

Family and Domestic Violence

The WA Government has made a significant commitment to supporting women and children impacted by violence through its five-year Family and Domestic Violence System Reform Plan released in April 2024. Initiatives in the 2026-27 Budget continue this important work with a primary focus on increased refuge capacity in WA and a safe night space in the metro area and expansion of specialist sexual violence services in WA.

There is urgent need for continued and sustained investment across the continuum from primary prevention through to crisis response and recovery to reduce the incidence of Family and Domestic Violence (FDV). This includes an expansion of early intervention and tertiary programs for perpetrators of violence and ensuring everyone has access to therapeutic and legal supports as well as a safe place to live.

Initiative	Safe Night Space for Women in Northbridge (BP2, V2, P480, P481) (BP3, P155, P190)
Investment	\$10.7 million over four years.
Description	Funding to enable dedicated case management and follow-up supports during daytime hours for Ruah's Safe Night Space for women experiencing homelessness, including FDV victim-survivors.
Implications	Ongoing funding to ensure that women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness have a safe space to sleep at night in the Perth CBD.

Initiative	New refuge in Perth's northern suburbs (BP2, V2, P483, P492) (BP3, P206)
Investment	\$18.1 million.
Description	Funding to establish a family and domestic violence refuge in Perth's northern suburbs. The refuge will provide 15 new crisis and transitional accommodation units for FDV victim-survivors.
Implications	An investment to increase the capacity of safe and secure accommodation for women and children in the northern suburbs.

Initiative	Land purchase in Geraldton (BP2, V2, P492) (BP3, P230)
Investment	\$1.3 million.
Description	Funding to purchase land in Geraldton for the purpose of developing a new refuge to serve the Mid West.

Implications	<i>This investment will increase refuge capacity in the Mid-West in the longer term though it will require additional funding in future budgets for building construction and service delivery.</i>
---------------------	---

Initiative	Sexual Assault Support Services Uplift (BP3, P156)
Investment	\$3 million over three years.
Description	For baseline funding for sexual assault support services.
Implications	<i>This is a welcome funding increase for sexual assault support services in health settings. It will boost the counselling workforce capacity, providing trauma-informed support and therapy to victim-survivors of all sexualities and gender identities aged 13 and older. It will also support services in Bunbury, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Mandurah and South Hedland.</i>

Initiative	Social Community Supports Package (BP2, V1, P294, P297) (BP3, P156)
Investment	\$9.9 million over three years.
Description	Initiative under the 2024-2029 FDV System Reform Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for a three-year trial of out-of-hours social workers in emergency departments • Continuation of the Ngala Thriving Families navigation program.
Implications	<i>Strengthen early identification and response to FDV in hospital emergency departments, to support timely risk assessment, safety planning and more coordinated referrals to specialist services.</i>

Initiative	Central Triage Team Expansion (BP2, V2, P388, P389)
Investment	\$13.8 million over four years.
Description	An additional investment in the establishment of the Centralised Triage Team (Police) within the seven-day Family and Domestic Violence Response Team model.
Implications	<i>An initiative to improve coordination across agencies and improve early identification of FDV, to ensure earlier identification of risk and more informed decision making. Aims to improve coordination across agencies to deliver faster and more effective support for victim-survivors across Western Australia.</i>

Initiative	Family and Domestic Violence Crisis Accommodation Services Recommissioning (BP3, P156)
-------------------	--

Investment	\$34 million over four years.
Description	To support the recommissioning of FDV crisis accommodation services and the delivery of five pipeline services due to commence operation in the next 12 months.
Implications	<i>This funding will support the recommissioning of FDV crisis accommodation services, the delivery of five pipeline services due to commence operation in the next year and provide additional uplift funding for refuges and safe houses.</i>