OFFICIAL

**Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**

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| ***Q1******Please describe, share data and information on the characteristics, number of cases, and the profile of victims and perpetrators in your country/ies or region(s) regarding****:*  ***1.1. gender based violence against women***  ***1.2. gender based violence and other forms of violence against children:***  ***1.3. gender based violence against LGBTI or other persons based on real or imputed sexual orientation, sex characteristics, and gender identity***  ***1.4. violence against persons with disabilities, including GBV***  ***1.5. gender based violence against men***  ***1.6. conflict gender based violence, including sexual violence***  ***1.7. Please share analysis and available evidence on the impact of COVID on the above***  **A:**  Gender based violence and other forms of violence against women and against children  According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – the latest Australian Government Personal Safety Survey data (2016), women aged 18 years and over were more likely than men to have experienced either physical violence and/or sexual violence, by a partner since the age of 15.   * Approximately one if four women (23% or 2.2 million) and one in thirteen men (7.8% or 703,700) have experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15. * Around one in six women (16% or 1.5 million) experienced physical violence by a partner, compared with one in seventeen men (5.9% or 528,800). * Women were eight times more likely to experience sexual violence by a partner than men. Approximately 5.1% of women (480,200) experienced sexual violence by a partner, compared with approximately 0.6% of men (53,000). * Women and men reported experiencing similar rates of emotional abuse by a current partner (6.1% or 575,400 women and 5.2% or 473,600 men). * About one in five women (18% or 1.7 million) reported experiencing emotional abuse by a previous partner, compared to around one in eight men (12% or 1 million). * Over one in ten Australians aged 18 years and over (13% or 2.5 million) have experienced abuse before the age of 15. This includes an estimated 1.6 million people (8.5%) who experienced physical abuse and 1.4 million (7.7%) who experienced sexual abuse. * Around one in six women (16% or 1.5 million) and just over one in ten men (11% or 991,600) experienced abuse before the age of 15. * Of the women who experienced abuse before the age of 15, 94% (1.4 million) reported experiencing abuse by someone known to them. The proportion of women that experienced abuse by someone known to them was higher for physical abuse (97% or 803,100) than for sexual abuse (91% or 907,300). * Of the men that experienced abuse before the age of 15, 94% (929,100) reported experiencing abuse by someone known to them. The proportion of men that experienced abuse by someone known to them was higher for sexual abuse (98% or 715,300) than for physical abuse (84% or 343,700). * From July 2019 to June 2020 the Australian Federal Police received more than 21,000 reports of online child abuse material.   Gender based violence against LGBTI or other persons based on real or imputed sexual orientation, sex characteristics, and gender identity   * For people identifying with a diverse sexual orientation, sexual abuse perpetrated by a partner was most commonly reported by women who identified as bisexual (14%), followed by women who identified as mainly heterosexual (6%), lesbian (3%), and exclusively heterosexual (2%). Similarly, harassment was most commonly reported among women who identified as bisexual (25%), followed by women who identified as lesbian (21%), mainly heterosexual (20%), and exclusively heterosexual (10%).   Violence against persons with disabilities, including GBV   * 2 in 5 (40% or 1.2 million) women with disability have experienced physical violence since the age of 15, compared with 26% (or 1.7 million) without disability. * 90% of women with intellectual disability have experienced sexual abuse, and 68% of women with an intellectual disability will be subjected to sexual abuse before they reach 18 years of age. * Women with a disability are twice as likely to experience sexual violence over any given year compared to women without disability. * In 2016, the cost of violence against women with disability was estimated as $1.7 billion.   Impact of COVID   * Two-thirds of women who experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former co-habiting partner since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic reported the violence had started or escalated since the pandemic began. * Among the women who have experienced physical or sexual violence from their current or former cohabitating partner prior to 2020, more than half (53.1 per cent) said the violence had increased in frequency or severity in the last three months to (date). * Reports of online child abuse material increased by 122% during Australia’s first COVID-19 lockdown in April to June 2020, compared to April to June 2019.   Additional information: Modern slavery  Australia uses the umbrella term ‘modern slavery’ to describe human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices such as forced marriage and forced labour. While each of these practices is distinct, they all involve the manipulation of complex relationships between an offender and a victim, and undermine a victim’s personal freedom and ability to make choices for themselves. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by modern slavery, particularly forced marriage, which is a complex form of gender-based violence.  While the true extent of modern slavery crime victimisation is unlikely to ever be known, the Australian Institute of Criminology estimates that the number of human trafficking and slavery victims in Australian in 2015-16 and 2016-17 was between 1,300 and 1,900. However, in the 15 years between 2004 and 2019, only 24 offenders were convicted in Australia of human trafficking or slavery offences. Over the same time, 462 victims were referred to the Australian Government’s Support for Trafficked People Program. |
