Queensland says: not now, not ever.

FIRST ACTION PLAN
of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy

2015-2016

**Queensland’s reform program to end domestic and family violence**



Message from the Premier and the Minister

This first action plan seeks to establish the foundations for the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. It will create the necessary framework for projects that will drive change beyond the life of the strategy.

Over the next decade a series of action plans will be released. The next action plan will build on the foundations and framework of this first one.

 A staged approach will be adopted to implement domestic and family violence prevention reforms. This will allow for ongoing evaluation and lessons learned to be applied to the roll out of services and the development and refinement of service models.

By taking this steady iterative approach, government and service providers can ensure resources are directed to best serve the current and immediate needs of those affected by domestic and family violence and to contribute to the long lasting cultural change that will be needed to eliminate domestic and family violence in Queensland. Only through measured and sustainable investment will this be achieved.

If we are to solve the issue of domestic and family violence and create a Queensland free from domestic and family violence, a Queensland where people feel safe in their own homes and where children can grow and develop in safe, secure environments, we have to take action now, together as one community united in our common cause for genuine change in our society.

Together we can end the violence.



**Annastacia Palaszczuk MP**

Premier and Minister for the Arts



**Shannon Fentiman MP**

Minister for Communities,

Women and Youth and

Minister for Child Safety and

Minister for the Prevention

of Domestic and Family Violence

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# Queensland’s reform program

The Queensland Government is committed to leading a program of reform to end domestic and family violence and implementing the recommendations of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland outlined in the report Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland (Taskforce report).Eliminating domestic and family violence is a long-term endeavour, requiring focused and sustained commitment from the whole community.

Staged implementation will be necessary to provide flexibility to accommodate changing circumstances and to effectively address new and emerging issues. The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy provides the framework for action until 2026. A series of four successive action plans will support the strategy enabling the government and the community to work in a coordinated and focused way.

In its report, the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland stressed the importance of commencing implementation planning as soon as possible. This first action plan focuses on the priority actions to be implemented by government in response to the Taskforce report. It outlines how the government will work with Queensland communities to create a foundation for change and build momentum for long-term reform. Feedback received from the community and stakeholders in relation to the draft strategy has influenced the development of this first action plan. The taskforce also recommended the establishment of an independent oversight body to ensure accountable implementation of the recommendations in the Taskforce report and the strategy. The Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council will be chaired by The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO and include Mr Lance Hockridge, as Deputy Chair, Mr Lachlan Heywood, Mr Darren Lockyer, Mr Edward Mosby, Ms Natalie Lewis, Ms Faiza El-Higzi, Ms Denise Kostowski, Dr Shannon Spriggs Murdoch, Dr Wendell Rosevear, Ms Kathryn McMillan QC, Ms Karyn Walsh, Ms Janette Phelan, Ms Karni Liddell and Dr Kathleen Baird. The council will also be a strong advocate for ensuring action on eliminating domestic and family violence in Queensland remains a focus.

# How will action be coordinated?

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy sets the direction for ending domestic and family violence in Queensland and outlines a shared vision for Queensland. It sets out a plan to achieve the shared vision and how we, as the Queensland community, will get there.

The strategy and its action plans are designed in a chronological order, recognising the need to continually build on our achievements. The reforms made under action plans will be monitored and evaluated over time to ensure their ongoing relevance and effectiveness. Subsequent action plans will be modified to address any learnings identified through evaluation.

Following is a condensed version of the key elements of the strategy.

##  Our vision

The vision of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy is:

“ A Queensland free from domestic and family violence.”

## Key outcome

The primary long-term outcome of the strategy is:

“ All Queenslanders live safely in their own homes and children can grow and develop in safe and secure environments.”

## Supporting outcomes

The high-level outcome is underpinned by the seven supporting outcomes outlined in the first action plan. These outcomes will help us to understand what we are wanting to achieve.

## Foundational elements

The three foundational elements underpinning the strategy are:

1. A significant shift in community attitudes and behaviours is required
2. An integrated response system must deliver the services and support that victims and perpetrators need, and
3. The justice system response will be strengthened to prioritise victim safety and hold perpetrators to account.

## Guiding principles

The strategy is supported by key principles which form the basis of how Queensland, as a community, can work together to end domestic and family violence. The principles will guide all stages of reform and will also be used to help design new approaches, processes or programs.

# First Action Plan (2015-16)

This action plan is the first of four action plans which will provide the blueprint to guide government and the community. The action plans will help to realise the objectives of the strategy and achieve the vision of a Queensland free from domestic and family violence.

The first action plan outlines the initiatives undertaken as part of the government’s response over the period July to December 2015 and details the program of work until 30 June 2016. The first action plan seeks to establish the foundations for the strategy, and create the necessary framework for the projects that will drive change over the longer term.

A number of high‑priority actions focused on shorter‑term goals complementing the overall strategic direction will be implemented by 30 June 2016.

Initially focused on creating a positive environment for fostering change, its actions and initiatives will provide a strong base for subsequent action plans as well as starting to create momentum for change in the community.

## How does it work?

The following tables detail specific initiatives, programs and actions under each of the strategy’s supporting outcomes, along with the government agency that will lead implementation and the related recommendations of the Taskforce report. Where an action is not directly related to a recommendation of the Taskforce report, but forms part of the broader domestic and family violence reform program, the action has been categorised as an enabling action. Actions which contribute to multiple supporting outcomes can be found under each of the relevant outcome sections.

This structure will help the government and the community to understand how activity in the action plan contributes to the achievement of the strategy’s vision.

The Legend below details each of the supporting outcomes as they are referenced in the following tables

**Table legend**

**1:** Queenslanders take a zero-tolerance approach to domestic and family violence

**2:** Respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour are embedded in our community

**3:** Queensland community, business, religious, sporting and all government leaders are taking action and working together

**4:** Queensland’s workplaces and workforce challenge attitudes contributing to violence and effectively support workers

**5:** Victims and their families are safe and supported

**6:** Perpetrators stop using violence and are held to account

**7:** The justice system deals effectively with domestic and family violence

## Supporting outcome 1: Queenslanders take a zero tolerance approach to domestic and family violence

Everyone, everywhere feels safe, supported and protected from all forms of domestic and family violence.

Family, friends and neighbours support each other. Witnesses to violence are empowered to recognise, respond and refer appropriately. Friends, team mates, family and neighbours appropriately make it clear that violence is not acceptable and do not condone violent behaviour.

