

Submission on the Draft National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032

McAuley Community Services for Women
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McAuley Community
Services for Women
A ministry of the Sisters of Mercy



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About McAuley

McAuley Community Services for Women supports women and children who have faced family violence and/or homelessness.

We provide safe crisis and refuge services, temporary and longer-term accommodation, as well as a respite bed for those needing a short period of intensive support. An essential feature of our model is the provision of intensive support 24/7, 365 days of the year. All our services are accessible to women across Victoria. We also provide direct support to children in their own right and help nurture the confidence of their mothers.

McAuley's Chief Executive Officer Jocelyn Bignold was an expert witness at Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence. She has conducted research into 'Safe at Home' approaches within Australia and overseas. She appeared before the Senate Inquiry Into Family, Domestic And Sexual Violence.

McAuley's 'Safe at home' work

For over a decade McAuley had been concerned about the situation of women becoming homeless after leaving family violence, and in 2021 we led a coalition of Victorian organisations with an interest in furthering 'Safe at Home' outcomes. This has included police, courts, peak bodies in family violence and homelessness, and men's services. Together we have gathered a comprehensive picture of gaps and systems failings.

A systems map was also prepared which showed the variables which work for and against women and children's ability to stay home safely.

We also spoke extensively to women with lived experience of family violence and homelessness. Research undertaken as part of this work is at the core of our response to the Draft Plan.



Overview: The Draft National Plan

McAuley welcomes the overall goals and intent of the Draft National Plan and in particular the emphasis on early interventions and listening to the voices of victim-survivors.

However in our view, as an organization with special expertise in working with women and children who have become homeless because of family violence, the Draft Plan does not sufficiently recognize or respond to this issue, which should be central to all its objectives.

In 2021, 42% of all clients of homelessness services presented because of family violence.¹ The very real prospect of homelessness deters many women from leaving, putting them at further risk of escalating violence and abuse; while for those who do leave, poverty, isolation, disruption to their community networks and loss of employment are too often the result. The Draft Plan's ambitions in all other areas will not reach their full potential if the issue of the family violence -homelessness connection is not addressed.

Because of this, McAuley is particularly concerned that the Draft Report makes no reference to the work of Professor Jan Breckenridge and her colleagues who have carried out a national audit of 'Safe at Home' responses. 'Safe at Home' is an approach which aims to keep women and children in their home, with the perpetrator removed where possible.

The Breckenridge review was specifically commissioned by the Commonwealth Government to inform the development of this National Plan. It is research which will give us vital information on which 'Safe at Home' approaches work best, help us to understand why homelessness associated with family violence continues to grow, and provide a path forward on future implementation and objectives.

We are surprised and disappointed that this extensive report has still not been released more than a year since its completion, and its findings do not appear to have shaped the report.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Release the findings of the National Audit of Safe at home programs already commissioned, and fully fund and implement its findings as part of a new preventative approach to a major cause of homelessness.



A national commitment to 'Safe at Home' is missing

McAuley has been a strong advocate for a 'Safe at Home' approach. 'Safe at Home' involves maximising safety through a combination of legal, judicial, policy and home security to exclude the perpetrator and protect the victim; refuges and crisis accommodation are places of last resort, rather than the default option.

Why is 'Safe at Home' important?

A 'Safe at Home' approach addresses the risks of homelessness, poverty and intergenerational trauma that occur when women must leave their homes to escape violence. When the alternative is sleeping in cars, squalid rooming houses, multiple moves around unsuitable accommodation, and struggling financially, many women will feel that they have no realistic option of leaving, especially if their safety is continually undermined by perpetrator behaviour and inadequate policing and legal responses. They and their children will be further exposed to violence if the choice to stay home safely is not available to them.

The Draft Plan's ambitions to end violence will fail if the risk of homelessness deters women from leaving. Fearing the likely outcome of homelessness and poverty, as many as 7,690 women a year return to perpetrators due to having nowhere affordable to live.²

Becoming homeless exacerbates the original trauma of the violence and adds new burdens of poverty, isolation, mental health issues and stigma. This hinders recovery, educational outcomes, and employment prospects. The overall wellbeing of children is also adversely affected with the associated risk that the cycle of violence will be perpetuated.

