

# Submission to:

# Consultation Draft Developing the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

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# About Safe Steps

## Our vision

Safety, support and respect for all victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

## Our mission

Provide evidence-based responses for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence by creating pathways to safety through collaborative partnerships.

## About us

Safe Steps is the only 24/7, family violence response centre in Victoria, providing a state-wide entry point for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

Services include information and referral, crisis response, specialist family violence risk assessment, safety planning, and access to supported crisis accommodation. We also provide specialist counselling nationally, through 1800RESPECT.

Our practice is trauma and violence informed and guided by evidence. We provide services to all victim-survivors and recognise that most of our work is dedicated to the needs of women and children which reflects the gendered nature of domestic and family violence.

Our research and advocacy is informed by our practice and promotes the collective voices and diverse experiences of victim-survivors in family violence crisis. We value diversity and inclusivity and are committed to an intersectional approach. We advocate to create systemic change and effective pathways for victim survivors from crisis to safety and recovery.

## Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the next National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (National Plan).

As Victoria's 24/7, state-wide family violence crisis service, our submission focuses on the systemic barriers to crisis support and recovery for women and children who are experiencing family violence.

Violence against women is endemic in Australia. On average one woman is killed every week by her current or former partner.<sup>1</sup> Domestic or family violence against women is a common factor in child protection notifications,<sup>2</sup> and results in a police call-out on average once every two minutes across the country.<sup>3</sup> Intimate partner violence accounts for 62 percent of family violence homicides.<sup>4</sup>

Through our practice, we see first-hand the devastating impact of family violence against women and children. Our advocacy is grounded in this lived experience and seeks to amplify the voices of the victim-survivors of family violence that we work with every day.

## In Australia:



<sup>1</sup>Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2016 Personal Safety Survey (PSS):

<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@nsf/mediareleasesbyReleaseDate/4CB11D42D9890141CA257B8E001AA60B>

<sup>2</sup>[Australian Institute of Criminology, \(2021\). National Homicide Monitoring Program](#), Between 1989-2019 a total of 1,515 women were killed in a domestic homicide from a total of 2,027 (75%), at an average of 50.5 per year, or 0.97 per week

<sup>3</sup>Police across Australia deal with over 264,000 domestic violence matters each year (or one every two minutes) – calculated for police data sourced across all states and territories, collated at [ABC News](#).

The key themes for our submission are:

- 1. Safe and affordable housing**
  - a. Increased crisis accommodation and refuge places
  - b. Greater supply of and access to social and community housing
  - c. More flexible affordable long-term housing options
- 2. Holistic crisis responses for victim-survivors of family violence and holding perpetrators accountable**
  - a. Joining up the service systems that intersect with family violence
  - b. Greater trauma-informed responses for services intersecting with family violence
  - c. Equitable access for victim-survivors to financial resources for safety and recovery
- 3. Access to justice**
  - a. Prioritisation of safety and justice for women and children in the Family Court
  - b. Improved access to legal supports and advice
  - c. Improved legislative protections
- 4. Remove barriers in access to family violence support**
  - a. Access to support for women on temporary visas
  - b. Increased, ongoing funding for specialist family violence services
  - c. Greater, specialist services for children

## Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** The National Action Plan ensures that access to safe and affordable housing, from crisis accommodation to long-term affordable housing, is included as a critical underpinning of a functional family violence system.

**Recommendation 2:** The Australian Government works with the states and territories through the National Partnership Agreement on Housing to increase the supply of crisis accommodation and long-term affordable housing for victim-survivors of family violence.

**Recommendation 3:** The Australian Government includes operational funding as well as capital funding for projects and programs that enable affordable housing options, including the Safe Places project

**Recommendation 4:** The Australian Government adopts a national risk assessment and management framework and common practice for services that intersect with family violence, modelled on the evidence based Victorian Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) framework.

**Recommendation 5:** The Australian Government continues to develop the National Framework for Information Sharing between the Family Law, Family Violence and Child Protection Systems using the Victorian MARAM framework as its basis.

**Recommendations 6:** The Australian Government uses the MARAM framework as the basis for increasing perpetrator accountability for their use of violence, to ensure uniformity across jurisdictions.

**Recommendation 7:** Federally funded services and organisations (including Centrelink, Child Support Agency) are trained in family violence and trauma informed practice when working with victim survivors of family violence.

