Second Action Plan of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–17 to 2018–19

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

# Message from the Premier and the Minister

Communities across our state are undergoing fundamental change for the better as Queenslanders unite in their determination to end domestic and family violence.

Implementation of the Not Now, Not Ever report reforms are driving a concerted effort to prevent the violence, support victims and hold perpetrators to account.

This is the second of four action plans that will provide a blueprint for government and the community in our common goal of keeping Queenslanders safe in their own homes.

Over the next three years covered by this plan, government will do everything in our power to encourage the cultural shift in Queensland where domestic and family violence can never be justified and victims are never blamed.

We will strengthen our resolve to empower all members of the community to speak up.

This second plan builds on the strong foundation laid by its predecessor. It details how we will trial innovative service delivery models to transform our collective efforts to make society safer and fairer.

These new delivery models have a strong focus on evaluation to ensure this momentum produces lasting outcomes of which we can be proud.

Eliminating domestic and family violence cannot be achieved by government alone—all Queenslanders need to commit to change. No contribution is too small. Think of the hope you can offer.

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP

Premier and Minister for the Arts

Shannon Fentiman MP Minister for Communities, Women and Youth,

Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

# Table of contents

Queensland’s reform program 1

How will action be coordinated? 4

Our vision 4

Key outcome 4

Supporting outcomes 4

Foundational elements 4

Guiding principles 4

Second action plan 2016–17 to 2018–19 5

How does it work? 5

Foundational element 1: A significant shift in community attitudes and behaviours is required 6

Foundational element 2: An integrated service response system that delivers the services and support that victims and perpetrators need 13

Foundational element 3: A stronger justice system response that will prioritise victim safety and hold perpetrators to account 18

What has been achieved? 23

Action in the community 39

# Queensland’s reform program

The Queensland Government remains committed to leading a program of reform to end domestic and family violence.

A total of $233.8 million will be provided over five years to implement 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 (Not Now, Not Ever report). Eliminating domestic and family violence is a long-term endeavour, requiring focused and sustained commitment from the whole community.

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy, Queensland says: not now, not ever, released in February 2016, provides the framework for action until 2026. It sets the direction for collaborative action to end domestic and family violence in Queensland, encouraging partnerships between the government, community and business. The strategy has a strong focus on prevention—stopping the violence before it happens—and supporting those living with violence. A series of four successive action plans will support the strategy and enable the government and the community to work in a coordinated and focused way.

The first year of the reform program has seen a heightened awareness of domestic and family violence throughout the Queensland community, as well as an increase in domestic and family violence incidents being reported to police.

Any form of violence in the home or amongst family members must never be accepted or excused. The increase in reporting is a positive sign that victims are becoming more confident in their ability to take the significant step to seek help. Moving forward, our response must recognise the victim’s perspective, prioritise their safety and reduce the onus on them to leave.

Establishing the foundations

The first action plan for 2015–16, released with the strategy, focused on the priority actions to be implemented by the government in response to the Not Now, Not Ever report as well as setting the foundation for change and building momentum for long-term reform. Significant progress has been made implementing the recommendations of the Not Now, Not Ever report during the first year of the reform program. Work has commenced on 109 of the recommendations with 35 recommendations completed in the first year (as at 30 June 2016).

87,100 incidents of domestic and family violence reported to Queensland Police in 2015–16.

93,529calls to DVConnect in 2015–16¹

1. This figure includes calls to both DVConnect's Womensline and Mensline

# Key achievements in the first year include:

* fast tracking legislative reforms to better protect victims and improve perpetrator accountability, including increased penalties for breaches of domestic violence protection orders, allowing for a specific notation to be made on a person’s criminal history for domestic violence-related offences, and a stand-alone offence for non-fatal strangulation
* establishing a trial of a domestic and family violence specialist court at Southport
* improving the way Queensland Police Service handles complaints about domestic and family violence to ensure the most appropriate response to those affected
* introducing a Respectful relationships education program to schools that develops a culture emphasising respectful relationships, respecting self and gender equality
* contributing $3 million to the national campaign, Let’s stop it at the start
* announcing pilot integrated response sites at Logan/Beenleigh, Mount Isa and Cherbourg
* rolling out a statewide duty-lawyer service in 14 locations across Queensland
* leading by example through the release of a workplace support package for public sector employees affected by domestic and family violence
* establishing two new shelters for women and children escaping domestic and family violence in Brisbane and Townsville. Announcing two additional shelters in Charters Towers and Roma
* establishing an independent committee—the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council—to oversee implementation of the Not Now, Not Ever report and the strategy.

The first action plan was focused on establishing the foundations for the strategy and creating the necessary framework for the projects that will drive change over the longer term. The reforms made under the first action plan have been independently evaluated to ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness.

Implementation of the second action plan will take into account the lessons learnt through the independent evaluation. The independent evaluation assessed the way the strategy has been created to support implementation of the first action plan, giving particular consideration to the governance, resourcing and practices associated with implementation.

This process evaluation has revealed that the first action plan has broadly achieved each of its aims of establishing the foundations for the strategy, creating the framework for projects to drive long-term change, and creating a positive environment for fostering change.

# Queensland domestic and family violence reform

## Year 1 highlights card

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

$9.6 million over three years for cultural transformation

* A rolling engagement and communication program to change community attitudes in Queensland
* $3 million in 2015–16 for the national awareness campaign
* ‘Let’s stop it at the start’ campaign targeting adult influencers of children aged 10–17

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

$28.5 million over five years for supported accommodation

* 4 new shelters announced
* 668 women and children provided with a safe refuge

$30.4 million over five years for integrated service responses

* 8 specialist teams to prioritise victims and their safety
* 3 pilot integrated responses

$50.9 million over five years for specialist support services

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

Encouraging community action

* 10-year strategy for the prevention of domestic and family violence
* 1300 individuals contributed to development of the strategy
* 600 community leaders attended Premier’s White Ribbon Day breakfast

**Queensland workplaces and workforce challenge attitudes contributing to violence and effectively support workers**

Building a supportive workplace culture

* Workplace support package
* Flexible working arrangements
* Minimum of 10 days paid leave
* Recognise Respond Refer e-learning program developed with Australia’s CEO Challenge

