



Committed to Safety

A framework for addressing
domestic, family and sexual
violence in South Australia.

Progress Report 2021





Acknowledgment of Country

Aboriginal people have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the State of South Australia.

The Government of South Australia acknowledges and respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations and recognises Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters.

The Government of South Australia acknowledges that the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal people come from their traditional lands and waters, and that Aboriginal people maintain cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws that are of ongoing importance today.

Committed to Safety

Progress Report 2021

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Government of South Australia
Office for Women



Minister's message

Together, with our non-government partners and the South Australian community, the Marshall Liberal Government is working to significantly improve the safety of women and their children in our state.

The continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for the women's safety sector have been challenging, and our Government and partners have been quick to adapt and make the safety of the South Australian community a priority.

During the height of the pandemic, South Australia saw an increase in contacts with domestic violence services of up to 50%, an increase in demand for emergency placements of up to 66% and an overall increase in requests for specialist service support. These trends have been experienced across Australia and have been reported in multiple studies by organisations such as Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and the Australian Institute of Criminology.

We have welcomed the funding provided to South Australia by the Commonwealth Government through the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses and have established a range of important initiatives through this funding. These initiatives include a range of programs and services that span the continuum from primary prevention and early intervention to services and support that assist women and children through crisis. Together with the Commonwealth Government, we have been able to make a real difference for women and their children escaping domestic and family violence.

Committed to Safety is the Marshall Government's framework to achieve a coordinated, targeted series of actions to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence in South Australia. It has played an important part in South Australia's response to domestic, family and sexual violence throughout the pandemic and informed the initiatives funded through the COVID-19 National Partnership. Committed to Safety has informed the introduction of successful initiatives that have benefited hundreds of women and families in crisis escaping domestic and family violence. Programs such as Individual Safety and Support Packages and a range of early intervention initiatives for perpetrators of domestic violence have had significant positive impacts on the lives of women and families across South Australia.

Committed to Safety is now in its final year of activity. We are finalising the long-term actions underpinning this plan as well as beginning the work to build a new strategic framework for South Australia that builds on Committed to Safety. This will acknowledge the unique and complex challenges that face South Australians in a post-pandemic landscape. We will be working with the sector once again to identify key priorities and actions that ensure all women and their children are safe from violence.

The Marshall Government is making a difference and we intend to continue doing so.



Michelle Lensink MLC
Minister for Human Services

Carolyn Power MP
Assistant Minister for Domestic
and Family Violence Prevention



The Committed to Safety vision

Our vision

A safe and supportive community where domestic, family and sexual violence is not tolerated in any form.

Committed to Safety provides an avenue for countering the drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence such as gender stereotypes and economic inequality, and for providing support to families in crisis.

Committed to Safety focuses on three pillars of action:



Primary Prevention



Service and Support



Justice

Over the last three years, these three pillars have guided the development and delivery of safety focused responses and a continuum of change from primary prevention through to crisis response. This report provides an overview of a range of key successful initiatives implemented and key achievements under each of the pillars from 2020 to 2021.



Data in this report

In addition to tracking the individual actions contained in Committed to Safety, we have sought data to monitor overall progress in relation to domestic and family violence using data sources such as our ongoing programs and those developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have included data throughout the report as it relates to the pillars and initiatives.

Committed to Safety has been underpinned by an acknowledgement that responses to domestic, family and sexual violence must recognize that people experience different forms of inequality throughout their lifetimes and that these inequalities may intersect to create different levels of disadvantage and vulnerability. As in previous years, we have worked to ensure that intersecting vulnerabilities for different cohorts in our community are at the forefront of our responses.

Committed to Safety has also guided our responses to the COVID-19 pandemic specifically in the development of initiatives funded under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses. Initiatives developed and key actions achieved with this funding have been highlighted as 'COVID-19 responses' under each pillar.

