

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2009-2020)

The National Framework, endorsed by the Commonwealth, states and territories and the community sector is a shared commitment to working towards a substantial and sustained reduction in levels of child abuse.

The Framework's (current) Third Action Plan 2015 – 2019 focuses on three strategies and two cross-cutting focus areas:

- *Strategy 1: Early intervention with a focus on the early years, particularly the first 1000 days for a child*
- *Strategy 2: Helping young people in out-of-home-care to thrive in adulthood*
- *Strategy 3: Organisations responding better to children to keep them safe*
- *Cross-cutting focus area: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families*
- *Cross-cutting focus area: Research and reporting under the Third Action Plan.*

The First Action Plan of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (National Framework) ran from 2009-2012. The Second Action Plan ran from 2009 to 2012.

Funding

First Action Plan 2009-2012

*Following COAG endorsement of the National Framework, the Government announced the allocation of **\$63 million** over the first four years to support implementation, including:*

- *\$10.0 million to fund a number of key national leadership projects, including the national research agenda, improving information sharing, data consistency and developing Out of Home Care Standards;*
- *\$10.0 million through Communities for Children Plus to establish up to eight innovative, integrated service delivery sites across Australia to reduce child abuse and neglect in disadvantaged communities¹;*
- *\$37.7 million to enhance the take up of the Special Child Care Benefit that covers the full cost of child care for children at serious risk of abuse or neglect;² and*

¹ *In 2014, as part of the Department's new way of working for grants the Families and Children Activity was introduced which includes the Communities for Children Facilitating Partners sub-activity*

- \$5.3 million to increase the Transition to Independent Living Allowance from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Second Action Plan 2012-2015

Around **\$15 million** was allocated to the Second Action Plan. Key projects funded included:

- \$800,000 to trial the Child Aware Approaches initiative;
- \$150,000 to develop the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set;
- \$35,000 to investigate barriers and opportunities for developing a model of professional foster care;
- \$800,000 for Child Aware Local Initiatives;
- release of the National Report on the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care by AIHW on 23 March 2016;
- \$5.75 million for the Child Aware Approaches grant round; and
- \$2.07 million for a National Survey of Children in Out of Home Care

Third Action Plan 2015-2018

Along with existing funding from the Commonwealth and states and territories to support vulnerable children and families (including around \$3.5 million per year for the Transition to Independent Living Allowance – TILA), the Commonwealth supports specific National Framework initiatives with funding of \$2.6 million per year through the Families and Children Program – National Initiatives Activity.

For the Third Action Plan, additional funding of around \$5.9 million over four years is available for the implementation of two, three year trials to undertake early intervention with a focus on the early years and help young people in out-of-home care transition to adulthood:

- The Building Capacity in Australian Parents trial (funded in the 2016-17 Budget) will build parenting skills in the first 1000 days – total funding \$2.08 million from 2016 - 17 to 2019 - 20; and
- The Towards Independent Adulthood trial (also funded in the 2016-17 Budget) will test a new approach to supporting young people as they move from out-of-home-care into adulthood – total funding \$3.87m from 2016 - 17 to 2019 - 20.

In summary, as at May 2016, a total of around **\$14.35 million** has been allocated specifically to Third Action Plan and National Framework related activities.

² This was an investment made as part of the 2009 Commonwealth commitment to the National Framework. Responsibility for child care rests with the Department of Education and Training who will soon advise on the status of this investment in relation to the current Child Care Reform Agenda.

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 (the National Plan)

The National Plan is a 12 year strategy that brings together efforts of all governments and the community to make a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children. More than \$200 million of funding has been made available for initiatives under the First and Second Action Plans of the National Plan.

The Third Action Plan (2016-19) of the National Plan was launched on 28 October 2016. During the 2016-17 Budget, the Government invested \$100 million to support initiatives under the Third Action Plan as detailed in Table 1. This funding is in addition to the approximate \$25 million each year of ongoing funding that underpins the National Plan. This ongoing funding supports key national initiatives including ANROWS, the primary prevention organisation Our Watch and provides funding to conduct the Personal Safety Survey. Funding for these initiatives is detailed in Table 2(a), Table 2(b) and Table 2(c).

In September 2014, the Government invested \$100 million to address domestic violence through the Women's Safety Package (Table 3).