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

$10.3 million for perpetrator interventions to prevent further violence

* Increased accountability for perpetrators
* New offence of strangulation in a domestic setting
* Specific notation on a person’s criminal history
* Increased maximum penalties
* 300 body-worn cameras for Gold Coast police

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

$50.9 million over five years for specialist courts

* Established trial at Southport Magistrates Court
* 95 per cent of temporary protection orders considered within one week
* Future rollout of specialist courts building on learnings from Southport

$1.1 million for duty lawyer service

* 14 locations across the state, provided through Legal Aid Queensland

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

Healthy relationships

* Introduced the respectful relationships education program for Prep to Year 12
* 60 community led awareness-raising activities during domestic and family violence prevention month

# 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 to continually build on our achievements. The first action plan covered a 12-month period and the three remaining actions plans will each cover three years. Each action plan will be evaluated with subsequent action plans modified to address any learning identified through evaluation.

The 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 Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. 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.
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 that 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.

# Second action plan 2016–17 to 2018–19

This action plan is the second of four action plans that provide a blueprint for government and the community to achieve a Queensland free from domestic and family violence.

The second action plan builds upon the strong foundation laid in the first action plan and will transform the way we work together to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account.

It covers a three-year period from July 2016 to June 2019, continuing the essential work of implementing the recommendations of the landmark Not Now, Not Ever report. The Queensland Government has demonstrated its commitment to this second action plan, announcing in

2016 a record $198.2 million over five years to tackle domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The second action plan seeks to actively move the community towards being a society where fewer people find excuses for violent behaviour, fewer people blame victims and where all members of the community are empowered to take action to stop the violence.

The second action plan will also transform the way we work together to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account. The next three years will see enhanced action through new signature initiatives that will form the foundation for transformation including:

* rollout of specialist domestic and family violence courts building on the lessons of the trial at Southport
* integrated service responses with specialist teams to prioritise victims and their safety and hold perpetrators accountable
* cultural transformation through a communication and engagement program to help change attitudes and behaviours of Queenslanders towards domestic and family violence
* building capacity within community justice groups in discrete Indigenous communities to support domestic and family violence reform
* new or enhanced domestic and family violence specialist services to provide support to those in need and additional perpetrator interventions to prevent further violence and help protect victims.

## How does it work?

The following tables detail specific initiatives, programs and actions under each of the strategy’s foundational elements, along with the related supporting outcomes, government agency that will lead implementation and the related recommendations of the Not Now, Not Ever report. Where an action is not directly related to a recommendation of the Not Now, Not Ever report, but forms part of the broader domestic and family violence reform program, the action has been categorized as an ‘enabling’ action.

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.

### ****Foundational element 1: A significant shift in community attitudes and behaviours is required****

The strategy’s vision of a Queensland free from domestic and family violence can only be realised with a significant shift in community attitudes and behaviours. We must create a society where fewer people will find excuses for domestic violence, fewer people will blame victims and more people will know how to take action against domestic and family violence.

Changing ideas, customs and social behaviours are the most difficult of the recommendations of the Not Now, Not Ever report. This is why four of the strategy’s seven supporting outcomes focus on culture, to help us understand what needs to occur in order for the community to change. The government is taking the lead to support the community to change, but ultimately, long-term generational cultural change must come from individuals and the community directly.

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

What we are wanting to achieve:

* 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.

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

What we are wanting to achieve:

* 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—embody these principles and model respectful behaviours.
* Clubs, associations and sporting organisations reinforce appropriate non-violent dispute resolution.
* Families, friends and neighbours value and support one another.

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

What we are wanting to achieve:

* 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 protect and support victims and model respectful relationships.
* Networks are formed between and across communities and organisations to share supports, resources and ideas.

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

What we are wanting to achieve:

* 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.

## **Table**

1. Outcome 1: Queenslanders take a zero tolerance approach to domestic and family violence
2. Outcome 2: Respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour are embedded in our community
3. Outcome 3: Queensland community, business, religious, sporting and all government leaders are taking action and working together
4. Outcome 4: Queensland’s workplaces and workforce challenge attitudes contributing to violence and effectively support workers
5. Outcome 5: Victims and their families are safe and supported
6. Outcome 6: Perpetrators stop using violence and are held to account
7. Outcome 7: The justice system deals effectively with domestic and family violence