| ***Q2 Please describe whether the legal framework prohibits and sanctions these forms of violence and the definitions and forms of violence included in the legal system. Please explain redress options for survivors of violence, (the pathway they go through if they decide to file a complaint), levels of impunity and if access to comprehensive physical and mental care for GBV-survivors is recognized as a form of reparation.***  A:  The Australian Government strongly condemns all forms of gender-based violence. Everyone has the right to feel safe and live free from violence.  Under Australia’s federal system of government, state and territory governments are responsible for the majority of laws providing redress for domestic, family and sexual violence. Each jurisdiction within the federation manages its own justice system, including laws, policing, courts and corrections. Legal options for redress include criminal offences punishing past behaviour, civil laws prohibiting future behaviour, and laws establishing civil compensation schemes. Many criminal offences prohibiting gender-based violence (e.g. sexual offences) attract harsher penalties if the victim had a cognitive impairment or physical disability. The most serious offences, for example against children, can attract penalties of up to life imprisonment.  *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth)  At the federal level, the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) also has a broad definition of family violence that applies in legal disputes concerning property and parenting arrangements for children following a relationship breakdown. The ‘best interests of the child’ is the paramount consideration for the court in child-related proceedings and the protection of children from harm from being subjected to, or exposed to, abuse, neglect of family violence is a primary consideration for the court in determining a child’s best interests. Family violence is defined under the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) as violent, threatening or other behaviour by a person that coerces or controls a member of the person’s family, or causes the family member to be fearful.  State and territory criminal laws  State and territory criminal laws include child sexual abuse offences and set an age of consent for sexual activities. Commonwealth law covers offences that happen online and through postal services in Australia.  Under state and territory laws, broadly speaking, sexual violence includes sexual behaviours carried out without a person’s consent. It occurs any time a person is forced, coerced or manipulated into any unwanted sexual activity, such as touching, sexual harassment and intimidation, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual assault, and rape.  Some jurisdictions have introduced alternative justice pathways specifically for sexual violence victim-survivors. In New South Wales and Queensland, victim-survivors who do not wish to formally report sexual assault to police can instead proceed with an online anonymous, informal reporting option. In other jurisdictions, survivor-initiated, trauma-informed restorative justice options are provided at different points throughout the criminal justice process.  Victim-survivors of gender-based violence may be eligible for several forms of redress that can assist with their recovery and healing. Such remedies are typically accessed via three avenues:  (1) statutory schemes, primarily established under state and territory laws, that provide victims of crime compensation, financial assistance (including to access counselling and medical services), redress or recognition payments;  (2) court-sanctioned reparation orders made at the time of sentencing in criminal trials requiring the offender to pay the victim in respect of any loss suffered, or expense incurred by reason of the offence; and  (3) pursuing civil action against a perpetrator for damages, for example under state and territory tort laws.  National Redress Scheme  At the federal level, the National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced child sexual abuse within certain institutional settings commenced in 2018. Under the National Redress Scheme, victim-survivors can apply for redress, and access free redress support services including confidential emotional support and legal and financial counselling.  All Australian governments have worked together to establish key infrastructure and strengthen service responses and supports for victim-survivors of gender-based violence, including specialised legal assistance services, emergency accommodation and safe at home programs, and supporting work across sectors to provide a holistic service system.  Despite these efforts, many victim-survivors do not obtain redress, as gender-based violence remains significantly and disproportionately under-reported and under-prosecuted in Australia.  There is no state-sanctioned impunity for this violence, and all Australian governments are working individually and collectively to address the current levels of impunity through law reform, prevention initiatives, and recovery efforts.  *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) and *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth)  Australia’s laws criminalising human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices are contained within Divisions 270 and 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) (Criminal Code). Under section 21B of the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth), a court may also order a person convicted of a federal offence to make reparation to a victim, including victims of human trafficking and slavery-related offences. Reparation can be made through monetary payment or other means in respect of any loss suffered, or any expense incurred, by the person by reason of the offence. |