First responders (police, ambulance, fire, health services) are able to recognise, respond and refer appropriately when violence occurs.

| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | RELATED TO REC NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Develop and consult on a draft Queensland prevention of domestic and family violence strategy and first action plan. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1 | 1, 2 |
| Establish and support a Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to guide and monitor implementation of the recommendations of the Taskforce report and serve as champions of the strategy through creating a shared responsibility for achieving the vision. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 3 | 3 |
| Provide the first report of the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to the Premier on implementation progress and the performance of the sectors taking action to eliminate domestic and family violence. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 3 | 3, 4 |
| Develop an evaluation framework to evaluate implementation of the taskforce’s recommendations. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 3 | 5, 17 |
| Develop contemporary integrated domestic and family violence service delivery models, in consultation with the sector, to trial in three locations (one urban community, one regional community and one discrete Indigenous community). In consultation with the sector, also undertake the foundational work needed to support implementation of these trials including development of a common risk assessment framework, information sharing guidelines and a process for managing high-risk cases. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1,3,5,6,7 | 9, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 82, 83  |
| Commission a review to explore the specific challenges faced by people with a disability impacted by domestic and family violence. Develop a response to these challenges that considers access, availability and integration of services to address the impact of domestic and family violence on people with a disability. Specific actions will focus on both preventing and responding to domestic violence. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5 | 10 |
| Commission a review into the prevalence and characteristics of elder abuse in recognition of the harm experienced by older people impacted by elder abuse. The review findings will inform the development of integrated service response models and a communication strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 5 | 11 |
| Deliver an annual elder abuse prevention campaign, commencing in the lead up to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June 2016 to raise awareness of the behaviours that constitute elder abuse and the significant emotional, financial and physical impacts of elder abuse on Queensland communities. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3 | 12 |
| Work with a range of stakeholders to hold a design forum to examine innovative ways to communicate with the Queensland community about domestic and family violence. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 2, 3 | 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30 |
| Expand the annual Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month community grants program to extend the number of community-based awareness activities and partnerships across the state. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3 | 23 |
| Review and map programs and services to ensure that schools can equip students to build respectful relationships and act against domestic violence in age appropriate ways. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 24, 25, 26 |
| Share the review and mapping of programs and services with Queensland Catholic Education Council and Independent Schools Queensland. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 27 |
| Communicate to principals and deputy principals the requirement to provide programs that focus on appropriate, respectful and healthy relationships and will develop the means to measure the effective implementation of these programs. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 29 |
| Make available and promote to all Queensland Government employees the *Recognise, Respond, Refer: Domestic Violence and the Workplace* online training program. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1, 3, 4 | 32 |
| Work with universities and the Queensland College of Teachers to ensure pre-service teachers graduate with the knowledge and skills to recognise and respond to domestic and family violence as a part of their initial teacher education program. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 65 |
| Build on the audit of domestic and family violence services to develop a long term funding and investment model. This needs based and contemporary model will guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system, including in rural and remote communities.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 | 72, 73, 80, 86, 89 |
| Progress legislative amendments to the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* to require a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent. | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 93 |
| Review the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* with a focus on:* considering the specific legislative amendments recommended by the taskforce
* addressing other issues related to the operation of the Act identified in the Taskforce report.
 | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 99, 117, 129, 140  |
| Appoint, and appropriately support, a State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at the rank of Inspector to engender a consistent approach to the policing response, monitor performance and improve practice, and drive the future direction agenda for domestic and family violence policing. | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 136 |
| The Deputy Commissioner, supported by the Assistant Commissioner responsible for domestic and family violence policing, will convene a forum of recognised experts, police domestic and family violence practitioners and key partner agency representatives to define prevention and first responder best policing practice in Queensland.  | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 137 |
| Become a member of Our Watch to extend Queensland-based primary prevention activities. Our Watch is a national organisation established to implement strategies to stop violence against women before it occurs. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3 | Enabling action |
| Work in partnership with the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community and the domestic and family violence service system to develop culturally appropriate services and supports.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 6 | Enabling action |
| Expand the network of specialist domestic and family violence prevention and support services by establishing new services across the Central Queensland and Far North Queensland regions.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 7 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Queensland Women’s Strategy. Gender inequality is a key reason why violence against women exists. Through its focus on gender equality and opportunities for women, the strategy will be an important violence prevention foundational initiative. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan for Queensland. By taking a broader approach to preventing violence against women, the government is committed to making Queensland a safer place for women and girls. This plan will support and strengthen the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | Enabling action |

## Supporting outcome 2: Respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour are embedded in our community

Wherever people live, learn, work and play, they respect and value each other.

The principles of respect and value for one another are reinforced throughout the community, by community leaders, social and sporting organisations and leaders of faith.

The entire education system – from childcare through schools to tertiary and vocational education and beyond to continuing professional development – should embody these principles and model respectful behaviours.

Clubs, associations and sporting organisation reinforce appropriate non-violent dispute resolution. Families, friends and neighbours need to value and support one another.

| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | RELATED TO REC NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commission a review to explore the specific challenges faced by people with a disability impacted by domestic and family violence. Develop a response to these challenges that considers access, availability and integration of services to address the impact of domestic and family violence on people with a disability. Specific actions will focus on both preventing and responding to domestic violence.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5 | 10 |
| Deliver an annual elder abuse prevention campaign, commencing in the lead up to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June 2016 to raise awareness of the behaviours that constitute elder abuse and the significant emotional, financial and physical impacts of elder abuse on Queensland communities.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3 | 12 |
| Work with a range of stakeholders to hold a design forum to examine innovative ways to communicate with the Queensland community about domestic and family violence. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 2, 3 | 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30 |
| Develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy to:* encourage public sector employees to contribute to the public consultation on the draft Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan
* support the implementation of a culture change program to ensure the public sector leads and models responsive workplaces that respond appropriately to domestic and family violence
* support the delivery of consistent messages on the strategy implementation.
 | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 2, 3 | 18 |
| Review and map programs and services to ensure that schools can equip students to build respectful relationships and act against domestic violence in age appropriate ways. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 24, 25, 26 |
| Share the review and mapping of programs and services with Queensland Catholic Education Council and Independent Schools Queensland. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 27 |
| Communicate to principals and deputy principals the requirement to provide programs that focus on appropriate, respectful and healthy relationships and will develop the means to measure the effective implementation of these programs. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 29 |
| Support the work of the Public Service Commission to promote cultural change across the Queensland Public Service through contributing to workplace initiatives that foster gender equality, educate employees, support victims of domestic and family violence and support perpetrators to change their behaviour. This will include promotion of an online resource developed in collaboration with Australia’s CEO Challenge for employers and businesses to raise awareness and support people impacted by domestic and family violence.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 2, 4 | 32 |
| Work with universities and the Queensland College of Teachers to ensure pre-service teachers graduate with the knowledge and skills to recognise and respond to domestic and family violence as a part of their initial teacher education program. | Department of Education and Training | 1, 2 | 65 |
| Build on the audit of domestic and family violence services to develop a long term funding and investment model. This needs based and contemporary model will guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system, including in rural and remote communities.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5, 6 ,7 | 72, 73, 80, 86, 89 |
| Consult on and co-design a Queensland Women’s Strategy. Gender inequality is a key reason why violence against women exists. Through its focus on gender equality and opportunities for women, the strategy will be an important violence prevention foundational initiative.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1,2,3,4 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan for Queensland. By taking a broader approach to preventing violence against women, the government is committed to making Queensland a safer place for women and girls. This plan will support and strengthen the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | Enabling action |

## Supporting outcome 3: Queensland community, business, religious, sporting, and all government leaders are taking action and working together

Cultural change is led by communities across Queensland, working together to protect and support victims and model respectful relationships.

Leaders across the community, business, faiths, sport and government participate in driving reform, embrace changes and innovation within their own organisations that better protected and support victims and model respectful relationships.

