



Sexual Violence **Prevention and Response** Strategy 2025-2035





Addressing sexual violence together

First Action Plan



The Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy sets out a long-term whole-of-community vision for a Western Australia (WA) free from sexual violence. It recognises the complex, widespread and pervasive nature of sexual violence in WA and its profound impacts on victim-survivors, families, and communities, affecting health and wellbeing, education, economic participation, relationships and housing outcomes.

The Strategy provides a coordinated framework for action across four interconnected domains:

- Domain 1:**  Prevention
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- Domain 2:**  Early intervention
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- Domain 3:**  Responses
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- Domain 4:**  Recovery and Healing
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The First Action Plan (Action Plan) is intended to guide coordinated action across priority areas, recognising that reform and delivery are already in progress across domains. It outlines key initiatives aligned to the Strategy but does not represent the full extent of work underway across government to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

Progress will continue to be driven in partnership with community, industry, service sectors, and government agencies. This Action Plan complements and builds on significant activity already occurring, reinforcing collective efforts to prevent sexual violence, support early intervention, strengthen responses, and enable recovery and healing.

The Action Plan identifies eight priority areas to address sexual violence in WA.

- 1. Governance and coordination**
- 2. Awareness, education and prevention**
- 3. Strengthening services**
- 4. Justice reforms and responses**
- 5. Workplace safety**
- 6. Workforce development**
- 7. Child safeguarding**
- 8. Integrated systems**

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Governance and coordination






#	Lead agency	Action
1	Department of Communities Department of Health Department of Justice	Establish governance and coordination mechanism <p>The Minister for Women leads coordination of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy, supported by the Attorney General and the Minister for Health. The Department of Communities coordinates implementation in partnership with the Department of Justice and the Department of Health.</p> <p>To ensure inclusive, transparent, and accountable delivery informed by lived experience, Aboriginal leadership, and cross-sector expertise, Communities, Justice and Health will establish a multi-tiered governance and coordination mechanism to oversee and support Strategy implementation.</p> <p>Once established, the governance groups will support coordination and monitoring of implementation activities, contribute to progress tracking against the Strategy's outcomes, and inform future action planning.</p>
2	Department of Communities Department of Health Department of Justice	Sexual violence data review <p>Communities, Justice and Health will explore data currently available and its relevant limitations, and will consider opportunities to strengthen coordinated data infrastructure and guide future data development that supports improved system visibility, accountability, and responsiveness to sexual violence.</p>
3	Department of Communities Department of Health Department of Justice	Monitoring and Evaluation <p>An outcomes measurement framework will be developed to support the evaluation of the Strategy and action plans to monitor system level outcomes for the WA population and to monitor the impact of activities under the Strategy.</p>









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Awareness, education and prevention

Supporting community awareness, education and initiatives that shift harmful norms and promote a culture of respect, consent and accountability.




#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
			1	2	3	4
4	Department of Communities	Positive masculinity Develop and launch values-based messaging that encourages boys and men to actively oppose harmful views and behaviours toward women, making positive masculinity a community norm.				
5	Department of Communities	Sexual violence awareness and prevention To address the underlying drivers of violence, such as gender inequality, rigid gender roles, and harmful social norms, Communities has committed to fund targeted projects that work towards the primary prevention of sexual violence through the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future program.				
6	Department of Communities	Targeted programs for people with disability Collaborate with disability advocacy and sector organisations to deliver programs for people with intellectual or cognitive disability to promote healthy sexual relationships and build skills to understand consent and challenge harmful behaviours.				
7	Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport	Community Grants Program The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) offers grant funding through its Community Grants Program. The Program supports culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) community-led activities that celebrate and promote WA's cultural diversity, build the capacity of individuals, families and communities to contribute to the civic and economic life of the State and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of services. CITS will report on grants that respond to the health and wellbeing of communities and help address the drivers of violence against women and children.				

