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PRESS RELEASE

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Australia Spends Billions Responding Too Late: Landmark Study Sets Out How to Stop Men's Violence Earlier

31 August 2026

Landmark new national research has found Australia is spending billions on late-stage responses to domestic and family violence while investing next to nothing in the services capable of engaging men and stopping violence before it escalates. Drawing on the expertise of around 150 practitioners across the country, the research sets out what governments need to build instead.

Released today by No to Violence, *From Fragmentation to Framework: Building an Ecosystem of Responses to End Men's Use of Domestic and Family Violence* is the culmination of a 12-month national research project examining how Australia can safely and effectively expand responses to men using violence while strengthening accountability and improving safety for victim-survivors.

The research brought together the expertise of practitioners working directly with men using domestic and family violence from across Australia. The result is one of the clearest national pictures yet of what is needed to keep women and children safe.

"We are spending billions responding after the damage is done," Phillip Ripper, CEO of No to Violence said. "By the time police, courts and prisons step in, women and children may already have endured years of escalating violence and control. They should be the last resort, not the first meaningful response a family receives."

"Governments know we need to act earlier, and this report shows them how."

While political attention on stopping violence at its source is growing, *From Fragmentation to Framework* finds responses to men using DFV outside the criminal legal system remain extremely limited in both scope and scale.



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Where services do exist, the landscape is fragmented. The research identifies more than 20 types of responses operating or emerging across Australia, but promising approaches are frequently confined to short-term pilots, disconnected from each other, with access varying significantly by location and there is no overarching national framework to guide how services are funded, connected or evaluated.

The evidence available to guide that expansion is also strikingly thin. Research involving men who have undertaken behaviour change treatment represents just 0.2 per cent of studies in the domestic and family violence literature.

“We need to know much more about what works, for whom and at what point in a man’s use of violence, but we cannot keep funding isolated programs and hoping they add up to a system,” Mr Ripper said.

“From Fragmentation to Framework gives governments a clearer picture of what Australia should build next, but expansion must be matched by investment in evaluation and evidence about what actually reduces violence and improves long-term safety.”

The current fragmentation has created a postcode lottery, where access to an appropriate response can depend on where a man lives. The report finds the challenge is not simply having more services, but ensuring men can access responses suited to their level of risk, needs and circumstances, while maintaining consistent safeguards for victim-survivor safety.

“A man’s postcode should not determine whether there is an effective response available to challenge his behaviour, hold him accountable and provide a pathway towards change.” Mr Ripper said.

The report calls for a shared principles-based national framework, embedded across Commonwealth, state and territory policy and supported by investment in connected services, practice guidance, workforce capability, evaluation and data.

“The blueprint is here. Governments now need to build the system around it: intervene earlier, fund responses at the scale of the problem and measure success by what matters most- whether women and children are safer.”



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About No to Violence

No to Violence is the Australian peak body for organisations and individuals committed to ending men's use of family violence. We support specialist men's family violence services and operate the national Men's Referral Service, a 24/7 telephone and online counselling and referral service to link men to the support they need to get on a pathway of change and end their use of family violence. We undertake research, training and advocacy and work with governments, employers and business to stop family violence at the source.

Please list the Men's Referral Service with all Domestic, Sexual and Family Violence stories

Men's Referral Service, provides counselling and referrals for men who are concerned about their behaviour: [1300 766 491](tel:1300766491)

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