Networks are formed between and across communities and organisations to share supports, resources and ideas.

| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | RELATED TO REC NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Establish and support a Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to guide and monitor implementation of the recommendations of the Taskforce report and serve as champions of the strategy through creating a shared responsibility for achieving the vision. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 3 | 3 |
| Provide the first report of the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to the Premier on implementation progress and the performance of the sectors taking action to eliminate domestic and family violence. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 3 | 3, 4 |
| Develop an evaluation framework to evaluate implementation of the taskforce’s recommendations. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 3 | 5, 17 |
| Enhance the domestic and family violence death review process by increasing the capacity of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit in the Office of the State Coroner and establishing a Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, and develop protocols that improve information sharing between the unit and government agencies.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3 | 6, 7, 8 |
| Develop contemporary integrated domestic and family violence service delivery models, in consultation with the sector, to trial in three locations (one urban community, one regional community and one discrete Indigenous community). In consultation with the sector, also undertake the foundational work needed to support implementation of these trials including development of a common risk assessment framework, information sharing guidelines and a process for managing high-risk cases.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | 9, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 82, 83 |
| Deliver an annual elder abuse prevention campaign, commencing in the lead up to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June 2016 to raise awareness of the behaviours that constitute elder abuse and the significant emotional, financial and physical impacts of elder abuse on Queensland communities.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3 | 12 |
| Work with a range of stakeholders to hold a design forum to examine innovative ways to communicate with the Queensland community about domestic and family violence. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 2, 3 | 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30 |
| Develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy to:* encourage public sector employees to contribute to the public consultation on the draft Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Stratgey and Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan
* support the implementation of a culture change program to ensure the public sector leads and models responsive workplaces that respond appropriately to domestic and family violence
* support the delivery of consistent messages on the Strategy implementation.
 | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 2, 3 | 18 |
| Expand the annual Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month community grants program to extend the number of community based awareness activities and partnerships across the state.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3 | 23 |
| Recognising that some departments have already commenced domestic and family violence initiatives, a review will be undertaken to gather information on existing programs and policies to support victims of domestic and family violence in the workplace.The results of this review will inform the development and implementation of a coordinated and responsive workplace culture program, capable of being adapted based on individual agency circumstances. | Public Service Commission | 3, 4  | 31 |
| Make available and promote to all Queensland Government employees the *Recognise, Respond, Refer: Domestic Violence and the Workplace* online training program. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1, 3, 4 | 32 |
| Seek to implement expanded guidance and templates underpinning Principle 4 of the Queensland Procurement Policy. This is to ensure that the workplace policies for contractor and suppliers to government relating to domestic and family violence form part of how the government identifies ‘ethical and socially responsible suppliers’. Implementing these recommendations will include consulting with other government agencies to ensure the impacts on small business in particular are understood, and that a practical and effective approach to implementation is undertaken. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 3 | 42 |
| Revise the Queensland Language Services Guidelines. Advice will be included for Queensland Government departments and government funded organisations on briefing interpreters prior to client communication so they are fully informed of the nature of the likely discussion and have the opportunity to decline the engagement.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 3, 5 | 44 |
| Develop a tool kit and train the trainer program to assist all health professionals across the public and private sector health services in Queensland to recognise and respond to domestic and family violence | Queensland Health | 3, 4, 5 | 52, 55, 56, 58 |
| Develop a specialist support and referral model for public and private maternity and emergency departments | Queensland Health | 3, 4 ,5 | 59 |
| The Minister for Health will raise workforce professional development with other Australian health ministers. | Queensland Health | 3, 4 | 60, 61, 62, 63 |
| Consult with relevant industry stakeholders to explore the potential need to upskill workers across industries identified within the report. The Department of Education and Training will liaise with Jobs Queensland, as appropriate.  | Department of Education and Training | 3, 4 | 66 |
| Consider amendments to the *Defamation Act 2005* to provide a defence to defamation against media publishing domestic and family violence support services information in stories or publications where domestic and family violence is alleged but not yet proven and whether to recommend changes under the national uniform defamation laws. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3 | 67, 68 |
| Review legislation to examine whether there are barriers prohibiting media from publishing information about support services when reporting on domestic and family violence incidents and report on outcomes of the review. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3 | 69 |
| Appoint, and appropriately support, a State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at the rank of Inspector to engender a consistent approach to the policing response, monitor performance and improve practice, and drive the future direction agenda for domestic and family violence policing. | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 136 |
| The Deputy Commissioner, supported by the Assistant Commissioner responsible for domestic and family violence policing, will convene a forum of recognised experts, police domestic and family violence practitioners and key partner agency representatives to define prevention and first responder best policing practice in Queensland.  | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 137 |
| Duly note the advice from the interim report of the Family Law Council in relation to the needs of parents resolving parenting disputes and the intersection between relevant state and commonwealth jurisdictions. Liaise with the Commonwealth on the proposed recommendations for reform. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 3, 7 | 139 |
| Become a member of Our Watch to extend Queensland based primary prevention activities. Our Watch is a national organisation established to implement strategies to stop violence against women before it occurs. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3 | Enabling action |
| Support the Chief Magistrate and the Queensland Law Society in developing useful practice resources as well as professional development training for magistrates and legal professionals, and continue training initiatives for front-line court and registry staff. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3, 7 | Enabling action |
| Work in partnership with the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community and the domestic and family violence service system to develop culturally appropriate services and supports.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1,3,5,6 | Enabling action |
| Expand the network of specialist domestic and family violence prevention and support services by establishing new services across the Central Queensland and Far North Queensland regions.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 7 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Queensland Women’s Strategy. Gender inequality is a key reason why violence against women exists. Through its focus on gender equality and opportunities for women, the strategy will be an important violence prevention foundational initiative. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan for Queensland. By taking a broader approach to preventing violence against women, the government is committed to making Queensland a safer place for women and girls. This plan will support and strengthen the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | Enabling action |
| Make available to local government, business and non-government organisations a consolidated suite of information, training and support resources developed for Queensland Government employees. | Public Service Commission | 3, 4 | Enabling action |

## Supporting Outcome 4: Queensland’s workplaces and workforce challenge attitudes contributing to violence and effectively support people affected

Workplaces recognise domestic and family violence as a workplace issue and support workers.

Queensland employers, workforces and businesses develop and implement policies around leave, workforce participation and respectful relationships that support victims to remain in the workforce.

| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | RELATED TO REC NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Launch the *Queensland Public Sector Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2015-2020* and the *Queensland Public Sector Gender Equity Strategy 2015-2020* to support the creation of a more inclusive and diverse workforce.Implementation of the Gender Equity Strategy includes an awareness campaign to focus on the identification and response to domestic and family violence and the support available to Queensland Government employees. | Public Service Commission | 4 | 31 |
| Recognising that some departments have already commenced domestic and family violence initiatives, a review will be undertaken to gather information on existing programs and policies to support victims of domestic and family violence in the workplace.The results of this review will inform the development and implementation of a coordinated and responsive workplace culture program, capable of being adapted based on individual agency circumstances. | Public Service Commission | 3, 4  | 31 |
| Support the work of the Public Service Commission to promote cultural change across the Queensland Public Service through contributing to workplace initiatives that foster gender equality, educate employees, support victims of domestic and family violence and support perpetrators to change their behaviour. This will include promotion of an on line resource developed in collaboration with Australia’s CEO Challenge for employers and businesses to raise awareness and support people impacted by domestic and family violence.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 2, 4 | 32 |
| Make available and promote to all Queensland Government employees the *Recognise, Respond, Refer: Domestic Violence and the Workplace* online training program. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1, 3, 4 | 32 |
| Consider the need for legislative amendment to provide access to leave from the workplace for domestic and family leave purposes and to provide protection from dismissal where the grounds are related to domestic and family violence purposes.  | Queensland Treasury | 4 | 33,34,35 |
| Develop a Public Service Directive to support victims of domestic and family violence in the workplace and prepare support materials for managers and supervisors on implementing the directive and supporting victims in the workplace. | Public Service Commission | 4, 5 | 37, 38, 39 |
| A review of existing information resources for victims and perpetrators will be undertaken to ensure that appropriate information resources are available for Queensland Government employees who are affected by domestic and family violence or who may know someone affected. The results of this review will inform future initiatives to provide information in accessible, modern and adaptable formats. | Public Service Commission | 4, 5 | 39 |
| Develop a tool kit and train the trainer program to assist all health professionals across the public and private sector health services in Queensland to recognise and respond to domestic and family violence. | Queensland Health | 3, 4, 5 | 52, 55, 56, 58 |
| Develop a specialist support and referral model for public and private maternity and emergency departments. | Queensland Health | 3, 4, 5 | 59 |
| The Minister for Health will raise workforce professional development with other Australian health ministers. | Queensland Health | 4, 5 | 60, 61, 62, 63 |
| Consult with relevant industry stakeholders to explore the potential need to upskill workers across industries identified within the report. The Department of Education and Training will liaise with Jobs Queensland, as appropriate.  | Department of Education and Training | 3, 4 | 66 |
| The Attorney-General will write to the Law Council of Australia to recommend that an amendment be made to the Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules 2011 to ensure safeguards currently applied to victims of sexual assault are extended to include victims where allegations of domestic and family violence are part of proceedings. If a national approach is not supported, relevant Queensland bodies will be asked to consider this reform. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 4 | 111 |
| Appoint, and appropriately support, a State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at the rank of Inspector to engender a consistent approach to the policing response, monitor performance and improve practice, and drive the future direction agenda for domestic and family violence policing. | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 136 |
| The Deputy Commissioner, supported by the Assistant Commissioner responsible for domestic and family violence policing, will convene a forum of recognised experts, police domestic and family violence practitioners and key partner agency representatives to define prevention and first responder best policing practice in Queensland.  | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 137 |
| Scope current centrally administered training packages and locally delivered training initiatives to inform an assessment of the appropriateness and frequency of relevant learnings to domestic and family violence. | Queensland Police Service | 4, 5, 6, 7 | 138 |
| Consult on and co-design a Queensland Women’s Strategy. Gender inequality is a key reason why violence against women exists. Through its focus on gender equality and opportunities for women, the strategy will be an important violence prevention foundational initiative. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan for Queensland. By taking a broader approach to preventing violence against women, the government is committed to making Queensland a safer place for women and girls. This plan will support and strengthen the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | Enabling action |
| Make available to local government, business and non-government organisations a consolidated suite of information, training and support resources developed for Queensland Government employees. | Public Service Commission | 3, 4 | Enabling action |

## Supporting outcome 5: Victims and their families are safe and supported

Integrated services are all inclusive to respond, rebuild, empower and create economic independence.

Integrated services provide culturally appropriate wrap-around services to help victims and their families escape violence, access or maintain stable and safe housing; help victims rebuild and empower their lives and support survivors to become independent and not return to violence.

| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | RELATED TO REC NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Develop contemporary integrated domestic and family violence service delivery models, in consultation with the sector, to trial in three locations (one urban community, one regional community and one discrete Indigenous community). In consultation with the sector, also undertake the foundational work needed to support implementation of these trials including development of a common risk assessment framework, information sharing guidelines and a process for managing high-risk cases.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | 9, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 82, 83 |
| Commission a review to explore the specific challenges faced by people with a disability impacted by domestic and family violence. Develop a response to these challenges that considers access, availability and integration of services to address the impact of domestic and family violence on people with a disability. Specific actions will focus on both preventing and responding to domestic violence.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5 | 10 |
| Commission a review into the prevalence and characteristics of elder abuse in recognition of the harm experienced by older people impacted by elder abuse. The review findings will inform the development of integrated service response models and a communication strategy.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 5 | 11 |
| Develop a public service directive to support victims of domestic and family violence in the workplace and prepare support materials for managers and supervisors on implementing the directive and supporting victims in the workplace. | Public Service Commission | 4, 5 | 37, 38, 39 |
| A review of existing information resources for victims and perpetrators will be undertaken to ensure that appropriate information resources are available for Queensland Government employees who are affected by domestic and family violence or who may know someone affected. The results of this review will inform future initiatives to provide information in accessible, modern and adaptable formats. | Public Service Commission  | 4, 5 | 39 |
| Revise the Queensland Language Services Guidelines. Advice will be included for Queensland Government departments and government funded organisations on briefing interpreters prior to client communication so they are fully informed of the nature of the likely discussion and have the opportunity to decline the engagement.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 3, 5 | 44 |
| Develop a tool kit and train the trainer program to assist all health professionals across the public and private sector health services in Queensland to recognise and respond to domestic and family violence. | Queensland Health | 3, 4, 5 | 52, 55, 56, 58 |
| Undertake an evaluation of antenatal screening for domestic and family violence and provide a report to the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council. | Queensland Health | 5 | 54 |
| Develop a specialist support and referral model for public and private maternity and emergency departments. | Queensland Health | 3, 4, 5 | 59 |
| Complete the audit of specialist domestic and family violence services to inform the development of a long-term funding model to guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 5, 6 | 71 |
| Build on the audit of domestic and family violence services to develop a long-term funding and investment model. This needs-based and contemporary model will guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system, including in rural and remote communities.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 | 72, 73, 80, 86, 89 |
| Undertake community consultation to inform the design of the two new shelters to be delivered in Brisbane and Townsville. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 84 |
| Develop the service model and design building for the new shelters.  | Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 84 |
| Commence procurement of support providers and tenancy and property managers to deliver the new shelters. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 84 |
| Work with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to list, clarify and analyse the issues associated with the delivery and alignment of the Homelessness Program and the Crisis Accommodation Program in the delivery of homelessness services to assist women and children escaping domestic and family violence. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 85 |
| Develop the service model to pilot a refuge that caters for families escaping domestic and family violence with companion animals so they can access housing and homelessness services that meet their needs. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 87 |
| Commence procurement of service providers to deliver the pilot program for a refuge that caters for families escaping domestic and family violence with companion animals. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 87 |
| Consider the range of responses available to alleviate housing stress and homelessness for women and children escaping domestic and family violence such as bond loans and rental grants. Ensure that service providers (Specialist Homelessness Services and Housing Service Centres) are aware of departmental policies relating to eligibility criteria for these products and the potential to waive these, if required, in order to assist vulnerable women. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 88 |
| Ensure strategies are in place to provide access to subsidised training opportunities through the Annual VET Investment Plan.  | Department of Education and Training | 5 | 89 |
| Support the development and implementation of the National Domestic Violence Order (DVO) Scheme to be agreed by the Council of Australian Governments by the end of December 2015, and continue work on bilateral agreements with other jurisdictions to facilitate increased information sharing. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 5, 6 | 90, 112 |
| Prioritise the eDV project and the Single Person Identifier project for completion as soon as practically and operationally possible. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 5 | 91 |
| Progress legislative amendments to the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* to require a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent. | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 93 |
| Review the resourcing impact of the new domestic and family violence trigger at quarterly intervals, from the date of implementation of the trigger, to ensure the Family Responsibilities Commission has sufficient resourcing available to manage the referrals. | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | 5 | 94 |
| Continue the statutory review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009*, with a report about the outcomes of the review, including the issue of financial assistance for victims of domestic and family violence, to be tabled in Parliament. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 5 | 95 |
| Establish and evaluate the trial of a specialist domestic and family violence magistrates court, with a dedicated magistrate and use the outcomes of the evaluation to inform any future rollout across Queensland, as appropriate.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 5, 6, 7 | 96, 97, 100 |
| Review the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* with a focus on:* considering the specific legislative amendments recommended by the taskforce
* addressing other issues related to the operation of the Act identified in the Taskforce report.
 | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 99, 117, 129, 140 |
| Review policy and update guidelines in accordance with the revised Queensland Language Services Guidelines currently under development by the Interdepartmental Interpreter Working Group to strengthen engagement of interpreters in domestic and family violence occurrences.  | Queensland Police Service  | 5, 6, 7 | 113 |
| Review systems and procedures and explore technological solutions to ensure interpreter election is completed in applications for protection order.  | Queensland Police Service  | 5, 6, 7 | 114 |
| Review the current range of investigative methodologies, evidence gathering techniques, and prosecution practice to ensure offenders are held more accountable for their actions.  | Queensland Police Service  | 5, 6, 7 | 131 |
| Revise operational policy and guidelines to ensure decisions prioritise the safety of the victim and, where sufficient evidence is available, perpetrators of domestic and family violence are arrested, brought before a court, and prosecuted to the extent of the law.  | Queensland Police Service  | 5, 6, 7 | 134 |
| Undertake a thorough, evidence-based assessment of current and future demand to inform staffing and resource distribution for the District Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator Network.  | Queensland Police Service  | 5, 6, 7 | 135 |
| Appoint, and appropriately support, a State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at the rank of Inspector to engender a consistent approach to the policing response, monitor performance and improve practice, and drive the future direction agenda for domestic and family violence policing. | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 136 |
| The Deputy Commissioner, supported by the Assistant Commissioner responsible for domestic and family violence policing, will convene a forum of recognised experts, police domestic and family violence practitioners and key partner agency representatives to define prevention and first responder best policing practice in Queensland.  | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 137 |
| Scope current centrally administered training packages and locally delivered training initiatives to inform an assessment of the appropriateness and frequency of relevant learnings to domestic and family violence. | Queensland Police Service | 4, 5, 6, 7 | 138 |
| Negotiate new three year service agreements for existing specialist homelessness services for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | Enabling action |
| Work in partnership with the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community and the domestic and family violence service system to develop culturally appropriate services and supports.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 6 | Enabling action |
| Expand the network of specialist domestic and family violence prevention and support services by establishing new services across the Central Queensland and Far North Queensland regions. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 7 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan for Queensland. By taking a broader approach to preventing violence against women, the government is committed to making Queensland a safer place for women and girls. This plan will support and strengthen the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | Enabling action |