Key achievements

since the 2020 CTS report



Primary prevention

- Release of the Women's Leadership and Economic Security Strategy
- Successful completion of The South Australian Government's Workplace Equality and Respect Project
- Supporting the continuation of the Stop it at the Start national campaign and new sexual violence initiatives
- Continuing the successful Break the Cycle campaign
- Translation of fact sheets for culturally and linguistically diverse communities



Services and support

- Introduction of the Statewide Perpetrator Response with a commitment of ongoing funding at approximately \$400,000 a year
- Opening four safety hubs in regional areas in 2021
- Delivering \$6.463m in new and increased funding under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses to services and programs to support women and their children most at risk
- 1000 applications to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme
- Establishment of the Domestic and Family Violence Alliance
- Launch of the Roadmap for reforming the Child and Family Support System 2021–2023
- Establishment of the initiatives Safe and Well Kids, and Marni-Padni – Pukulpay anama (Safe Journeys)



Justice

- Release of South Australia's Youth Justice State Plan 2020–2023
- Ensuring victims of domestic and family violence and their families are automatically notified when an accused perpetrator is being considered for or has been granted bail or parole, or if bail or parole conditions have changed



Pillar 1: Primary prevention

Achievements and progress

Primary prevention is about long-term change and works to change the underlying social conditions that produce and drive violence against women. Primary prevention should work across all areas of our community to address the attitudes, norms, practices, structures, systems, policies, and power imbalances that drive violence against women. Primary prevention requires changing important social and cultural conditions such as gender inequality, that excuse, justify or even promote violence against women and their children. An overview of some key achievements that have progressed primary prevention in South Australia are described below.

Primary prevention requires changing important social and cultural conditions such as gender inequality, that excuse, justify or even promote violence against women and their children.

Stop it at the Start

The final phase of the national Stop it at the Start campaign commenced in March 2021. The national Stop it at the Start campaign is a primary prevention initiative implemented under the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (The National Plan). The campaign is jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government and participating state and territory governments.

Stop it at the Start aims to help break the cycle of violence by encouraging adults to reflect on their attitudes and have conversations about respect with young people, primarily aged 10–17. The focus is on influencing positive change in young people's attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality. It aims to intervene before attitudes and behaviours develop that may lead to violence.

The Marshall Liberal Government has committed almost \$1.9M over three years to contribute to the continuation of Stop it at the Start. Some of this funding will be used by the Commonwealth Government to develop new national sexual violence prevention initiatives.

Release of the Women's Leadership and Economic Security Strategy

Through Committed to Safety, the Marshall Liberal Government pledged to release an employment and leadership strategy featuring a strong focus on economic participation – noting the strong evidence base that indicates improving women's leadership and economic participation is a key tool in the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence. This is in addition to the benefits to the state, to employers, to communities and to women themselves.

The [Women's Leadership and Economic Security Strategy](#) is the Marshall Liberal Government's plan to ensure that South Australian women have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from employment, entrepreneurship, leadership and economic security. It recognises that women's economic participation drives powerful and positive change and can serve as a powerful prevention factor for gendered violence. We know that a lack of financial independence is one of the reasons that people stay in relationships while experiencing domestic and family violence. This Strategy provides a platform for the South Australian Government and its partners to deliver actions that will increase women's employment participation as well as their financial knowledge and independence.

Workplace Equality and Respect Project

In 2021, The Marshall Liberal Government finalised the Workplace Equality and Respect Project. The focus of the project was on building accountability of Government departments through alignment with the Our Watch Workplace Equality and Respect Standards, and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency Gender Strategy Toolkit. The project also included 24 Government departments and agencies achieving White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation.

Overall, the project aimed to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence by addressing the underlying drivers of violence against women. Workplaces have a vital role in breaking down old-fashioned stereotypes about men and women that are harmful and lead to inequality and acceptance of men's violence.

The 24 agencies will continue to strengthen workplace gender equality, promote safe and respectful workplaces and have the knowledge and capacity to apply best practice approaches to the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence through maintaining Gender Equality and Respect Action Plans.

Case study

Financial counselling for women who have experienced domestic violence

We have supported the Zahra Foundation to deliver extra sessions of their highly successful Pathways to Empowerment program to help South Australian women to overcome the double impact of leaving an abusive relationship and the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Petra came to The Zahra Foundation for financial counselling about a year ago. At that time, she was overwhelmed with a number of debts. Some of these were small, others were much larger (over \$15,000). Together we prioritised which debts were most urgent and then completed an income and expenditure statement and budgeting plan.