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
			1	2	3	4
8	Department of Education	Building respect: Implement the Consent and Respectful Relationships Education funding measure in Western Australian public schools. Deliver a range of initiatives to support the delivery of age appropriate, expert developed, evidence-based respectful relationships education to strengthen students' understanding of respectful, safe and healthy relationships.				
9	Department of Health	Enhance education and prevention programs Expanding upon the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships resource, WA Health will explore opportunities for an enhanced public health campaign on preventing sexual violence and promoting healthy sexual relationships. It will specifically target youth and address emerging issues like the influence of technology, pornography, and non-fatal strangulation. Health promotion assets will be developed to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to build and maintain respectful relationships.				
10	Department of Justice	Healthy Relationships The Department of Justice offers a Cognitive Behaviour Therapy based intervention tool that utilises cumulative learning to explore what constitutes a healthy relationship and helping young people develop skills to form a healthy relationship.				
11	Department of Justice	Sexual Health Quarters (SHQ) – Respectful Relationships, Consent and Sexual Health Program The Department of Justice collaborates with SHQ to facilitate interactive sexual health and relationships education sessions focusing on a range of different topics including respectful relationships, consent, bodies, sexual and reproductive systems, contraception, puberty and pornography for young people in its care.				
12	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia	Accessible information for victims and witnesses Review public-facing Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions resources, including the website and brochures, to ensure they include information about trauma-informed and culturally-informed processes, highlight the availability of flexible evidence measures, and are presented in accessible formats and multiple languages.				



3 Strengthening services

Improving the sustainability, accessibility and coordination of specialist sexual violence services.










#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
			1	2	3	4
13	Department of Communities	Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services (CSATS) and Indigenous Healing Services (IHS) and the Kimberley Sexual Abuse Prevention Support Service commissioning The Department of Communities will conduct an evidence-based analysis of the Communities-funded CSATS and IHS service systems. This review will investigate the true cost of service delivery to ensure sustainable funding and inform strategic options for the government. The analysis will identify gaps in service provision across Western Australia, opportunities to expand Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) services, and ensure that services are effectively meeting the contemporary needs of the community.				
14	Department of Communities	Multiagency Investigation and Support Team (MIST) Program Communities has established a two-year grant with Parkerville Children and Youth Care to continue to deliver the MIST Program in existing Perth metro sites in Midland, Rockingham and Armadale with WA Police. This program provides support to children and families at the time of disclosure of child sexual abuse and the investigative process including referrals to long-term therapeutic support.				
15	Department of Communities	Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services and Indigenous Healing Services Client Advocacy Trial In partnership with Department of Communities, Yorgum and Anglicare will undertake a two-year project for both organisations to deliver client advocacy services, enhancing their core support for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and their families. This trial will be implemented through a multidisciplinary approach, focusing on streamlined case coordination, intake, and triage, as well as community education to raise awareness.				


#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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16	Department of Health	<p>Community Women’s Health Services (CWHs) Strategic Commissioning Program</p> <p>The CWHs Strategic Commissioning Program is undertaking a strategic review process to deliver contemporary service models for CWHs across WA, including sexual assault support services (SASS), that reflect WA community need and strategic policy priorities. A co-design process will be completed in partnership with sector, community and government stakeholders to address sustainability challenges and regional gaps in service delivery to support equitable access for women across the state and enable victim-survivors to have access to high quality, wrap-around support through the specialist SASS. Cross-agency and sector advisory groups will guide implementation and monitor deliverables to ensure timely award of the CWHs panel of contract.</p>				



4 Justice reforms and responses

Enhancing justice system accountability and responses, and improving victim-survivor experiences.

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
			1	2	3	4
17	Department of Justice	Criminal justice reform program Scope a criminal justice reform program to improve outcomes for victim-survivors and implement recommendations from reviews.				
18	Department of Justice	Implement the <i>Evidence Act 2025</i> The Act was passed in September 2025 and, ahead of its proclamation, implementing provisions in the Act will require coordination across criminal justice agencies. The changes will increase procedural protections for victim-survivors of sexual violence during civil and criminal hearings. The Act also introduces changes relating to the admissibility of evidence which will assist victim-survivors of sexual violence.				
19	Department of Justice	<i>Criminal Law Amendment (Intimate Images) Act 2019</i> Complete the statutory review of the <i>Criminal Law Amendment (Intimate Images) Act 2019</i> .				
20	Department of Justice	Review sex offender treatment programs Review Offender Services' high intensity, moderate intensity and community-based sex offender treatment programs in line with best practice.				
21	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	Safeguarding from perpetration of alcohol-related violence. Investigate options to expand existing orders on the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to assist with addressing alcohol related family and domestic violence and related offences.				





