ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

Domestic Violence NSW

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

This report was written on the stolen and unceded lands of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

Domestic Violence NSW acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the true custodians and caretakers of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and we humbly thank them for their knowledge, strength and resilience.

We acknowledge that domestic and family violence is not part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and assert that the responsibilities of Aboriginal families and kinship systems are not recognised or reflected in current government policies.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND ETHICAL CARE

Lived experience and diversity statement

We recognise that the lived, and living, experiences of people affected by domestic, family and sexual violence is central to influencing and driving change. With guidance from those with lived expertise, we elevate the experiences, voices and needs of victim-survivors through all work we undertake.

We understand that domestic and family violence impacts some communities disproportionately – which is why we strive to ensure our advocacy is inclusive of the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+ people, people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and people with disability.



Ethics of care

An ethics of care directs all work we undertake, from policy development, submissions and advocacy to member communications and social media. We strive to ensure people with lived experience, and our stakeholders, are listened to, respected and their voices centralised as we amplify them.

Importantly, at the core of our ethics of care, is a commitment to gathering information to understand need and purpose prior to determining the actions. This allows us to meaningfully consider what good practice and change looks like, at a state, community and individual level.

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VISION & STRATEGY

VISION

Our vision is for women, families and communities to live free from violence, have equal rights, equal opportunities and the freedom to reach their potential.

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to eliminate domestic and family violence through leadership, advocate for the specialist domestic and family violence sector, and build capacity in best-practice prevention and response.



VALUES

LEADERSHIP

We are innovative thought leaders that build relationships and take action to make a difference.

INTEGRITY

We stand up for what is right, even when it's uncomfortable.

RESPECT

We support, recognise and value others.

INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM

We acknowledge and amplify the diverse voices and experiences of all women.

KEY IMPACTS

CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

80
MEMBERS CONNECTED IN PERSON AT REGIONAL FORUM

50+
MEMBER VISITS ACROSS NSW

INFLUENCING POLICY

$184.1m
OVER FOUR YEARS SECURED IN THE NSW BUDGET TO SUPPORT DFV SECTOR STABILISATION ACROSS SIX FRONTLINE PROGRAMS

50+
FORMAL SUBMISSIONS, ENDORSEMENTS, LETTERS AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

STRENGTHENING SERVICES

100s
OF DFV SPECIALIST WORKERS PARTICIPATED IN DVNSW-LED TRAINING

670+
SPECIALIST WORKERS ATTENDED OUR MONTHLY SECTOR CHATS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

BUILDING MOMENTUM

375%
INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

60+ million
PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH MEDIA

GOODWILL IS NOT A FUNDING MODEL

BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR INVESTMENT – THE 50% CAMPAIGN

A united sector voice. A clear evidence base. A landmark funding outcome.

Building on the momentum of our 2024–25 public campaign, DVNSW transformed member evidence and frontline expertise into a compelling case for investment in specialist domestic and family violence services.

With a focused communications strategy centred on one clear message, a 50% increase to core funding, we harnessed the power of a united sector voice to mobilise supporters, strengthen advocacy and influence public and political conversations.

The campaign reached millions across NSW and beyond, with 68 digital campaign posts generating more than 569,000 views and growing our online community by more than 5,300 followers. Targeted media engagement extended our reach to an estimated audience of 30 million people, securing high-impact coverage across major media outlets.

Members were equipped with practical advocacy resources, enabling coordinated sector-wide action. Support from the Australian Services Union, Fair Agenda and state and federal parliamentarians further amplified the campaign's reach and credibility.

The campaign generated significant political support, including an endorsed upper house motion, support from the Allied Independents and extensive stakeholder meetings, including with the Premier and Treasurer.

This collective effort demonstrated the power of strategic communications, collaboration and a united sector voice, helping secure the largest increase to core funding for the specialist domestic and family violence sector in decades.

"This is the biggest increase in NSW history. I want to thank Domestic Violence NSW for working with us on that … Thank you to Domestic Violence NSW and to the victim-survivors who have kept this [funding] on the agenda and held us to account."

The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, NSW Treasurer

"I want to put on record my appreciation for the incredible work that Domestic Violence NSW has been doing and my office and I have been working really closely with DVNSW in the period leading up to this week's budget."

The Hon Jodie Harrison, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

ANNABELLE DANIEL OAM

I am honoured to reflect on a further year as the Chair of Domestic Violence NSW during 2025-26 – it is a privilege I never take for granted. I am immensely proud of the growing influence of our peak body across government and the broader community.