| ***Q3 Please share examples of the types of structural and institutional violence with origins within the State, (perpetrated or condoned by the State) or perpetrated by those not representing or affiliated to the state in your country/ies of region, and who is affected.***  ***In particular, describe structural/institutional violence in medical settings against women and girls, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities or any other individuals or groups relevant in your country/ies or regions.***  **A:**  The Australian Government strongly condemns all forms of gender-based violence. Everyone has the right to feel safe and live free from violence.  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and communities  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and communities experience disproportionately high rates of violence. Discrimination, racism and intergenerational trauma are some of the significant drivers that impact Indigenous women.  Women in prison  Many women in prison have histories of victimisation, including childhood sexual abuse and intimate partner violence.  Women with disability  The Safety Target Action Plan under Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-2031 notes that, while all people can experience violence and abuse, the nature, extent, frequency and impact of violence is not evenly distributed across population groups and communities.  Women with disability experience significantly higher levels of all forms of violence. Nine in 10 women with intellectual disability report experiencing sexual assault. Violence against women with disability is also more diverse in nature. People with disability are more likely to experience violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and fare worse in institutional contexts such as group homes and boarding houses where violence may be more common.  While women with disability face many of the same forms of domestic, family and sexual violence, women with disability also experience and are at more risk of particular forms of violence, such as forced sterilisation, seclusion and restrictive practices.  In recognition of serious concerns raised regarding violence against people with disabilities, the Australian Government established the *Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability* in April 2019. The Royal Commission is inquiring into all forms of violence against, and abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability in all settings and contexts. The Royal Commission commenced public hearings in September 2019 and its final report is due by 29 September 2023. The Australian Government recognises that women with disability are at a heightened risk of gender based violence when compared with other women, and that the abuse may be more severe and persistent. The Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission direct Commissioners to have regard to how specific experiences are influenced by sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, age, ethnic origin and race, and the particular situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse people.  LGBTIQA+ people  A significant proportion of LGBTIQA+ people report experiencing various forms of violence and abuse in intimate partner and family relationships. Rates of victimisation for intimate partner violence have been found to be similar or even higher among LGBTIQA+ people in comparison with rates for non-LGBTIQA‑+ individuals.  Migrant and refugee women  Research shows some migrant and refugee women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, may experience emotional abuse and controlling behaviours by their partner or extended family using immigration or visa status.  Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse  The Royal Commission was established in 2013 in response to allegations of significant child sexual abuse in Australian institutions. It found that child sexual abuse happened in a wide range of Australian institutions, affecting tens of thousands of people over many years. It also highlighted the failings of governments, institutions and communities to protect and nurture children and young people. The Royal Commission made 409 recommendations, many of which aimed to make institutions safer for children. The Australian Government has accepted, accepted in principle or noted all the recommendations directed to it wholly or partly and is working with state and territory governments to implement them. |
| ***Q4 Please also share information on the impact of criminalization of sex work, same sex relations, transgender persons, abortion, drug abuse, harmful practices in obstetric care, female genital mutilation on the violence experienced by the affected individuals and their enjoyment of the right to health.***  **A:**  Australia does not criminalise abortion, same sex relations or transgender persons, but does have criminal laws for possession and trafficking of drugs. In Australia, which has a federal system of government, the criminalisation of sex work is the responsibility of states and territories rather than the federal government. |
| ***Q5 Please share information on the health and other type of responses provided by the State and/or other actors in your country/ies or regions in focus to survivors of each/some of the aforementioned forms of violence. Please assess what works well and not so well, and whether COVID-19 impacted the response and how.***  **A:**  Australia’s National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their children 2010-2022  While all governments have services and programs to respond to violence against women and their children, Australia’s National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their children 2010-2022 (National Plan) provides the overarching mechanism bringing together Commonwealth, state and territory government, and community efforts to achieve a real and sustained reduction in, and prevention of, family, domestic and sexual violence. Progress on the Fourth Action Plan initiatives, including information on funding, milestones, and intended outcomes is published in the National Implementation Plan.  Hotlines – 1800RESPECT  The Australian Government funds 1800RESPECT, the national domestic, family and sexual violence telephone and online counselling, information and support service. It provides support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 1800RESPECT counsellors may refer service users to support services in their local area, such as State and Territory crisis services including emergency accommodation providers.  States and Territories  States and territories are critical to the delivery of family, domestic, and sexual violence (FDSV) support services. They have responsibility for the provision of specialist services, including counselling and family support programs, perpetrator intervention services and homelessness services. They are also accountable for criminal justice responses via agencies such as police and corrective services to FDSV, as well as oversight of mainstream agency responses through managing FDSV responses provided by agencies such as health and education agencies.  In addition to the National Plan, most Australian states and territories have developed their own policies and strategic frameworks which align to the broad outcomes and objectives of the National Plan.  