

FUND A SAFER TODAY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW
2026-27 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

About us

Domestic Violence NSW is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. With approximately 200 member organisations across the state and diverse lived expertise advisory groups, we work to improve policy, legislative and program responses to domestic and family violence through advocacy and collaboration, while promoting good practice and primary prevention. We exist to eliminate domestic and family violence from society.

Domestic Violence NSW members represent the diversity of NSW specialist domestic and family violence services, working to support adults, children, families and communities impacted by domestic and family violence. Our member organisations consist of services such as crisis and refuge specialist homelessness services, domestic violence response enhancement, specialist domestic and family violence case management, Aboriginal controlled organisations, migrant and refugee specialist organisations, community housing, staying home leaving violence, women's legal and women's court advocacy services, men's behaviour change programs, and general community, women and children's support programs. It's our role to ensure our members are listened to, respected and heard by the change-makers in society.

We recognise that lived experience is central to change. We understand that domestic and family violence impacts some communities disproportionately – which is why we ensure the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+ people, migrant and refugee people and people with disability have a central voice in our advocacy. With guidance from lived experts, we elevate the experiences, voices and needs of victim-survivors through all work we undertake.

Together with victim-survivors, our members, our partners and our team – we will end gender-based violence in NSW.

Acknowledgement

This report was written on the stolen and unceded lands of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. We pay respects to the Elders past and present.

Domestic Violence NSW acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first sovereign nations across the breadth and depth of Australia. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lived and cared for Country for over 60,000 years and continue to do so, honouring ancestors and knowledge holders within community, and observing ancient cultural practices. We acknowledge the damaging impacts of colonisation and hold their stories with great care.

We acknowledge that domestic and family violence are not part of Aboriginal culture and assert that the responsibilities of Aboriginal families and kinship systems do not align nor are reflected in current government policies. We work to position ourselves as allies and give voice and strength to the unique position that Aboriginal and Torres Strait people hold in their own family systems and communities.

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This submission is representative of our approximate 200 member services.

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Recommendations

Core funding increase for specialist services

1. Prioritise a 50 per cent core funding increase for all specialist domestic and family violence services, so that frontline services have sufficient resourcing to meet demand (\$177.4 million increase from 2024-25).

Meeting the demand for services

2. Provide a supplementary payment to all specialist domestic and family violence services operating in regional, rural and remote locations in NSW.
3. Invest in flexible housing options to increase the availability of safe and accessible housing with wrap-around support for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

Supporting strategic reform

4. Fully fund implementation of the domestic and family violence Quality Standards.
5. Commit a further \$11.4 million to effectively implement the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework*.
6. Commit a further \$7.5 million to effectively implement *Strengthening the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Sector: Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35*.
7. Commit a further \$8 million to effectively implement the *NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan*.
8. Commit a further \$50 million to effectively implement *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028*.

Executive summary



“There is a chronic lack of funding to provide domestic and family violence crisis services. Having to tell a woman or a mother with children to wait, knowing full well that ‘waiting’ in her situation could mean going back to a dangerous situation with the perpetrator. This is the reality we face every day.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

Domestic and family violence causes significant physical, emotional, psychological and financial harm to those who experience it – leading to homelessness or even death. In 2024, 25 women were reported murdered in NSW as a result of domestic and family violence (Destroy the Joint 2025). This was the highest toll in nine years.

We know that domestic violence-related assault is going up three per cent per year on average (BOSCAR 2024). We know that domestic and family violence is the most common form of child abuse, impacting one in four Australian children and young people (Haslam et al 2023). We know that domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children (AIHW 2024b).

Further, the impacts of domestic and family violence are all encompassing – impacting the NSW economy and state budget, and the sectors of justice, corrections, police, health, housing, homelessness, community services, education, women, mental health, child protection, and services for children and young people.

As such, Domestic Violence NSW calls on the NSW Government to continue to work with the specialist domestic and family violence sector to achieve our vision to end violence against women and children.

This submission recommends actions for the NSW Government in three priority areas that will provide immediate support, as well as the investments required for long-term change:

1. A core funding increase for specialist services
2. Meeting the demand for services
3. Supporting sector reform.

As a key priority for the NSW Budget 2026-27, Domestic Violence NSW is seeking a 50 per cent core funding increase for all specialist domestic and family violence services funded by the Department of Communities and Justice.



“I’ve been a domestic and family violence service manager for over 20 years, and I can honestly say the current funding level is appalling for the work we do... We need urgent action from Government to right this financial inequality before services go under.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

A core funding increase for specialist domestic and family violence services has remained absent in state budgets to date. The high levels of unmet demand for domestic and family violence services in NSW reflects a significant underinvestment in specialist domestic and family services.

Turning a woman or child away from a specialist domestic and family violence service can mean life or death. To keep women and children safe, our workers are picking up excessive client loads at risk to their own psychological health and safety. They are responding to the crisis with unpaid overtime, fundraising on top of their paid work, and paying for food vouchers out of their own pockets. To effectively respond to women and children experiencing violence, it is critical for frontline services to have sufficient government resourcing to effectively meet demand.

This submission presents evidence-based funding priorities to the NSW Government, derived from consultations and surveys conducted with our members, sector engagement, analysis of the latest research, and two Domestic Violence NSW commissioned research reports on unmet demand (Equity Economics 2025, Impact Economics and Policy 2024).

The recommendations build on our ongoing engagement with the Premier, the Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness, and the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.