**Recommendation 8:** Income Support Payments be raised to a liveable rate given the recovery needs of victim-survivors of family violence, or the grants programs be extended to include income replacement while victim-survivors recover. This would also reduce the number of women seeking early release of their superannuation, which leads to further economic inequality for women as they age.

**Recommendation 9:** The Australian Government prioritises reform in the Family Court and in Family Law to ensure a safety-first approach, to improve consistency between state-based and federal jurisdictions, and to ensure a trauma-informed response to family violence.

**Recommendation 10:** The Family Law Act should be amended to replace the presumption of 'equal shared parental responsibility' with a presumption of 'joint decision-making about major long-term issues' as recommended by the Australian Law Reform Commission.

**Recommendation 11:** The Australian Government works with all states and territories through the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Services to increase the access to legal supports and advice for victim-survivors of family violence.

**Recommendation 12:** The Australian Government reviews cyber governance, practices and laws in Australia to prevent cybercrime and stalking of victim survivors, with reference to the Privacy Act, the Crimes Act, and the Telecommunications Interception and Access Act.

**Recommendation 13:** Include support for women on temporary visas as a priority in the National Action Plan.

**Recommendation 14:** Improve the migration system so that all women on temporary visas who experience domestic, family and sexual violence, and their dependants, can access protections, services and justice including the rights to work, Centrelink payments and healthcare.

**Recommendation 15:** Ensure eligibility and access to services and government support are based on women's needs for safety and recovery, regardless of their migration status.

**Recommendation 16:** The Australian Government continues funding for family violence services through the National Partnership agreement over the forward estimates, beyond the two years allocated in the most recent Budget announcement.

**Recommendation 17:** Specialist family violence crisis services, including Safe Steps, be resourced to provide specialist, child-focused support for children in family violence crisis.

**Recommendation 18:** The needs of young people as distinct from children be recognised and subsequent program responses developed for targeted / dedicated crisis responses and extended support.

## Focus area one: Safe and affordable housing

### Thi's story

What had started with verbal abuse by Thi's partner towards her had escalated to physical violence. Thi's partner had also recently started making threats against her extended family. It was a difficult decision to leave her home and everything she knew, but Thi knew she had to get as far away from the house as possible to protect herself and her children.

Thi had attempted to leave once before, but her partner had used Thi's mother's addiction to gambling and alcohol to find out Thi's whereabouts and track her and the children down. The second time Thi left, she contacted Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre. Safe Steps family violence crisis specialists placed Thi and her children in emergency accommodation at an undisclosed location.

While in emergency accommodation, Thi received multiple police reports that her partner was attempting to find her. This reinforced her concern for her and her children's safety. Safe Steps staff worked intensively with Thi and her children. They helped with safety planning, provided clothes, toiletries and other necessities. They also worked with Thi and her children on beginning to overcome the trauma they had experienced.

Thi was prioritised for a high security refuge vacancy where she and her children could remain in secure and supported accommodation for a six-week period. While in the refuge, Thi was provided with an option to move into a transitional housing unit in a safe location. Thi now lives there with her children and is making a new life for herself in the local community.

Domestic and family violence is the single largest cause of homelessness for women. In 2019/20, of the 41 per cent of clients seeking housing services due to domestic and family violence, 90 per cent, or 107,280, were women. <sup>5</sup>

Access to housing is critical for the safety and recovery of victim survivors of family violence. Lack of access is a key reason many women return to violent partners or are unable to stay safe.

However, there is a chronic shortage of affordable housing in Australia, from crisis accommodation through to longer-term housing, and demand continues to grow. Housing services report having to turn away 95,300 last year, 3000 more than in 2018-19.<sup>6</sup>

Australia's percentage of social housing as a proportion of total housing continues to fall, from 7.1 per cent in 1991, to 4.2 per cent in 2018, 2.9 per cent less than the OECD average.

7,690 victim survivors of family violence are returning to violent partners due to having nowhere to live.<sup>7</sup>

This means that Safe Steps relies on motels to provide emergency accommodation for many victim-survivors and their children who access our service, at a time when there is an extreme threat to their safety.

On average, in June 2021, over 120 women and their children were accommodated in hotels by Safe Steps every night. When they exit our service, the majority (30 per cent on average) end up in



homelessness services. Fourteen per cent can access refuge and only 3 per cent are able to exit into secure housing, either through private rental or social housing.