The table below outlines the actions that will contribute to achieving **Foundational element 1: A significant shift in community attitudes and behaviours is required**.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | REC NO. |
| Evaluate the First Action Plan 2015-16 to inform implementation of the Second Action Plan 2016-17 to 2018-19. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1 | 2 |
| Support the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to monitor implementation of the recommendations of the Taskforce report and the strategy, and to serve as champions for the strategy through creating a shared responsibility for achieving the vision. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1,3 | 3 |
| Provide reports of the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to the Premier and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence 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 | 4 |
| Develop an evaluation framework for the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1 | 5, 17 |
| Publish information sharing protocols to enhance awareness of the research generated by the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3 | 7 |
| Report on the findings of the review into the prevalence and characteristics of elder abuse. Continue to fund an annual elder abuse awareness campaign. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1, 2 | 11 |
| Include elder abuse as a specific element in the comprehensive Engagement and Communication Strategy. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 2 | 12 |
| Conduct comprehensive market research including identifying the specific needs and challenges surrounding domestic violence in the LGBTI community. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 2 | 14 |
| Develop specific communication messages and channels, as part of the rolling Engagement and Communication Program, targeting the LGBTI community to raise awareness, remove stigmas around reporting and advise where to go for support regarding domestic and family violence. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1, 2 | 14 |
| Deliver a comprehensive 10-year engagement and communication strategy and implement a rolling engagement and communication program that focuses on sustained and inter-generational communication with Queenslanders. | Department of the  Premier and Cabinet | 1,2 | 15, 16, 18 |
| The Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council oversees delivery and implementation of a comprehensive 10-year engagement and communication strategy. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1,3 | 19 |
| Design an audience-tested long-term advertising/media campaign, informed by market research, as part of the engagement and communication strategy. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1,2 | 20 |
| Implement a program of ongoing consultation with a range of stakeholders to challenge and create new ideas as part of the rolling engagement and communication program. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1,2 | 21 |
| Implement the engagement and communication strategy through all government frontline services. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1,3,4 | 22 |
| Continue to ensure curriculum resources, guidelines and other materials that relate to student protection align with the Department of Education and Training‘s newly developed Respectful relationships education program and share with the non-state school sector. | Department of Education and Training | 2 | 27 |
| Continue to provide information to principals on the range of programs available to support the implementation of respectful relationship programs. A range of measures will be established for schools to capture the implementation of respectful relationships programs. | Department of Education and Training | 1,2 | 29 |
| Engage and utilise appropriate male leaders to raise awareness of domestic and family violence under the engagement and communication strategy. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1,2,3 | 30 |
| Support implementation of the Queensland Government multi-agency approach to the White Ribbon Australia workplace accreditation program to promote good practice and integrated outcomes to workplace prevention and response to domestic and family violence and violence against women across participating agencies. | Public Service  Commission | 3,4 | 31, 37, 38, 39 |
| 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 | 4 | 31, 37, 38, 39 |
| Consider the need for legislative amendment to provide access to leave from the workplace for domestic and family violence 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 |
| Will request the Commonwealth Government to amend 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 | 4 | 36 |
| 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 | 4 | 40 |
| 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 | 1,4 | 41 |
| Develop and pilot guidance that supports procurement officers to consider if appropriate workplace policies are in place for contractors and suppliers to government that relate to domestic and family violence. This forms part of a broader range of initiatives of how government procures from ethical and socially responsible suppliers. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 3 | 42 |
| Ensure departmentally funded specialist domestic and family violence services have processes in place to reduce work-induced trauma for their staff through inclusion of these requirements in the Human Services Quality Framework (HSQF) and through the provision of training. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 1,2,4 | 43 |
| Make a toolkit of resources that increases an understanding of domestic and family violence accessible to all health service employees in Queensland; including a statewide rollout of a ‘train-the-trainer’ program through a blended learning approach to support implementation of the toolkit across the public and private health sector. | Queensland Health | 3,4 | 52, 55, 56, 58 |
| Finalise consideration of whether legislative amendments to the *Defamation Act 2005* are required to provide a defence to defamation actions against media for publishing domestic and family violence support services information in stories or publications where domestic and family violence is alleged or intimated but not yet proven. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3 | 67, 68 |
| Finalise the review of civil and criminal legislation  to determine if there are legislative barriers that may prohibit the media from publishing information about domestic and family violence support services when reporting on domestic and family violence incidents. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 3 | 69 |
| Develop and distribute a Queensland media guide as a component of the rolling engagement and communication program. | Department of the Premier and Cabinet | 1 | 70 |
| Affirm the Queensland Police Service as a reform leader in the criminal justice sector and as a domestic and family violence service delivery agency through embedding sustainable, long-term best practice policing prevention and response services to improve victim safety and hold perpetrators to account. | Queensland Police Service | 3 | Enabling action |
| Influence cultural and attitudinal change within the community by upholding the Queensland Police Service as a role model to reinforce positive behaviours. | Queensland Police Service | 3 | Enabling action |
| Continue to contribute to national discussions on the possible inclusion of a specific skill set to recognise domestic and family violence and child harm into the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers through the newly developed Schools Policy Group Respectful Relationships Education Working Group. | Department of Education and Training | 1,4 | Enabling action |
| Continue to maintain and promote the *Respectful relationships education program* website and conduct an annual review of the program to ensure best practice and current research is reflected in the program. | Department of Education and Training | 1,2 | Enabling action |
| Continue to 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 | Enabling action |
| Continue to promote a whole-of-school approach to developing respectful relationships that utilises curriculum materials and resources, school pastoral care opportunities and specialised evidence informed programs by non-government organisations. | Department of Education and Training | 2 | Enabling action |

### Foundational element 2: An integrated service response system that delivers the services and support that victims and perpetrators need.

Those affected by domestic and family violence typically have complex needs. The Not Now, Not Ever report considered the best practice approach should occur through integrated service responses to domestic and family violence. Integrated service responses need to build on the strengths of current resources to develop a comprehensive and integrated response tailored to, and flexible enough to meet, the needs and victims of domestic and family violence across all areas of the state. An integrated service response system will better protect and support the survivors in our community.

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

What we are wanting to achieve:

* Integrated services are all inclusive to respond, rebuild, empower and create economic independence.
* Integrated services provide culturally-appropriate wraparound 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.