The number of females presenting to homelessness services because of family violence has grown by an average of four per cent each year since 2011-2012; in contrast, the overall increase in demand is two per cent.³ For those who enter the homeless system because of family violence, outcomes are poor:

- Across Australia, there are 312 requests a day that are unable to be met⁴. Females make up 67% of those who were unassisted⁵.
- Sole parents with children make up 65 per cent of those unassisted⁶, while **34 per cent needed long-term housing and 2.9 % received this service.**⁷
- Only 3.2% of women who are experiencing family violence receive the long-term housing solutions they need.⁸



The impact of their homelessness on children must also be considered; in 2020-2021, 33526 children aged under 15 accompanied a parent (usually a mother) who was seeking homelessness support.⁹ Homelessness for women can lead to the involvement of child protection authorities and is intrinsically traumatising and damaging for children who experience it.

Safe at Home' is a human rights issue

Internationally the essential human right of victim-survivors to remain in their home is recognized in the Istanbul Convention¹⁰. This establishes the obligation of European countries to ensure protection to victims of family violence, through policies which in clear and unambiguous language order the perpetrator to leave, to stay away from the home of the person at risk, with emergency barring orders immediately put in place. It is a paradigm shift in thinking and contrasts with the situation which is still the norm in most parts of Australia, where victims leave their own homes for indefinite periods of time, and as the data above establishes, in many instances are unable to return.

'Safe at home is an early intervention, preventative strategy

Focusing on **preventing** homelessness after violence could make rapid inroads into the numbers of women and children becoming homelessness. Most are leaving an existing home to escape the violence; they have a home which could be 'saved.'

McAuley's data, for example, shows that in women coming into our crisis accommodation in 2020-2021, 93% had a permanent address in the previous month, and just two per cent had been sleeping rough. A little further along their experiences of family violence, for those who were staying in our refuges which offer accommodation for up to 12 weeks, only 44 per cent had had a permanent address, and eight per cent had been sleeping rough.

In other words, as they move further away from their original housing, it becomes far less likely that homelessness can be avoided.

If efforts were focused on enabling them to remain, safely, in their homes – with the perpetrator being removed – a large burden would be removed from the homelessness system. These women and children would be less at risk of the other impacts of homelessness – mental health issues, stigma, poverty, unemployment, and isolation.



'Safe at Home' responses are sometimes seen as being mainly fulfilled by technological upgrades and security features in the home. While these can be transformative for many women in enabling them to remain in their home, they are not the full picture.

It must equally be recognized that a whole range of other factors will affect women's capacity to stay home: her financial capacity to maintain housing, the effectiveness of legal responses including policing; the terrible reality of the persistence of the harassment and continued violence of far too many perpetrators; and the way systems work together to provide her with support.

The Draft Plan contains elements which, if fully implemented, will support women's ability to remain home (such as perpetrator accountability or improved policing and legal responses). But these are not explicitly identified as forming a unified 'Safe at Home' response, are not connected to each other in a coherent manner, and not identified for their prevention of homelessness component, or their capacity to break the cycle of violence

No targets for the reduction of homelessness associated with homelessness

Without targets for reducing the association between family violence and homelessness, it is difficult to evaluate whether meaningful change is occurring. As an example, through the life of the Fourth Action Plan (2010-2022), the Australian government has been funding a 'Keeping Women Safe In their Own Homes initiative'. Yet over that time frame the number of those presenting to homelessness services who have experienced family and domestic violence **increased** by an annual average of 4.2%.¹¹

Once again, the findings of the Safe at Home audit, which we understand specifically evaluated the 'Keeping Women Safe in their Own Homes Initiative'¹² are likely to provide a baseline of the current situation, identify areas for improvement, and enable specific targets to be set.

The Draft Report mentions the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing Homelessness Data reports as a source of data from which targets can be met, but in the nine measurable targets outlined, puzzlingly, none relate to homelessness.



RECOMMENDATION 3

The Plan should:

- **explicitly commit to a national 'Safe at Home' approach.**
- **include a definition of 'Safe at Home'**
- **establish baseline measures through the findings of the National Audit, as a way of measuring improved outcomes in eradicating family violence**
- **set & monitor 'Safe at Home' targets.**

RECOMMENDATION 4:

The Australian government should adopt a similar stance to the Istanbul Convention which states that the right to stay home after family violence is a human right.

Awareness-raising

In the main family violence responses have been predicated on women 'leaving', 'fleeing' and escaping' their own homes; more than 50 per cent of women report that they, and not their partner, move out of the home they share¹³. In many instances they are unaware that there is a right to stay, or how to access the protections that can support this choice.