Petra was landed with these debts because of the breakdown in her relationship caused by domestic violence. This included physical violence, isolation, financial abuse and coercive control.

Petra dealt with the high priority debts (affecting housing) by setting up sustainable payment plans. Negotiation and advocacy with creditors took time, patience and persistent communication so that Petra’s situation was understood. Petra has now paid off many of the debts. Several were waived by creditors who understood the coercion that had occurred causing her severe financial hardship. Small grants were accessed when appropriate.

Petra is now debt free and has started a savings plan. Through the financial counselling process, she has learned skills that have changed her life and she is now financially independent.”

The Zahra Foundation supports women like Petra to find a safe and secure future through economic independence. Our financial counselling is trauma informed and one-on-one, which allows us to focus on each client and support them to empower themselves.

**Gemma Burdon, General Manager,
Zahra Foundation, 2021**

COVID-19 Responses

Break the Cycle

With funding from the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses we have continued the successful Break the Cycle campaign - featured across metropolitan and regional television, radio, digital and social media platforms and a new website - providing a powerful primary prevention message to perpetrators of domestic and family violence. The campaign was launched in 2020.

The campaign website, now linked by QR Code in the latest cycles of the campaign, provides information on primary prevention for individuals looking for support to escape violence, and people wanting to find support to stop using abusive behaviours.

The second cycle of the campaign focused on sexual violence with the campaign featuring on Tinder. The campaign was considered so successful that Tinder continued the campaign for an extra month at their own cost.

The campaign has now entered a fourth cycle focused on reaching people living in regional South Australia.

Translation of domestic and family violence fact sheets into 25 languages

In 2020–21, we developed four fact sheets for culturally and linguistically diverse communities and faith leaders. These fact sheets contain information about what is considered domestic, family and sexual violence in South Australia, as well as the specialist services that are available to people experiencing violence. The fact sheets were developed with assistance from Women's Safety Services SA (WSSSA), who deliver the Migrant Women's Support Service, and the Multicultural Communities Council of SA (MCCSA) to ensure the fact sheets are accessible for people from diverse backgrounds.

To ensure we reached as many communities as possible we worked with WSSSA and MCCSA to learn which communities are using their services the most. We also listened to the community groups who had contacted us asking if translated materials about domestic and family violence were available.

The fact sheets are now available on the Break the Cycle website in 25 community languages.

Primary prevention actions

Action	Action title	Progress
1.1	Reframed violence against women collaborations	● Underway
1.2, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.13, 1.23, 1.24	Women's Leadership and Economic Security Strategy	● Complete
1.3	Primary prevention toolkits for Councils	● Complete
1.4	Women's Information Service expansion	● Ongoing
1.5 & 1.19	Supporting respectful representations	● Ongoing
1.9	Responses supporting children and young people	● Ongoing
1.10, 1.12, 1.26	Primary prevention guide for South Australia	● Underway
1.11	Supporting the national 'Stop it at the Start' campaign	● Complete
1.14, 1.15, 2.32 & 3.15	Co-design with Aboriginal communities' initiatives	● Ongoing
1.16	Aboriginal Women's Gatherings	● Ongoing
1.17	Exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives around Australia and South Australia	● Ongoing
1.18, 1.25 & 3.18	Promotion of awareness campaigns and community education for women in vulnerable cohorts	● Ongoing
1.20, 1.27, 2.38, 3.20	Materials for multicultural communities and faith leaders	● Complete
1.21	Support for culturally and linguistically diverse women in leadership roles	● Ongoing
1.22, 2.36 & 3.21	Information for women on temporary visas	● Complete
1.23	Supporting older women to find housing	● Ongoing



Pillar 2: Services and support

Achievements and progress

The Marshall Liberal Government understands that women and children experiencing violence benefit from services and supports that include early intervention, as well as crisis response. We have made significant progress in redesigning the service system to enable a focus on families, as well as individuals, to ensure early intervention measures effectively connect people with services capable of meeting varied and complex needs.