The table below outlines the actions that will contribute to achieving **Foundational element 2: An integrated service response system that delivers the services and support that victims and perpetrators need.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | REC NO. |
| Continue to develop, trial and evaluate contemporary integrated domestic and family violence service delivery models, in consultation with the sector, in three locations (one urban community, one regional community and one discrete Indigenous community). In consultation with the sector finalise the foundational work needed to support implementation of these trials including development of a common risk assessment and management framework, information sharing guidelines, and a process for managing high-risk cases. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 9, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 83 |
| Deliver a review into the specific challenges faced by people with disability impacted by domestic and family violence. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 10 |
| Expand the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit and the Seniors Legal and Support Services to better respond to elder abuse in regional and remote areas and under-serviced metropolitan areas from 2017–18. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 11 |
| Make representations to the Commonwealth Government regarding matters relating to funding of carers, 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 | 5 | 13 |
| Develop, promote and provide a model training program for frontline professionals in service industries and government to develop skills in recognizing when domestic and family violence is occurring and appropriate intervention. Include professional development opportunities to support staff participating in integrated services responses to domestic and family violence. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 49, 83 |
| Deliver a comprehensive report to the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council outlining the findings of the independent evaluation of antenatal screening for domestic and family violence in Queensland public health facilities. | Queensland Health | 5 | 54 |
| Implement within Queensland public and private maternity hospitals and emergency departments a referral model that provides immediate access to specialist domestic and family support services. | Queensland Health | 5 | 59 |
| Deliver a funding and investment model to guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system that addresses specific service delivery issues, including in rural and remote communities. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 72, 73 |
| Finalise the recommended review of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* and progress amendments arising from it, including information-sharing mechanisms supporting integrated service responses. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 78, 99, 140 |
| Review the Homelessness Program and the Crisis Accommodation Program, in collaboration with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, to ensure the effective investment in specialist homelessness services for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. | Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 85a |
| Deliver a new temporary supported accommodation service (women’s shelter) in Charters Towers and Roma in collaboration with community stakeholders. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | 85b |
| Support service providers to be flexible in providing short-term accommodation options to perpetrators to allow victims and children to remain at home where it is deemed safe to do so. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 86 |
| Roll out the ‘Keeping Women Safe At Home’ project to trial new technology to enable women to stay safely in their homes. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 86 |
| Evaluate the pilot of 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 |
| Provide flexible brokerage funding to service providers to respond to short-term financial hardship experienced by victims escaping violence, as well as non-residential support programs to help victims live independently and  not be compelled to return to violent relationships. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | 89 |
| Continue to provide additional supports for people experiencing domestic violence to access training through the Annual VET Investment Plan, including women re-entering the workforce, which is a key target group for Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects in 2016–17. | Department of Education and Training | 5 | 89c |
| 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 |
| Implementation of the ‘Support for Young Children Affected by Domestic and Family Violence’ project —12-month grants (2016–17) to 18 non-government organisations across Queensland to implement initiatives that respond to the learning and development needs of children aged birth to eight years affected by domestic and family violence. | Department of Education and Training | 5 | Enabling action |
| Deliver a new mobile support service for women escaping domestic and family violence on the Gold  Coast, in collaboration with community stakeholders | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  Department of Housing and Public Works | 5 | Enabling action |
| Work closely with partner agencies to ensure domestic and family violence responses and services developed and implemented meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships | 5 | Enabling action |
| Finalise and implement a violence against women prevention plan for Queensland. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | Enabling action |
| Implement relevant actions under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2010–22. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services | 5 | Enabling action |

### Foundational element 3: A stronger justice system response that will prioritise victim safety and hold perpetrators to account.

The Not Now, Not Ever report made recommendations to the government to reform the justice system so that it supports survivors, achieves fair and protective outcomes for victims and makes perpetrators of violence accountable. The justice response system, from the Queensland Police Service as first responders, to the court system as a protector of people’s rights and safety, must be timely, effective and adapted to the complexities and sensitivities that govern the lives of those affected by domestic and family violence.

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

What we are wanting to achieve:

* 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 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.

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

What we are wanting to achieve:

* 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.

The table below outlines the actions that will contribute to achieving **Foundational element 3: A stronger justice system response that will prioritise victim safety and hold perpetrators to account.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WHAT WE WILL DO | LEAD AGENCY | OUTCOME NO. | REC NO. |
| Pilot a new intervention model for fathers who expose their children to domestic and family violence in Mount Isa, Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay areas. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and  Disability Services | 6,7 | 80 |
| Expand the number of perpetrator intervention services to increase their capacity to respond to more perpetrators, and engage new services where there are identified gaps (including where high risk teams are being rolled out as part of an integrated service response to domestic and family violence). | Department of Communities, Child Safety and  Disability Services | 6,7 | 80, 83 |
| Review and update the Professional Practice Standards: Working with men who perpetrate domestic and family violence, broadening the scope to include individual counselling, culturally appropriate approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, young offenders and provision of information to respondents appearing at court. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and  Disability Services | 6,7 | 82 |
| Develop a quality assurance framework and audit process to ensure ongoing compliance with the Professional Practice Standards for working with perpetrators of domestic and family violence. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and  Disability Services | 6,7 | 82 |
| Introduce legislation to give effect to the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme and continue to actively support the work of CrimTrac in developing and implementing the (short and long-term) supporting information sharing system. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6 | 90,112 |
| Deliver changes to facilitate the electronic transfer of information relating to applications and court results between Queensland Courts and the Queensland Police Service. Produce simple, easy to understand forms for an application for protection orders and publish communications to explain the court process, including communications focusing on Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and diverse communities. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 91 |
| Work with community justice groups in discrete communities to develop and maintain culturally appropriate domestic and family violence justice and service responses in each community. Engage with community justice groups in each community to build local authority structures. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6,7 | 92 |
| Subject to the results of the independent evaluation of the Southport specialist domestic and family violence court trial, the Queensland Government will invest in the specialist domestic and family violence court program prioritising high needs locations. The evaluation will inform government on best practice elements for the specialist domestic and family violence court approach. We will undertake work on how to achieve a specialist approach for rural and remote areas. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6,7 | 96, 97, 98, 100 |
| Advice from the Law Council of Australia regarding a national approach to extending the safeguards applying to victims of sexual assault to alleged victims of domestic and family violence, will be considered, and if not supported, relevant Queensland bodies will be asked to consider this reform. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 111 |
| Refine further relevant policies and guidelines in accordance with the revised Queensland Language Services Guidelines to strengthen engagement of interpreters in domestic and family violence occurrences. | Queensland Police Service | 6,7 | 113 |
| Continue to identify opportunities to streamline systems for engagement of interpreters for civil domestic and family violence court proceedings. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 116 |
| Consider strategies to increase perpetrators’ participation in intervention programs as part of the development of integrated service response pilots. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6 | 122 |
| Conduct research on options to monitor high-risk perpetrators of domestic and family violence. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 6 | 123 |
| Continue to fund non-government organisations to provide court based assistance and support. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and  Disability Services | 7 | 124 |
| Develop formal position descriptions for court support workers and information/liaison officers to support people through domestic and family violence proceedings. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and  Disability Services | 6,7 | 125 |
| Introduce legislation to create a Sexual Assault Counselling Privilege and, subject to the passage of legislation, establish a supporting legal assistance service. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 130 |
| Implement legislative amendments related to domestic and family violence that enhance the investigative and evidence-gathering capabilities available to the Queensland Police Service. | Queensland Police Service | 6,7 | 131 |
| Lead the coordination of improved justice supports for victims of domestic and family violence in criminal proceedings through incremental and continuous improvement as part of the integrated response pilots. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 132 |
| Consider whether there should be a process to allow the use of video-recorded police interviews as the evidence of victims of domestic violence in criminal matters. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 133 |
| Continue to develop and refine operational policy and procedures to ensure the safety of the victim is prioritised and perpetrators of domestic and family violence are held to account for their actions. | Queensland Police Service | 6,7 | 134, 86(b) |
| Build capacity in the Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator Network by engaging a mix of resources to support the delivery of integrated domestic and family violence services to the community. | Queensland Police Service | 6,7 | 135 |
| Develop and further refine police-administered training packages related to domestic and family violence delivered to frontline police officers and civilians working in a community contact role, based on the outcomes from the external independent audit of domestic and family violence training products. | Queensland Police Service | 6,7 | 138 |
| Consider relevant recommendations in the final Families with Complex Needs and the Intersection of the Family Law and Child Protection Systems Report by the Family Law Council. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | 139 |
| The Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Board to report to the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council on any findings or recommendations. | Department of Justice and Attorney-General | 7 | Enabling action |
| Use the Queensland Police Service State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator role to affect and shape the future direction of the Queensland Police Service in Queensland in line with the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. | Queensland Police Service | 7 | Enabling action |
| Use the Queensland Police Service State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator role as an advocate for the Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator Network by providing leadership and guidance, and facilitating opportunities where the network is able to contribute to shaping the future direction of domestic and family violence policing. | Queensland Police Service | 7 | Enabling action |
| Implement the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions. | Department of Communities, Child Safety and  Disability Services | 7 | Enabling action |