This influence is built on the trust, knowledge and support of our members and the collective expertise of the specialist domestic and family violence sector. Together, we are shaping the conversation, strengthening systems and driving meaningful change for victim-survivors across NSW.

In a sector that has fought for decades for government investment to match the scale and complexity of our work, progress can sometimes feel painfully slow and incremental. Yet, over the past two years, we have seen significant investment and, importantly, growing recognition that sustainable core funding for specialist services is essential to save lives, intervene early, and prevent violence before it begins.



When services are stretched, workloads are relentless and teams continue to go over and above to keep people safe, even small steps forward can feel like not enough. In those moments, I encourage you to look at just how far we have come. Domestic and family violence is a national and daily conversation in our media. Change is happening at a pace we have not seen before. The voices of victim/survivors are present and loud in decision-making at the highest levels. That progress is a testament to the commitment of our members, the strength of our sector and the collective advocacy we all undertake.

We are moving forward, alongside each other, and we will continue to build on this momentum together.

The Board is deeply humbled to see our membership continue to grow year on year, reflecting the value members place on coming together through our peak. We are continuing our commitment to keep that membership accessible and affordable, with membership fees unchanged for a sixth consecutive year.

Our annual report demonstrates that the first year of our 2025–30 Strategic Plan has been one of significant progress and achievement.

At a governance level, Vice Chair Kelly Lamb joined the DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee, strengthening the connection between First Nations leadership, relational governance and community accountability. We also established the Board Governance Subcommittee to strengthen the strategic oversight and effectiveness of the Board, a key priority within our Strategic Plan.

This work takes extraordinary persistence, care and commitment to achieving support and just outcomes for those affected by violence. I thank our members, Board, staff and partners for their continued and closely-held commitment. The work ahead is significant, but so too is our growing, and collective strength. Together, we will continue to advocate, lead and build a NSW where everyone can live free from domestic and family violence.



LETTER FROM THE CEO

DELIA DONOVAN

The 2025–26 financial year has been a year of momentum, collective action and progress for the specialist domestic and family violence sector in NSW.

At the heart of our work is a simple belief: meaningful change happens when frontline expertise, victim-survivor experiences and the strength of our united voice come together.

This year, we saw the power of that approach.

Together with our members, we built the evidence and momentum behind our call for a 50% increase in core funding for specialist DFV services. Our collective advocacy brought the realities facing frontline services into public and political conversations and demonstrated what is possible when a sector speaks with a clear, collective voice. The resulting increase in core funding is significant progress and represents the largest uplift we have seen. It is an important step towards a more sustainable specialist DFV system.

But progress does not mean the work is finished. Decades of underinvestment cannot be addressed in a single budget, and gaps remain. Women's refuges, the backbone of our crisis response, were excluded from the recent funding increases and continue to operate under enormous pressure. Securing sustainable investment in refuge core funding will remain a key priority for DVNSW and our members.

Our advocacy this year has also taken us across NSW, listening to the experiences of specialist services and communities in regional, remote and very remote areas. We heard how distance, workforce shortages, housing pressures, transport and limited access to services can compound the barriers faced by victim-survivors. These are not peripheral issues. They are central to whether someone can access safety, support and justice.

I was particularly honoured to join the DVNSW Aboriginal Steering Committee on a visit to Wilcannia. Spending time with Aboriginal staff and hearing about local communities strengthened my understanding of how structural barriers, remoteness and the ongoing impacts of colonisation intersect with experiences of violence. It reinforced the importance of advocacy grounded not only in data, but in First Nations leadership, local knowledge, lived expertise and the voices of communities themselves.

Across the year, we continued to create spaces where members could share knowledge, build connections and strengthen practice – through communities of practice, training, sector conversations, member visits and our Regional Forum.

What has struck me most this year is the determination of this sector. Despite immense pressure, specialist services continue to innovate, collaborate and advocate for better outcomes for victim-survivors and their communities.

To our members, committees, Board and the DVNSW team, thank you for your expertise, leadership and solidarity.

We enter the next year with a stronger collective voice and a clear focus: building on our progress, addressing the gaps that remain and ensuring investment translates into a specialist DFV system that is sustainable, accessible and capable of keeping women and children safe.



FIRST NATIONS FOCUS

This year, the Aboriginal Policy and Engagement team continued to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice, leadership and influence across Domestic Violence NSW, working to ensure First Nations perspectives are embedded and woven throughout our governance, policy and advocacy.

The knowledge and expertise of Aboriginal women, workers, communities and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) continue to inform our advocacy across a range of priority areas. We now have 22 ACCO members, whose leadership and connection to community strengthen this work.