Through Committed to Safety we have also focused on improving the connections between government and non-government agencies to ensure holistic responses to domestic, family and sexual violence that include accountability-based services for perpetrators. Below we describe some services and supports that we have rolled out that have been critical to improving the service system no matter where an individual or a family needs support.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – 1000 applications

The Marshall Liberal Government introduced the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme in 2018 to allow people who may be at risk of domestic violence to ask for information about their current or ex-partner to help make decisions about their relationship before a crisis occurs. We committed to trialling the scheme in our pre-election commitments and it has now become an ongoing tool in keeping South Australians safe from domestic, family and sexual violence.

In October 2021, we hit the milestone of **1,000 applications** to the scheme. This means 1,000 South Australians have taken the important step toward increasing their safety by asking South Australia Police if their current or former partner has a history of violence. Not all applications lead to a disclosure, but this shows that South Australians are using the tools we provide to make important enquiries about their relationships.

The Department of Human Services funds Women's Safety Services SA to provide a specialist domestic violence worker at every disclosure meeting including in regional areas. This ensures each applicant receives the support they need immediately including counselling, risk assessment and crisis responses if required. During the COVID-19 pandemic responses, WSSSA adapted its services to provide an online service. The Scheme is proving successful in helping to stop domestic violence before it starts.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021
Number of applicants	185	321	391
Number found eligible for a disclosure	122	218	277
Number of eligible applicants contacted by a domestic violence service for the first time	87	147	160

Case Study

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – third party application

We fund Women's Safety Services SA to provide specialised domestic violence services to all applicants who require a disclosure from South Australia Police. In this case, it was a third-party applicant (TPA) who was concerned for a friend. The friend, or person-at-risk (PAR) as they are referred to under the Scheme, received the disclosure.

An application to the Scheme was received from a TPA who was concerned that her friend Sally, the PAR, was at high risk of harm due to an assault by her partner. Sally minimised the behaviours of her partner. She initially did not want to be connected with a domestic violence service or to receive any information as she was not comfortable dealing with police.

The local domestic violence service had difficulty contacting Sally due to concerns that her partner would check her phone. The police were able to reach Sally at her work and assisted her in deciding to go ahead with the disclosure process. The disclosure was held at Sally's workplace, who were very supportive of her receiving support. The disclosure occurring at her workplace was important because her partner kept track of her movements at all times.

Sally felt comfortable at the meeting to speak with the specialist domestic violence worker, who provided:

- verbal safety planning
- information about DV
- a safe phone that her partner is unaware of so that she can contact support services or police when required
- information on services that can assist in the future.

If not for the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, Sally would not have had any contact with a domestic violence service and would not have had any safety supports in place should her situation escalate.

Sally is now aware of her local domestic violence service who can provide support during her work hours. Her workplace is also aware of the situation and allows her to access support services and speak to police during work hours.

Establishment of the South Australian DFV Alliance

Following the release of *Future Directions for Homelessness* and an open tender process, the Marshall Liberal Government set up five alliances, which commenced operation on 1 July 2021 to deliver homelessness and domestic violence services across South Australia. One of these alliances is a state-wide South Australian Domestic and Family Violence Alliance (DFV Alliance).

The DFV Alliance was established as a separate alliance to the four homelessness Alliances to maintain the visibility and specialisation of the domestic and family violence sector in South Australia. It incorporates 18 services across eight service providers and includes the SA Housing Authority and Department of Human Services. All specialist services under the DFV Alliance provide a targeted, specialist response to those who are experiencing domestic or family violence, and provide support in immediate safety responses, accommodation, material assistance, advice and information, advocacy, living skills development and health, wellbeing and capacity building support. Services are located in metro, regional, rural and remote areas of South Australia.

The DFV Alliance represents a new opportunity for the sector to come together through collective ownership, responsibility and accountability, keeping the best outcomes for clients at the centre of decision-making. It enables a sharing of skills, assets, experience and expertise across South Australia, within a new structure which provides equal voices for all partners. The Alliance is guided by a charter which outlines the vision and values that remain core to the work, under the umbrella of a safety first, any door is the right door approach.

Launch of Statewide Perpetrator Response

In 2021, the Marshall Liberal Government introduced the Statewide Perpetrator Response (SPR) to provide men who are concerned about their use of abusive behaviours the opportunity to call a service for immediate support and referral to local South Australian services for ongoing assistance.

