

19/368 ACT Implementation Plan for the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022

Summary of Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) on women, children, and families are wide-ranging, including early death, permanent disability, long and short-term physical and psychological illness, homelessness, financial impacts and poverty, alcohol abuse and others. Addressing DFV through implementing the <i>ACT Implementation Plan for the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022</i> will have a range of positive impacts for the ACT community, especially women and children recovering from trauma and rebuilding their lives. • The <i>ACT Implementation Plan for the Fourth Action Plan</i> are both focusing on priority areas agreed to by COAG following last year's National Summit for Reducing Violence against Women and their Children (the RVAW Summit). These priority areas include primary prevention and early intervention, responding to sexual violence, improving the service system, and acknowledging and responding to diverse lived experiences especially with regards to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. • Through the <i>ACT Implementation Plan for the Fourth Action Plan</i>, the ACT will be addressing the gendered nature of DFV with women being the majority of victims. • Actions in the <i>ACT Implementation Plan</i> aim to improve recognition and responses for people impacted by DFV, enabling them to have better access to services that fit their specific needs, and to provide for prevention campaigns to stop violence before it starts. • These actions will not only enhance social inclusion and sense of wellbeing in the community, but the prevention and early intervention of DFV incidents will also potentially lower crime and burden on justice, health, housing and community service systems in the long term. • The cost of lost productivity to the Australian economy due to domestic and family violence is estimated to be about \$22 billion, annually (PwC 2015, KPMG 2016). Improving the prevention, early intervention, crisis and recovery response of the domestic and family violence system through the <i>ACT Implementation Plan for the Fourth Action Plan</i> can therefore be expected to have productivity benefits. • There are no anticipated environmental impacts.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue – neutral, Green – positive.

Social

Justice and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts for people who will benefit from actions in the <i>ACT Implementation Plan</i> are intended to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ families experiencing violence who are seeking alternative pathways to safety can stay together and receive culturally-appropriate support; ○ victims who are isolated are helped to manage or leave violence by services equipped to identify their needs; ○ children impacted by domestic and family violence are kept safe and recover from the impacts of trauma; ○ victims trying to escape do not experience systems abuse; ○ families at risk receive a service response early so the violence does not escalate; ○ people experiencing domestic and family violence are able to have their full needs met by a connected system; and ○ victims rebuilding their lives have their financial, housing and psychological needs met. • With the actions in the <i>ACT Implementation Plan</i>, there will be greater awareness of DFV and the appropriate responses especially towards early intervention. It is therefore envisaged that there will be long term positive impact towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lowering crime and corresponding burden on the justice, health, housing and community services system.
---------------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increasing the wellbeing, social connectedness and inclusion of people experiencing family violence in the ACT community while protecting their right to be safe from harm. ○ various cultural and social groups in our community as the actions are cognisance of these groups who are impacted by domestic and family violence and face barriers in getting the required support.
Gender impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions in the <i>ACT Implementation Plan</i> address the gendered nature of DFV against women. While approaches may appear to be focused on women, actions address issues for majority of victims. Also, awareness of the issue overall and the skills to recognise and respond to DFV can be applied generically for victims of all genders.

Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most actions in the <i>ACT Implementation Plan</i> were existing Directorate initiatives or received funding in the 2019-20 Budget, through either the Safer Families package or Directorate-specific new appropriations. • Funding for the ACT contribution to COAG endorsed prevention campaigns will be sought outside of regular budget process.
Productivity and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of lost productivity to the Australian economy due to domestic and family violence is estimated to be \$22 billion, annually (PwC 2015, KPMG 2016). • Lost productivity due to domestic and family violence includes the opportunity cost to victims and perpetrators being unable to attend work due to death, illness or imprisonment. Employers also incur a cost, from paying for leave, to undertaking administration processes. • Improving the prevention, early intervention, crisis and recovery response of the domestic and family violence system through the delivery of FWT and common RAF can therefore be expected to have productivity benefits.
Skills and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two specific actions in the <i>ACT Implementation Plan</i>, the Common Risk Assessment Framework and the ACT Government DFV Training Strategy will provide workers with a consistent language and shared understanding of DFV in ACT and will equip workers with the knowledge and skills to respond to DFV in the workplace in within the community.

Environmental

Nil impact.