We welcome the extension of the 'Safe Place' program in the most recent Budget, and this will go some way to meeting the immediate needs of women and children escaping violence. However, the demand will continue to outweigh supply.

Further, programs such as the 'Safe Place' program require operational support as well as capital funding.

We are pleased to see that Safe Housing is listed as one of the areas in the next National Action Plan and strongly agree that this should be the case. Safe housing is more than just something to aspire to. It is one of the most critical underpinnings of a functional family violence support system with lack of access a threat to the human rights of Australian women and children.

**Recommendation 1: The National Action Plan ensures that access to safe and affordable housing is included as a critical underpinning of a functional family violence system.**

Further to its inclusion, we also recommend:

**Recommendation 2: The Australian Government works with the states and territories through the National Partnership Agreement on Housing to increase the supply of crisis accommodation and long-term affordable housing for victim-survivors of family violence.**

**Recommendation 3: The Australian Government includes operational funding as well as capital funding for projects and programs that enable affordable housing options, including the Safe Houses program.**

## Focus area two: Holistic responses

References in National Plan:

- Systems supporting people experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence work effectively together
- Receiving an appropriate response from authorities (an educated, trauma-informed response, i.e. not over-reporting or under-reporting)
- Financial security.

### Joining up the service systems that intersect with family violence

The impacts of family violence are complex, and there are a range of services that intersect with victim survivors of family violence including health, legal, community and justice. It is critical these services are delivered in an integrated, trauma-informed and family violence-informed way.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence in Victoria highlighted the lack of service integration for victim-survivors of family violence, and its devastating impacts. It highlighted that the lack of a shared understanding of family violence risk, and an inability to identify this risk in a range of settings, had led to tragic outcomes.<sup>8</sup>

To this end, the Victorian Government has implemented a range of reforms to assist in integrating service responses and ensuring that these services are delivered safely and appropriately.

This includes:

The Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme which enables key organisations and services that intersect with family violence – such as Child Protection, Health, Youth Justice, Maternal and Child Health, Schools and Police – to share information related to assessing or managing family violence risk. This scheme is underpinned by the Family Violence Protection (Information Sharing and Risk Management) Regulations 2018.<sup>9</sup>

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) which is designed to provide a holistic picture of the risk a perpetrator poses to a victim-survivors of family violence by ensuring relevant services that intersect with family violence can effectively identify, assess and manage risk.

A key aim of this to keep perpetrators in view and accountable and promote the safety of victim-survivors of family violence.<sup>10</sup>

Under MARAM, prescribed organisations must align policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools with the framework. A range of tools and guidance that is contextualised for the particular organisations that are prescribed under MARAM<sup>11</sup> form part of the suite of supports for organisations to effectively implement the framework.

The combination of MARAM and Information Sharing provides for a shared understanding of family violence risk and provides a legislative underpinning to share information. Organisations are therefore better able to integrate services, and victim-survivors do not need to keep repeating their story.

While this has been a challenge implementing given the cultural and practice changes required, it has proved worthwhile, with practitioners stating that the scheme has saved lives.<sup>12</sup>

We believe MARAM could further the work being undertaken in developing a National Framework for Information Sharing between the Family Law and Family Violence and Child Protection Systems,<sup>13</sup> as well as provide a basis for a shared understanding of family violence risk across the systems that intersect with victim-survivors.

**Recommendation 4: The Australian Government adopts a national risk assessment and management framework and common practice for services that intersect with family violence, modelled on the Victorian MARAM framework.**

**Recommendation 5: The Australian Government continues to develop the National Framework for Information Sharing between the Family Law and Family Violence and Child Protection Systems using the Victorian MARAM framework as its basis.**

This shared understanding will also support a consistent approach in managing the risk a perpetrator poses through a shared understanding and commitment to perpetrator accountability.

**Recommendation 6: The Australian Government uses the MARAM framework as the basis for increasing perpetrator accountability for their use of violence, to ensure uniformity across jurisdictions.**

## Greater trauma-informed responses for services intersecting with family violence

While outside of the scope for information sharing, services such as Centrelink and the Child Support Agency intersect regularly with victim-survivors of family violence. These services should be trained in family violence and adopt frameworks such as MARAM to ensure consistency of practice and risk identification.