## Supporting outcome 6: Perpetrators stop using violence and are held to account

Systems are in place to ensure perpetrators receive appropriate sanctions and access to assistance to stop using violence.

Respectful relationships and the right for every person to live free from violence is modelled throughout and expected everywhere people live, learn, work and play.

Perpetrators are provided the education and tools for dealing with problems without resorting to violence. Systems are in place to ensure perpetrators receive appropriate sanctions and access to culturally appropriate assistance to stop using violence.

Supports are available for both victims and perpetrators to remove themselves from situations of potential violence.

| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | RELATED TO REC NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Develop contemporary integrated domestic and family violence service delivery models, in consultation with the sector, to trial in three locations (one urban community, one regional community and one discrete Indigenous community). In consultation with the sector, also undertake the foundational work needed to support implementation of these trials including development of a common risk assessment framework, information sharing guidelines and a process for managing high-risk cases.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | 9, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 82, 83 |
| Build on the audit of domestic and family violence services to develop a long-term funding and investment model. This needs-based and contemporary model will guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system, including in rural and remote communities.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 | 72, 73, 80, 86, 89 |
| Complete the audit of specialist domestic and family violence services to inform the development of a long-term funding model to guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet  | 5,6 | 71 |
| Increase accessibility for offenders in custody less than 12 months to quality perpetrator programs and interventions. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 6 | 81 |
| Support the development and implementation of the National Domestic Violence Order (DVO) Scheme to be agreed by the Council of Australian Governments by the end of December 2015, and continue work on bilateral agreements with other jurisdictions to facilitate increased information sharing. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 5, 6 | 90, 112 |
| Progress legislative amendments to the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* to require a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent.  | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 93 |
| Establish and evaluate the trial of a specialist domestic and family violence magistrates court, with a dedicated magistrate and use the outcomes of the evaluation to inform any future rollout across Queensland, as appropriate.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 5, 6, 7 | 96, 97, 100 |
| Review the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* with a focus on:* considering the specific legislative amendments recommended by the taskforce
* addressing other issues related to the operation of the Act identified in the Taskforce report.
 | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 99, 117, 129, 140  |
| Review policy and update guidelines in accordance with the revised Queensland Language Services Guidelines currently under development by the Interdepartmental Interpreter Working Group to strengthen engagement of interpreters in domestic and family violence occurrences. | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 113 |
| Review systems and procedures and explore technological solutions to ensure interpreter election is completed in applications for protection order. | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 114 |
| Consult with legal and community stakeholders through the release of public consultation papers to identify:* how to reinforce the nature and seriousness of criminal offences involving domestic and family violence and ensure perpetrators are held to account
* ways to improve the legal system’s response to non-lethal strangulation.
 | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6, 7 | 118, 120 |
| Make amendments to ensure that patterns of domestic and family violence are reflected in a perpetrator’s criminal history. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6, 7 | 119 |
| Review the current range of investigative methodologies, evidence gathering techniques, and prosecution practice to ensure offenders are held more accountable for their actions.  | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 131 |
| Revise operational policy and guidelines to ensure decisions prioritise the safety of the victim and, where sufficient evidence is available, perpetrators of domestic and family violence are arrested, brought before a court, and prosecuted to the extent of the law.  | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 134 |
| Undertake a thorough, evidence-based assessment of current and future demand to inform staffing and resource distribution for the District Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator Network.  | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 135 |
| Appoint, and appropriately support, a State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at the rank of Inspector to engender a consistent approach to the policing response, monitor performance and improve practice, and drive the future direction agenda for domestic and family violence policing. | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 ,7 | 136 |
| The Deputy Commissioner, supported by the Assistant Commissioner responsible for domestic and family violence policing, will convene a forum of recognised experts, police domestic and family violence practitioners and key partner agency representatives to define prevention and first responder best policing practice in Queensland.  | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 ,7 | 137 |
| Scope current centrally administered training packages and locally delivered training initiatives to inform an assessment of the appropriateness and frequency of relevant learnings to domestic and family violence. | Queensland Police Service | 4, 5, 6, 7 | 138 |
| Work in partnership with the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community and the domestic and family violence service system to develop culturally appropriate services and supports.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1,3,5,6 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan for Queensland. By taking a broader approach to preventing violence against women, the government is committed to making Queensland a safer place for women and girls. This plan will support and strengthen the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | Enabling action |

## Supporting outcome 7: The justice system deals effectively with domestic and family violence

The system is safe, fair, supportive, efficient and coordinated.

Victims are kept safe leading up to, during and after court and justice system journeys. Victims are heard and their views respected. Courts understand the trauma victims endure and the impact on their confidence and ability to communicate this experience.