Delivered by No to Violence, this early intervention initiative assists men who may be using abusive behaviours to access the services they need to change before committing domestic violence and/or coming into contact with the criminal justice system. This increases the potential for families to stay together safely while a family member receives the support they need to change.

The SPR also offers workforce development opportunities to frontline workers looking to improve their ability to identify and respond to clients who may be domestic and family violence perpetrators.

Roadmap for reforming the child and family support system 2021–2023

The Marshall Liberal Government want to ensure that families are able to stay together and receive the support they need to improve their health and wellbeing in a safe environment. In 2021, the Department of Human Services launched a child and family Roadmap to improve early intervention services for children and families with complex needs. Key actions in the roadmap include:

- Making services more responsive to Aboriginal culture and intergenerational trauma
- Supporting the workforce of child and family practitioners to improve practice across the sector
- Ensuring vulnerable families can receive the right support, at the right time

We intend to create a service system that aligns with the needs of families.

At the heart of the new system is a healing approach, where all those involved (children and families, practitioners, organisations and funders) are working together to support healing and avoid further traumatisation for families.

The Roadmap is available on the Department of Human Services website at dhs.sa.gov.au.

COVID-19 Responses

Individual Safety and Support Packages (ISSP)

ISSP were specifically developed and implemented through funding under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses to address the impacts of COVID-19 on individuals and families experiencing domestic and family violence by enabling the purchase of goods and services tailored to the needs of the victim-survivor. **The ISSPs were used to fund:**

- crisis accommodation, alternative housing, private rental expenses and security upgrade costs
- household related expenses, such as bills, purchase of whitegoods, technology and communication equipment
- basic material needs, such as clothing, toiletries, childcare costs, food and pet costs
- transportation, including purchasing bus, train and flight tickets, taxi costs, and relocation costs
- health and wellbeing support, including mobility and communication aids, counselling support, medical interventions
- supports for refugees/migrants who do not have Medicare access
- legal supports, including migration supports
- connection with culture and provision of culturally relevant support.

Between 28 April 2020 and 30 June 2021, a total of 1,834 were delivered to 1,503 individual clients.

Safe and Well Kids

\$1.5m was provided for the Safe and Well Kids program – a service developed in recognition that 55% of the women who received an Individual Safety and Support Package had children in their care. Children who see a parent experiencing violence or experience that violence themselves need direct supports of their own to recover from the trauma.

The new service is co-delivered by WSSSA, the Legal Services Commission of South Australia and Relationships Australia SA. It includes a case management response to address the safety and wellbeing needs of children and adolescents who have a carer or parent using a domestic violence service. Children and adolescents aged 0-14 have access to simplified assessment, case management and therapeutic support. The service is also providing access to a legal practitioner to provide child-centred information, advice and advocacy.

This service is ensuring that every child in the family who is harmed, whether physically, psychologically or both, is supported to remain safe by receiving the exact support they need when they need it. Children and young people are able to continue to live their lives in safe and connected environments knowing the support they need is available to them.

Marni-Padni – Pukulpay anama (Safe Journeys)

The COVID-19 pandemic also resulted in restricted entrance to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, in line with the Commonwealth Government's Biosecurity Emergency Declaration. This left some families stranded in Adelaide and at severe risk of homelessness and sleeping rough. The restrictions have now been lifted and we have introduced this program to support Aboriginal women and children who have experienced, or are at risk of, domestic and family violence and homelessness, to return to Country, or to move into safe accommodation. Women are able to return to Country, including in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Delivered by Baptist Care, the program provides access to multiple support services alongside helping families avoid homelessness, such as health and mental health services, specialist domestic violence services as well as services for their children. Already the service has been provided to young people under 18 to make sure they are where they need to be to stay safe and receive the support they need to be at home. In total, to the end of September 2021, 30 people have been returned to Country or safe accommodation – 25 women and 5 children.

