



22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.

Ending Violence Against Women and Children (EVAWQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.

EVAWQ is a peak body that brings together the sexual violence, domestic and family violence, refuge and women's health sectors and works to end men's perpetration of violence against women, children, and people of diverse genders. EVAWQ shares the depth and diversity of knowledge from specialist sectors to a broad range of government and nongovernment stakeholders in relation to all aspects of gender-based violence. EVAWQ drives accountable change together.

EVAWQ welcomes the vision of 'towards zero' and government commitment to addressing this serious and prevalent health issue of violence against Women and Children across our Nation.

Importantly, the draft National plan acknowledges that achieving this requires long term bipartisan, holistic, multilayered national approach, addressing both individual behaviors as well as structural and societal drivers.

EVAWQ would welcome a clearer articulation and plan for change for how zero will be achieved. We interpret this draft document as a broad overarching strategy and call on Government to consult widely when developing the required action plan/s. We want to see that the strategy and subsequent action plans are developed within a theory of change model, with transparent, achievable outcomes and appropriate investment. We urge Government to finalise the draft plan with a commitment to this clarity and transparency.

EVAWQ further welcomes the establishment of national definitions for gendered violence.

The draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 can be strengthened by:

- Applying a rigorous analysis of learnings from the previous plan;
- Incorporating recommendations from the Auditor General report 2019, Coordinating and targeting of Domestic Violence funding and Actions;
- A review of the ecosystem, identifying national infrastructure needs and strengths;
- Proactively embedding a requirement for accountability of leaders of all levels of business and government to prevent violence;
- Embedding codesign throughout;
- A stronger focus on how a reduction in men's violence is going to be achieved and how this reduction will be measured;



- Commitment to a significant investment in the primary prevention of violence. This must include public education which address the drivers of gender-based violence, consent and healthy relationships and be embedded in school curriculums for all Australian children;
- Greater inclusion of different types of violence including, but not limited to, carer violence and reproductive coercion violence;
- Increased victim centric lens, particularly in relation to the judicial system and EVAWQ continues to call for the establishment of a Victim's Commissioner;
- Strengthen planning for children as victims in their own rights.
- EVAWQ supports the calls for a separate strategy for First Nations peoples.

EVAWQ welcomes the opportunity to continue working collaboratively to ensure the next National Plan is able to deliver meaningful full change for all those affected violence in our communities across the Nation.

Yours Sincerely,

**EVAWQ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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