A vision of hope for 2031
and a community call for action

Domestic, family and sexual violence and abuse is a community-wide public health emergency.

It infects every aspect of life: our health and safety, education, employment, housing and life opportunities. It impacts our children and tears our social fabric apart.

We all need to demand a safer Australia. We need bold, focused and courageous action to achieve it.

Our vision is that by 2031, Australia has reduced the 2021 rates of domestic and family violence by 80%, and 80% of women who have experienced domestic and family violence-related trauma are properly supported to recover. It is a vision of hope.

As community leaders, we call on all levels of Governments to aim for 80|80 in 2031.

To achieve this, we want the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children to:

1. Recognise trauma behaviour as a natural response to violence and abuse and for it to be treated as an injury.

2. Ensure victim-survivors have ready access to a range of trauma-specific evidence-based therapies of appropriate duration under the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

3. Establish twenty community based Women’s Trauma Recovery Centres across Australia, each offering a one-stop wrap-around health and justice service to women traumatised by family, domestic and sexual violence.

4. Ensure mandatory trauma and gendered violence education and training programs for all health and justice qualifications.
5. Embrace First Nations healing knowledge to address trauma, and ensure real investment in community-controlled responses to domestic, family and sexual abuse.

6. Undertake a National Prevalence Study of Perpetration to: quantify and understand who is using domestic, family and sexual violence against women and children; identify the personal, cultural, social and structural drivers for that violence to improve effective early identification and interventions; and shift the burden off victim-survivors for stopping abuse and violence.

7. Work with women and children who have experienced gendered violence through co-design and co-production of policy, services and reforms relating to domestic, family, and sexual abuse, and establishing and sustainably funding a national Victim Survivor Experts peak body.

8. Embed specialist children and young person workers in domestic and family violence services and specialist domestic and family violence workers in children and young person services, which recognises children as victims, supports their recovery and reduces potential revictimisation or perpetration, thereby breaking the intergenerational cycle of violence.

9. Construct 17,000 new social and affordable and accessible housing units every year for the next ten years across Australia, so that women and children experiencing violence have safe housing options.

Realising this vision is entirely possible, if we have the courage to take these practical and transformative actions to stop men’s violence against women.

We, the undersigned, call on the Commonwealth Government to act now, so that by 2031 we can achieve a better Australia for all.

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