Safety hubs

In addition to three existing safety hubs, in 2021, we opened four new safety hubs in Mount Barker, Mount Gambier, Whyalla and Gawler. Safety Hubs provide information and referrals to women experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence. The four hubs opened in 2021 are managed by the Women's Information Service, Department of Human Services, and staffed by local volunteers. Each hub is referred to as The Haven and provide the opportunity for women to find the support they need in a safe space with specially trained volunteers who have the knowledge to assist people at times of need.

These four safety hubs received establishment funding under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses.

A further three hubs are opening in early 2022 bringing the total number of safety hubs around regional South Australia to ten.

Data – Services and support

Perpetrator services

Funding under the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses enabled us to introduce a range of perpetrator intervention initiatives from March 2020 onwards. The initiatives were delivered by Community Transitions, Kornar Winmil Yunti and No to Violence.

Men's perpetrator services*	TOTAL 2019–20 and 2020–21
Men who contacted a service	946
Number of contacts	1,867

*Figures collected by Department of Human Services as part of the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses.

Domestic Violence Crisis Line (DVCL)

The DVCL is now staffed 24 hours a day, every day, by specialised domestic violence counsellors, following the Marshall Liberal Government's \$1.66 million funding commitment over four years to Women's Safety Services SA. The extra funding means the crisis line has been able to staff their operations around the clock and means women living in violent or abusive relationships are able to access immediate, specialist support when they need help most.

In 2020–2021, the DVCL received increased calls in line with experience of other domestic violence services around Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

24-hour Domestic Violence Crisis Line*	2019–20	2020–21
Calls to DVCL	41,892	52,014

*Figures collected by Department of Human Services as part of the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses.

Service and support response actions		
Action	Action title	Progress
2.1 & 2.2	Collaboration with REISA re pets	● Underway
2.3	Work with providers to support women and their children with pets to access safe accommodation	● Underway
2.4	Early intervention in community settings	● Ongoing
2.5 & 2.6	Perpetrator referral pathways	● Complete
2.7	Family Safety Framework responses to children and young people	● Complete
2.8	Cohort specific risk assessment changes	● Complete
2.9, 2.42 & 3.22	Safety hubs	● Underway
2.10	Interest-free loans	● Underway
2.11	24-hour domestic violence crisis line	● Complete
2.12	Crisis accommodation	● Complete
2.13 & 3.4	Perpetrator focused crisis accommodation	● Underway
2.14 & 2.15	Perpetrator focused interventions	● Ongoing
2.16	Safety-first response	● Complete
2.17	Domestic violence packages review	● Underway
2.18	National tenancy research	● Complete
2.19	Child protection sector interface	● Ongoing
2.20	Data collection	● Ongoing
2.21	Affordable housing	● Ongoing
2.22	Pathways through the service system	● Complete
2.23	Awareness raising in professional health settings	● Ongoing
2.24	Ask for Angela campaign against sexual harassment	● Complete
2.25	Commonwealth Government national workforce agenda	● Complete
2.26	Best practice responses for young people guide	● Complete
2.27	Early intervention with young people	● Ongoing
2.28, 2.29, 2.30 & 2.31	Service information and responses for young people	● Complete
2.33	Culturally appropriate women's safety contact program	● Underway
2.34 & 2.35	Appropriate and accessible service responses are available to women with disability	● Ongoing
2.37	Culturally appropriate service responses	● Complete
2.39	Recognising and responding to links with problem gambling	● Ongoing
2.40 & 2.41	Services and responses for older women	● Complete



Pillar 3: Justice

Achievements and progress

Legislative changes are critical to ensure reform on domestic, family and sexual violence that generates justice for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. Legislation can be a powerful tool in educating the community and raising awareness about issues, including the impact of domestic and family violence.

The Justice pillar is a vital domestic and family violence prevention measure, providing both a deterrent and a consequence for violent behaviour. Since 2018 the Marshall Liberal Government has implemented significant legislative reform aimed at preventing domestic and family violence and strengthening penalties for perpetrators including introducing a standalone offence of strangulation and increasing penalties for breach of intervention orders. This sends a strong message that such violence and disregard for court orders will not be tolerated.

Young People Connected, Communities Protected

In 2020, we released *Young people connected, communities protected: South Australia's Youth Justice State Plan 2020–2023*. The Plan emphasises placing the best interests and voices of vulnerable children at the forefront of responses wherever possible. The plan is guided by six themes including young people's wellbeing, Aboriginal cultural connection and reconnection with community.