The recommended priorities aim to reduce the financial and social costs of domestic and family violence, to the benefit of women, children and the broader NSW community, and are clearly aligned with the NSW Performance and Wellbeing Framework wellbeing themes of:

- **Housed** – quality housing conditions are sufficient and affordable, places are well-designed and sustainable, and vulnerable people have access to suitable housing.
- **Secure** – communities are safe, people have access to justice and protection under the law, and children and families are safe and supported.

Additionally, these funding priorities support the NSW Government's commitment to responding to, and implementing the:

- *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Plan 2022-2027* (to be updated in 2025-2026)
- *NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan* (in development)
- *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*, including the *First Action Plan (2023-2027)*, *First Action Plan 2023-2027 Activities Addendum*, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025*, and the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan* (Family Safety Plan) (in development)
- *National Agreement to Closing the Gap*, Target 13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50 per cent, as progress towards zero
- *NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021-2026*
- *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022*
- *NSW Sexual Violence Plan 2022-2027*
- *NSW Women's Strategy 2023-2026*
- *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (2024 – 2028)*
- *Strengthening the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Sector: Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35*

We thank you for this opportunity to inform the priorities of the NSW Government's 2026-2027 Budget.

Core funding increase for specialist domestic and family violence services

Recommendation 1: Prioritise a 50 per cent core funding increase for all specialist domestic and family violence services, so that frontline services have sufficient resourcing to meet demand (\$177.4 million increase from 2024-25).¹

Key outcomes

- Specialist domestic and family violence services have the resourcing to meet rising demand
- Women and children can access timely, life-saving support
- A stronger NSW economy by ensuring that victim-survivors have timely access to the support they need

There has not been a core funding increase for specialist domestic and family violence services contracted by the Department of Communities and Justice in any state budget in over a decade. Meanwhile, domestic and family violence rates in NSW continue to increase, with many specialist services stretched beyond capacity and unable to meet demand.

A 50 per cent core funding boost will ensure frontline services in NSW are adequately resourced to meet growing demand and provide immediate and longer-term specialist support for those experiencing or recovering from domestic, family and sexual violence. It would ensure specialist services are sufficiently funded to cover contracted service delivery, indexation and are able to effectively support their staff.

Rise in rates of domestic and family violence

Over 2023-24, compared to the year prior, there was a:



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2024.

Over 300 domestic and family violence-related assaults are recorded every day across NSW. Rates of reported violence have been rising, with increases in reported assaults, murders, stalking, intimidation, technology-facilitated abuse and other forms of domestic and family violence (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2025a).

At the same time, declining housing affordability and shortages of crisis and short-term housing are making it harder for people to escape violence. These factors, combined with growing community awareness of domestic and family violence, are resulting in higher numbers of victim-survivors reaching out to social and community services for help.

¹ See Table 3 (Impact Economics 2024)

Cost to the economy

Domestic and family violence costs the NSW economy almost \$8 billion a year. This figure reflects not only the direct impact on the health, justice and social services systems, but also the wider effect on productivity, workplace absences, and the economic toll of pain, suffering and premature mortality (see Table 1). The costs to both individuals and systems compound when victim-survivors cannot access the support they need to stay safe, escape violence and recover.

Table 1 Annual economic costs of violence against women and their children in NSW²

Type of cost	\$ million in 2025
Pain, suffering and premature mortality	\$3,739
Costs to the health system	\$503
Costs to the justice system	\$395
Costs to community services	\$216
Lower productivity and absences from work	\$683
Fewer economies of scale in households	\$1,582
Impacts on children	\$120
Transfer costs e.g. welfare payments	\$575
Total	\$7,814

Source: Equity Economics modelling based on KPMG (2016), The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia.

Impact on victim-survivors

A decade without a core funding increase for specialist domestic and family violence services has left significant gaps in support for victim-survivors across NSW. As a result, many women and children are unable to access the services they need, when they need them.

This shortfall in funding has very real and dangerous consequences: many victim-survivors are forced to remain in unsafe environments, often staying with perpetrators due to a lack of viable options. This increases the risk of ongoing abuse, threats, physical and sexual violence, and in some cases, domestic violence-related homicide. The longer women and children are exposed to violence, the greater the long-term harm, particularly for children, who may experience lasting impacts on their mental health, sense of safety, and development (AIHW 2022).

A 50 per cent increase in core funding would be transformative. It would mean more victim-survivors can access vital supports such as crisis support, safety planning, case management, counselling, and legal or court advocacy. It would reduce the time women wait for support and increase the capacity of services to provide trauma-informed, and culturally-safe responses.

This funding uplift would mean more women and children can escape violence, access safety, and begin their recovery. It would also mean a specialist domestic and family violence sector with the stability and resources it needs to respond effectively and prevent further harm.

² National estimates have been apportioned to NSW based on the reported total cost to NSW as a share of the national total. Original estimates for 2015-16 have been updated to 2025 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.



“Family violence cost me everything except my life. The services I connected with helped put me back together step by step. Without those services, I wouldn’t have survived.”

Victim-survivor, 2025

It is important that the NSW Government invest in services to break the cycle of violence.