We have also worked to ensure Aboriginal priorities are reflected in state and national policy, including through our contribution to Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices and our submission to the national inquiry into racism and hate directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These conversations must be grounded in Aboriginal knowledge and experience, and lead to meaningful change.

The DVNSW Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC) continued to provide essential guidance. The Committee plays a critical role in strengthening our accountability and ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, perspectives, rights and priorities inform and lead our work.

The ASC has contributed cultural advice and leadership across a range of state and national policy and advocacy priorities, including housing, child protection, justice, workforce development and culturally safe responses to violence.



In September 2025, ASC members, CEO Delia Donovan and our Aboriginal Policy and Engagement team visited Wilcannia and Forbes, including the Wilcannia Safe House. Spending time on Country and connecting directly with regional services strengthened relationships and reinforced the importance of place-based, Aboriginal-led approaches.

We know this work must continue. We are committed to strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and influence across every part of DVNSW, while continuing to listen, learn and be accountable for turning our commitments into meaningful and lasting change.

We are deeply grateful to the Aboriginal Steering Committee, our Aboriginal members, organisations and communities for their knowledge, leadership and continued guidance.





FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE TO LASTING CHANGE:

SHAPING PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS AND INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT ACTION



Meaningful reform starts with listening to those who know what works. It must be grounded in frontline knowledge, informed by research and evidence, and shaped by the realities of victim-survivors and their families. Our collective voice gives us the credibility to influence policy, systems and investment, driving change that improves safety, justice and outcomes for people experiencing domestic and family violence across NSW.

EVIDENCE, EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE POWERING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

We humbly thank our committee members who guide not only our strategic direction, but our advocacy and solutions for change. The knowledge and expertise they provide is essential to ensuring our work is grounded in reality, not theory.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Steering Committee (ASC)

The ASC has continued to provide cultural leadership strengthening both our work and our accountability. This committee has now been running for seven years and many of those founding ASC committee members have remained since April 2019.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to the ASC, the knowledge they bring, and their continuing commitment to stronger advocacy and safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children, families and communities.

Lived Expertise Policy Advisory Committee (LEPAC)

Over the past year, the LEPAC has contributed to a wide range of policy and advocacy initiatives, including providing feedback on the NSW Disability and Inclusion Strategy, the NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework and participating in two consultations with the NSW Rental Commissioner on NSW Rental Tenancy Reforms. The Committee also provided crucial feedback into our submission to the inquiry into the relationship between domestic, family and sexual violence and suicide.

Members of the LEPAC provided significant consultation and input into the Engaging Lived Experience and Expertise in Domestic Violence Policy Research report. Funded by the UTS ECR Research Capabilities Development Initiative and prepared for Domestic Violence NSW, the report reviews the evidence on engagement with people with lived experiences of DFV and proposes a framework to support meaningful, ethical and trauma-informed engagement in domestic and family violence policy research.

Migrant and Refugee Committee

The DVNSW Migrant and Refugee Committee played an integral role in shaping our advocacy, resources and training opportunities, helping to strengthen sector understanding of the unique experiences and barriers faced by migrant and refugee women and children.

The Committee's expertise informed multiple policy submissions and feedback into the NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework and key DVNSW-led initiatives, including the Quality Standards. Their insights also supported our ongoing work with the Attorney General's Department to raise awareness of misidentification and its impacts on migrant and refugee victim-survivors.

SHAPING PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Over the past year, we have demonstrated the power of collective leadership in building an informed, engaged and mobilised community across NSW and beyond. By centering frontline expertise, member insights and solutions-focused advocacy across our media engagement and digital communications, we strengthened a consistent sector voice and reinforced our position as a trusted authority on domestic and family violence.

This approach marked a significant evolution in our communications strategy. We have continued to build stronger relationships with journalists and positioned DVNSW as a responsive, evidence-informed and reliable source for stories, analysis and commentary. Our ability to connect emerging issues with sector expertise ensured the realities of frontline services and victim-survivors remained visible in public conversations.

Through testing, learning and adapting our approach, we gained deeper insight into the issues that resonated with communities, influenced media narratives and reached decision-makers. This strategic use of communications helped create the momentum and public understanding needed to support policy reform, strengthen advocacy efforts and drive action towards a safer NSW.

Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram)

457%
INCREASE IN ENGAGEMENT

375%
INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS

325%
INCREASE IN REACH

Media

APPROXIMATELY
60+ million
PEOPLE REACHED (11% INCREASE)

2,500+
MEDIA MENTIONS (31% INCREASE)

Campaigns

In addition to the pre-budget submission campaign, this year's digital media heavily featured innovative, community-led practice from DVNSW members.