# What has been achieved?

The table below lists the 35 recommendations of the Not Now, Not Ever report that have been completed prior to July 2016. The table also includes the government’s response to the recommendation and the activities taken by government to implement each recommendation.

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| REC NO. | RECOMMENDATION | GOVERNMENT RESPONSE | ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN |
| 1 | The Queensland Government develops a Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy which:   * Is developed through a robust community consultative process * Lays the foundations and creates the building blocks for a Queensland that is free from violence and abuse, and where all Queenslanders act, as individuals and as a collective whole, to place social equality and human rights at the centre of our relationships and interactions with each other * Includes a robust implementation plan * Includes a comprehensive evaluation framework. | The Queensland Government will engage the community in developing a Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy as a framework to drive Government and community action for change. | A Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy has been developed in consultation with the Queensland community through a state-wide community collaboration, held over three months from 18 August until 16 November 2015.  The final Strategy, *Queensland says: not now not ever*, and *First Action Plan 2015-2016* were released in February 2016. |
| 6 | The Queensland Government immediately considers an appropriate resourcing model for the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit in the Office of the State Coroner to ensure it can best perform its functions to enable policy makers to better understand and prevent domestic and family violence. | The Queensland Government will increase staffing for the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit. | All Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit staff have been recruited and have commenced duties. |
| 8 | In consultation with key domestic violence stakeholders, the Queensland Government immediately establishes an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Board, consisting of multi-disciplinary experts, to:  a. Identify common systemic failures, gaps or issues and make recommendations to improve systems, practices and procedures  b. Report to the oversight body every six months on these findings and recommendations  c. Be supported by and draw upon the information and resources of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit. | The Queensland Government will establish the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board and determine the Board’s membership and operating arrangements in consultation with the State Coroner and community and legal stakeholders. | *Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Act 2015* commenced on 4 December 2015.  On 20 July 2016, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills announced the 12 members of the Board, who were appointed for a term of three years. |
| 23 | The Queensland Government continues to fund and considers expanding the annual Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month Community Grants program to enable community driven initiatives to complement the communication strategy. | The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of actively supporting Queensland communities to undertake local prevention campaigns and will continue to fund the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month Community Grants. | The Queensland Government allocated $153,000 to community organisations to hold awareness raising activities during Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month (May 2016).  This has increased from approximately $110k in 2015 and $70k in 2014. The number of funded organisations, events and locations has increased from previous years. |
| 24 | The Queensland Government leads and facilitates the introduction of programs in State schools to embed through the school life of all secondary and primary state schools a culture that emphasises:   * Developing and maintaining respectful relationships * Respecting self * Gender equality. | The Queensland Government will support programs in State Schools that embed a culture that upholds and recognises the significance of appropriate and respectful relationships and gender equality. This includes students demonstrating respect for themselves and others and behaving in a manner that respects the rights of others. | The Queensland Government has developed the *Respectful relationships education program* designed for students from Prep to Year 12. It is a primary prevention program based on domestic and family violence research and best-practice educational approaches. It can be delivered as part of the curriculum or as a stand-alone pastoral care program and is available to all schools in Queensland — state and non-state. |
| 25 | The Queensland Government leads and facilitates the introduction of programs to ensure that all secondary students can:   * Recognise domestic and family violence and where to go for help * Safely intervene and provide support to victims. | The Queensland Government recognises its responsibility to provide programs that focus on personal safety and awareness, including identifying and responding to abuse and violence, and to develop students’ knowledge and skills to be able to recognise, react and report when they, or others, are unsafe. | The Queensland Government developed the *Respectful relationships education program* designed for students from Prep to Year 12. It is a primary prevention based on domestic and family violence research and best-practice educational approaches. It can be delivered as part of the curriculum or as a stand-alone pastoral care program and is available to all schools in Queensland — state and non-state. |
| 26 | The Queensland Government leads and facilitates the introduction of programs to ensure that all primary students can:   * Resolve conflict without violence * Report fears and concerns safely. | The Queensland Government recognises its responsibility to provide programs that focus on personal safety and awareness, including identifying and responding to abuse and violence, and to develop students’ knowledge and skills to be able to resolve conflict without violence and recognise, react and report when they, or others, are unsafe. | The Queensland Government developed the *Respectful relationships education program* designed for students from Prep to Year 12. It is a primary prevention program based on domestic and family violence research and best-practice educational approaches. It can be delivered as part of the curriculum or as a stand-alone pastoral care program and is available to all schools in Queensland — state and non-state. |
| 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. | *Recognise Respond Refer: Domestic Violence and the Workplace* e-learning program was developed in collaboration with Australia’s CEO Challenge to address this recommendation.  The whole-of government domestic and family violence directive, issued by the Public Service Commission, encourages Queensland Government departments to make the *Recognise Respond Refer* e-learning program available to employees. Nineteen Queensland Government agencies have accessed the program for implementation.  Australia’s CEO Challenge is offering the program to employers and businesses outside the Queensland Public Service as part of its ongoing workplace program. |
| 44 | Queensland Government departments and Government-funded organisations brief interpreters prior to any client communication to fully inform them of the nature of the likely discussion and the opportunity to decline the engagement. | All Queensland Government departments, including non-government organisations funded to deliver services on their behalf, are responsible for implementing the Queensland Language Services Policy. Further advice to agencies on briefing interpreters will be incorporated in the next review of the Language Services Guidelines. | The revised Queensland Language Services Guidelines have now been uploaded onto the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services’ website. The Queensland Language Services Guidelines contains information on how to work with interpreters and plan for multilingual resources. |