#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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22	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia	Specialised training for prosecutors of sexual violence Implement specialised training for staff including advocacy training for prosecutors and trauma-informed, culturally safe practices for both prosecutors and paralegals. Training delivered will include education on specialised measures in sexual offence prosecutions, addressing myths and misconceptions about sexual violence, and promoting best-practice communication with complainants.				
23	Western Australia Police	Reporting Pathways for Sexual Violence The Sex Crime Division have increased pathways to report sexual violence, and will continue work to strengthen implementation of Safe2Say with support services. Safe2Say is an online reporting platform allowing members of the community to anonymously report sexual crimes, including child sexual abuse, direct to specialist sex crime investigators.				
24	Western Australia Police	Understanding and Responding to Sexual Violence The WA Police, Family Violence Division continues to improve agency response to Domestic Violence Incidents, including intimate partner sexual violence. This includes improving frontline services, referring victim-survivors to support services, using legislated investigative powers to improve results, and promoting accountability and safety.			 	







5 Workplace safety






Exploring approaches to address conditions, cultures and systems that enable sexual violence in workplace settings.

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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25	Department of Communities	Retail and Hospitality Explore opportunities with relevant agencies to scope a program of work towards addressing high rates of sexual violence in retail and hospitality sectors.				
26	Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport	Develop a Fair, Safe and Respectful Framework for the Creative Industry Collaborate with the national Creative Workplaces Reference Group to develop the Fair, Safe and Respectful Framework. This initiative focuses on key areas - harassment, discrimination, bullying, child safeguarding, and fair pay - to help creative workplaces across Australia consistently meet their obligations, directly contributing to a safer and more ethical creative sector nationwide.				
27	Department of Education	Building a Culture of Respect and Safety in Education Workplaces Explore and implement workforce prevention initiatives and mechanisms and supports for staff. This may include training, leadership development initiatives, strengthening reporting and support channels, and awareness campaigns. This will foster a workplace culture that actively addresses sexual violence and harassment, supports respectful relationships, and models the values promoted within the Department.				
28	Department of Education	Explore embedding Sexual Violence Awareness in onboarding practices. Explore the development and integration of modules on respectful workplace behaviour, consent, and reporting pathways into onboarding practices for all staff. This will ensure all staff understand expectations and available supports from the outset.				

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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29	Department of Education	Early Identification and Support Introduce early intervention protocols and support mechanisms for staff to reduce the risk of escalation of sexual violence. The intent is to reduce the risk of escalation through identifying and addressing harmful behaviours early, supporting staff wellbeing, and maintaining safe and respectful workplaces.				
30	Department of Education	Strengthening the Department's Response to Sexual Violence Disclosures and Complaints Enhance internal response systems for disclosures and complaints of sexual violence or harassment involving staff. This includes trauma-informed investigation procedures, clear reporting pathways, and training requirements as necessary. This will ensure that all staff disclosures are met with timely, fair, and supportive responses that prioritise safety, accountability, and procedural fairness.				
31	Department of Education	Supporting Staff Recovery and Reintegration following Sexual Violence Establish a recovery support framework for staff impacted by sexual violence, including access to trauma-informed counselling, flexible work arrangements, and reintegration planning. This will be developed in consultation with lived experience advisors and aligned with best practice recovery models. It will support the long-term wellbeing and professional engagement of staff impacted by sexual violence through accessible, compassionate, and tailored recovery pathways.				



#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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32	Department of Justice	Workplace Respect Project Support the development and promotion of workplace resources to prevent and respond to sexual harassment through Circle Green Community Legal's Workplace Respect Project. Led by Circle Green Community Legal, with support from Legal Aid WA, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, and Law Access and informed by a Lived Experience Advisory Panel; the project provides legal assistance to individuals who have experienced workplace sexual harassment and discrimination and delivers training and resources to help people respond to workplace sexual harassment and discrimination.			 	
33	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	Developing Safe and Healthy Workplaces through industry compliance and education campaigns Conduct proactive inspection campaigns into high-risk industries focusing on systems of work for preventing psychosocial hazards, including sexual violence. Deliver webinars to high-risk industries on how to prevent and manage workplace risk factors for sexual harassment and violence.		 		
34	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	Psychosocial Risk Management initiatives The Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) Program currently has several initiatives in operation that are providing benefit to the Western Australian mining sector in improving the mental health of Western Australian mine workers and building a culture of safety and respect. One example is a training initiative being run by FIFO Focus in partnership with the Australian Institute of Health and Safety. The course will educate business owners, leaders and supervisors on the management of psychosocial risk (including sexual violence, gendered violence and harassment).				