McAuley conducted a preliminary analysis of Victorian family violence support organisations' messaging and language shows it is heavily weighted towards encouraging a woman to 'leave' with little information on options to stay. This is likely to influence women's decision-making; it was clear that a considerable women involved in our 'Safe at home' consultations were unaware, indeed surprised, to learn that staying home was an option. This reflects that especially at moments of crisis, the family violence system tends to focus on the act of 'leaving'; other possibilities are often not even presented.

A recent example of how this language can be inadvertently skewed towards a message that 'leaving' is the only choice concerned the Australian Government's release of a funding package called: Escaping violence¹⁴.



“The new Escaping Violence Payment aims to help address those issues so women have more security when making that brave decision to leave any form of intimate partner violence – including physical violence, coercive control and financial abuse.

“The payments will assist people who need financial support to leave. We know the size of the house a woman is fleeing doesn’t matter – often she bundles the kids into the car, maybe the dog too and they leave with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.’

It needs to be clear in the design, implementation and communication of such support packages that they are **also available** to those whose choice is to stay.

RECOMMENDATION 5

develop and implement a national awareness-raising campaign targeted at the general community, services, and women and children facing violence so that the current emphasis on ‘escaping violence’ is replaced by a rights-based concept prioritizing the right to stay home.



McAuley has also reviewed the Draft Plan's 'four pillars' with a 'Safe at Home' focus and makes the following recommendations for improvement.

Pillar One: Prevention

Strategies to improve women's economic security should be included

The Draft Plan identifies systemic and structural factors, such as discrimination and advantage, as heightening risks of women and children experiencing violence. It acknowledges gender inequality as an underlying or root cause of violence against women.

However it does not squarely address the issue of how women's economic disadvantage will be tackled. The Australian Government's own most recent gender equality 'scorecard' found that progress remains slow; there is still a 22.8% gender pay gap, and women earn on average 77% of men's earnings.¹⁵

The Draft Plan does not connect the question of gender inequality with other aspects of government policy. The levels of social security safety nets and income support are contributors to the fact that too many women live in poverty, and are direct areas of Commonwealth responsibility. On average women have lower lifetime earnings than men. In single parent families in which the main earner is a woman the rate of poverty (37%) is twice that in which the main earner is a man (18%). Eighty two percent of sole parent families are headed by a woman, and dependence on social security benefits is strongly associated with poverty. Sole parent families have the highest poverty rates, at 35%, and children in sole parent families have a poverty rate of 44%.¹⁶

The Draft Plan does not offer any concrete solutions to how these measures of economic inequality can be reversed.

The issue of gender inequality is directly related to women's inability to maintain their housing after family violence. Our analysis of Victorian data on homelessness and family violence showed that 28 per cent of females presenting to homelessness services because of family violence do not have any income, and only seven per cent have any employment income.¹⁷



As the Productivity Commission has noted¹⁸ Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) payment rates have fallen behind average rents over the past two decades as they are indexed to the CPI, not the actual cost of rental, which has soared. Again, women are most directly affected. The Commission described changes to the CRA as the clearest path to improving housing affordability.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

Address issues of women's poverty, which traps them in abusive relationships, by:

Adopting the key recommendations of ACOSS's 'Raise the Rate' campaign to eliminate poverty

Increasing Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) by 10%

Committing to further measures to address gender equality by introducing gender responsive budgeting.

The Draft Plan is also silent on a major and growing issue: **the plight facing women without visa or citizenship rights who experience family violence.** In 2020-2021 1 in 10 women supported by McAuley reported issues with migration.. Many of these have no income whatsoever. Their situation is perilous. With no income or eligibility for government services, they are ineligible for many of the supports that could assist them. Services such as McAuley who support them are in effect 'picking up the tab' with little government assistance.

RECOMMENDATION 7

Recognise that women without visas or citizenship status should still be eligible for homelessness support as a basic human right

Provide homelessness and family violence support services with specific funding to support women without visas or citizenship status, in recognition of the extra costs incurred in supporting them, for as long as it takes for them to be granted welfare benefits



Pillar two: Early intervention

The Draft Plan recognizes the need to stop violence from escalating and prevent violence from re-occurring. It also identifies the need for new and innovative ways of engaging with men who use violence. McAuley sees further opportunities in these areas:

The role of employment support as an early intervention strategy

Family violence's impact on employment should be recognized and solutions incorporated under the pillar of early intervention. Violence often directly affects women's ability to participate in the workforce, undermines their work histories, and affects their ability to get work and retain it. On the other hand, employment builds confidence, resilience, and social networks, and mitigates the financial and social consequences women face when they leave violence.