In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, on 29 March 2020, the Australian Government announced a $150 million Coronavirus Domestic Violence Support Package for all people in Australia who are experiencing FDSV.  National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses  The Commonwealth provided $130 million to state and territory governments through the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses (NPA) to invest in services to support women and children who are experiencing or who are at risk of violence during the pandemic. The remaining $20 million was directed to boost existing Commonwealth programs, services and counselling support for families affected by, or at risk of experiencing FDSV.  Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (PASTT)  The Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (PASTT) is a national program, funded by the Australian Government, that supports permanently resettled humanitarian entrants and those on temporary substantive visas who are experiencing psychological or psychosocial difficulties associated with surviving torture and trauma before coming to Australia, including gender based violence. PASTT is delivered by member agencies of the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASTT). FASTT comprises eight members, one in each state and territory, who support clients through counselling and other targeted services that contribute to building the bridge to community recovery and underpin full participation in the Australian community.  PASTT has been funded by the Australian Government for 26 years. In 2020-21, the Australian Government provided $28.3 million to the program. In addition, and as part of the $48.1 million package to support the implementation of the National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan, the Government provided an additional $1.9 million to assist PASTT agencies to better support its clients through the COVID-19 pandemic.  Support for Trafficked People Program  Australia provides a comprehensive range of dedicated support services for trafficked people through the Government’s Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP), including assistance with accommodation, financial support, access to medical treatment, counselling, legal and migration advice, and links to social support, education or employment services based on individual needs.  The STPP also includes a Forced Marriage Stream that provides people in, or at risk of forced marriage, including those at risk of being trafficked overseas, up to 200 days of intensive support without being required to participate in a criminal investigation or prosecution against their alleged perpetrators. This recognises the particular vulnerabilities and complex needs of victims of forced marriage.  Human Trafficking Visa Framework  The Australian Government also provides support for non-citizen victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices under the Human Trafficking Visa Framework (HTVF). The HTVF regularises the status of unlawful non-citizens assessed by the AFP as suspected victims of human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices, allowing them to remain lawfully in Australia for an initial period of rest and recovery, assist with criminal justice processes and, in some circumstances, remain here permanently. |
| ***Q6 Please specify the budget allocated in your country/ies in focus, to health related response to survivors of all/some forms of violence mentioned above. Please indicate the percentage of the national budget devoted to this; the percentage of the international aid provided or received for this. Please explain the impact of COVID-19 to the funding of responses to all/some forms of violence in your State/institution.***  **A:**  Under the 2021-22 Budget, $1.1 billion was committed by the Australian Government to reduce family, domestic and sexual violence against women and their children and support people who have experienced such violence.  This includes $144.8 million to trial an Escaping Violence Payment, which commenced in October 2021, is a two-year trial that provides financial assistance to eligible individuals of up to $5,000, including up to $1,500 in immediate cash and a further $3,500 in kind for goods or direct payments of bonds, school fees or other items to help women leave violent relationships and rebuild their lives. The Escaping Violence Payment will support an estimated 12,000 individuals annually.  The 2021-22 Budget funding also includes up to $260 million for a two-year National Partnership with states and territory governments to boost funding for family, domestic and sexual violence services, and to trial new initiatives to support women and children experiencing violence. Payments under the National Partnership are allocated on a per capita basis, with an additional loading for remote and very remote populations. States and territories are required to contribute to the National Partnership in recognition that responding to violence is a shared responsibility of all Australian governments.  In addition, each state and territory government in Australia also contribute funding to end domestic and family violence.  Coronavirus Domestic Violence Support Package  In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 29 March 2020, the Australian Government announced a $150 million Coronavirus Domestic Violence Support Package for all people in Australia who are experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence.   * $130 million was been provided to state and territory governments to invest in specialist services to protect women and children most at risk of violence during the pandemic. This is supporting crisis accommodation, frontline services and perpetrator intervention programs. * The remaining $20 million was been directed to boost capacity for Commonwealth-funded national programs including 1800RESPECT, MensLine Australia, the Men’s Referral Line and the Support for Trafficked People Program. The Commonwealth also delivered the ‘Help is Here’ campaign to ensure those affected by family, domestic and sexual violence knew where to seek help during the height of the pandemic. * $164.8 million over two years to establish the Escaping Violence Payment to provide up to $1,500 in immediate cash and a further $3,500 in kind for goods or direct payments of bonds, school fees or other items to help women leave violent relationships and rebuild their lives.   