Our 16 Days of Activism campaign launched the Regional Forum report with many of our team taking to the road and delivering the report in person to regional members – with 11 service visits over the campaign period. The campaign centered on the voices of these members, celebrating their life-saving work across country NSW.

950,000+

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH 136 MEDIA MENTIONS ACROSS REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TV

Through Prevention Month, we kept the spotlight on our members, showcasing the impact of four grassroots, community-led prevention initiatives:

- Reducing Intergenerational Violence Project, delivered by the Women's Cottage
- Men's Consultation Group, delivered by Wagga Women's Health Centre
- Community-led prevention work with the Myanmar and Yazidi communities, delivered by Settlement Services International
- Central Coast Primary Prevention Saturation Plan, led by CatholicCare Broken Bay





INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT ACTION THROUGH EVIDENCE AND COLLABORATION

Through sustained advocacy and strategic engagement, DVNSW elevated sector priorities, influenced decision-makers and contributed to improvements across the domestic and family violence response system.

Through more than 50 submissions, endorsements, letters and government consultations, we provided evidence-based recommendations across legislative and judicial reform, housing and homelessness, First Nations priorities and workforce conditions.

Key contributions included:

- Inquiry into the relationship between domestic and sexual violence and suicide
- Fair Work Commission's Gender Undervaluation – Priority Awards Review
- Inquiry into Service Standards in Regional NSW
- Draft Residential Tenancies Amendment (Domestic Violence) Bill 2025
- Inquiry into racism, hate and violence directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Preventing perpetrators from accessing victim-survivors' superannuation death benefits
- Good Character at Sentencing Inquiry
- Homes NSW Action Plan for Children and Young People
- Homes NSW Lived Experience Policy Framework
- Inquiry into Intergenerational Housing Inequity

The year also marked the introduction of key state and federal strategies including:

- Launch of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Strategy
- Launch of the NSW People Using Violence Strategy
- Launch of Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026–2036

> "DVNSW's leadership is driven by expertise, passion and commitment to improving our sector"
>
> DVNSW member






SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BUY A RED FLAG















Partnerships that drive change

Addressing domestic and family violence requires collective action. DVNSW builds strong partnerships across government, the specialist sector and community to ensure the expertise of victim-survivors and frontline services informs policy, funding and reform.

Through trusted relationships with Ministers, parliamentarians, government agencies and key stakeholders including the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Women's Safety Commissioner, Department of Social Services, Federal DFV Commissioner, Victims Services, the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team and NSW Police, DVNSW advocates for stronger system responses, safer outcomes and meaningful reform.

As a member of the NSW Coercive Control Taskforce, the National Alliance of Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Services, NSW Primary Prevention Advisory Group and Chair of the NSW Women's Alliance, DVNSW works collaboratively to amplify sector priorities and influence state and national responses to sexual, domestic and family violence.





STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY FOR REGIONAL AND REMOTE NSW

The experiences of people in regional and remote NSW are too often reduced to statistics, with longstanding structural barriers becoming talking points rather than drivers for action. This year, DVNSW strengthened the foundations for regional advocacy by ensuring the voices and expertise of regional members shaped our priorities.

Our Regional Forum in Armidale brought together 80 members from across country NSW for critical discussions on the challenges facing specialist DFV services, and the reforms needed to improve outcomes for women and children.

Members identified the urgent need for funding models that recognise the higher costs, workforce challenges and complexity of delivering services in regional and remote communities. These priorities were captured in our report *Ending violence in regional and remote NSW*, with key actions including:

- Place-based investment that values local leadership, partnerships and cultural knowledge
- Improved disaster management frameworks that embed DFV responses
- Increased access to safe and affordable housing
- Safer, more accessible justice infrastructure
- Workforce attraction, retention and development strategies
- Sustainable remuneration, supervision and career pathways, particularly for Aboriginal, multicultural and workers with lived experience of DFV.

These recommendations informed DVNSW's advocacy with government, including our Pre-Budget Submission, engagement with state MPs, media advocacy and direct briefings with decision-makers.

Regional voices were further strengthened through service visits across NSW, including CEO visits to several remote communities and participation in local initiatives such as the Dubbo Violence Prevention Collective. Through ongoing engagement with members, DVNSW continues to ensure regional and remote experiences are central to shaping responses to domestic and family violence.