McAuley has developed an intensive employment support program for women facing family violence and/or other serious barriers to entering or re-joining the workplace. It is the only one of its kind in Australia, and has supported more than 300 women so far.

Locating this service alongside other family violence support enables integration with other needs that arise, and draws on specialist expertise and understanding of the barriers women face in getting 'job-ready' when they have been trapped in an abusive relationship. It also plays a significant role in enabling women to maintain their housing.¹⁹

RECOMMENDATION 9

recognize the unique value of specialist employment support within homelessness and family violence services and develop models which respond to the needs of this cohort.

Locate legal and financial counselling within family violence services

Financial abuse is present in more than 90 per cent of family violence situations, and frequently escalates after separation²⁰ – creating pressures to return to violence and making it more difficult to sustain independent housing.

While the Draft Plan notes the need for improved legal responses, our experience has demonstrated the value of legal help provided early, and embedded within a family violence service. McAuley's partnership with WEstjustice, a community legal centre, is an early intervention model which could be applied on a national level.



The Transforming Financial Safety Project²¹ recognized that the safest place for delivering legal help was within our service where women had already developed trust and safety. Having legal casework sit alongside financial counselling led to the resolution of more than \$900,000 in debt accrued because of family violence. Evaluation showed this was also associated with increased capacity to maintain housing.

RECOMMENDATION 10:

integrate legal help and financial casework into family violence responses

Pillar three: response

A housing and homelessness strategy is missing from the Draft Plan

McAuley was pleased to see that the Draft Plan outlines plans to ensure women and children escaping violence have safe and secure housing, across the spectrum from crisis to longer term, sustainable social housing AND Expand options for women and children to stay safely in their own home, rather than being made to leave as a default.

It is unclear however whether any **new** housing will be provided and whether the Australian Government will play a leadership role in securing an increased supply of social and affordable housing. In this context it is jarring to see that the report then goes on to speak of 'supporting victim-survivors in the private market where they have the capacity to do so.'

Given the extreme pressures on housing affordability and considerable evidence that it is women and children who are disproportionately living in poverty, specifically referencing a private market that is so out of reach for most feels like a misplaced priority.

The Productivity Commission has already reported that: 'Australia's social housing system is broken.'²² The stock of social housing – currently around 430,000 dwellings – has barely grown in 20 years, during a time Australia's population has grown 33%.²³ and nationwide, the numbers waiting for priority social housing have grown by 51 per cent.²⁴

The most recent snapshot of rental affordability (November 2021) showed that there is currently **no** affordable rental housing in Australia for single pensioners, pensioner couples, people on JobSeeker, and single part-time working parents also on benefits, apart from in regional South Australia.²⁵



The Plan needs to have more detail about affordable housing, investment in social housing and an increase in rent assistance. It is noteworthy that in the Draft Plan's section on 'Alignment to broader reforms' no connection is made on a policy level with Australian housing and homelessness approaches. This is an oversight that should be addressed given the important links between family violence and homelessness.

The current review of the National Housing and Homelessness Partnership being undertaken by the Productivity Commission presents an opportunity to connect housing policy to the issue of an over-representation of family violence victim-survivors in the homelessness system.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

connect the revised National Housing and Homelessness Partnership to this Plan and invest in social housing

New approaches to perpetrator interventions

Current approaches to perpetrator behaviour are failing to yield results; in Victoria, for example, in the 12 months prior to 2021, half of all family violence offences were breach of order offences (up 7.6% to 56,280 offences). The intractable nature of family violence offences suggests that different measures need to be considered to keep women and children safe.

The Senate Inquiry into Family, domestic and sexual violence recommended that the Australian Government and state and territory governments:

- consider implementing policies to remove perpetrators rather than victim-survivors in cases of family, domestic and sexual violence, where this can be achieved without threat to the safety of victim- survivors;
- consider funding for emergency accommodation for perpetrators to prevent victim-survivors being forced to flee their homes or continue residing in a violent home.

Trials of such accommodation have commenced in Victoria and their findings could be utilized in developing further models which should also incorporate behavioural interventions and mental health support.



