



FAMILY  
VIOLENCE  
ROLLING  
ACTION PLAN  
2017-2020  
SUMMARY

## Overview

The Family Violence Rolling Action Plan is the next step in the Victorian Government's ten year agenda to put an end to family violence.

It is focused on the first phase of implementation, including what our actions are, how they will be funded, as well as how they deliver on Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations.

The Plan also outlines the Government's unprecedented investment of \$1.91 billion, along with other investments in housing, Victoria Police and Maternal and Child Health Services.

These are unparalleled reforms that will change the way services are delivered and better respond to the needs of victim survivors. Our timelines and approach reflect the scale of these reforms.

This Plan is the result of genuine and meaningful partnerships with victim survivors, the service sector and the community. We will continue to work with them in implementing these reforms.

Together we will make changes required to keep victims safe, to hold perpetrators to account, and to prevent family violence in the first place. Together, we will save lives.

## Background

The impact of family violence is significant and far-reaching. It touches families and communities across our state.

In March 2016, the Royal Commission into Family Violence made 227 recommendations for change.

The Victorian Government committed to implementing every one of these recommendations, and in April 2016 provided \$572 million to begin work on the most urgent recommendations.

Guiding our approach to delivering these unprecedented reforms are:

- ... *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change* (the 10 Year Plan) – launched in November 2016 and outlines our 10 year strategy for implementing Royal Commission recommendations.
- ... *Free from Violence: The Primary Prevention Strategy* – launched May 2017.
- ... *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy* – launched December 2016.
- ... *Roadmap for Reform: strong families, safe children* – launched April 2016.
- ... *Strong Culture, Strong Peoples and Strong Families: Towards a safer future for Indigenous families and communities* (Indigenous Family Violence 10 Year Plan) – launched 2008.

Additionally, the Victorian Government has partnered with communities and the sector, as well as creating Australia's first Victims Survivors' Advisory Council, to hear directly about victims' experiences of family violence and advice on how to affect meaningful change.

## KEY REFORMS

### PREVENTION \$50.7 MILLION

Stopping family violence before it starts by establishing a new prevention agency, rolling out the state's first gender equality strategy, and embedding respect and awareness in Victorian schools.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 187, 188, 142, 192**

### SPECIALIST FAMILY VIOLENCE COURTS \$130.3 MILLION

Five Specialist Family Violence Courts will be rolled out across the state, providing the expertise, infrastructure and technology to better protect victims.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 22, 28, 57, 56, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 79, 80, 81, 90, 114, 118, 120, 126, 131, 132, 135, 136, 138, 149, 150, 158, 175, 197, 214, 215, 216**

### SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING \$133.2 MILLION

Delivering increased and improved housing options for victim survivors including redeveloping refuges, building new Aboriginal and youth refuges, and improve accessibility for people living with a disability.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 14, 15, 16, 18, 24, 124, 177, 107, 117, 121**

### SUPPORT AND SAFETY HUBS \$448.1 MILLION

A new way for women, children, and young people experiencing family violence to access coordinated support from justice, health and social services.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 37, 38**

### PERPETRATOR ACCOUNTABILITY \$76.9 MILLION

Changes to laws and new interventions that hold perpetrators to account.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 22, 30(A), 57, 72, 75, 76, 78, 87, 90, 86, 91, 92, 94, 132, 138, 150**

### POLICE RESPONSE PART OF THE \$2 BILLION COMMUNITY SAFETY PACKAGE

415 Police family violence specialists, the latest in technology, and a Victoria Police Family Violence Centre of Learning to deliver training in how to respond to family violence.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 66, 115, 125, 130, 151, 155, 159, 186**

**LEADING WITH OTHER MINISTERS: 7, 13, 27, 32, 33, 49, 56, 58, 101, 174, 205**

### FAMILY SAFETY VICTORIA: DELIVERING OUR REFORMS \$60 MILLION

A new family violence coordination agency called Family Safety Victoria will be established from 1 July 2017.

The Agency will lead the delivery of key family violence reforms and provide state-wide coordination to ensure a strong and consistent model for the hubs. It will implement information sharing reforms and oversee the establishment of the Central Information Point. A Centre for Workforce Excellence will be housed within Family Safety Victoria.

### BUILDING OUR WORKFORCE AND MANAGING RISK \$125.4 MILLION

Expanded training, new roles and a Centre for Workforce Excellence will strengthen social services and justice workforces so they have the skills and knowledge to better target family violence.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 1,2,3,4, 98, 100, 102, 103, 145, 148, 172, 188, 190, 207, 209, 212, 213 AND 139 IN PART**

### SHARING INFORMATION MORE EFFECTIVELY \$101.2 MILLION

New legislation that puts the needs of victims first and the Central Information Point, which brings together police, courts, corrections and social workers to share vital information that will track perpetrators and ensure victims are safe.

**SUPPORTS ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**

## Meeting demand on the frontline

The impact of family violence is significant and at the same time as we deliver on the reforms recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence, we are also continuing to invest in the services that victims need now. This builds on our initial \$572 million urgent family violence investment in the 2016/17 Victorian Budget and includes:

- ... **\$270.8 million to specialist family violence services** for case management and counselling for women and children, continued financial counselling programs, additional flexible support packages, and improved support for people from diverse communities.
- ... **\$81.1 million to strengthen Maternal and Child Health Services** including additional visits for at risk families and workforce training.
- ... **\$71.1 million to employ 450 additional Child Protection Practitioners** and \$59.6 million to support children and young people who are unable to live safely at home by expanding Targeted Care Packages.
- ... **\$50 million to expand** headleasing and build new public housing properties, aligning with more than \$2.7 billion in investment announced since the Royal Commission, to address homelessness and deliver thousands of new social housing homes.
- ... **\$49.9 million for Victoria Legal Aid and community legal centres** to help victim survivors with family violence intervention orders and child protection matters.
- ... **\$29.2 million for family services** to assist an additional 1,229 families, particularly those requiring intensive support. To align with the rollout of Support and Safety Hubs a new model of family services will be developed together with the community sector throughout 2017.

## Responding to family violence in Victoria's diverse communities

We are responding to the diverse nature of family violence, strengthening support for every victim:

- ... **\$33.5 million** to ensure Aboriginal communities and services are adequately resourced.
- ... **\$9 million** to build the capacity to deliver family violence services for culturally diverse communities.
- ... **\$5.3 million** for the rollout of the HOW2PROGRAM (Rainbow Tick) accreditation program for all funded family violence service providers. This funding will also provide for LGBTI specialist family violence services that deliver referral, counselling, peer support and perpetrator programs and specialist training for frontline family violence workers.
- ... Women with disability will be further supported through the expansion of the Gender and Disability Program and upgrades to refuges to allow for disability accessible, independent living while also connecting people to services and support.

## Ensuring we deliver on our vision

As we progress these reforms, we also need to be measuring their effectiveness.

This includes improving how we collect and use data with the establishment of the Victorian Family Violence Data Framework.

It also involves changes to the way we design, fund and measure the effectiveness of services. We will develop new demand modelling tools, data systems to track outcomes, and a central point to share evidence on what works.

Holding us to account will be the Family Violence Reform Monitor, Tim Cartwright APM. The Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor Act was passed in December 2016, and each year the Monitor will report to Parliament on our work.