“We can’t apply a band aid to a deep wound and then run on to the next person. This model doesn’t support long-term recovery, which means some people remain trapped in the cycle of violence, returning for help again and again.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

Capacity versus demand in frontline specialist domestic and family violence services

Frontline domestic and family violence services provide a range of case management and case coordination supports to help victim-survivors stay safe, escape violence and get their lives back on track. This includes safety planning, assisting with security enhancements, referrals to other services and ongoing monitoring of the victim-survivor’s situation. Some specialist domestic and family violence services also directly provide therapeutic counselling, legal assistance and homelessness services for victim-survivors.³

These services are dealing with the consequences of this increased demand firsthand – forced to close their books and manage long waitlists for support. Victim-survivors are often not able to access the help they need, putting them at risk of repeated or escalating abuse.



“We are running at 120 per cent in every service across the sector. People are putting in far more than they are supposed to, our KPIs are well over what we are asked to report on, but the expectation from government is that we should do more for less. It’s not sustainable in the long run.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025.

“We carry the weight of unmet needs, the frustration of systemic barriers, and the heartbreak of not being able to help everyone the way they deserve.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

The increase in demand for support was evident in three 2025 research studies conducted by Domestic Violence NSW. One of these studies, a survey of 83 Domestic Violence NSW members, found that:

- 94% of member services surveyed reported an increase in demand between May 2024 to March 2025, versus the year prior
- There was a two-month average wait for critical support
- There were 33 people on average per waitlist per service, with waitlists ranging from 3 to 180 people.



“Looking just at a waitlist will not provide the full story as the organisation is often providing more assistance (calling to check in, information and referral support).”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025.

³ This research focuses on case management and case coordination services, outside of accommodation and court advocacy programs.

Services and specialist domestic and family violence workers are going to extreme lengths to find ways to increase their capacity and respond to victim-survivors, including fundraising or using their own money to cover urgent costs.



“Staff fundraise in their own time so we can afford to run services.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

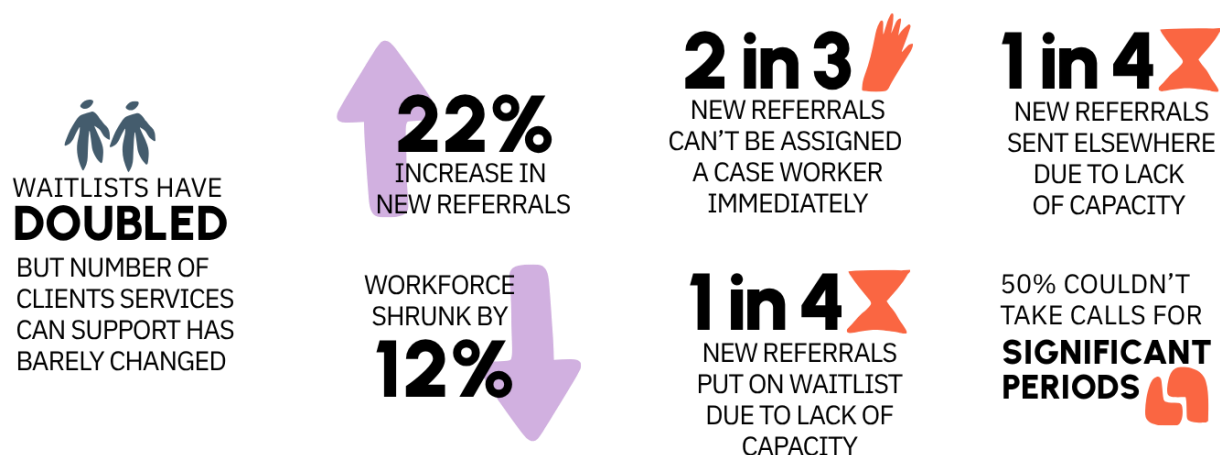
“Our staff have to use their own money to buy food vouchers for their clients.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

Building on the insights from this survey, Domestic Violence NSW commissioned an in-depth research piece to examine the impact of met and unmet demand in specialist domestic and family violence services in more detail.

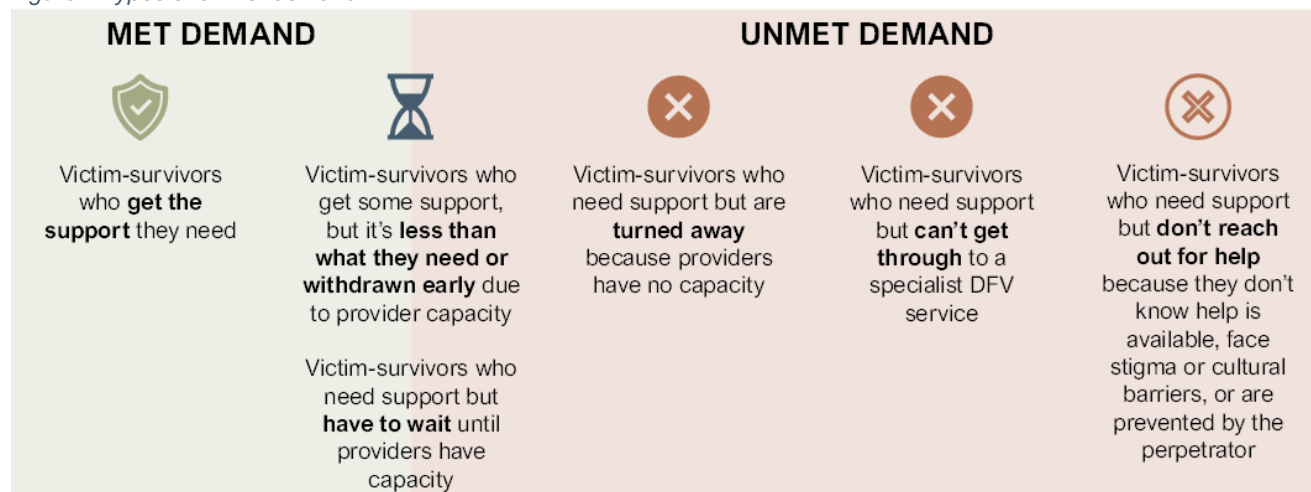
This research was led by Equity Economics, who conducted a qualitative study with twelve of our member services through interviews and a survey of eight services tracking demand over a two-week period. The key findings indicate that the picture of unmet need has not shifted. In the past year alone, these services have seen a large increase in new referrals (up 22 per cent), while funding constraints mean the number of clients they are able to support has barely changed and staff numbers have shrunk slightly (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 Key findings from a sample of eight specialist domestic and family violence services, July-August 2025