Medicare -Medicare Benefits Schedule Telehealth  Medicare is Australia's universal health scheme and provides free or low-cost access to health services and medicines for all Australians, including those who have experienced gender based violence. Under Medicare, the Australian Government subsides the costs of health services and medicines under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It also shares the responsibility with states and territory governments for funding free public hospitals services. Telehealth services are available under the Medicare scheme, which can be easier to access for people who have experienced gender-based violence.    States and territory governments are responsible for managing and delivering health services including public hospitals, preventive services, community and mental health services, and public dental clinics. |
| ***Q7 Please describe the needs of survivors of the abovementioned forms of violence as identified by your State/institution. Please share survivor-self identified needs and those of their families, with a focus on health emergency and long-term needs.***  **A:**  Australia’s fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022  Australia’s fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 has a focus on delivering policies and services to address the disproportionate impact of violence on particular groups. It promotes mainstream services adapting their models to meet the needs of individuals and communities, and ensuring services and supports are not discriminatory against any victims and survivors.  The National Plan commits to drawing upon lived expertise in multiple ways to work with victim-survivors and ensure what the National Plan delivers is appropriate and effective.  The next National Plan to end violence against women and children is being developed by the Australian Government in consultation with state and territory governments for implementation from mid-2022.  The next National Plan will acknowledge that victim-survivors have specific and contextual expertise that comes from lived experience of abuse and violence. Victim-survivors have intimate first-hand knowledge of services, systems and structures that are intended to support them. They know the weaknesses and strengths of interventions in practice.  National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030  On 27 October 2021, the Australian Government launched the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030 and committed an initial $307.5 million to its implementation. This funding is in addition to existing funding from state and territory governments for services relating to child safety. As part of the National Strategy, the Australian Government is completing a baseline analysis of specialist and community support services for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. This includes developing minimum practice standards to determine which services meet government expectations, and identifying any gaps in the service system.  Survivors of Modern Slavery  The Australian Government seeks to provide holistic, gender-sensitive, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, victim centred protection and support to all victims and survivors of modern slavery. |
| ***Q8 Please share examples of good practices and examples of comprehensive health responses to survivors of violence and indicate efficient multi-sectorial efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels by State or non-State actors.***  **A:**  Australia’s Fourth National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022  Australia’s fourth Action Plan of theNational Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 (NAP4) is the final Action Plan under the overarching twelve-year National Plan. The fourth Action Plan sets out a range of initiatives to reduce violence against women and their children based around five priority areas:  1. Primary prevention is key.  2. Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children.  3. Respect, listen and respond to the diverse lived experience and knowledge of women and their children affected by violence.  4. Respond to sexual violence and sexual harassment.  5. Improve support and service system responses.  Stop it at the Start Campaign  Key primary prevention activities jointly funded by the Commonwealth and jurisdictions, include the award-winning national primary prevention communications campaign ‘Stop it at the Start’.  Escaping Violence Payment  The Commonwealth Government has committed $164.8 million over three years (2021-22 to 2023-24) in financing support for women escaping violence. This includes a two-year trial of the ‘Escaping Violence Payment’ (EVP) that provides financial assistance of up to $5,000 to individuals leaving a violent relationship so they can establish a home free from violence. While not a specific health response, the financial packages are individualised based on the need of the person and their circumstances.  Keeping Women Safe in their Homes Program  The Australian Government has funded the ‘Keeping Women Safe in their Homes (KWSITH) Program’ over 2015-16 to 2021-22 to support women and their children experiencing violence to stay in their own home, or a home of their choice, where it is safe and appropriate to do so, by providing risk assessments, safety planning, home security audits and upgrades, and case management.  Local Support Coordinator  The ‘Local Support Coordinator’ (LSC) program facilitates better integration and coordination of Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) support services, and assists women who are experiencing, or have experienced FDV, to effectively navigate the complex service system. LSC funding is provided to state and territory governments and select non-government service providers to better coordinate service responses.  National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030  The Australian Government launched the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030is a whole-of-nation framework to establish a coordinated and consistent approach to preventing and better responding to child sexual abuse. The National Strategy is based on a public health approach. Australian, state and territory governments are working with communities and organisations to deliver measures across five themes:  1. Awareness raising, education and building child safe cultures  2. Supporting and empowering victims and survivors  3. Enhancing national approaches to children with harmful sexual behaviours  4. Offender prevention and intervention  5. Improving the evidence base.  