INVESTING IN SECTOR CAPABILITY AND INNOVATION

We are privileged to have an engaged member base who value connection and unity. It's an honour to facilitate and design opportunities for learning and development, spaces for connection and knowledge sharing, and initiatives that build sector capability and strengthen collaboration.

STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICE

Over the last financial year, we created numerous sector resources and delivered training, workshops and communities of practice to hundreds of practitioners. Some notable examples of work in this space include improving understanding of intersectional practice, Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) Workforce Development, the Collaboration to Harness Research Involving Inquiry and Evidence (CHRISTIE) Project and increasing awareness of children and young people as primary victim-survivors.

"DVNSW is a strong voice for linking up parts of the sector and sharing supports/resources"

DVNSW member

Intersectional training

In response to member consultation findings that identified lower confidence among early career DFV practitioners in applying intersectional practice, DVNSW co-designed and delivered intersectional training with Yamurrah.

The training strengthened sector understanding and capability, with follow-up consultation showing a significant increase in familiarity with intersectionality.



MORE THAN

80%

OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED BEING VERY FAMILIAR OR FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT, COMPARED WITH 66% IN 2025.

IMPORTANTLY

53%

OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED THAT THEY ALWAYS CONSIDER INTERSECTIONALITY WHEN DEVELOPING SAFETY PLANS, RISK ASSESSMENTS AND CASE PLANNING FOR VICTIM-SURVIVORS, DEMONSTRATING INCREASED INTEGRATION OF INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES INTO PRACTICE.

SHS Workforce Development

In partnership with Yfoundations and Homelessness NSW, DVNSW supports the SHS workforce through the SHS Workforce Development Program.

This year, the three Peak organisations completed a joint advocacy report identifying priorities and recommendations to inform a future SHS Workforce Development Strategy. The report outlined best practice approaches to strengthening and growing the workforce, with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers, regional and remote workers, bicultural and bilingual workers, people with lived expertise, and workers with disability.

In terms of development and practice, co-designed training and resources with organisations including the Indian (Sub-Cont) Crisis & Support Agency strengthened culturally responsive practice for working with First Nations peoples and people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. Further, communities of practice built capability, connection and shared learning across areas such as regional and rural service delivery, disability, Core and Cluster delivery, contract recommissioning, and embedding lived expertise in service design.



Focus on children and young people

This financial year, we continued to build the sector's knowledge, confidence and practice in responding to children and young people experiencing domestic and family violence, ensuring their realities, needs and rights are recognised and reflected in DFV responses.

The CHRISTIE Project continued to strengthen partnerships between government and non-government agencies, supporting more consistent, evidence-informed responses and better outcomes for victim-survivors and children and young people across NSW.

Over 160 practitioners from two regional and two metropolitan areas participated in sessions to deepen their understanding and application of the internationally recognised Safe & Together Model™, which centres the strengths and protective capacities of victim-survivors while holding perpetrators accountable for their use of violence. The model supports practitioners to better recognise the impacts of violence on children and young people and strengthen responses that promote their safety and wellbeing.

The DVNSW Strengthening practice for children and young people training was developed to build practitioners' capability to understand children's experiences of domestic and family violence and deliver more informed, child-centred responses.

DVNSW delivered four training sessions across metropolitan and regional NSW free of charge for members, with 96 practitioners attending. The training was led by Dr Mary Jo McVeigh, an award-winning social worker and recognised child protection and trauma expert.

Centralised access to resources

In the second half of the financial year, we launched the DVNSW Member Portal, creating a central hub exclusively for members to access key learning and development resources. The Portal makes it easier for members to stay informed about Sector Chats, training, relevant updates and other DVNSW activities' to 'events, tools and templates.

"DVNSW staff genuinely want to improve the sector, the system and prevent DFV"
DVNSW member

Sector Chats

Our monthly Sector Chats continued to provide members with exclusive access to subject matter experts, innovative approaches to practice and conversations on emerging issues affecting the specialist domestic and family violence sector.

Topics explored included working with men and boys to prevent domestic and family violence, the intersection of alcohol and other drug use with domestic and family violence and understanding the new Domestic Violence Support Service (DVSAT). Each session created opportunities for shared learning, professional connection and practical insights that members could apply in their work.

OVER THE 12 MONTHS WE RAN 11 SECTOR CHATS ATTENDED IN TOTAL BY OVER

670

SPECIALIST DFV WORKERS ACROSS OUR MEMBER BASE



QUALITY STANDARDS

DVNSW led the co-design and delivery of the NSW Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Quality Standards – a landmark framework to guide and strengthen good practice across all domestic and family violence services in the state.