Equity Economics (2025), in consultation with participating Domestic Violence NSW member services, developed these classifications to describe the types of unmet demand when responding to victim-survivors of domestic and family violence (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 Types of unmet demand



We know that the true scale of demand for support is not fully reflected in current data. There are likely high levels of 'hidden' demand for domestic and family violence services in NSW, as many victim-survivors do not seek help due to barriers such as limited local services in regional and remote areas, or services so overstretched they cannot answer phones or respond to requests.

To further quantify the funding and demand pressures facing specialist domestic and family violence services, in October 2025 Domestic Violence NSW conducted a survey of its members to gather data on NSW Department of Communities and Justice funded services for the 2024–25 reporting period (Domestic Violence NSW 2025a). See Appendix 2 for the full report on the data.

Twenty-two organisations responded, providing information on specialist services including Specialist Homelessness Services, Domestic Violence Response Enhancement, and Staying Home Leaving Violence. Of these respondents, twelve organisations were based in regional NSW, and ten operated in the Greater Sydney area.

The data revealed a stark snapshot of the current state of crisis for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW, highlighting unprecedented demand and a workforce operating far beyond its funded capacity.

Across Domestic Violence Response Enhancement, Staying Home Leaving Violence, and Specialist Homelessness Services, the data showed services are – on average – routinely supporting 152% service levels, with some reporting service levels exceeding 800-900% over funded capacity. For example:

- One regional Domestic Violence Response Enhancement service supported 328 clients on funding for 32 clients, resulting a 925% delivery over funded capacity
- A regional Staying Home Leaving Violence service assisted 517 clients on funding for 180 clients, resulting in a 187% delivery over funded capacity
- A metro Specialist Homelessness Service supported 1,119 clients on funding for 491 clients, resulting in a 128% delivery above funded capacity.

To meet escalating demand, these services are operating at extraordinary levels above funded capacity.

This results in staff working unpaid overtime, being forced to fundraise on top of their paid work to enable them to cover costs, paying for food vouchers out of their own pockets, picking up excessive client loads at risk to their own psychological health and safety and personal wellbeing – essentially doing everything possible to keep women and children safe, knowing that turning someone away can mean life or death.



“The numbers are becoming overwhelming and at some point case managers will simply not be able to do anymore, and more women will simply go unsupported despite reaching out to the correct service provider.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

“This workload is unsustainable...When services [are forced to] operate below full staffing levels, the impact is immediate – wait times increase, referrals may be delayed, and the safety of women and children is placed at higher risk.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

Delivering support so far beyond capacity comes at a severe personal cost to staff – resulting in high-levels of burnout, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue.



“Without increased funding and fair recognition of workload, there is a serious risk to service sustainability. Staff wellbeing suffers, attrition increases, and the community loses access to specialist, experienced workers at a time when the need for domestic and family violence support is greater than ever.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

These pressures also create an unacceptable safety risk to victim-survivors and service structures, forcing a move from individualised care to light touch supports that do not meet all needs. Despite best efforts by individual workers and services, large numbers of women and children are still being turned away due to lack of resourcing:



“Overall, we assisted 2,086 women and children but, due to lack of resources, we could not assist 2,103.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

“For every 100 clients we accommodate, 124 are turned away due to no accommodation available. We had 1,847 unassisted clients in FY24/25.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

For victim-survivors who do access support, many only receive short-term or partial help. With limited resources available, staff are forced to focus on the most high-risk, immediate threat cases, leaving others stuck in ongoing cycles of danger and instability.



“[Some] women receive a reduced service – support with forms and systems information but not full case management. This leaves only the highest risk with our full service offering whilst mitigating the risk of women being murdered while they wait for our service, and avoiding having to completely shut down intakes.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

Across NSW, specialist domestic and family violence services are stretched to breaking point. Dedicated staff are trying to hold the line to keep women and children safe, but the system is at risk of collapse.

Urgent NSW Government action is needed to support the workforce and sustain this life-saving work. Core funding for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW must be increased to ensure these essential, life-saving services can operate safely, sustainably, and effectively.

Examples of increased demand in justice and homelessness settings

Further data shows the rapidly growing demand for specialist domestic and family violence services across sectors such as justice and homelessness.

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services are facing critical service gaps. The number of women who were supported by these services rose 17 per cent in 2023-24 (Legal Aid NSW 2024). In 2024-25, further pressure was placed on Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services, with referrals increasing by 15.4 per cent from 2024-2025 (Legal Aid NSW 2025).