National Women’s Health Strategy 2020-2030  The National Women’s Health Strategy outlines Australia’s national approach to improving health outcomes for all women and girls, particularly those at greatest risk of poor health. Health impacts of violence against women and girls is one of five key priority areas for action identified in the Strategy. The Strategy will drive efforts to raise awareness of the health impacts of violence against women and girls; address health and related impacts of family and sexual violence; and co-design and deliver safe and accessible services for women experiencing family, intimate partner and/or sexual violence.  The Improving Health System Responses to Family and Domestic Violence initiative provides funding for primary care, as general practitioners are often the first point of contact in the health care system for a person experiencing family and domestic violence. |
| ***Q9 Please describe State and other actors initiatives and measures to prevent these forms of violence, specific budget allocated to prevention, and good practices in this regard.***  **A:**  Australia’s state, territory and Commonwealth civil law frameworks provide for victims-survivors of domestic and family violence to obtain protection orders from the court to safeguard them from further violence. Since 2015, the Australian Government implemented national reforms to ensure domestic or family violence orders are recognised and enforceable across all jurisdictions.  Our Watch  Prevention is a key part of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. The next National Plan will continue this focus on primary prevention to stop violence before it starts and achieve long-term attitudinal, cultural, systemic and behavioural change. For instance, Our Watch is a national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia. As a national leader in the prevention of violence against women and children, Our Watch is a key initiative of the National Plan. Our Watch is funded to deliver a range of primary prevention initiatives, which aim to change behaviours and norms that excuse or justify violence against women. The work of delivering evidence based primary prevention initiatives is informed by Our Watch’s [Change the Story](https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story/) framework.  Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-2031  Under Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-2031 Safety Targeted Action Plan, the Australian Government is working with states and territories to better identify, support and protect people with disability who experience, or are at risk of, violence, abuse and neglect.  To enable this, the Australian Government has committed $2.5million to conduct jointly funded pilot projects with states and territories to improve information sharing, referrals processes and interfaces to ensure seamless transitions and dynamic identification of risk between systems including health, education, justice, domestic, family and sexual violence services, child-protection, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. In response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability highlighting that women with disability experience significantly higher levels of all forms of violence, the Australian Government has invested $9.3 million over three years (2021-22 to 2023-24) to develop resources that will help drive a reduction in violence against women and girls with disability and improve responses when violence occurs. The National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013, as recently amended by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Improving Supports for At Risk Participants) Act 2021, enables information sharing for the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and the National Disability Insurance Agency to better support and protect NDIS participants who experience, or are at risk of, violence, abuse and neglect.  National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020-25  The National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020-25 provides the whole-of-government strategic framework for Australia’s efforts to combat modern slavery from 2020 to 2025.  National Domestic Violence Order Scheme  On 25 November 2017, the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme (the Scheme) came into effect, removing the need for victims to apply to register domestic or family violence orders in other jurisdictions for them to be enforceable. The Scheme also improves the situational awareness and enforcement capability of police when responding to domestic or family violence incidents and enables local courts to recognise and amend all domestic or family violence order. The Scheme ensures that victims-survivors are afforded protection regardless of where they relocate in Australia.  National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse  Several of the National Strategy measures focus on the prevention of child sexual abuse by raising awareness, educating and building child safe cultures. There are also measures aimed at working with offenders and potential offenders to prevent offences from occurring.  Key measures the Australian Government has committed funding to include:   * $2.5 million over four years to implement and promote the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. This will build organisational and community awareness about child safety and wellbeing, and improve organisation capacity to keep children and young people safe. * $1.2 million over four years to set up an ongoing national annual reporting framework for non-government organisations to report on their progress to create and maintain child safe cultures. * $22.3 million to deliver a national awareness raising campaign on child sexual abuse. * $9.6 million over four years to launch an offender prevention service for adults who have sexual thoughts about children or young people. * $1.2 million over four years to increase workforce capability and support the community to better understand and respond to developmentally appropriate and harmful sexual behaviours in children. |