#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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35	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	Responding to reports of sexual violence at work. Investigation of reports of sexual violence at workplaces using a trauma-informed approach, leading to the implementation of systems of work to manage work-related risk factors for sexual violence and reduce the risk of future reoccurrence.				
36	Department of Training and Workforce Development	Respectful Workplaces Program Educate staff about bullying, harassment (including sexual harassment and sex-based harassment) and discrimination, and the role we play in creating a respectful workplace through the Respectful Workplaces program. All employees new to the Department will be automatically enrolled in this in person training.				
37	Department of Training and Workforce Development	Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) Workplace support - Practice Direction, including FDV Workplace Support Officers and Workplace safety planning. A team of dedicated FDV Workplace Support Officers will provide confidential assistance to employees and managers to ensure safer systems and effective support for victim-survivors of family and domestic violence, including sexual violence. Supports include confidential guidance and resources.				






6 Workforce development





Building capability across systems to support timely, trauma-informed, and culturally safe and person-centred practice.

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
			1	2	3	4
38	Department of Communities	Building a Capable Workforce to Respond to Child Sexual Abuse in WA The Australian Centre for Child Protection WA is developing a suite of workforce practice resources to support trauma informed responses for sectors working with children and young people and will deliver 600 Professional Certificates in 'Understanding Childhood Trauma.'				
39	Department of Communities	Creating Safe Spaces: Implementing a sexual abuse prevention education strategy and plan in Out-of-Home Care The Australian Centre for Child Protection WA, as part of an existing contract with the Department of Communities, will develop workforce practice and capability resources for the sector and Communities' frontline staff.				
40	Department of Communities	Strengthen responses for people with disability Explore opportunities to collaborate with mainstream services to build capability to identify and support victim-survivors who experience communication challenges or have complex disability needs.				
41	Department of Communities	Strengthening safeguarding Collaborate with disability advocacy organisations to strengthen protections against sexual violence and reduce harm, including enhancing safeguarding measures for people with disability in residential and service settings.				

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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42	Department of Education	FDV Training for Early Detection and Support Deliver targeted training for appointed FDV Contact Officers and selected line managers to identify early warning signs of harmful behaviours and respond appropriately using trauma-informed approaches and support. This aims to empower leaders to intervene early and support staff wellbeing.				
43	Department of Health	Enable Aboriginal Health Practitioners to undertake Forensic Medical Examinations WA Health will work with WA Police to have Aboriginal Health Practitioners added as 'qualified persons' and 'approved persons' for the purposes of the Criminal Investigations Act, to allow Aboriginal Health Practitioners to access the Forensic Training Program.				
44	Department of Health	Expansion of use of Early Evidence Kits The Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) has developed forensic kits and training resources to help ensure a trauma-informed and culturally safe approach to sexual assault response. Targeted initiatives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The launch of new e-learning for the mining industry to provide employees with knowledge on sexual assault and gendered violence, while a separate module equips mining medics to respond effectively and safely. SARC will offer clinical advice and support to medics who are responding to a sexual assault on-site. Support for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) to utilise early evidence kits to improve access to culturally safe and accessible screening for Aboriginal people after a sexual assault. This includes the provision of specific e-learning packages for ACCHO clinicians. 				











#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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45	Department of Health	<p>Implementation of the WA Health Mandatory 'Responding to a Recent Sexual Assault Policy' and Procedure</p> <p>The Department of Health have released an updated mandatory policy for responding to sexual assault for clinicians in WA Health. The purpose of the Responding to a Recent Sexual Assault Policy is to outline the minimum requirements for providing forensic and medical care to individuals aged 13 years and older who have experienced a recent sexual assault. The Department of Health will conduct implementation compliance and monitoring via consultation with Health Service Providers.</p>				
46	Mental Health Commission	<p>Developing an agreed understanding of trauma-informed approaches and principles across State Government departments</p> <p>The Mental Health Commission is working with State Government departments to develop a guide to a trauma-informed approach (Guide) as recommended in the 2022 Ombudsman's own motion Investigation into Family and Domestic Violence and Suicide Report. The Guide intends to educate and provide guidance to State Government departments, including services engaging with people that have experienced sexual violence, about trauma and support agencies to consider and implement a trauma-informed approach within the context of their work.</p>				
47	Mental Health Commission	<p>Build trauma-informed and culturally safe alcohol and other drugs and mental health services</p> <p>Incorporate and integrate the principles of trauma informed care and cultural safety/ security into training packages delivered by the Mental Health Commission to the alcohol and other drugs and mental health sectors. Trainings offered may be stand-alone packages with the focus on assessment and trauma informed care delivery, or may be integrated as an approach within existing training packages. The intended outcome of this approach is to acknowledge the impact of trauma on individuals and to equip the workforce with the appropriate knowledge and sensitivities necessary to assist people experiencing alcohol and other drug and/or mental health issues.</p>			 	