There are reforms that are driving increased demand for WDVCS without increases in resourcing. For example, the Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring program commenced in June 2016 as part of the *NSW Government's Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform*. It was designed to keep victim-survivors safe, deter high-risk domestic violence offenders from re-offending, and increase offender accountability.

Under the Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring program, eligible victim-survivors are referred to their local Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service for support. With consent, the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service conducts a safety assessment, develops a victim-centred safety plan, coordinates case management, facilitates referrals to additional services as required, and places the victim-survivor on the Safety Action Meeting list prior to the offender's release from custody.

Despite the intensive support required, and the continuing increase in referrals, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services have received no funding to directly support the Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring program. This absence of funding significantly undermines the NSW Government's commitment to reducing domestic violence lethality.



"Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring involves a lot of work and stress on top of everything else we are already doing. It's a massive responsibility."

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service worker, 2025

For Specialist Homelessness Services, more than 8,000 clients in NSW sought help in 2024 for domestic and family violence. This represents about a 6 per cent increase from the previous year and is near the peak levels during COVID-19 (AIHW 2024). Domestic and family violence remains the leading cause of homelessness for women and children, with approximately 39 per cent of Specialist Homelessness Services clients in NSW being victim-survivors leaving violence (AIHW 2024b).

A 2024 national survey of refugees found that 39% of services were forced to close their doors to people seeking help at least once during the fortnight, and 83% of services were unable to answer phone calls for some period during the fortnight, leaving people in crisis without access to immediate assistance (Impact Economics 2024).

Almost two thirds of respondents to the 2024 NCOSS Survey on Sector Sustainability saw their costs exceed the funding received, with chronic underfunding jeopardising service sustainability and worker wellbeing (NCOSS 2024).



"We are constantly being asked to deliver more with less, and it sends the message that the lives and safety of victim-survivors are not a true priority."

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

Comparison to other states

High levels of unmet demand for domestic and family violence services in NSW highlight a persistent pattern of underinvestment in these specialist services compared to other jurisdictions. Per capita funding in both Victoria and Queensland far exceeds that of NSW, with Victoria spending nearly three times more than NSW (180 per cent more) and Queensland spending about 50 per cent more. While funding structures vary across jurisdictions, the disparity highlights systemic resourcing gaps and pressure on frontline domestic and family violence services in NSW.

Further detail on funding comparisons and outcomes from other jurisdictions is provided in Appendix 3.

What is needed?

In December 2024, Impact Economics and Policy (2024) estimated that a core funding uplift in NSW would cost an additional \$177.4 million a year in 2026-27⁴. This represents the funding increase recommended by Domestic Violence NSW in this submission.

The estimated core funding uplift of \$177.4 million for the 2026-27 financial year, along with figures outlined in Tables 3 and 4, were originally estimated for Domestic Violence NSW's 2025-26 *Pre-Budget Submission*. The estimates are based on publicly available data from the NSW Government's 2024-25 funding allocations and costings. To determine the actual baseline figure for 2025-26, the NSW Department of Communities and Justice would need to release full details of its relevant program funding allocations for the 2025-26 financial year. Until then, the figures remain estimates.

Table 3 models the 50 per cent core funding increase needed for each financial year relative to 2024-25, accounting for inflation and population growth⁵.

Table 2 Estimated NSW Government core funding for domestic and family violence services and programs and the estimated 50 per cent funding increase relative to 2024-25 for the financial years 2025-26 to 2028-29 (Impact Economics 2024).

Fiscal impact	2026-27\$m	2027-28\$m	2028-29\$m
Total baseline funding	381.8	396.4	411.2
Increase relative to 2024-25	177.4	192.0	206.8

An estimated \$177.4 million increase to core funding in 2026-27 would support the following specific programs:

- Specialist women's homelessness services and refuges (excluding funding under the Core and Cluster program)
- Domestic Violence Response Enhancement
- Staying Home Leaving Violence
- Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services
- Men's Behaviour Change Programs
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services
- Specialist Workers for Children and Young People.

⁴ See Table 3 for the estimated fifty per cent funding increase relative to 2024-25 funding for the financial years 2025-26 to 2028-29 (Impact Economics 2024)

⁵ Assuming 2.5 per cent annual inflation, plus population growth based on projections using medium assumptions from Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023).

This funding increase has been calculated on the understanding that the NSW Government committed about \$204 million in funding for these programs in 2024-25 (NSW Legal Aid 2024; DCJ 2024).

Table 4 indicates the funding allocations for key domestic and family violence services and programs in 2024-25, the additional funding that was needed in 2025-26 and 2026-2027. The additional funding amounts for each of these programs have been adjusted to allow for inflation and population growth (applied to the total funding amount for each program).

Table 3 Estimated NSW Government funding allocations for key domestic and family violence services and programs in 2024-25, and estimated additional funding needed in 2025-26 and 2026-27 (Impact Economics 2024)⁶

Program	Funding allocated for 2024-25\$m	Additional funding needed in 2025-26\$m	Additional funding needed in 2026-27\$m
Domestic Violence Response Enhancement	11.6	6.5	7.2
Women's services/refuges	110.4	61.8	68.5
Staying Home Leaving Violence	20.3	21.6	23.3
Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services	6.4	5.6	6.1
Men's Behaviour Change Programs	11.5	16.3	17.3
Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services	32.7	45.0	48
Specialist Workers for Children and Young People	11.5	6.4	7.1
Total	204.4	163.1	177.4

⁶ Based on data provided by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. Where funding amounts for 2024-25 were not provided, we have assumed that funding would remain at 2023-24 levels.