Perpetrators are assisted to understand that their behaviour is unacceptable. Perpetrators are provided with the supports and assistance needed to choose a non-violent path and learn how to foster healthy, respectful relationships.

| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | RELATED TO REC NO. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Develop contemporary integrated domestic and family violence service delivery models, in consultation with the sector, to trial in three locations (one urban community, one regional community and one discrete Indigenous community). In consultation with the sector, also undertake the foundational work needed to support implementation of these trials including development of a common risk assessment framework, information sharing guidelines and a process for managing high-risk cases.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | 9, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 82, 83 |
| Build on the audit of domestic and family violence services to develop a long term funding and investment model. This needs based and contemporary model will guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system, including in rural and remote communities.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 | 72, 73, 80, 86, 89 |
| Progress legislative amendments to the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* to require a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent. | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 93 |
| Establish and evaluate the trial of a specialist domestic and family violence magistrates court, with a dedicated magistrate and use the outcomes of the evaluation to inform any future rollout across Queensland, as appropriate.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 5, 6, 7 | 96, 97, 100 |
| Improve pathways between the Magistrates Court (for domestic violence matters), the Childrens Court (for child protection matters) and the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court (for family law matters) to ensure that the justice response is better coordinated. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 7 | 98 |
| Review the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* with a focus on:* considering the specific legislative amendments recommended by the taskforce
* addressing other issues related to the operation of the Act identified in the Taskforce report.
 | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 5, 6, 7 | 99, 117, 129, 140 |
| Ensure that court and registry staff receive compulsory and ongoing training in responding to the needs of domestic and family violence clients. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 7 | 106 |
| Review policy and update guidelines in accordance with the revised Queensland Language Services Guidelines currently under development by the Interdepartmental Interpreter Working Group to strengthen engagement of interpreters in domestic and family violence occurrences. | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 113 |
| Review systems and procedures and explore technological solutions to ensure interpreter election is completed in applications for protection order. | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 114 |
| Identify best practice and streamline systems for engagement of interpreters for civil domestic and family violence court proceedings through an interdepartmental working group consisting of key justice agencies, and work with government agencies to implement changes to existing policies, guidelines and practices.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 116 |
| Consult with legal and community stakeholders through the release of public consultation papers to identify:* how to reinforce the nature and seriousness of criminal offences involving domestic and family violence and ensure perpetrators are held to account
* ways to improve the legal system’s response to non-lethal strangulation.
 | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6, 7 | 118, 120 |
| Make amendments to ensure that patterns of domestic and family violence are reflected in a perpetrator’s criminal history. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6, 7 | 119 |
| Expand the domestic violence duty lawyer service to a total of 14 locations across the state through Legal Aid Queensland. Work with Legal Aid Queensland to develop position descriptions and guidelines which are of a high quality, underpinned by an appropriate knowledge and skills base and ensure that appropriate referrals are made to other legal and support services. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 126, 127, 128 |
| Consult with legal and community stakeholders on a model for a sexual assault counselling privilege to apply to criminal proceedings and limited civil proceedings on the same facts. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 130 |
| Review the current range of investigative methodologies, evidence gathering techniques, and prosecution practice to ensure offenders are held more accountable for their actions.  | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 131 |
| Amend the *Evidence Act 1977* to ensure that victims of domestic violence automatically have status as a ‘special witness’ in criminal proceedings, allowing the court to make a range of orders and directions to support them in giving evidence. Consider whether there should be a process to allow the use of video-recorded police interviews as the evidence of domestic violence victims in criminal matters.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 7 | 133 |
| Revise operational policy and guidelines to ensure decisions prioritise the safety of the victim and, where sufficient evidence is available, perpetrators of domestic and family violence are arrested, brought before a court, and prosecuted to the extent of the law.  | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 134 |
| Undertake a thorough, evidence-based assessment of current and future demand to inform staffing and resource distribution for the District Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator Network.  | Queensland Police Service | 5, 6, 7 | 135 |
| Appoint, and appropriately support, a State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at the rank of Inspector to engender a consistent approach to the policing response, monitor performance and improve practice, and drive the future direction agenda for domestic and family violence policing. | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 ,7 | 136 |
| The Deputy Commissioner, supported by the Assistant Commissioner responsible for domestic and family violence policing, will convene a forum of recognised experts, police domestic and family violence practitioners and key partner agency representatives to define prevention and first responder best policing practice in Queensland.  | Queensland Police Service | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 ,7 | 137 |
| Scope current centrally administered training packages and locally delivered training initiatives to inform an assessment of the appropriateness and frequency of relevant learnings to domestic and family violence. | Queensland Police Service | 4, 5, 6, 7 | 138 |
| Duly note the advice from the interim report of the Family Law Council in relation to the needs of parents resolving parenting disputes and the intersection between relevant State and Commonwealth jurisdictions. Liaise with the Commonwealth on the proposed recommendations for reform. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  | 3, 7 | 139 |
| Support the Chief Magistrate and the Queensland Law Society in developing useful practice resources as well as professional development training for magistrates and legal professionals, and continue training initiatives for front-line court and registry staff. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3, 7 | Enabling action |
| Expand the network of specialist domestic and family violence prevention and support services by establishing new services across the Central Queensland and Far North Queensland regions.  | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 3, 5, 7 | Enabling action |
| Consult on and co-design a Prevention of Violence Against Women Plan for Queensland. By taking a broader approach to preventing violence against women, the government is committed to making Queensland a safer place for women and girls. This plan will support and strengthen the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | Enabling action |

# What has been achieved so far?

The table below lists the 16 recommendations of the Taskforce report which have already been completed prior to January 2016. The table also includes the government’s response to the recommendation and the lead government agency which implemented the recommendation.