Nine diverse specialist services piloted the draft standards to ensure they were practical, inclusive and truly responsive to the needs of frontline workers and the communities they support.

This collaborative, sector-led work was delivered to the funding body, the Department of Communities and Justice, mid-2026.

NETWORKS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Sector Development Member Advisory Committee

Collaboration and feedback from the sector remain central to how we build capability and deliver relevant, practical resources and training. In 2025–26, the Sector Development Member Advisory Committee brought together representatives from member services to identify emerging sector priorities, strengthen connections between practitioners and support the sharing of knowledge and practice.

The Committee's expertise and feedback directly informed advocacy campaigns, improvements to member communications and NSW Government initiatives such as the Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework.

NSW Collaboration for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

DVNSW leads the NSW Collaboration for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, bringing together over 200 members from education, local government, community organisations, not-for-profits, NSW Government agencies and individual practitioners to strengthen prevention efforts across the state.

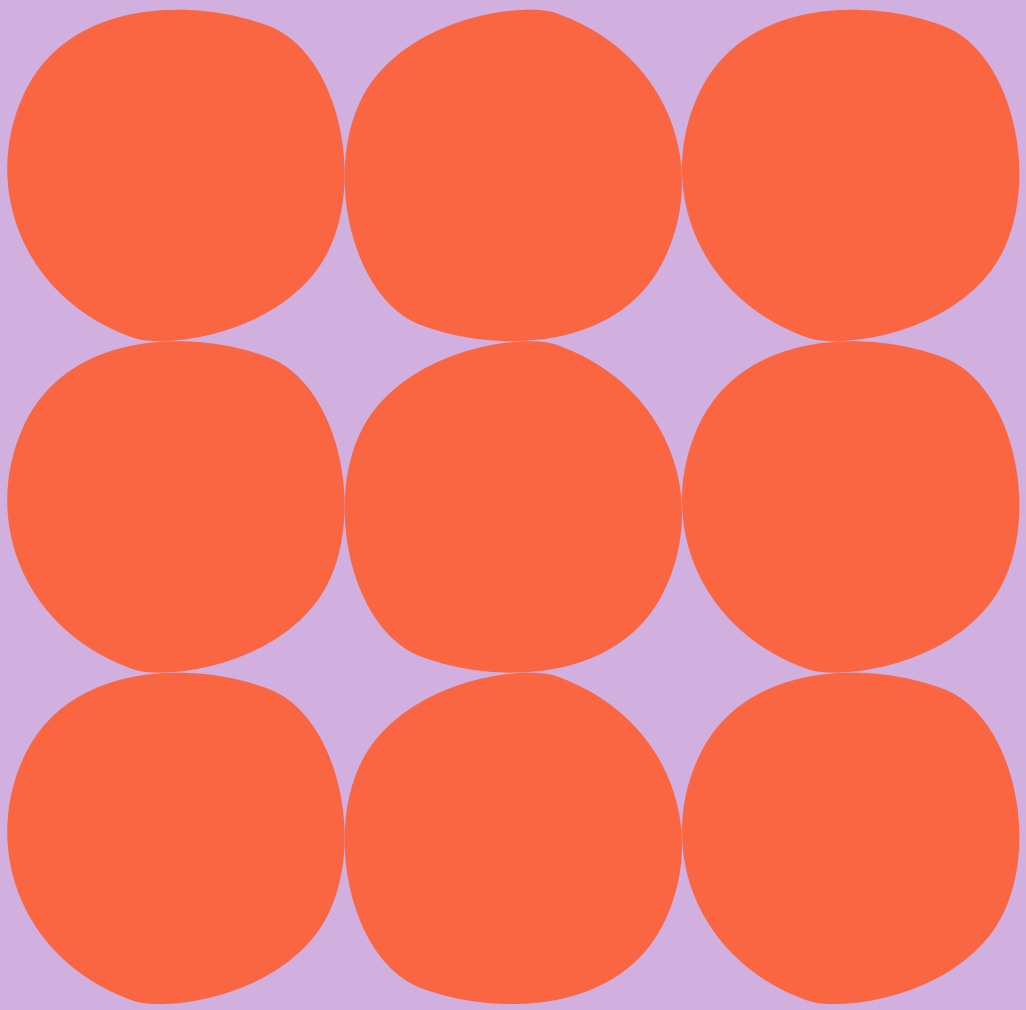
The Collaboration supports a more connected and capable prevention workforce by creating opportunities for shared learning, practice development and collaboration. Through quarterly forums, training, webinars and workshops, members build the knowledge, skills and networks needed to deliver effective, evidence-informed prevention initiatives in their communities.

