

Response to the 2022-2032 National Plan to end Violence against Women and Children Action Plans

The launch of the Federal Government's National Plan to end Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 Action Plans is a significant step towards combating the pervasive issue of men's violence against women.

Communicare and White Ribbon Australia Acting CEO David Cain said the two Action Plans aim to address the issue of men's violence against women head-on, fostering a safer, more respectful society for all.

"This includes a target of a 25 per cent reduction in women being murdered each year and a 50 per cent reduction in Family Domestic Violence and Abuse (FDVA) against First Nations women by 2031," Mr Cain said.

"As a dedicated proponent of gender equality and the elimination of men's violence against women, we stand firmly behind the initiatives outlined in the Action Plans.

"Since the acquisition of White Ribbon Australia in 2020, Communicare has become one of the only organisations working across the whole range of FDVA strategies, from primary prevention to men's behaviour change and victim support services."

Mr Cain said the Action Plans present a comprehensive roadmap in the collective endeavour to end violence towards women and children.

"With a strong foundation of 10 specific actions, the plan encompasses a wide array of responses and preventive strategies to end men's violence against women.

"This approach invites active participation and commitment from all stakeholders, fostering an environment conducive to collaboration and innovation.

"A commendable feature of the plan is its emphasis on collaboration across state and territory lines. By aligning efforts in prevention planning, investment, and initiatives, the plan recognises the necessity of a united front to tackle this complex issue.

"The call for consistent messaging around education campaigns and addressing violence against women in online settings, further increases the potential for societal transformation.

"The dedicated focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and boys is a promising step towards inclusivity and cultural sensitivity. The establishment of an advisory panel demonstrates a commitment to understanding and a clear ambition to close the gap.

"This recognition of intersectionality is a significant stride towards justice and equality and paves the way for meaningful engagement and targeted support for First Nations communities.

“Additionally, the commitment to empowering young people as decision-makers is commendable. The successful implementation of White Ribbon Australia's Youth Advisory Panel is a good example of the importance of giving a voice to the next generation. The intention to involve children and young people across all aspects of policy, program, and service development signifies an earnest commitment to inclusivity and long-term change.

“The focus on housing in action 10 is vital to ensure the housing crisis is systematically addressed. Addressing the housing crisis not only provides immediate relief, but also contributes to the long-term prevention of violence, creating an environment where individuals can live free from fear.”

While he applauded the Action Plans, Mr Cain said more work was needed to invest in change.

“The investment in men's behaviour change programs, while promising, must be scaled to reach the entirety of the target audience. Demand for places at our Breathing Space residential men's behaviour change programs in Calista, Maylands and Port Hedland continually exceeds capacity.

“The allocation of \$8.5 million in funding is a significant step, but given the scale of the issue, a broader and more sustained investment is essential. Reaching over three-million Australian men requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to engage men across the spectrum.

White Ribbon Australia National Director Allan Ball said it was encouraging that the plans recognise the need for solutions to be driven by men themselves.

“Australian men, who may not directly see themselves reflected in the plan, hold the key to bringing about real change,” Mr Ball said.

“These plans serve as a call to action, urging men to harness their skills, privilege, and power to actively promote women's safety. Every individual's involvement contributes to the collective effort that will reshape norms and behaviours, paving the way for a future free from violence.”

About Communicare

Since 1977, [Communicare](#) has built a positive reputation for community service excellence. We deliver high quality, holistic and integrated social support services that acknowledge diversity and seek to inspire and empower people to participate safely and fully in their communities. Our work includes children and family services, education and training, employment, family violence, emergency relief, financial counselling and support for newly arrived Australians.

About White Ribbon Australia:

[White Ribbon Australia](#) is part of the largest global movement aiming to confront and shift men's attitudes and actions relating to women's safety, particularly the use of violence, abuse and controlling behaviours. We strive for an Australian society where women and children are free from all forms of men's violence and abuse. Our focus is on working with communities, workplaces and schools in ways to prevent violence before it begins.