| 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 will raise workforce issues with other Australian Health Ministers. | Workforce issues have been raised through the Health Workforce Principle Committee.  On 17 April 2015, Health Ministers resolved to refer recommendations 60 to 62 to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (APHRA) and the National Boards for noting. At the 6 November 2015 meeting of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, Health Ministers asked AHPRA to provide an update about actions taken in response to the referral of these recommendations. The update was provided in February 2016.  AHPRA has consulted with Accreditation Agencies to identify how current accreditation standards address the issues of domestic violence. AHPRA is providing information in communiques about continuing professional development registration standards being broad enough to encompass professional development on domestic and family violence, and to raise awareness about the importance of practitioners having skills in recognising and appropriately intervening where this related to their practice.  In May 2016, the Health Workforce Principal Committee agreed to undertake scoping work to identify how jurisdictions are responding to issues of DFV following the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and the Queensland *Not Now, Not Ever* report. The scoping work is being led by Victoria, to frame advice to the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council and Health Ministers on a suitable response to recommendations with respect to the registered and unregistered health workforce. |
| 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 will raise workforce issues with other Australian Health Ministers. | Workforce issues have been raised through the Health Workforce Principle Committee. As per recommendation 60. |
| 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 will raise workforce issues with other Australian Health Ministers. | Workforce issues have been raised through the Health Workforce Principle Committee. As per recommendation 60. |
| 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 will provide a paper to the COAG Health Council. | The National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers is being implemented by each jurisdiction. The Code of Conduct in Queensland will be in effect from 1 October 2015.  Jurisdictions have identified appropriate and sufficient mechanisms currently in place to address matters identified in the recommendation.  The Code of Conduct is to be reviewed in three years. |
| 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 will raise this matter with the Education Council**.** | The Minister for Education took this recommendation to the Education Council in September 2015 for consideration. This recommendation is now being considered by a new national Respectful Relationships Education Working Group established through the Education Council. |
| 65 | The Queensland Government works with universities to identify suitable ways to incorporate into professional undergraduate courses, education and training on how to identify when domestic and family violence is occurring and how to appropriately intervene. | The Queensland Government will work with universities to explore how pre-service teachers can be better educated to recognise and appropriately respond to domestic and family violence. | The Queensland Government worked with the Queensland College of Teachers, the non-state school sector and universities to include the requirement for all Queensland Initial Teacher Education Programs to include education and training on domestic and family violence as a mandatory component from January 2017. |
| 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 will utilise 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. | The consultation process has commenced and will be ongoing with relevant industry advisory organisations.  Consultation has resulted in the nationally recognised Child Protection Skill Set being included on the Queensland Training Subsidies List. This skill set is available for people in frontline services who need upskilling to assist them to recognise and refer people experiencing domestic and family violence.  The Department of Education and Training has commenced a process to promote the uptake of the nationally recognised skill set.  The Queensland Training Subsidies List includes a subsidy for both the Certificate IV and Diploma in Child, Youth and Family Intervention which may provide a pathway to employment or further education that could be relevant for particular roles within the sector. |
| 71 | The Queensland Government undertakes an immediate audit of services to ensure adequate resources are available to meet demand for specialist domestic and family violence services, including perpetrator intervention initiatives and specialist shelters. | The Queensland Government has commenced an audit of services to inform the development of a long term funding model (see Recommendation 72) to guide future investment in the domestic and family violence service system. | KPMG was engaged to undertake the audit of services and provided its final report to government. The report was considered by government and published online in   June 2016. |
| 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 will increase accessibility for offenders in custody less than 12 months to quality perpetrator programs and interventions as part of the integrated service response models. | Queensland Corrective Services has revised the eligibility criteria to allow prisoners to participate in therapeutic programs regardless of sentence length, providing they have enough time in custody to complete the program. |
| 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. | Two supported accommodation services in Brisbane and Townsville commenced operation on  18 December 2015 |
| 88 | The Queensland Government expands the range of responses to alleviate housing stress and homelessness for women and children escaping domestic and family violence including reducing the eligibility criteria on programs such as Rental Grants and Bond Loans. | The Queensland Government is committed to alleviating housing stress and homelessness for women and their children escaping violence. The Government will be implementing processes to streamline access to products such as Bond loans and Rental Grants which will to reduce barriers to women and children affected by domestic and family violence accessing private rental tenancies. | The Department of Housing and Public Works has improved the Housing Need Assessment tool to better identify women and children affected by domestic and family violence.  The department has automated bond loan approvals for clients escaping domestic and family violence who have verified their circumstances.  Housing Service Centres reviewed social housing applications that identified domestic and family violence. This review reassessed the current circumstances of these clients and explored options for providing assistance, supportive responses and achieve housing outcomes. |
| 93 | The Queensland Government amends the Family Responsibilities Commission Act to require a court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commission when a protection order under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 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 (FRC) Act and will amend the FRC Act to achieve this outcome. | The *Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2015* was passed in Parliament on 1 December 2015 to give effect to Recommendation 93. This Legislative Amendment received assent on 17 December 2015. |
| 95 | The Queensland Government continues the review of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act to ensure appropriate financial compensation for victims of domestic and family violence. | The Queensland Government will continue the statutory review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* and will table a report about the outcomes of the review in Parliament at the end of 2015. The review is considering options to ensure all victims of domestic and family violence are able to seek financial assistance. | The report on the outcomes of the review was tabled in Parliament in December 2015. The report made 15 recommendations which were all accepted by the Queensland Government, including to ensure that all victims of domestic and family violence, including victims of emotional abuse, will be able to seek financial assistance. |
| 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 agrees 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. | Training has been rolled out to court and registry staff and training will be delivered on an ongoing basis for staff who move into relevant positions. This training now forms part of the mandatory training requirements for court and registry staff. |