**Recommendation 7: Federally funded services and organisations (including Centrelink, Child Support Agency, the Family Court) are trained in family violence informed and trauma informed practice when working with victim-survivors of family violence.**

## Equitable access for victim-survivors to financial resources for safety and recovery

Lack of access to adequate income greatly hinders the capacity for women and children to leave and stay safe from family violence.

However, for many women, the need to move, their trauma, their potential disengagement from employment as a consequence of abuse, and their need for safety means they are reliant on Income Support Payments through their recovery.<sup>14</sup>

There is a broad agreement among community service organisations and the business sector that current income support levels are too low.<sup>15</sup>

Further, there is demonstrated evidence that this lack of access to adequate income means women and children will return to violent relationships.

Accessing superannuation, which is currently an option, should not replace an adequate social security safety net. Women already retire with 47 per cent less superannuation than men<sup>16</sup>(and there are many with none) and given the deeply gendered nature of family violence, this option will only further erode their financial security later in life.

**Recommendation 8: Income Support Payments be raised to a liveable rate given the recovery needs of victim-survivors of family violence, or the grants programs be extended to include income replacement while victim-survivors recover. This would also reduce the number of women seeking early release of their superannuation, which leads to further economic inequality for women as they age.**

## Focus area three: Access to Justice

*"After years of escalating physical, emotional and psychological violence including stalking, destroying property and threats to kill, I was finally advised by the police that I should contact a family violence service in my area for support. Child protection were also increasingly concerned about my children's safety. After calling the family violence service I was immediately placed in refuge accommodation in another town, but within six hours the perpetrator had located me. At the same time, I was advised by my lawyer that the perpetrator was now seeking to have full custody of the children on the basis that I had left the family home to enter refuge, and no longer had a permanent residence" (Safe Steps client).*

### Prioritisation of safety and justice for women and children in the Family Court

Safe Steps provided a submission to the Joint Select Committee Inquiry into Australia's Family Law System.<sup>17</sup> In it, we outlined our deep concerns that presumption of 'equal shared parental responsibility' can come at the expense of the safety of women and children. We highlighted that a safety-first approach must be taken where family violence is present, and the legislation that underpins parental rights, alongside the practices and procedures that are followed, needs to be amended to reflect this focus on safety.

We are concerned at the lack of progress in implementing recommendations from the range of enquiries into the Family Court. In our practice, we see too many instances where parenting orders are inconsistent with Family Violence Intervention Orders; where victim survivors are traumatised by Family Court processes; and where perpetrators use the Family Court to further control and manipulate the victim-survivor. These practices put the lives of women and children at risk.

We urge the Australian Government to prioritise reform of the Family Court and Family Law in line with the submissions made by [Women's Legal Services Victoria](#) and [Domestic Violence Victoria](#) to the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System

**Recommendation 9: The Australian Government prioritises reform in the Family Court and in Family Law to ensure a safety-first approach, to improve consistency between state-based and federal jurisdictions, and to ensure a trauma-informed response to family violence.**

**Recommendation 10: The Family Law Act should be amended to replace the presumption of 'equal shared parental responsibility' with a presumption of 'joint decision making about major long-term issues' as recommended by the Australian Law Reform Commission.**

### Improved access to legal supports and advice

Access to legal support and advice is essential at times of crisis when victim-survivors are applying for intervention orders and parenting orders, dividing assets and negotiating their rights to justice. Yet too few victim-survivors can access this legal support.

As such, as a matter of urgency, we ask the Australian Government to increase funding for Community Legal Services and Legal Aid through the National Partnership Agreement.

**Recommendation 11: The Australian Government works with all states and territories through the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Services to increase the access to legal supports and advice for victim survivors of family violence.**

### **The use of tracking and tracing of victim survivors by perpetrators**

Family violence evidence in Australia consistently finds that the risk of injury and death increases when women leave violent relationships. Safe Steps supports women during the process of leaving. In our experience, leaving is further complicated and less safe when perpetrators commonly use tracking and surveillance devices to follow their partners.