Table 1: Third Action Plan package of \$100 million:

Package	Inclusion
\$19.4 million – <i>Prevention and early intervention</i>	<i>\$5.8 million to empower women to identify violence and develop a workforce agenda \$4.6 million to develop prevention strategies for diverse communities and local governments \$3.3 million for resources to support bystanders to reinforce positive attitudes where safe to do so \$5.7 million to reach out to men and fathers</i>
\$15.3 million – <i>Frontline Services</i>	<i>\$5.8m million for 1800RESPECT \$4.2m for housing innovation fund to provide safe accommodation for women \$5.3m to fund new approaches for innovative service delivery for vulnerable women</i>
\$7.8 million – <i>Tech facilitated abuse</i>	<i>\$4.8m to develop an online complaints portal \$3m to respond to the impact of pornography on young people</i>
\$6.7 million – <i>Data and Research</i>	<i>\$1.5m to identify gaps and impediments to information collection and sharing \$5.2m to strengthen research and data collection on diverse forms of violence</i>
\$29.7 million – <i>Family Law</i>	<i>\$18.5m to fund frontline family violence services in family law court registries \$6.3m for Family Relationship Centres to deliver dispute resolution services to vulnerable families \$4.9m extension of women's safety package legal assistance pilots</i>
\$25 million – <i>Indigenous</i>	<i>\$18.5m to pilot and test innovative services to reduce Indigenous and domestic violence \$6.5m for Indigenous victim services (increase capacity of family violence prevention legal services)</i>

Table 2(a): Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

Project	Total Investment
<i>Base Funding (Commonwealth contribution)</i>	<i>\$10.6m (2012-2019)</i>
<i>National Perpetrator Research Agenda</i>	<i>\$3.0m (2012-2015)</i>
<i>Research Stream</i>	<i>\$3.5m (2014-2016)</i>
<i>Diversity Data Project</i>	<i>\$0.16m (2015-2016)</i>
<i>Action Research Support (Building Safe Communities for Women)</i>	<i>\$0.65m (2015-2017)</i>
<i>National Community Attitudes Survey</i>	<i>\$3.1m (2015-2018)</i>
<i>National Risk Assessment Principles*</i>	<i>\$0.1m (2016-2018)</i>

**Initiative under the Third Action Plan*

Table 2(b): Our Watch

Project	Total Investment
<i>Base Funding</i>	<i>\$5.2m (2012-2017)</i>
<i>Our Watch Branding</i>	<i>\$0.1m (2012-2013)</i>
<i>National Media Engagement Project and Our Watch Awards</i>	<i>\$1.3m (2012-2016)</i>
<i>The Line</i>	<i>\$5.1m (2013-2016)</i>
<i>National sporting organisation initiatives</i>	<i>\$1.0m (2014-2016)</i>
<i>Change the Story*</i>	<i>\$0.2m (2016-2019)</i>
<i>Bystander project*</i>	<i>\$3.3m (2016-2019)</i>
<i>Raise awareness of non-physical forms of violence*</i>	<i>\$1.3m (2016-2019)</i>
<i>Youth pornography engagement behaviour change*</i>	<i>\$3.0m (2016-2019)</i>

**Initiative under the Third Action Plan*

Table 2(c): Personal Safety Survey

Project	Total Investment
<i>Personal Safety Survey PSS (2012 PSS and 2016 PSS)*</i>	<i>\$22.3m (2009-2015)</i>

**Future funding to be negotiated*

Table 3: Women's Safety Package - \$101.2 million

Package	Inclusion
\$59.7 million – Practical actions to keep women safe	<p>\$12m* - to trial with states the use of innovative technology to keep women safe.</p> <p>\$5.1m - Safe technology for women, including working with telecommunications companies to distribute safe phones to women.</p> <p>\$17m - Keeping women safe in their homes by expanding successful initiatives such as the Safer in Homes program.</p> <p>\$5m – Further expansion of 1800RESPECT</p> <p>\$2m – Increased funding to Mensline for tools and resources to support perpetrators not to reoffend.</p> <p>\$12.5 – Extend and expand prisoner rehabilitation services for Indigenous perpetrators</p> <p>\$2.5m – Enhance police responsiveness to calls for assistance from victims in the Torres Strait</p> <p>\$3.6m – Cross-Border Domestic Violence Intelligence Desk to share information on victims and perpetrators who move around the cross-border region to WA, NT and SA.</p>
\$36.5 million – Measures to improve support and services for women	<p>\$14m** – Expand the DV-alert training program to police, social workers, emergency department staff and community workers.</p> <p>\$15m – Establish specialised domestic violence units to provide coordinated wrap around services</p> <p>\$5m – Local support coordinators to support women, including housing, safety and budgeting services.</p> <p>\$1.4 – Extend support for Community Engagement Police Officers in remote Indigenous communities</p> <p>\$1.1m – Help promote Indigenous communities prevent and better respond to the incidence of domestic violence through targeted support.</p>
\$5 million – Stopping the violence	\$5m – Expand the Safer Schools website to include resources for teachers, parents and students on respectful relationships education.

*\$4m was re-purposed for an initiative under the Third Action Plan to respond to distribution of intimate images without consent.

**\$0.5m allocated to the Department of Health for training resources for GPs.