The Plan sets out practical steps to support young people in the youth justice system and to support them to find their place in the community once they have left the system. We work with communities, particularly Aboriginal communities, to strengthen pathways out of the system into training and employment opportunities and community programs.

The Plan commits to 40 actions over three years including supporting Aboriginal young people to identify their own cultural pathways, increasing the accessibility of education for all young people in custody, and increasing recruitment and retention of Aboriginal staff.

The Plan is available on the Department of Human Services website at dhs.sa.gov.au/services/youth-justice/youth-justice-state-plan

Keeping victims informed

The Marshall Liberal Government is committed to ensuring victims of domestic and family violence and their families are automatically notified when an accused perpetrator is being considered or has been granted bail or parole, or if bail or parole conditions have been changed. This helps victim-survivors to plan for their safety before their perpetrator leaves prison or achieves bail.

The Attorney-General's Department has partnered with the Department for Correctional Services (DCS) to make sure victims are informed in a timely manner. The DCS Victim Services Unit can now contact people voluntarily registered on the victim's register when a perpetrator is being released into the community.

More about the services of the Victim Services Unit is available on their website corrections.sa.gov.au/victim-services.

Data - Justice

Intervention Orders

Intervention orders can be issued by police as an interim solution at the time of a crisis event or can be applied for through the Magistrates Court.

Courts Administration Authority data*	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Court issued intervention orders	1822	1567	1809
Police issued interim intervention orders	2955	2963	2958

* Data set available on the Courts Administration Authority website

South Australia Police data

SAPOL reported offences	2019–20	2020–21
Family and domestic abuse related offences*	11,978	12,927
Sexual assault related offences*	1,979	2,145

* Full South Australia Police data sets available at data.sa.gov.au

Justice actions		
Action	Action title	Progress
3.1	Reducing reoffending	● Ongoing
3.2	Understanding legislative changes	● Complete
3.3	Family Court risk assessment guidelines	● Complete
3.5 & 3.13	Whole-of-system perpetrator-focused response	● Ongoing
3.6, 3.7, 3.8 & 3.9	Improvements to systemic responses to domestic violence, family violence and sexual violence	● Ongoing
3.10	Explore lowering the risk threshold of the Family Safety Framework	● Complete
3.11	Consider referral of younger people to the Family Safety Framework	● Complete
3.12	Assessing the needs of young people	● Underway
3.14	Connected Youth Justice responses	● Complete
3.16	Opportunities for participation in culturally appropriate perpetrator programs	● Complete
3.17	Educational materials for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women seeking intervention orders	● Underway
3.19	Raise community awareness about FGM and forced marriage	● Complete
3.23	Additional training in Family Safety Framework risk assessment	● Underway

Next Steps

In the final year of Committed to Safety, we will deliver the few outstanding actions that are underway or were delayed. We are committed to delivering our Primary Prevention Guide for South Australia, to finalise the changes to the Family Safety Framework, work on delivering an Aboriginal Women's Gathering (if safe to do so) and launch a set of principles to guide best practice responses to perpetrators of domestic and family violence. We will also set about delivering the additional training for the Family Safety Framework.

We are committed to continuing to deliver our ongoing successful initiatives such as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, our funding of South Australia's first peak body for domestic, family and sexual violence services – Embolden, and the personal protection app which gives survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence peace of mind to continue their lives safely with the knowledge that an emergency response is at hand when needed.

We will also work with our key stakeholders, both government and non-government, the community and individuals with lived experience to inform our new strategy to respond to domestic, family and sexual violence in South Australia.

We will continue to listen to the needs of the sector, to unique communities and to individuals through our successful roundtables. Once again, we will ensure that regional and remote communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ people are heard and answered with appropriate responses which support change for individuals, families and the community.

We have already listened to the feedback from the National Summit and will ensure our strategy responds to arising issues such as coercive control, community-based primary prevention initiatives and appropriate responses to perpetrators of domestic, family and sexual violence.



Government of South Australia

Office for Women

Feedback

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Website: <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/contact/feedback-and-complaints>

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