Meeting the demand for services

Recommendation 2: Provide a supplementary payment to all specialist domestic and family violence services operating in regional, rural and remote locations in NSW.

Key outcomes

- Regional specialist domestic and family violence services have the resourcing to operate effectively in a high-cost and high-demand environment
- Women and children can access timely, life-saving support, regardless of where they live
- A stronger NSW economy and economic stability in regional and rural areas by ensuring victim-survivors have access to the support they need



“We have to do lots of travel which we are not funded for. We get some funding for vehicles, but travel time is not included. Our brokerage costs are not adjusted for regional locations. There are limited public transport options for clients and if we give them a \$50 fuel card, it will not get them very far.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service

Domestic Violence NSW recommends that the NSW Government make a supplementary payment for the next two financial years (2026-27 and 2027-28) to all DCJ-funded specialist domestic and family violence services operating in regional, rural and remote locations in NSW. This funding must be in addition to any core funding increase (as outlined under Recommendation 1). Regardless of location, all specialist DFV services have experienced stagnant core funding levels which are addressed by Recommendation 1. The call for a supplementary payment addresses the additional costs faced by services operating in regional, rural and remote NSW.

Delivering domestic and family violence services in regional and remote parts of NSW is significantly more costly than in metropolitan areas. Key cost challenges include:

- Significantly higher rates of domestic and family violence. Compared to major cities, per-capita rates of domestic violence related assaults recorded by Police are six times higher in remote areas.⁷
- Greater difficulty attracting and retaining staff on the wages that services can afford to offer and due to competition from government services and other industries.
- Higher travel costs, including direct expenses (e.g. fuel) and staff time, with staff taken away from frontline service delivery.
- Higher brokerage costs to support clients to access specialist services, especially when they need to travel for several hours to the nearest regional centre.

Recorded rates of domestic and family violence-related assaults are approximately 70 per cent higher in regional NSW compared to Greater Sydney (measured per 100,000 population) and are increasing at a faster rate (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) 2025).

In more remote areas of NSW, assault rates can be up to 3.5 times the statewide average. Access to domestic and family violence services and other essential supports can be much harder in regional and remote areas, particularly where people need to travel long distances (BOCSAR 2025).

⁷ Impact Economics and Policy (2024) analysis of [BOCSAR domestic violence statistics](#) by Local Government Area, using remoteness classifications from the NSW Local Government Grants Commission.

Regional service case study:



Rana is a Hearing Support Worker for a regional Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service. She attends domestic violence hearings with her clients at two regional courts, travelling approximately 100 kilometres each way to provide this vital support. Despite the critical nature of this work, current funding that doesn't recognise the costs of service provision means that she must carry out this role alone. The service has to absorb these ongoing high travel costs to provide this vital support.

The lack of funding for additional staff leaves Rana isolated during long-distance travel and emotionally demanding court environments. This not only poses physical and vicarious trauma risks for Rana and other frontline workers, but it also undermines the safety and sustainability of the workforce that delivers critical support to women navigating the justice system.

Domestic Violence NSW recommends the NSW Government use modelling by Impact Economics and Policy (2024) on the costs of service delivery in regional and remote areas of NSW as a guide to calculate supplementary payment. Impact Economics and Policy (2024) estimates that, due to higher service delivery costs and greater incidence of domestic and family violence in regional and remote areas of NSW, services in inner and outer regional areas require about two to four times the funding of services in major cities (per person in the general population). Services in remote and very remote areas require nearly nine times the funding to operate sustainably and to meet demand.

Table 4 Estimated additional regional service delivery costs in NSW by remoteness.

Regional service delivery costs – multiple of costs in major cities, per head of general population			
Remoteness level	Cost of delivering a given level of services	Greater demand for services	Combined impact – regional loadings
Inner regional	1.16x	1.90x	2.21x
Outer regional	1.16x	3.16x	3.66x
Remote	1.20x	7.45x	8.94x
Very remote	1.20x	7.45x	8.94x

While it is unclear how the significant cost differences between metro and regional services are currently factored into funding arrangements, Domestic Violence NSW recommends that all domestic and family violence services operating in regional and remote parts of NSW receive additional funding beyond core funding, to account for the higher costs they face (2.21 to 8.94x based on Table 5).



“Helping clients with multiple needs is a big challenge in regional areas. There are not enough wrap-around supports out there for clients’ complexities. We are left holding more of the complexity than we would like to.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service

Domestic Violence NSW recommends that the NSW Government provide one-off supplementary payments to regional and remote services as an interim measure, while commissioning an independent review to quantify the cost differentials between metropolitan, regional, and remote service delivery. The findings of this review should inform the development of an evidence-based, long-term funding model that ensures allocations accurately reflect the true cost of operating regional and remote services.

Recommendation 3: Invest in flexible housing options to increase the availability of safe and accessible housing with wrap-around support for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

Key outcomes

- Increased safety and housing stability for women and children, reducing the risk of returning to a perpetrator or entering homelessness
- Improved service capacity through safe client exits, reducing bottlenecks and wait times
- Enhanced economic and social outcomes through investment in innovative housing solutions that prevent homelessness among victim-survivors



“Funding and support for transitional housing is critical. We are struggling in our area and we’re losing housing stock, with very little options for when clients exit. Transitional is so important for giving families the chance to start healing and building their life again without being in crisis.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

The NSW Government needs to expand access to safe and accessible transitional housing for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence by allowing greater flexibility in the use of social housing stock. Specifically, social housing should be made available for transitional use by women and children exiting refuges for a period of two to three years. This would help alleviate the current bottle neck caused by limited exit pathways from refuges.

