



**Queensland  
Violence against  
Women  
Prevention Plan  
2016–22**

PROGRESS REPORT

# Progress update

## Queensland Violence against Women Prevention Plan 2016–22

The *Queensland Violence against Women Prevention Plan 2016–22* set out actions under three outcomes — Respect, Safety, and Justice — to address all forms of violence against women. We have completed 23 of the 26 actions in the Plan, or embedded them into business as usual activities. Three actions will continue to be progressed as we implement *Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's Framework to address Sexual Violence*.

### OUTCOME 1: Respect

*Shifting community attitudes and behaviours that support or excuse violence against women*

Since 2016, we have:

- ✓ Continued to build the evidence base about violence against women in Queensland and what works to prevent it through our partnership with Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety — with a particular focus on women, disability and violence.
- ✓ Supported the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research to strengthen the capacity and capability of organisations that deliver sexual assault services funded by the Queensland Government.
- ✓ Engaged with communities about the nature of violence against women in Queensland — including through community consultation to inform *Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's Framework to address Sexual Violence* in 2019.
- ✓ Supported Our Watch to develop a primary prevention model — *Changing the Picture* — for violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
- ✓ Reviewed the Respectful Relationships Education Program to ensure it reflects current education research and best practice, and made it available to all Queensland schools.
- ✓ Contributed to the primary prevention of violence against women through the work of the Arts Queensland Statutory Bodies, including the 2017 Queensland Music Festival's production *You're the Voice*, a chorus of over 2,500 voices from around the state, and an award winning short film, *Calloused Hearts*, which highlights the impact of domestic violence in regional areas.

- ✓ Worked with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions through the *Third Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* to progress actions related to all forms of violence against women.

### OUTCOME 2: Safety

*Decreasing risk and reducing the impact of violence*

Since 2016, we have:

- ✓ Released the *Sexual Health and Safety Guidelines* and online promotional package, and conducted an audit of clinical training needs to implement the Guidelines.
- ✓ Enhanced reproductive choice through the *Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018* (the Act), and developed guidelines and other resources to support health practitioners and services to appropriately implement the Act.
- ✓ Developed reference material to build the capacity of frontline domestic, family and sexual violence workforce to deliver evidence-informed and inclusive services.
- ✓ Released the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's Final Report and Government response, including committing \$12 million for priority actions.
- ✓ Engaged with the National Disability Insurance Agency to consider and respond to the risks and experiences of violence for women with disability.
- ✓ Released *Queensland's plan to respond to domestic and family violence against people with disability*, which includes both immediate strategies to improve responses as well as laying the groundwork to build understanding to inform future work.

- ✓ Engaged with specialist and non-specialist community and health services to ensure services are accessible and appropriate to women with disability and acknowledge additional vulnerability to experiencing violence.
- ✓ Implemented actions in the Queensland Multicultural Policy, *Our story, our future*, and action plan to better meet the safety and support needs of women and girls from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- ✓ Leveraged the work being undertaken to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence to include broader prevention strategies for other forms of violence against women.

### OUTCOME 3: Justice

#### *Responding to violence effectively and preventing re-offending*

Since 2016, we have:

- ✓ Amended the Criminal Code through the *Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Act 2016* in response to the proliferation of child exploitation material over the internet, the increased use of technology to promote and distribute offending material and conceal offending, and to address legislative gaps and limitations.
- ✓ Passed the *Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017* to give adult victims of a sexual offence who are to give evidence in a criminal proceeding against the accused automatic status as a special witness.
- ✓ Responded to recommendations of the 2016–17 and 2018-19 reports of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board and released *Queensland's Framework for Action: Reshaping our Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence*.
- ✓ Accepted advice from the Queensland Law Reform Commission not to introduce a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.
- ✓ Continued to take action to limit technology-facilitated abuse, including through introducing new offences relating to non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
- ✓ Provided specialised training to Queensland Corrective Services' Community Corrections staff on managing female offenders, including a component that focuses on women as victims of trauma and abuse; and to Courts Innovation Program staff about the underlying causes of offending and the rehabilitation of offenders to address recidivism and keep women safe.
- ✓ Delivered training to Regional Scenes of Crime Examination Officers to support investigation of rapes and sexual assaults in remote/rural areas.

#### Ongoing work

- Redeveloping the *Response to sexual assault and sexual abuse: Queensland Government Interagency Guidelines for responding to children, young people and adults who have experienced sexual assault or sexual abuse*.
- Continuing to review primary prevention resources relating to preventing violence against women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to identify opportunities and gaps.
- Developing and implementing strategies to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system, including through the *Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019–2023* and supporting repeat victims of crime and reducing re-victimisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls.

These ongoing actions will be reported on under the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–2026, Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's Framework to address Sexual Violence* and *Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019–2023*.