**Recommendation 12: The Commonwealth Government document, review and reform systems and laws that allow tracing and tracking, in order to protect victims.**

## Focus area four: Removing barriers to access family violence services

*"I explained to them the conditions of my partner visa: that if I'm placed in a refuge ...that means I'm not living with my partner, and I'm supposed to report back to...Immigration, and if I report that, then that will mean they will look into reviewing my visa ... I didn't want to create any attention or any negative feedback that would make them think maybe ... my relationship and my partner is struggling ... so I [stayed with my partner to] do what I could do for the sake of my visa. The stress level has doubled ...Now everything is out, and now he knows that I've reported him, and I ran away with my kids, and I don't know what Immigration will say ... Sometimes I don't sleep at night." (Safe Steps client).*

### Women on temporary visas

Safe Steps is deeply concerned that the issue of women on temporary visas is not included as a priority option in the National Action Plan.

This is a critical issue for our service and is one that has been advocated for strongly through services,<sup>18</sup> via the Women's Safety Taskforce,<sup>19</sup> and through the National Advocacy Group for Women on Temporary Visas experiencing violence<sup>20</sup> of which Safe Steps is a member.

Many women without permanent residency are ineligible for social security or the right to work due to their migration status, limiting their financial independence and creating a further barrier to leaving a perpetrator. This is an additional barrier on top of other factors that are unique to refugee and migrant communities, including social isolation, shame and language barriers.<sup>21</sup>

Victoria's Royal Commission found that although women without permanent residency are eligible for refuge accommodation, they face significant barriers accessing this. In large part, this is because there are often no longer-term accommodation options available for them, and refuges are reluctant to accept women without income and little likelihood of creating a safe exit plan.

At Safe Steps, that means we must utilise the Victorian Government Crisis Brokerage and Flexible Support Package funding to accommodate women in motels during their crisis, for significantly longer periods. In these situations, victim-survivors have no access to face-to-face specialist family violence supports that are essential for those at high risk and experiencing multiple layers of discrimination, and no safe exit plan.

While we welcome the \$10 million investment in a pilot to support temporary visa holders experiencing violence,<sup>22</sup> one-off grants do not create a long-term solution.

As well as increases in support for this highly marginalised group of women, changes need to be made to the policy that creates this particular issue. Consistent with the National Advocacy Group on Women on Temporary Visas Experiencing Violence Blueprint for Reform, we ask:

**Recommendation 13: Include support for women on temporary visas as a priority in the National Action Plan.**

**Recommendation 14: Improve the migration system so that all women on temporary visas who experience domestic, family and sexual violence, and their dependants, can**

**access protections, services and justice including the right to work, the right to Centrelink payments and the right to health care.**

**Recommendation 15: Ensure eligibility and access to services and government support are based on women's needs for safety and recovery, regardless of their migration status.**

### Increased, ongoing funding for family violence services

Safe Steps welcomes the Australian Government's continuation of the National Partnership Agreement of \$260 million over two years.

The extension of the agreement - while initially a response to COVID-19 - highlights that family violence services continue to see increases in demand. This is due to better reporting, greater awareness and greater confidence of women and children in the family violence system.

If services are not funded to meet this demand, however, the intent of the National Plan will be undermined, leading to tragic outcomes.

Limited-term funding is also highly problematic. Not being able to plan beyond two years creates sustainability challenges for our organisations and contributes to the loss of qualified staff. Limited-term funding creates programs and services that are reactive and crisis-driven, rather than being able to focus on longer-term solutions and recovery.

**Recommendation 16: The Australian Government continues funding for family violence services through the National Partnership agreement over the forward estimates, beyond the two years allocated in the most recent Budget announcement.**

### Greater service responses for children and young people

Nearly 30 per cent of family incidents reported to Victoria Police in 2019 involved children, affecting 32,705 unique child witnesses.<sup>23</sup>

While under legislation, children and young people are considered victim survivors in their own right, services are not funded to provide a system wide focus on the needs and recovery of children. Further, it also fails to recognise the distinct needs of young people.

Crisis responses, rightfully, focus on the safety of parents and thereby by extension, their children. However, we know that dealing with the initial trauma of crisis for children and young people is essential to support their recovery. We also know that many young people may not be able to escape to safety with their non-violent parent and thus require a more specialised response.

**Recommendation 17: Specialist family violence crisis services, including Safe Steps, be resourced to provide specialist, child-focused support for children in family violence crisis.**

**Recommendation 18: The distinct needs of young people as distinct from children be recognised and subsequent program responses developed for targeted / dedicated crisis responses and extended support.**



## Conclusion

Safe Steps welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the National Plan and commends the Australian Government on maintaining this important focus. Drawing from our experience delivering Victoria's only 24/7 family violence crisis service, we ask that:

- access to safe housing be given greater prominence
- access to a social security safety net be considered as part of women's economic security, and
- the issue of women on temporary visas experiencing violence be included as a priority in the National Plan.

