evidence base for specialist practice and make visible the significant contribution of specialist services to safer individuals, families and communities.

The success of *Building Safer Futures* will depend on ensuring that reform design and implementation are informed by the specialist sector's practice expertise and direct understanding of victim-survivor experiences, service system barriers and emerging trends. Investment in Embolden would strengthen the sector's capacity to provide practice leadership

and support a more integrated and effective DFSV response system.

> **Recommendation 7: Ongoing specialist practice development**
> Fund additional capacity across all specialist DFSV services at 0.1 FTE to enable specialist practitioners to contribute to DFSV system reforms, workforce development activities, sector leadership, communities of practice, data improvement initiatives and the ongoing development of practice-informed competencies across South Australia's DFSV response system.

DFSV specialist practitioners perform a range of critical but often invisible functions that underpin the effectiveness of broader responses to DFSV. The specialist sector has a long history of continuous practice development and translating frontline experience into practice guidance, identifying systemic barriers to safety and recovery and advocating for systemic solutions, and providing advice to governments, statutory agencies and the private sector. While continuous learning and development is at the core of specialist practice, and the specialist workforce's expertise is relied upon to inform policy, system design and workforce development, these critical functions are inadequately resourced within funding models. As a result, many of the activities that drive practice improvement and inform response system capability are undertaken despite funding arrangements, rather than because of them.

In addition to resourcing sector-wide development activities, investment is needed so that specialist practitioners' continuous professional development and contribution to systemic responses to DFSV are duly recognised and can be maintained as essential functions of specialist DFSV practice into the future.

Investment outcomes and cost estimate

This investment would resource Embolden to deliver workforce planning, professional development, practice leadership, evidence generation and sector capability building activities across South Australia's specialist domestic, family and sexual violence sector. It would enable:

- Specialist sector engagement that optimises and streamlines contributions to DFSV system reform and implementation.
- Delivery of activities and partnering with government to support implementation of South Australia's DFSV Workforce Strategy.
- Coordinating development of specialist practice standards and mechanisms to respond to emerging practice issues.
- Delivery of communities of practice and other peer learning opportunities across the specialist sector.
- Improved data and evaluation capability across the specialist workforce, including outcomes measurement, impact reporting and practice-informed evidence generation.
- Strong collaboration across the specialist DFSV sector, government, statutory agencies and other service systems.

- Ongoing practice development and practice-informed advocacy as valued core functions of specialist DFSV practice.

The additional investment required to deliver these activities over four years is estimated as follows:

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-2030	2030-2031
1.0 FTE Sector Development Lead @ SCHADS 7	136,647	141,771	147,088	152,603
1.0 FTE Senior Policy and Programs Officer @ SCHADS 6	126,639	131,388	136,315	141,427
Oncosts (20%)	52,657	54,632	56,681	58,806
Set up costs	10,000	-	-	-
Program expenses	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total new investment	**345,943**	**347,791**	**360,084**	**372,836**

***Note** – wage increase 3.75%. If supported, Embolden would work with government to scope and cost the proposed additional 0.1FTE for all specialist DFSV services (not costed here).*

Priority 5: Population groups at heightened risk

The Royal Commission recognised that some population groups experience domestic, family and sexual violence at disproportionately high rates and face distinct forms of violence, coercion and systemic disadvantage. The Commission also found that mainstream service responses do not consistently meet the needs of these communities and that targeted specialist expertise is required to ensure people can access effective, culturally safe and appropriate support.

Embolden strongly supports increased investment in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to support Aboriginal-led and culturally safe responses to domestic, family and sexual violence. Several specialist ACCOs are covered by the recommendations under Priority 1 within this submission.

There is also a critical need for increased investment to improve outcomes for people with disability, LGBTIQA+ communities and migrant, refugee and multicultural communities, each of whom can experience unique patterns of abuse and additional barriers to seeking help, accessing services and achieving safety. While there are important differences between these communities, a common theme is that specialist expertise and tailored responses are necessary to address the intersecting impacts of violence, discrimination, exclusion and systemic barriers.

The Royal Commission recognised the need for both strengthened specialist services and improved capability across the broader service system. However, recommendations relating to people with disability and LGBTIQA+ communities were accepted for future consideration rather than implementation during the current reform period. Delaying these investments risks perpetuating well-established service gaps for communities whose needs have been clearly identified through the Royal Commission process.

Targeted responses are essential to equitable safety outcomes and investment is needed to:

- **Deliver specialist services and programs** that respond to the unique experiences, risks and support needs of communities disproportionately affected by domestic, family and sexual violence and/or who face additional barriers to safety, support and justice.
- **Strengthen workforce capability and practice** across specialist services and mainstream systems to improve responses to communities experiencing heightened risk and systemic barriers.

LGBTIQA+ communities

> **Recommendation 8: LGBTIQA+**
> That the South Australian Government allocate funding in 2027-28 and subsequent budgets, to increase specialist services for LGBTIQA+ people

South Australia's Royal Commission recognised that LGBTIQA+ people experience domestic, family and sexual violence in ways that are often not well understood or adequately addressed within mainstream service systems. The Commission heard evidence that LGBTIQA+ victim-survivors can face significant barriers to recognising abuse, seeking help and accessing appropriate support, including discrimination, fear of prejudice, concerns about confidentiality within communities, and a lack of services with specialist expertise in LGBTIQA+ experiences of violence.

Consistent with the Commission's findings, achieving equitable safety outcomes for LGBTIQA+ communities requires both targeted specialist responses and stronger capability across the broader service system.

The Royal Commission recognised these issues through Recommendation 112, which called for ongoing funding for specialist DFSV services for South Australian LGBTIQA+ communities. While this recommendation was accepted in principle, its implementation has been deferred beyond the current reform period. This delay is difficult to justify given the clear evidence presented to the Commission regarding existing service gaps and barriers to safety.