| REC NO. | RECOMMENDATION | GOVERNMENT RESPONSE | LEAD AGENCY |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 32 | The Queensland Government funds the development of a training program for employers and businesses on building workplaces supportive to victims of domestic and family violence that includes skills on identifying and responding to domestic and family violence. | The Government has collaborated with CEO Challenge to launch the *Recognise, Respond, Refer: Domestic Violence and the Workplace* online training program. All Queensland Government agencies will be supported to build the program into their training schedules, and the Government will support Australia’s CEOChallenge to promote the program to business and non-government organisations. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services |
| 60 | The Minister for Health recommends to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council that the Health Practitioner Regulation Boards of Australia require specific skill sets pertaining to recognition of and appropriate intervention for domestic and family violence and child harm be included in accreditation standards submitted by Accreditation Agencies under the National Law. | The Minister for Health has raised workforce issues with other Australian Health Ministers. | Queensland Health |
| 61 | The Minister for Health recommends to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council that Health Practitioner Regulation Boards of Australia work with appropriate accreditation bodies and colleges to enable professional development on recognising and intervening appropriately in domestic and family violence to be considered suitable for Continuing Professional Development recognition. | The Minister for Health has raised workforce issues with other Australian Health Ministers. | Queensland Health |
| 62 | The Minister for Health recommends to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council that consideration also be given to including skill sets and professional development on recognising and responding to child harm into accreditation standards and professional development programs. | The Minister for Health has raised workforce issues with other Australian Health Ministers. | Queensland Health |
| 63 | The Minister for Health recommends to the Standing Council on Health that a requirement to be familiar with the indicators of domestic and family violence and child harm and to appropriately intervene be included into the draft National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers. | The Minister for Health has provided a paper to the Council of Australian Governments Health Council. | Queensland Health |
| 64 | The Queensland Minister for Education recommends to the Education Council that the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership includes in the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, specific skill sets to recognise and respond to incidents of domestic and family violence and child harm.  | The Minister for Education has raised this matter with the Education Council.  | Department of Education and Training |
| 66 | The Queensland Government works with the Vocational Education and Training sector to increase the delivery of existing approved units of competency related to domestic and family violence. | The Queensland Government has utilised approved industry consultation processes to identify whether there is a need to provide a subsidy for either full qualifications in child youth and family intervention or for specific skill sets which would assist in the upskilling of other professionals who may need additional skills in this area. | Department of Education and Training |
| 81 | The Queensland Government changes eligibility criteria so offenders in custody for less than 12 months for domestic and family violence related offences are able to access a range of therapeutic intervention programs. | The Queensland Government has increased accessibility for offenders in custody less than 12 months to quality perpetrator programs. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 84 | The Queensland Government immediately funds two 72-hour crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville respectively for women and children escaping violence so that immediate safety and support can be met while awaiting a refuge placement.  | The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of crisis accommodation to support those escaping domestic and family violence and has committed to establishing two supported accommodation services in Brisbane and Townsville.  | Department of Housing and Public Works |
| 93 | The Queensland Government amends the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act (2008)* to require a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act (2012)* is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent.  | The Queensland Government notes that the requirement for a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order is made in this context supports the objects of the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act (2008)* (‘the Act’) and will amend the Act to achieve this outcome.  | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  |
| 95 | The Queensland Government continues the review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act (2009)* to ensure appropriate financial compensation for victims of domestic and family violence.  | The Queensland Government continued the statutory review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act (2009)* and tabled a report about the outcomes of the review in Parliament at the end of 2015. The review considered options to ensure all victims of domestic and family violence are able to seek financial assistance.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General  |
| 106 | The Queensland Government ensures that court and registry staff receive compulsory training in responding to the needs of domestic and family violence clients. | The Queensland Government has agreed that court and registry staff should receive training. The Queensland Courts Service has commenced a statewide rollout of compulsory domestic and family violence training for frontline staff and this training will be repeated on a regular basis. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 119 | The Queensland Government makes provision in legislation for domestic and family violence related convictions to be recorded, consistent with the approach adopted in New South Wales. | The Queensland Government recognises that to enhance the safety of victims the sentencing court needs to know if there is an ongoing pattern of domestic and family violence by the perpetrator. Consultation has occurred with relevant legal and community stakeholders to explore the best means of ensuring patterns of domestic and family violence are identifiable through the perpetrator’s criminal history so as to inform future law enforcement authorities and criminal justice agencies.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 121 | The Queensland Government considers the sufficiency of penalties to hold perpetrators to account for repeat contraventions of domestic violence orders.  | The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring perpetrators are held to account and has reviewed the penalties.  | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 136 | The Queensland Police Service reinstates the Domestic and Family Violence State Coordinator role at a level of suitable influence to effectively support District Domestic and Family Violence Coordinators, address the disconnect between policy and practice to engender a consistent approach to the policing response, monitor performance and drive the future direction of policing domestic and family violence with a view to improving practice. | The Queensland Government has reintroduced the role of State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at a rank of at least Inspector of Police. | Queensland Police Service |
| 137 | The Queensland Police Service appoints the Deputy Commissioner (Regional Operations) to champion best practice domestic and family violence prevention and first responder practice in the Queensland Police Service. The Deputy Commissioner would be responsible, among other things, for increasing officers’ awareness and understanding of domestic and family violence and its impact on involved parties, police and the community, with a view to creating positive cultural change within the Queensland Police Service. | The Queensland Government has appointed the Deputy Commissioner (Regional Operations) to champion police domestic and family violence best practice and cultural change. | Queensland Police Service |

# What will happen in the future?

The table below lists the 16 recommendations of the Taskforce report which are scheduled to commence in future action plans. The table also includes the government’s proposed response to the recommendation and the lead government agency.

| REC NO. | RECOMMENDATION | GOVERNMENT RESPONSE | LEAD AGENCY |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4 | The Premier of Queensland tables the oversight body’s reports in the Queensland Parliament.  | The Queensland Government will ensure the timely tabling of the new Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council’s (the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council) reports in the Queensland Parliament.  | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| 13 | The Queensland Government makes representations to the Commonwealth Government to consider reforms to the funding of carers that continue to support the invaluable care that most carers provide but remove capacity for the payments to be used as a tool for financial control and domestic and family violence of elderly people. | The Queensland Government will make representations to the Australian Government informed through consultation with carers and stakeholders, the review into the prevalence and characteristics of elder abuse (Recommendation 11) and findings of the Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the adequacy of existing financial protections for Queensland’s seniors. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services |
| 22 | The Queensland Government ensures that the communication strategy is implemented through all front line services including (but not limited to) health and hospital services, education services and schools, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, housing services, Legal Aid Queensland, Director of Public Prosecutions and other legal services. | The Queensland Government acknowledges frontline staff have an important role in encouraging cultural change in the community and will ensure staff understand the key messages embedded in the Communication Strategy (see Recommendation 18). | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| 36 | The Queensland Government requests the Commonwealth Government considers similar leave and dismissal amendments to the Fair Work Act to protect Queensland workers engaged under the Federal Act from unfair dismissal and provide appropriate support to workers experiencing domestic and family violence. | The Queensland Government will request the Commonwealth Government toamend the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) informed by the outcomes of the review of Queensland’s industrial relations laws, current leave and unfair dismissal provisions. | Queensland Treasury |
| 40 | The Minister for Local Government works with the Local Government Association of Queensland and individual local governments to implement the changes in the Industrial Relations Act and the provision of new leave. This includes providing (free of charge) all directives, human resource policies and training programs established for state public service employees. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Queensland Government will work with the Local Government Association of Queensland to ensure any changes to the Industrial Relations Act and leave arrangements are reflected in the policies and procedures of individual local governments. The Government will make all directives, human resource policies and training materials available, free of charge, for use, if appropriate, by local governments. | Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning |
| 41 | The Queensland Government supports businesses and non-government organisations to develop and maintain workplaces that support victims of domestic and family violence. This includes providing all directives, human resources policies and training programs established for state public service employees. | The Queensland Government will model supportive workplace practices and actively support business and non-government organisations to follow suit including making all directives, human resource policies and training materials publicly available online for use, if appropriate, by other sectors. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services |
| 43 | The Queensland Government makes funded services that work with victims of domestic and family violence explain in their service agreements how they will foster a workplace culture that reduces work-induced trauma, outlining specific initiatives. | The Queensland Government will ensure funded specialist domestic and family violence services have processes in place to reduce work-induced trauma for their staff. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services |
| 49 | The Queensland Government funds the development, promotion and provision of a model training program for frontline professionals in service industries and government, to develop skills in recognising when domestic and family violence is occurring and appropriate intervention. | The Queensland Government recognises the importance of skilling frontline professionals to recognise domestic and family violence and will review existing training programs to inform the development of a model training program. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services |
| 70 | The Queensland Government develops a media guide to assist news and current affairs programs when reporting on domestic and family violence incidents in Queensland. | The Queensland Government will develop a media guide as a component of the Communication Strategy (see Recommendation 18). | Department of the Premier and Cabinet |
| 75 | These trial sites need to be reviewed and evaluated, with a view to expanding the number of sites for integrated services over a defined period of time to transition to state-wide integrated service responses. | The Queensland Government will evaluate the pilot sites to inform the integrated service response models. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services |
| 92 | The Queensland Government works with discrete Indigenous communities to develop and support an effective local authority model to respond to crime and violence in those communities, with a priority focus on addressing domestic and family violence. As a part of this work, consideration should be given to resourcing and expanding the role of community justice groups, JP Magistrate’s courts, and related local justice initiatives as appropriate, as well as examining the specific role that community justice groups could play in conferencing, mediation, and criminal justice system support. | The Queensland Government will work with discrete Indigenous communities to develop and support effective local authority structures such as community justice groups and other local justice initiatives as part of the integrated service response pilot (see recommendations 9 and 74). | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 122 | The Queensland Government identifies and implements strategies to increase perpetrators’ participation in interventions, including a pilot on mandatory attendance, with the evaluation of the pilot to inform future decisions about broader use of mandatory perpetrator interventions. | The Queensland Government is committed to implementing strategies to increase perpetrators’ participation in intervention programs. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 123 | The Queensland Government trials the use of GPS monitoring for high risk perpetrators of domestic and family violence. | The Queensland Government will explore options to monitor high risk perpetrators of domestic and family violence, taking into account the full range of potential technological solutions including the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring, and then trial the most promising model to improve victim safety. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 124 | The Queensland Government employs court support workers for all Magistrates Courts for domestic and family violence matters for all applicants and information/liaison officers for all respondents. | The Queensland Government will continue to fund non-government organisations to provide court based assistance and support. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  |
| 125 | The Queensland Government develops a formal position description and guidelines for court support workers and information/liaison officers to provide uniformity in support to people through domestic and family violence proceedings, and that the Chief Magistrate looks at the consistency across all Magistrates Courts on the role of court support workers. | The Queensland Government will work closely with community and legal stakeholders to develop a position description and guidelines for court support workers. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability ServicesDepartment of Justice and Attorney-General |
| 132 | In responding to recommendations related to enhancing integration, responsible agencies in Government should make provision for the inclusion of coordinating appropriate justice supports for victims of domestic and family violence exposed to criminal proceedings. | The Queensland Government, through Victim Assist Queensland, will lead the co-ordination of improved justice supports for victims of domestic and family violence in criminal proceedings through incremental and continuous improvement as part of the integrated service response pilots (see recommendation 74). | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |

# Action in the community

Of the 140 recommendations of the Taskforce report, 19 recommendations were directed at non-government sectors of the community including business, education, health and legal sectors. These recommendations are supported by government, as outlined in the table below. The government response to the Taskforce report recognised that domestic and family violence is a societal issue that requires a whole of community coordinated response. It will require government’s, business’, community groups’ and every Queenslander’s collective efforts to realise the change that is necessary.

| REC NO. | RECOMMENDATION | GOVERNMENT RESPONSE |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 28 | Principals of non-government schools consider the Queensland Government program and incorporate as appropriate into the school culture. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games will write to peak bodies the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools Queensland and the Non-State School Accreditation Board in order to convey this message to non-state school principals. |
| 45 | Businesses and non-government organisations in Queensland recognise the significant economic and social impact of domestic and family violence on the national and state economies and on workforce productivity. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation and will take every opportunity to highlight the impacts of Domestic and Family Violence.  |
| 46 | Businesses and non-government organisations in Queensland implement human resource policies, leave arrangements and other support programs to support victims of domestic and family violence. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation and will encourage and support businesses and non-government organisations to adopt human resource policies, practices and programs to support victims of Domestic and Family Violence.  |
| 47 | Businesses and non-government organisations in Queensland incorporate information on domestic and family violence, its unacceptability, and availability of support and how to safely intervene in staff training. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation and will encourage businesses and non-government organisations to incorporate information on Domestic and Family Violence in staff training.  |
| 48 | Business and non-government organisations in Queensland sign up to the CEO Challenge to build relationships with domestic and family violence support services, and foster workplaces that do not tolerate violence and support victims. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation and will encourage businesses and non-government organisations to sign up to the CEO Challenge and foster workplaces that do not tolerate Domestic and Family Violence.  |
| 50 | The Taskforce supports the recommendation of the Coroner in his report on the inquest into the death of Ms Beutel and recommends that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners refines the RACGP ‘White Book’ – *Abuse and Violence – Working with our patients in general practice* to be more prescriptive and provide more definitive advice and decision making pathways for general practitioners | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Minister for Health will write to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in support of this recommendation. |
| 51 | Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, CheckUp and Primary Health networks work together to ensure that all General Practitioners across Queensland, have access to, are familiar with and are utilising the ‘White Book’. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Minister for Health will write to a range of primary health organisations in support of this recommendation. |
| 53 | The Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists continues to expand the resources available to trainees and practitioners and develop a strategy to actively engage with Fellows to encourage ongoing use of the resources. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Minister for Health will write to the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to provide access to the Department of Health resources. |
| 57 | The Australian College of Midwives develops a continuing professional development program to educate midwives on asking pregnant women about exposure to domestic violence during ante-natal appointments and how to deal with disclosure. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Queensland Government, through the Department of Health, will write to the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) to ensure they have access to the resources developed for recommendations 55 and 56 to enable the ACM to build on these resources for the continuing professional development program. |
| 101 | The Chief Magistrate completes the domestic and family violence ‘Bench Book’ in consultation with relevant stakeholders (Women’s Legal Service, North Queensland Women’s Legal Service, Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network, Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services, Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service and Legal Aid Queensland). | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the Chief Magistrate in support of this recommendation. |
| 102 | The Chief Magistrate completes the *Domestic Violence Best Practice* project and publish the results. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the Chief Magistrate in support of this recommendation. |
| 103 | The Chief Magistrate commissions development of a professional development package, informed by evidence of best practice in judicial education currently being developed by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety, for induction of newly appointed Magistrates on managing domestic and family violence cases. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the Chief Magistrate in support of this recommendation. |
| 104 | The Chief Magistrate develops modules specifically on domestic and family violence for inclusion in professional development programs for Queensland magistrates. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the Chief Magistrate in support of this recommendation. |
| 105 | The Chief Magistrate ensures that Magistrates receive intensive and regular professional development on domestic and family violence issues, including its impact on adult victims and children, from domestic and family violence practitioners who have expertise working with adult victims, children and perpetrators. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the Chief Magistrate in support of this recommendation. |
| 107 | The Queensland Law Society develops best practice guidelines for lawyers working with people who have experienced domestic and family violence in accordance with Legal Aid Queensland model guidelines, and in consultation with Legal Aid Queensland, Women’s Legal Service and Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services and other relevant stakeholders. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the President of the Queensland Law Society in support of this recommendation. |
| 108 | The implementation of the best practice guidelines be led by the Queensland Law Society. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the President of the Queensland Law Society in support of this recommendation. |
| 109 | Queensland Law Society ensures that suitable continuing professional development programs in respecting diversity and ethical conduct for managing the intersection of domestic and family violence and family law are available. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the President of the Queensland Law Society in support of this recommendation. |
| 110 | Queensland Law Society encourages lawyers engaged in domestic and family violence law (whether representing perpetrators or victims) and family law undertake continuing professional development in diversity and ethical conduct for managing intersection of domestic and family violence and family law. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the President of the Queensland Law Society in support of this recommendation. |
| 115 | The Chief Magistrate issues a practice direction to require the court to engage an interpreter, where a party has difficulty communicating in English, at the first mention for all domestic and family violence civil proceedings before the Magistrates Court. | The Queensland Government supports the intent of this recommendation. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice will write to the Chief Magistrate in support of this recommendation. |