We are happy to elaborate on any of the points made in this submission and look forward to continuing working with the Australian Government to create an Australia free from violence.

## References

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Criminology (2021), *National Homicide Monitoring Program*, Between 1989-2019 a total of 1,515 women were killed in a domestic homicide from a total of 2,027 (75%), at an average of 50.5 per year, or 0.97 per week

<sup>2</sup> AIHW 2018. Child Protection Australia 2016-2017. Cat. no. CWS 63. Canberra: AIHW. Children exposed to family violence are classified as experiencing 'emotional abuse', which while a broader category, is the most commonly substantiated type of harm (46%) in child protection notifications across Australia.

<sup>3</sup> Police across Australia deal with more than 264,000 domestic violence matters each year (or one every two minutes) – calculated for police data sourced across all states and territories, collated at ABC News.

<sup>4</sup> Australian Institute of Criminology (2021), *National Homicide Monitoring Program*

<sup>5</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2020), *Specialist homelessness services annual report*, Cat. Number HOU 322

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>7</sup> Equity Economics (2021) *Nowhere to go: The benefits of providing long-term social housing to women that have experienced domestic and family violence*, Equity Economics

<sup>8</sup> Royal Commission into Family Violence (2016), *Royal Commission Summary Report and Recommendations*, Victorian Government, Melbourne

<sup>9</sup> Victorian Government (2021, July). Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme. Retrieved from Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme: <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme>

<sup>10</sup> Victorian Government. (2021, June). About the information sharing and MARAM reforms. Retrieved from Victorian Government: <https://www.vic.gov.au/about-information-sharing-schemes-and-risk-management-framework>

<sup>11</sup> Full list of prescribed organisations [here](#).

<sup>12</sup> McCulloch, J; Maher, J; Fitz-Gibbon, K; Segrave, M; Benier, K; Burns, K; McGowan, J; and Pfitzner, N (2020) Review of the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme Final Report. Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre, Faculty of Arts, Monash University

<sup>13</sup> More information can be found [here](#)

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<sup>14</sup> Corrie, T (2016) *Economic security for survivors of domestic and family violence: Understanding and measuring the impacts*, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, Abbotsford

<sup>15</sup> ACOSS (2020) *Government decision to cut income support at Christmas is a cruel and damaging mistake*. Retrieved from ACOSS: [https://www.acoss.org.au/media\\_release/government-decision-to-cut-income-support-at-christmas-is-a-cruel-and-damaging-mistake/](https://www.acoss.org.au/media_release/government-decision-to-cut-income-support-at-christmas-is-a-cruel-and-damaging-mistake/)

<sup>16</sup> Women in Super (2021) *Times up and the super gap*, Retrieved from Women in Super: <https://www.womeninsuper.com.au/content/times-up-and-the-super-gap/gjkt8>

<sup>17</sup> Accessible here

<sup>18</sup> InTouch (2020) *Women on temporary visas experiencing family violence face additional complex barriers to seeking help*, retrieved from InTouch: <https://intouch.org.au/media-release-position-paper-on-women-on-temporary-visas-experiencing-family-violence/>

<sup>19</sup> Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (2020) *Women's Safety Ministers meeting outcomes*, retrieved from PMC: <https://pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/pmc/womens-safety-ministers-meeting-outcomes-7-august-2020.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) (2019) *Blueprint for Reform: Removing Barriers to Safety for Victims/Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence who are on Temporary Visas*, retrieved from AWAVA: <https://awava.org.au/women-on-temporary-visas-experiencing-dfv#:~:text=National%20Advocacy%20Group%20on%20Women,to%20live%20free%20from%20violence.>

<sup>21</sup> Safe Steps (2019) *Housing pathways for women and children without permanent residency in the context of family violence*, Safe Steps, Melbourne

<sup>22</sup> ABC (2021) *Women's safety summit to bring national leaders together to tackle domestic violence*, retrieved from ABC: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-07/womens-safety-meeting-national-summit-anne-ruston/100053944>

<sup>23</sup> Phillips, B., & McGuinness, C. (2020). *Child witnesses of family violence: An examination of Victoria Police family violence data*. Melbourne: Crime Statistics Agency.