| 114 | The Queensland Police Service and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General ensure that applicants, including police and private, for a protection order or a variation of a protection order, have indicated either “yes” or “no” to interpreter requirements on each application filed. | The Queensland Government recognises the importance of interpreters and will improve current processes to ensure the need for an interpreter is identified at the time an application is made. | The Queensland Police Service reviewed systems and procedures and explored technological solutions to ensure interpreter election is completed in applications for protection orders.  As a result of the review, a number of process improvements have been made including:   * amendment of relevant sections of the Queensland Police Service policy and guidelines and associated forms * Policelink Client Service Officers have been asked to ensure interpreter details including language are recorded on QPRIME where applicable.   DJAG has implemented training of registry staff to ensure that counter staff follow procedures to check any interpreter requirements, including ensuring that applicants have indicated either “yes” or “no” to interpreter requirements on each application filed. |
| 117 | The Queensland Government amends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to require a court when making a Domestic Violence Order to consider whether an order excluding the perpetrator from the home should be made, having regard to the wishes of the victim. | The Queensland Government will amend the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (see Recommendation 140). | Legislative changes to implement this recommendation were included in the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Act 2015*, which was passed by Parliament on  3 December 2015. This commenced by Proclamation on 29 January 2016. |
| 118 | The Queensland Government introduces a circumstance of aggravation of domestic and family violence to be applied to all criminal offences. | The Queensland Government supports the need to hold perpetrators of domestic and family violence to account and to reinforce the nature and seriousness of this type of offending. Consultation will occur with relevant legal and community stakeholders to explore the best means to achieve the objective of this recommendation. | The *Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment* *Act 2016* contains amendments to make provision for domestic and family violence to be an aggravating factor on sentence, commenced on 5 May 2016. |
| 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 will occur 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. | The *Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Act 2015* enabling notations to be made against charges and convictions for criminal offences to indicate that they occurred in a domestic and family violence context commenced on 1 December 2015. |
| 120 | The Queensland Government considers the creation of a specific offence of strangulation. | The Queensland Government recognises that non-lethal strangulation is a high risk indicator of future domestic and family violence related homicides. Consultation will occur with relevant legal and community stakeholders to consider ways to improve the legal response to this serious criminal conduct. | The *Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Act 2016* contains amendments to create an offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting, commenced on 5 May 2016. |
| 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 will review penalties. | The *Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Act 2015* increased maximum penalties for breaches of Domestic Violence Orders, was passed by Parliament on 15 October 2015. This amendment commenced on 22 October 2015. |
| 126 | The Queensland Government establishes a state-wide duty-lawyer service for domestic and family violence matters in Magistrates Courts for both applicants and respondents. | The Queensland Government will provide additional funding for the expansion of the domestic violence duty lawyer service to a total of 14 locations across the State through Legal Aid Queensland. | The rollout of the domestic violence duty lawyer service across 14 locations is complete (including in the trial specialist domestic and family violence Magistrates Court at Southport).  Funding has been allocated for the continuation of the domestic violence duty lawyer services in the current 14 locations from 2016-17, including enhancing the model so representation is provided in court for all applicants and respondents in six court locations that deal with high numbers of domestic and family violence matters. |
| 127 | The Queensland Government develops a position description and guidelines for the duty-lawyer service to ensure:   * Provision of legal advice before and after court appearances * Limited assistance with drafting court related documents * Provision of advice and referral on related issues (such as family law, child support, child protection matter) * Legal representation during court appearances. | The Queensland Government will work with Legal Aid Queensland to develop position descriptions and guidelines to ensure duty lawyer services are of a high quality and that appropriate referrals are made to other legal and support services. | Guidelines (case management standards) have been developed.  The case management standards include the expectations of the duty lawyers delivering the service.  Preferred suppliers of Legal Aid Queensland and community legal centres are required to adhere to these guidelines as a requirement of their service agreements. |
| 128 | The Queensland Government ensures duty-lawyer service lawyers are:   * Experienced in the dynamics and challenges of domestic and family violence * Able to give family law, child support and child protection advice * Operate within a wider integrated service response network, working to prioritise the safety of adult victims and children. | The Queensland Government will work with Legal Aid Queensland to ensure that duty lawyer services are of a high quality and underpinned by an appropriate knowledge and skills base. | Guidelines (case management standards) have been developed. Preferred suppliers are required to adhere to these guidelines as a requirement of their service agreements. |
| 129 | The Queensland Government amends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to provide for victim impact statements to be introduced and for mandatory consideration by the court in applications for protection orders. | The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring victims voices are heard in all domestic violence-related legal processes and ways to achieve the objective of the recommendation will be considered as part of the recommended review of the Act (see Recommendation 140). | The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Act 2015*, passed by Parliament on 3 December 2015, implemented the Government response to this recommendation. It introduced a principle that, to the extent it is appropriate and practicable, the views and wishes of people who fear or experience domestic and family violence should be sought before a decision affecting them is made under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*. This amendment commenced on 29 January 2016.  The review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (VOCA) was completed and the review report was tabled in Parliament on 16 December 2015.  The report recommended that VOCA be amended to expand the definition of ‘act of violence’ to include an act of domestic and family violence to align with the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*. This change will ensure that all victims of domestic and family violence, who have experienced both physical and emotional abuse, will be able to seek financial assistance. Legislation to implement this amendment is currently being developed. |
| 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 will reintroduced the role of State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator at a rank of at least Inspector of Police. | The Queensland Police Service has reinstated a State Domestic and Family Violence Coordinator to work with district coordinators to drive direction and policy. |
| 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 immediately appointed the Deputy Commissioner (Regional Operations) to champion police domestic and family violence best practice and cultural change. | The Queensland Police Service has appointed the Deputy Commissioner (Regional Operations) as the Champion of Best Practice in prevention and first response. |