The Committee also recommended that further examination of the Austrian system of 'barring orders' could be undertaken by state and territory legislators to evaluate its applicability in Australia. McAuley's CEO Jocelyn Bignold has conducted research into the Austrian approach, where the law is explicit and unambiguous about the victim's right to protection from an offender in their living environment and social surroundings by entitling the police to impose eviction and barring orders on perpetrators. The possibilities of this approach were recognized by the Australian Parliament's standing committee on social and legal affairs which recommended: that further examination of the Austrian system of 'barring orders' could be undertaken by state and territory legislators to evaluate its applicability in Australia.²⁶

A trial of electronic monitoring in Tasmania also gives a strong evidence base to consider expanding such an approach. An evaluation showed a 70 per cent reduction of assaults, 80 per cent reduction of threats, 89 per cent decrease in allegations of emotional abuse, and 100 per cent decrease in reports of stalking.

The trial also showed a 7 per cent reduction of family violence incidents across the State and an 82 per cent decrease in high-risk family violence incidents.²⁷

RECOMMENDATION 12

improve perpetrator accountability through interventions such as the Austrian barring orders and provision of perpetrator accommodation options. and conduct a trial of electronic monitoring of perpetrators

We already have family law reform solutions

The Draft Plan includes actions around an enhanced family violence response in family law actions. Several significant reviews of the family law system have already examined these issues in some level of detail. We note, for example, the sweeping review by the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC), commissioned by the Australian Government. The Commission was asked to recommend: *necessary reforms to ensure the family law system meets the contemporary needs of families and effectively addresses family violence and child abuse*. The Commission identified the need for earlier and more urgent identification of family violence; fragmentation and lack of information sharing between state and federal jurisdictions; and concerns that the right to parental contact was being prioritised over children's safety.



This inquiry in itself followed extensive examinations by parliamentary committees, previous ALRC inquiries reports from the statutory body, the Family Law Council.

The ALRC report was released in April 2019. A response from Government was not forthcoming until April 2021. Most of the recommendations, which would put children's safety back at the heart of family law and address the disconnection between state family violence responses and the family law system, remain unfulfilled.

RECOMMENDATION 13

Take immediate action to implement the findings of previous family law reviews in relation to family violence

Pillar four: recovery

Integrated services and recovery from trauma

While it is encouraging that the Draft Plan acknowledges the need for trauma-informed support, it does not address the shortfall in services and access difficulties currently experienced. Australia's mental health system which tends to be crisis-focused often fails to meet these specific needs.

McAuley conducted consultations with women who had experiences of family violence and homelessness, for our submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health Services. This included women living in our McAuley House, which provides longer-term accommodation. 65% of these women had experienced family violence, and many have had multiple episodes of homelessness. The interconnection of family violence and homelessness meant that their needs have become more complex and multi-faceted; 76% had a mental health issue, 31% had been hospitalized in the past year.

We heard clearly from them that their mental health needs are more complex, require lengthier interventions and more specialist trauma-informed expertise, and that it was extremely difficult to get that sort of support.

We are also aware that the needs of children who witness or experience violence are not being addressed, with lengthy waiting periods for support, and most services targeted towards older children.



Again, their needs are not being sufficiently addressed by the current mental health system, and the National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy acknowledges this by stating: 'The issue of domestic and family abuse warrants a dedicated standalone national response and matching actions, beyond the scope of this strategy alone'.²⁸

RECOMMENDATION 14

Invest in interventions to provide trauma-informed support for women who have experienced family violence

RECOMMENDATION 15

Develop a dedicated national approach to the issue of children's experience of family violence and connect this to the National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.



A note on McAuley's 'Safe at Home' research

McAuley has long been concerned that fewer than five per cent of those coming to our family violence crisis accommodation service are returning home, and that the majority had already experienced several moves before even reaching our doors.

Throughout 2021 McAuley interviewed victim-survivors and frontline workers to understand why this was happening. Their testimony showed the importance of 'Safe at Home' being an early, rather than after-the-fact, response.

Women who had already left their homes to be safe, even those staying in crisis centres or refuges, were in effect already homeless. The point at which they left, or were helped to leave, their home after violence became pivotal to their later story. It set off a chain of events where the abuser's right to stay quickly became entrenched, while their own drift into unstable accommodation and poverty felt inevitable. We learnt of the associated impacts: for two women, leaving led to an immediate loss of employment yet in both instances, their abusive partners had worked for the same employer and retained their jobs. For another, homelessness led to the removal of her child, who now lives with her abuser. There were many such instances of the corrosive impacts of leaving home to escape violence.