Strengthening specialist LGBTIQA+ domestic, family and sexual violence responses and building the capacity of the broader service system to provide safe, inclusive and effective support is essential to ensuring that the benefits of South Australia's DFSV reform agenda are realised for all victim-survivors, regardless of sexuality or gender identity.

The cost estimate below is focused on direct specialist service provision for LGBTIQA+ South Australians experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence. A current State Government-funded project to build the capacity of the broader specialist DFV services sector to meet the needs of LGBTIQA+ communities ends in mid-2028. This important work should be funded to continue beyond this timeframe.

Investment outcomes and cost estimate

Investment in specialist services that respond to the unique needs of LGBTIQA+ communities experiencing heightened risk and systemic barriers will:

- Increase specialist DFSV services and deliver prevention initiatives with LGBTIQA+ communities.
- Increase access to safe, inclusive and affirming specialist support.
- Improve safety and wellbeing outcomes.
- Support capability across the broader DFSV service system to respond appropriately to LGBTIQA+ victim-survivors.

The cost estimate for these activities is for 2.0 FTE at SCHADS level 5, plus program expenses, as follows:

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-2030	2030-2031
FTW cost	232,060	240,762	249,791	259,158
Oncosts (20%)	46,412	48,152	49,958	51,832
Set up costs	10,000	-	-	-
Program expenses and supervision	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total new investment	**303,372**	**303,914**	**314,749**	**325,990**

***Note** – wage increase 3.75%*

People with disability

> **Recommendation 9: People with disability**
> That the South Australian Government allocate funding in the 2027-28 Budget and in subsequent years, to improve service access and outcomes for people with disability at risk of and experiencing violence.

Both the national Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and South Australia's DFSV Royal Commission recognised that people with disability experience disproportionately high rates of violence and abuse, while also facing significant barriers to safety, disclosure and access to support. Victim- survivors may face barriers related to communication, service accessibility, dependence on perpetrators for care or support, fear of losing services or housing, and previous experiences of discrimination or not being believed. These factors can make help- seeking more difficult and increase vulnerability to ongoing abuse.

Importantly, SA's Royal Commission made specific recommendations aimed at improving safety and support for people with disability, including Recommendation 113 for Disability Liaison Officers to ensure that DFSV services are able to meet the needs of people with disability. Given the weight of evidence for the importance of targeted investment to improve outcomes for people with disability, it is unacceptable that the State Government has delayed action on this recommendation. Delay risks perpetuating known gaps in service accessibility and specialist support for a population whose

heightened risk of experiencing violence has been clearly established through the evidence and findings of two recent Royal Commissions.

Investment outcomes and cost estimate

Investment is needed to:

- Appoint suitably skilled professionals to provide secondary consultations to DFSV services, to improve access and outcomes for people with disability experiencing violence.
- Educate and build the capability of the specialist sector to understand and respond to the access, communication and support needs of people with disability.
- Develop easy read and other communication resources for people with disability accessing specialist DFSV services.

The cost estimate for these activities is for 2.0 FTE at SCHADS level 5, plus resource and program expenses, as follows:

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-2030	2030-2031
FTE cost	232,060	240,762	249,791	259,158
Oncosts (20%)	46,412	48,152	49,958	51,832
Set up costs	10,000	-	-	-
Resource and program expenses	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total new investment	**318,472**	**318,914**	**329,749**	**340,990**

***Note** – wage increase 3.75%*

Migrant, refugee and multicultural communities

> **Recommendation 10: Migrant, refugee and multicultural communities**
> That the South Australian Government increase investment through the 2027-28 Budget and in subsequent budgets, to strengthen community-led approaches to DFSV within migrant, refugee and multicultural communities and to build response capability across the DFSV specialist sector.

The Royal Commission recognised that mainstream responses are not always equipped to navigate the complexity of migrant, refugee and multicultural victim-survivors' experiences. Effective responses require the ability to recognise how violence is experienced, understood and disclosed across different cultural contexts, as well as the capacity to navigate complex service systems on behalf of victim-survivors. Mainstream systems are often not designed with these realities in mind, creating barriers that specialist providers must routinely work to overcome.

Specialist services working with multicultural communities continue to report growing demand, unmet need and persistent barriers to safety for the communities they support. Without targeted investment, people facing additional cultural, linguistic and systemic barriers risk benefiting less

from broader reforms than other South Australians. Investment should therefore focus on both strengthening specialist domestic, family and sexual violence responses for migrant, refugee and multicultural communities and building the cultural responsiveness and capability of the broader service system. This approach is consistent with the Royal Commission's vision of a DFSV system that is equitable, accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of all South Australians.

Investment outcomes and cost estimate

Investment should build on the existing expertise within SA's specialist DFSV sector in case management and community engagement with migrant, refugee and multicultural communities to:

- Improve specialist capability and service delivery for migrant, refugee and multicultural communities.
- Enhance workforce capability across the DFSV sector to respond effectively to diverse cultural and linguistic communities.
- Strengthen community-led and culturally safe prevention and earlier intervention.

The cost estimate for these activities is for 2.0 case manager FTE at SCHADS level 5, plus 1 FTE community engagement role at SCHADS 4, plus sector capacity building resources and program expenses, as follows:

	2027-28	2028-29	2029-2030	2030-2031
FTE - case management	232,060	240,762	249,791	259,158
FTE - community engagement	100,619	104,392	108,307	112,369
Oncosts (20%)	66,526	69,031	71,619	74,305
Set up costs	15,000	-	-	-
Resource and program expenses	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total new investment	**464,205**	**464,185**	**479,717**	**495,832**

***Note** – wage increase 3.75%*