Key learning opportunities this year explored building support for prevention, overcoming resistance, creating inclusive approaches and strengthening prevention communication. Sponsored by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, members were also able to expand their practice by presenting at Safe and Equal's PreventX conference in Victoria.

By strengthening capability, connection and shared approaches, the Collaboration is helping build a stronger prevention ecosystem across NSW and supporting long-term change to address the drivers of gender-based violence.



ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE PEAK



STRENGTHENING OUR MEMBER COMMUNITY

As the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW, our members are at the heart of everything we do.

Our membership reflects the breadth and depth of the specialist DFV sector across NSW. It spans services providing crisis and refuge support, Specialist Homelessness Services, Domestic Violence Response Enhancement initiatives, specialist DFV case management, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, migrant and refugee-focused services, community housing providers, Staying Home Leaving Violence programs, women's legal and court advocacy services, men's behaviour change programs, and a wide range of community-based supports for women and children.

In 2025–26, our membership grew to 203 organisations, with 30 new members joining the DVNSW community. Together, our members bring deep expertise, diverse perspectives and the lived realities of communities across NSW. Their knowledge and experience strengthen our collective voice and our ability to advocate for a specialist DFV system that delivers better outcomes for victim-survivors.









Listening to our members

Throughout the year, we continued to create opportunities to listen, connect and understand the experiences and priorities of services across NSW.

Across the 2025–26 financial year, DVNSW undertook more than 50 member visits across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW. These visits provided opportunities to build relationships, hear directly from members and better understand the issues affecting services and the communities they support. We also engaged members through forums, events, surveys and our regular communications channels.

Our Annual Member Survey played a key role in ensuring our work continued to reflect member priorities and identified opportunities to enhance engagement and deliver greater value. A total of 118 members responded, with many highlighting the strength of DVNSW's leadership, describing it as genuinely representative of the DFV sector. Others emphasised the value of unity and the collective power of advocacy.



There were 122 responses to our Annual Member Survey. Of those who responded to the question:

96%

SAY WE KEEP THEM INFORMED
*n=109

95%

BELIEVE WE HAVE A REPUTATION FOR RESPECTFUL COLLABORATION THAT HELPS CREATE GOOD OUTCOMES FOR THE SECTOR
*n=96

93%

FEEL WE EFFECTIVELY AMPLIFY THEIR VOICE TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY THROUGH CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY
*n=110

Responding to what we heard

Member feedback from our 2024-25 survey, helped identify practical ways we could better support our diverse membership. One key area identified was regional advocacy and engagement, which shaped our 16 Days campaign and strong focus on visiting members across country NSW.

Smaller organisations highlighted the need for improved access to grant opportunities. In response, we introduced access to Grants Hub, helping ensure members of all sizes have greater access to diverse funding opportunities to support and strengthen their services.

We also improved our member onboarding processes to provide a more consistent and welcoming experience for new members, helping new organisations connect with DVNSW and access the value of membership from the outset.

We extend our sincere thanks to all our members for their ongoing engagement and contribution throughout the year. Your knowledge, experience and collective voice continue to shape our work and strengthen the specialist DFV sector across NSW.

Member communications

Timely communication remained a key priority this year. We distributed more than 50 editions of our Weekly Digest, keeping members informed of critical sector updates, legislative changes, funding opportunities, job vacancies and DVNSW news.

"DVNSW is a strong voice for linking up parts of the sector and sharing supports/resources"

DVNSW member

The newsletter also created opportunities for connections with the introduction of Member Spotlights, so far celebrating the specialist, place-based work of eight members.

95%

OF MEMBERS SURVEYED FOUND THE WEEKLY DIGEST USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE
*n=86

The Weekly Digest was complemented by our fortnightly Events Round Up and targeted member alerts, ensuring the sector remained up to date on government announcements, reforms and opportunities to contribute to policy consultations.

This financial year, we continued to deliver against our 2025–30 Strategic Plan, strengthening our governance, systems, financial sustainability and operational excellence.

This work enabled us to keep membership fees at the same level for a sixth consecutive year.

We invested in the safety and reliability of our technology environment, onboarding a new IT provider and cybersecurity partner. Alongside staff training and strengthened processes, this enabled us to achieve Level 2 Essential Eight compliance.

We were also able to implement a new Customer Relationship Management system which strengthened member information management and streamlined applications and renewals.