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
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48	Office of the Chief Psychiatrist	<p>The Chief Psychiatrist's Standard for the Sexual Safety of Consumers of Mental Health Services</p> <p>To ensure safe, high-quality, and person-centred care, all mental health services under the remit of the Chief Psychiatrist must comply with the Standard for Sexual Safety of Consumers of Mental Health Services through mandatory policies and procedures, such as zero-tolerance toward any form of sexual misconduct, regular background checks and screening of staff and volunteers, effective complaints mechanisms, and education and training of staff on sexual safety. The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist will undertake regular monitoring and compliance to ensure services are held accountable for providing a safe, trauma-informed environment for consumers.</p>				  
49	Western Australia Police	<p>Address disparity in regional and remote service delivery</p> <p>WA Police responds to sexual violence across the state, with regional-based detectives and specialist teams from the Sex Crime Division deployed as required. WA Police acknowledge support for victim-survivors may be limited in some regional areas, and efforts are focused on bridging this gap. Police Officers receive targeted training through the Family Violence Training Assessment Strategy 2023-2025, with a focus on coercive control and sexual violence. This strategic approach ensures WA Police are equipped to provide the support needed by victim-survivors.</p>				



7 Child safeguarding

Strengthening proactive, accountable and coordinated responses that prioritise safety, children's rights, and recovery.

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
			1	2	3	4
50	All State Government agencies	Child Safeguarding The WA Government is committed to ongoing efforts to implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which includes the National Clinical Harmful Behaviours Framework, expansion of mandatory reporting, and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.				
51	Department of Communities	WA Framework for Understanding and Guiding Responses to Harmful Sexual Behaviours A framework is being developed to provide a consistent approach across government to respond to children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours.				
52	Department of Communities	Strengthening Futures: Targeted Programs for Children Displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviours Pilot two specialist intervention programs for children displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviours to empower those exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours to build safe, respectful, and healthy relationships.				
53	Western Australia Police	Strengthening child safeguarding: Child Assessment and Interview Team initiative In a collaboration to protect children, the Sex Crime Division and the Department of Education are working together to create a direct and efficient flow of information between the two agencies. Through this initiative, police and education professionals can share information, reducing the risk of sexual violence against children.				

8 Integrated systems

Identifying opportunities to align efforts across sectors, particularly where sexual violence intersects with family and domestic violence.

#	Lead agency	Action	Domain			
			1	2	3	4
54	Department of Communities	System Reform Plan: Perpetrator Pathways Data Linkage Mapping of perpetrator pathways through the service system to better understand the risk factors, events and demographics which are common to perpetrators of FDV offences. This will aim to inform service system design and earlier intervention to reduce the prevalence of offending in the future, this includes sexual offences in intimate partner relationships (police offences with an FDV flag).				
55	Department of Communities	System Reform Plan: Workforce Development Consider opportunities for the sexual violence service system to be captured in the design and implementation of workforce development initiatives under the System Reform Plan. This includes recognising the intersection between the sexual violence and family and domestic violence sectors, and supporting the consideration of sexual violence services across relevant elements of the FDV Workforce Entity's operating model, including implementation of the Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRARMF).				
56	Department of Communities	Develop and implement an Aboriginal Healing Framework to support implementation of the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy Ensure specialised recovery and healing services for Aboriginal victim-survivors, perpetrators, and communities are holistic, and culturally safe and responsive.				
57	Department of Communities	Evaluation of Aboriginal Family Safety Grants Program (Grants Program) The Grants Program funds Aboriginal and community-led initiatives that align with the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy, including a focus area on Healing. The Grants Program includes an Aboriginal-led independent evaluation to ensure outcomes are measured in ways that reflect Aboriginal priorities and perspectives. Learnings gained from this evaluation may provide insights for healing-related policy and service design.				



Domain 1: Prevention



Domain 2: Early intervention



Domain 3: Responses



Domain 4: Recovery and Healing

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