Domestic Violence NSW welcomes the Commonwealth National Housing Infrastructure Facility funding of approximately \$330 million for NSW for the delivery of crisis and transitional housing for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence and young people experiencing homelessness. Further, Domestic Violence NSW supports the NSW Department of Communities and Justice’s intention to focus on the delivery of transitional housing, given the recent significant investment in Core and Cluster crisis accommodation. Operational funding, however, must also be considered. It is essential alongside transitional housing to ensure women and children receive ongoing support from specialist services beyond the housing itself.

Transitional housing, paired with operational funding for wrap-around support, is crucial as it allows women and children time to begin to recover from the trauma and move forward with their lives in a safe and supported environment. However, transitional housing rarely becomes available due to the medium-term nature of stays (typically 18 months to three years) with only 1,500 transitional properties in the Homes NSW portfolio.

Many victim-survivors nearing the end of their refuge support period are ineligible for social or affordable housing as they do not meet income requirements or won’t after they return to employment. Most cannot secure a property in the highly competitive private rental market, as landlords typically prefer tenants on higher incomes. As a result, women exiting refuges frequently face limited accommodation options and are at risk of homelessness or returning to the perpetrator.

Women on temporary visas rely heavily on transitional properties as an exit out of refuges, because they are not eligible for social housing. A recent report by Domestic Violence NSW revealed women on temporary visas stayed in refuges for more than 12 months on average and close to 60 per cent were exited into transitional properties (Domestic Violence NSW 2025). Without access to transitional properties many women on temporary visas face homelessness.

The NSW Government should ring-fence a portion of social housing for transitional use and fund the wrap-around operational support required to sustain it, including for forthcoming transitional homes delivered via the National Housing Infrastructure Facility. This will increase exit pathways from refuges and support women and children into stable housing with wrap-around support.

Increasing transitional housing and providing funding for operational support including in regional and rural areas where the new Core and Cluster refuges are being built, will help create critical exit pathways where they are most needed.



“There is a chronic lack of funding to provide domestic and family violence crisis accommodation. Having to tell a woman or mother with children to wait, knowing full well that ‘waiting’ in her situation could mean going back to a dangerous situation with the perpetrator. This is the reality we face every day.”

Domestic Violence NSW regional member service, 2025

Domestic Violence NSW welcomes the NSW Government’s pipeline for Meanwhile Use accommodation, converting government owned properties into transitional properties. We recommend 50% of these properties be reserved for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, as has been the model used for NSW social housing.

To scale this model, the NSW Government should promote the possibilities of Meanwhile Use projects to private developers to increase participation and fast-track the availability of Meanwhile Use accommodation. With an increase of developments available, more specialist domestic and family violence services will be able to partner with developers to offer accommodation for victim-survivors. Additional funding is needed to provide wrap-around support to victim-survivors to make this model viable in an ongoing way. The NSW Government must consider a dedicated funding stream for operational costs to specialist domestic and family violence services to provide Meanwhile Use housing to women and children.

However, Meanwhile Use accommodation is only a short-term solution to a broader housing crisis that disproportionately affects women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. Domestic Violence NSW supports Homelessness NSW’s recommendation for the NSW Government to increase its social housing target to at least 10% of occupied residential dwellings by 2050 to address the housing crisis. Domestic Violence NSW further recommends that 50% of these properties be allocated to women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

Supporting sector reform

Recommendation 4: Fully fund implementation of the domestic and family violence Quality Standards.

Key outcomes

- Government funding ensures accountable, high quality service delivery across the specialist domestic and family violence workforce
- Victim-survivors consistently receive safe, trauma-informed support based on quality practice that promotes long-term healing and recovery
- Improved economic outcomes by preventing the long-term costs of unmet support needs for victim-survivors

Implementation of the domestic and family violence Quality Standards has been identified as a key action within the NSW Government's [*Strengthening the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Sector: Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35*](#) (Workforce Development Strategy), p.24:

2. Prioritising workplace safety, health and wellbeing

Action Area 2.1 Develop and implement service quality standards for organisations delivering domestic and family violence services in NSW.

- Consult with the sector to articulate the scope and objectives of the quality standards and an implementation system that allows for continuous quality improvement.
- Define specialist domestic and family violence work through the establishment of foundational concepts and principles.
- Ensure that standards address intersectional workforce development and cultural security within and across organisations.
- Embed cultural responsiveness within practice, focusing on effectively meeting the needs of all communities.

Funding full implementation of the Quality Standards is vital to ensuring that the actions of the Workforce Development Strategy are met.

Adoption of the Quality Standards across the specialist domestic and family violence sector would position the NSW Government to achieve the priorities of the ten-year strategy, due to the strong alignment between the Quality Standards and the Workforce Development Strategy.

In 2023, the NSW Department of Communities and Justice commissioned Domestic Violence NSW to lead the co-design of the Quality Standards. This work has been grounded in extensive research and co-design with the NSW specialist domestic and family violence sector.

Domestic Violence NSW's co-design approach has prioritised collaboration with regional and remote services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, specialist migrant and refugee domestic and family violence services, and services that support marginalised cohorts to ensure the Quality Standards are responsive to the needs of all services and victim-survivors in NSW. The development of the Quality Standards and recommended implementation approach will be completed by end-June 2026.