Evidence from Victoria on the distribution of Personal Safety Initiatives, and from Professor Breckenridge's preliminary findings of the National Audit, suggests that the provision of supports to stay at home is weighted towards those 'with a home' – reinforcing again the importance of preserving where possible, women's housing at an early stage.

McAuley's research is available through [contacting Kerrie Soraghan](#).



References

¹ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/clients-who-have-experienced-family-and-domestic-violence>

² *Nowhere to go: the benefits of providing long-term social housing to women that have experienced domestic and family violence* (July 2021 Women's Housing Alliance)

³ AIHW historical data tables 2011-12 – 2020-2021, **Table HIST.FDV: Clients who have experienced family and domestic violence, by sex, states and territories, 2011-12 to 2020-21** compared to **Table HIST.CLIENTS: Clients and support periods, by sex, states and territories, 2011-12 to 2020-21**

⁴ AIHW data tables **Table UNASSISTED.1: Daily average unassisted requests, by state and territory, 2020-21**

⁵ AIHW data tables **Table UNASSISTED.2: Unassisted requests, by age and sex, 2020-21**

⁶ AIHW data tables **Table UNASSISTED.2: Unassisted requests, by age and sex, 2020-21**

⁷ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/clients-who-have-experienced-family-and-domestic-violence>

⁸ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/clients-who-have-experienced-family-and-domestic-violence>

⁹ (AIHW) 2020-2021 data tables, **Table FVDV.1 'Clients who have experienced family and domestic violence'**

¹⁰ See: Article 52 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention)

¹¹ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/clients-who-have-experienced-family-and-domestic-violence>

¹² 'Revisiting Safe at Home Responses to Domestic and Family Violence – what factors contribute to better safety and housing outcomes for women?' Associate Professor Jan Breckenridge, Associate Professor Kylie Valentine, Dr Kyllie Cripps, UNSW Sydney, presented at National Housing Conference, 2019

¹³ Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) (2019) *Domestic and family violence, housing insecurity and homelessness: Research synthesis* (2nd Ed: ANROWS Insights, 07/2019)

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https://www.anneruston.com.au/media_release_new_payment_to_help_women_escape_violent_relationships

¹⁵ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/publications/australias-gender-equality-scorecard>

¹⁶ Davidson, P, Bradbury, B., Hill, T and Wong M (2020) Poverty in Australia 2020: Part 2 Who is affected" ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report no 4



¹⁷ Crime Statistics Victoria, 2019-2020 data tables, Family Violence Portal
<https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/family-violence-data-portal>

¹⁸ Productivity Commission 2019, *Vulnerable Private Renters: Evidence and Options*, Commission Research Paper, Canberra.

¹⁹ The economic value of this program was recently assessed by the Data and Policy Unit of LaTrobe University. They found that the total savings per year to the Victorian and Federal Governments is around \$2.1 million. Of this some \$670,000 are savings for the Federal Government via reduced payments for income and housing support. These savings result from most participants being in paid employment and hence receiving no or reduced support.

²⁰ Kaspiew, R., Horsfall, B., Qu, L., Nicholson, J., Humphreys, C., Diemer, K., ... Dunstan, J. (2017). *Domestic and family violence and parenting: Mixed method insights into impact and support needs: research report* (ANROWS Horizons, 04/2017). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS

²¹ https://westjustice.org.au/cms_uploads/docs/westjustice_restore_fin_safety_web-version.pdf

²² Productivity Commission, *Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services: Reforms to Human Services*, Inquiry Report.

²³ Retrieved at: <https://grattan.edu.au/news/how-to-fund-more-social-housing/>

²⁴ Retrieved at: <https://povertyandinequality.acoss.org.au/data/eligible-social-housing-applicants-awaiting-tenancy-allocation-australia-2014-2020/>

²⁵ Rental affordability Index (2021) <https://www.sgsep.com.au/publications/insights/rental-affordability-2021>

²⁶

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/Family_violence/Report

²⁷ Evaluation of Project Vigilance: electronic monitoring of family violence offenders (July 2021) by the Tasmania Institute of Law Enforcement Studies.

²⁸ <https://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/getmedia/e369a330-f8c3-4b9e-ab76-7a428f9ff0e3/national-childrens-mental-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-report-25oct2021>