# Action in the community

Of the 140 recommendations of the Not Now, Not Ever report, 19 recommendations were directed at non-government sectors of the community including the business, education, health and legal sectors. These recommendations are supported by the government, as outlined in the table below. The government’s response to the Not Now, Not Ever report recognised that domestic and family violence is a societal issue that requires a whole-of-community coordinated response. It will require the combined efforts of government, business, community groups and every Queenslander to realise the change that is necessary.

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| REC NO. | RECOMMENDATION | GOVERNMENT RESPONSE | COMMUNITY 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. | The Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Honourable Kate Jones MP, has written to the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools Queensland and Non-State Schools Accreditation Board advising them of the full suite of education materials available via a web-based platform.  Representatives of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland have attended a meeting of the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council and discussed their commitment to facilitating the use of respectful relationships programs and addressing the issue of domestic and family violence for their students and the broader school community. |
| 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. | The Public Service Commission has released a Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Support Package, which is available publicly at <https://www.qld.gov.au/gov/domestic-and-family-violence>.  Business, local government and non-government organisations are encouraged to adopt or tailor these strategies to suit the needs of their workplace. |
| 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. | The Public Service Commission has released a Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Support Package, which is available publicly at <https://www.qld.gov.au/gov/domestic-and-family-violence>. This package includes a whole-of-government DFV directive, model policy template, template leadership commitment statement, communications toolkit, and other supporting resources.  Business, local government and non-government organisations are encouraged to adopt and/or tailor these strategies to suit the needs of their workplace. |
| 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. | The Public Service Commission has released a Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Support Package, and made this available publicly at <https://www.qld.gov.au/gov/domestic-and-family-violence>. This package includes a whole-of-government DFV directive, model policy template, template leadership commitment statement, communications toolkit, and other supporting resources.  Business, local government and non-government organisations are encouraged to adopt and/or tailor these strategies to suit the needs of their workplace. |
| 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. | The following non-government businesses and organisations are current workplace program challengers of CEO Challenge:   Aurizon   Unitywater   Multicultural Development Association   Heritage Bank   Brisbane City Council   Southern Downs Regional Council. |
| 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 (RACGP) in support of this recommendation. | The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, has written to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) regarding their ‘White Book’. Queensland Health and the RACGP will work together to develop a toolkit of resources which complement the RACGP’s ‘White Book’ as per recommendation 52. |
| 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 support the intent of this recommendation. The Minister for Health will write to a range of primary health organisations in support of this recommendation. | The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, has written to the Primary Health networks regarding the ‘White Book’. Queensland Health, the Primary Health networks and the RACGP will work together to develop a toolkit of resources which complement the RACGP’s ‘White Book’ as per recommendation 52. |
| 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 (RANZCOG) to provide access to the Department of Health resources. | The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, has written to the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) regarding this recommendation. Queensland Health will work with RANZCOG to develop resources as per recommendation 52. |
| 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. | The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, has written to the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) regarding this recommendation. Queensland Health will work with ACM to develop resources as per recommendation 52. |
| 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. | The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* Bench Book has been finalised and is publicly available on the Queensland Courts website at [www.courts.qld.gov.au](http://www.courts.qld.gov.au). |
| 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. | The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* Best Practice Report has been finalised and is publicly available on the Queensland Courts website at [www.courts.qld.gov.au](file:///C:/Users/hockingj/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/85QWKFBR/www.courts.qld.gov.au). |
| 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. | Funding has been received from the 2016-2017 Budget for the development of a professional development package for the induction of newly appointed Magistrates. The package includes development of modules and materials for inclusion in the ongoing program of professional development of Magistrates on domestic and family violence. A dedicated legal officer will be appointed to develop and maintain these materials. |
| 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. | Funding has been received from the 2016-2017 Budget for the development of a professional development package for the induction of newly appointed Magistrates. The package includes development of modules and materials for inclusion in the ongoing program of professional development of Magistrates on domestic and family violence. A dedicated legal officer will be appointed to develop and maintain these materials. |
| 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. | Magistrates receive annual profession development dedicated to domestic and family violence. In April – May 2016, Magistrates participated in a full day of professional development dedicated entirely to domestic and family violence. Two days of the Annual Conference scheduled for March 2017 will be dedicated exclusively to domestic and family violence. |
| 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. | The *Domestic and Family Violence Best Practice Guidelines* have been developed to assist practitioners in dealing with legal matters that are impacted by domestic and family violence. The guidelines are available on the Queensland Law Society’s website at [www.qls.com.au/dvguidelines](http://www.qls.com.au/dvguidelines). |
| 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 (QLS) in support of this recommendation. | The *Domestic and Family Violence Best Practice Guidelines* were developed by the Queensland Law Society (QLS) and QLS will lead their implementation. |
| 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. | Following the release of the *Domestic and Family Violence Best Practice Guidelines*, the Queensland Law Society held a professional development session on 16 August 2016. The session was for all legal practitioners working with victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence. A panel of experts led a discussion on the five principles set out in the guidelines and offered practical advice for implementing the guidelines. |
| 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. | Following the release of the *Domestic and Family Violence Best Practice Guidelines*, the Queensland Law Society held a professional development session on 16 August 2016. The session was for all legal practitioners working with victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence. A panel of experts led a discussion on the five principles set out in the guidelines and offered practical advice for implementing the guidelines. |
| 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. | As part of the Southport Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court trial, a new court procedure, supported by the Chief Magistrate, requires registry staff to engage interpreters for parties if required at first appearance in court proceedings. This new process will be monitored with a view for wider rollout, if considered workable and of benefit to parties. |