Our commitment to operational excellence and industry leadership was recognised nationally, with DVNSW named a finalist in two 2025 awards: the Gender Equity Awards – Best SME and Third Sector Awards – CEO of the Year.

DVNSW Team

We are incredibly proud of our committed and determined team who work tirelessly to support the sector and improve outcomes for both the workforce and victim-survivors across the state.

"[DVNSW] genuinely represents the DFV sector and is led by people with expertise, passion and a commitment to improving our sector, systems change and preventing DFV"

DVNSW member

2025-26 DVNSW Board

We are privileged to have a highly skilled and committed Board of Directors who volunteer their time and expertise to support the domestic and family violence sector and oversee our progress against our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

Annabelle Daniel, OAM – Chair

Kelly Lamb – Deputy Chair

Penny Dordoy – Secretary

Denele Crozier AM – Treasurer

Nemat Kharboutli – Director (Joined November 2025)

Yvonne Weldon AM – Director

Jenna Hattersley – Director (Joined November 2025)

Farah Assafiri – Director (to June 2026)

Kirrilly Salvestro – Director (to November 2025)

Yvette Vignando – Director (to November 2025)

Thank you to all Board members for their ongoing support, guidance and governance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2025-26 has been a year of consolidation and careful financial management for DVNSW, following several years of significant organisational and funding growth. Core funding remained stable during the year, while a number of time-limited funded projects came to their planned conclusion.

Against this backdrop, DVNSW continued to carefully manage its resources and align expenditure with available funding and our strategic priorities.

Our focus on member engagement has been reflected through another year of increased membership, which has expanded by 10%.

DVNSW gratefully acknowledges the ongoing funding and support of:

- The NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- The National Partnership Agreement – NSW and Commonwealth Governments

This ongoing investment provides an important foundation for DVNSW's work, alongside time-limited project funding that enables us to respond to specific sector priorities and emerging needs.

Some of the year-on-year movement reflects the natural cycle of DVNSW's work. Several funded projects concluded during the year and 2025-26 was not a biennial conference year, contributing to reductions in contracted services and conference-related expenditure compared with the previous year.

At the same time, we continued the investment in DVNSW's organisational infrastructure foreshadowed in last year's report. Investment in information technology, communications, software and cybersecurity increased during 2025-26, strengthening the systems that underpin our operations, information security and long-term sustainability.

To all our fundraising partners, donors and pro-bono partners, thank you – we couldn't do as much as we do without you.

Many thanks to the DVNSW Board and DVNSW team, with special mention to Tracey Kennedy, Finance Manager, whose continued commitment and professionalism are integral to DVNSW's operational and financial strength.

With strong financial systems and careful management of our resources, DVNSW has again finished the year with a positive operating result, recording a surplus and an unqualified audit. We remain in a strong financial position and are pleased that our financial management continues to support the stability, efficiency and accountability of the organisation and the delivery of our strategic outcomes.

DVNSW asserts that the audited financial accounts tabled at the Annual General Meeting present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2026 and that there are reasonable grounds to believe that we can pay our debts as and when they become due.

I am happy to commend these accounts to the membership.

Denele Crozier AM
DVNSW Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Full Audited Financial Statements for the 2025-2026 Financial Year are tabled at the AGM and will be available on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website. Summary information is provided below.

Year	2025-2026	2024 - 2025
Total Revenue	**4,076,643**	**4,900,899**
Wages and On Costs	3,045,532	3,011,024
Contracted Services	50,000	469,600
Professional & Consulting Fees	326,558	269,798
Conference and meeting expenses*	98,196	190,411
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	149,983	104,726
Travel expenses	84,480	68,381
IT & Communications	145,015	50,712
Rent and occupancy expenses	23,721	25,061
Grants administered	0	25,000
Other operational expenses	60,245	95,505
Total Expenditure	**3,983,730**	**4,310,218**
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	**92,913**	**590,681**
Total Equity	**1,847,187**	**1,754,274**

** The biennial conference was not held during the 2025/26 financial year*

SPONSORS/ THANKS

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who generously supports our work – whether through their time, donations, or by elevating our advocacy.

We continue to value our ongoing partnership with Hall & Willcox, who generously provided pro-bono legal support over the past year.

A special thank you to the Event Room, for their support in helping us prepare for our 2026 Conference and to ASX who have included us in their workplace giving program since 2022.

Finally, we'd like to acknowledge the continued assistance we have gratefully received from Varga Brother Investment (our landlord) and their generous, ongoing support of our workplace.

Thank you for standing with us to create real change.

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All content was correct at the time of publication.
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