As a next step, effective and considered implementation of the Quality Standards provides a safeguard for NSW Government investment in the specialist domestic and family violence workforce and sector in NSW. Sector-wide adoption of the Quality Standards will promote accountable, evidence-based and

high-quality practice, while increasing visibility of a service's level of domestic and family violence specialisation.

For implementation of the Quality Standards to be effective and ensure ongoing sector buy-in, Domestic Violence NSW must be funded to continue the Quality Standards project into the implementation phase. Funding must be in place before the current project end date to ensure continuity and sustainability of the work already undertaken by Domestic Violence NSW, and to support the sector through implementation of the Standards across the state.

Based on extensive consultations with the domestic and family violence sector, and learnings from five months of user-testing with specialist services, Domestic Violence NSW recommends a further five years of funding to support the sector with implementation of the Quality Standards leading to accreditation occurring in year six. All of this work will sit within the timeframe of the 10-year Workforce Development Strategy.

Domestic Violence NSW envisages the implementation phase to include the development of resources and tools that enable implementation, including:

- Practice leadership support provided by Domestic Violence NSW
- Updating the [*Good Practice Guidelines For the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Sector in NSW*](#) (Domestic Violence NSW 2022) to reflect the Quality Standards, the [*NSW Domestic and Family Violence Sector: Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35*](#), the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework*, and current NSW coercive control legislation and practice
- A suite of Quality Standards training and practice tools for specialist domestic and family violence services
- Establishment and facilitation of place-based communities of practice and capacity building to support the NSW sector through implementation and preparation for accreditation

Recommendation 5: Commit a further \$11.4 million to effectively implement the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework*.

Key outcomes

- NSW has a consistent, coordinated, and effective response to domestic and family violence throughout NSW
- Responders have clearly defined roles and access to training and capacity building
- Victim-survivors have greater access to safety and support through a state-wide, integrated approach to domestic violence identification and response

Domestic Violence NSW recommends that the NSW Government commit a further \$11.4 million to support the implementation of the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework*, led by the Department of Communities and Justice.

The *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework* represents an overarching vision and shared approach for the domestic and family violence sector. It lays out a consistent, coordinated, and effective response to domestic and family violence throughout NSW and ensures that responders have clearly defined roles.

Domestic Violence NSW acknowledges the NSW Government's clear commitment to the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework*, and we thank the NSW Government for the opportunities for Domestic Violence NSW to provide feedback on the initial drafts of the framework.

To ensure successful implementation, NSW Government investment needs to account for widespread structural changes, legislative changes, policy alignment and training across the broad range of universal, statutory and specialist sectors. This includes training and capacity building to ensure allied workers can identify, assess, and manage domestic and family violence risk.

Implementation must happen in ways that complement and build on existing structures and not create duplication or disaggregated responses. Ultimately, Domestic Violence NSW is seeking investment in implementing the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework* that ensures that specialist services in the domestic and family violence sector are not required to support implementation in an unfunded way and/or are faced with inappropriate referrals because a lack of understanding of domestic and family violence, risk assessment and related systems. Similarly, it is important that any increase in demand for specialist domestic and family violence services is met with a parallel increase in funding.

The *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework* must be implemented broadly – including the sectors of child protection, housing and homelessness, health, education, justice, disability, and children and young people – to ensure allied workers are equipped to respond effectively.

In 2025-26, the NSW Government provided \$3.6 million to fund implementation of the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework* for one year. Failure to fully fund implementation past year one will leave specialist, statutory and universal responders unclear about their responsibility in the response to domestic and family violence, which would place victim-survivors at great risk of harm.

Recommendation 6: Commit a further \$7.5 million to effectively implement *Strengthening the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Sector: Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35*.

Key outcomes

- A skilled, well-supported specialist workforce delivering consistent, coordinated, and effective response to domestic and family violence throughout NSW
- Responders are equipped with clearly defined roles, comprehensive training and ongoing professional development
- Victim-survivors benefit from improved safety and service quality through a strengthened, state-wide workforce



“Burnout for our sector is a big issue...working under such financial duress is not conducive to the mental health of staff”

Domestic Violence NSW member service, 2025

Domestic Violence NSW recommends that the NSW Government commit an additional \$7.5 million over the next two years towards implementation of the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Development Strategy*, led by the Department of Communities and Justice.

In 2022, the NSW Government commissioned the development of a ten-year workforce strategy to strengthen the specialist domestic and family violence workforce.

As outlined in the *2023 Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Baseline Survey* conducted by Domestic Violence NSW on behalf of the Department of Communities and Justice, the key challenges that needed to be addressed were:

- Workplace conditions, such as responding to an increased volume of clients, and worker burnout
- Supervision, including comprehensive access to clinical supervision for all workers
- Training, including access to specialist training and development opportunities
- Health and wellbeing, such as addressing work-related stress, vicarious trauma and burnout
- Career and future intentions, such as addressing a lack of career progression opportunities
- Recruitment, such as addressing the challenge of a lack of appropriately experienced or qualified applicants, and the impact of high workplace stress versus low pay.

In June 2025, the NSW Government committed \$2.5 million to begin delivery of a strategy for the specialist non-government workforce, and in August 2025, the NSW Government released [*Strengthening the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Sector: Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35*](#).

The strategy provides a roadmap for delivering targeted training and resources to respond to emerging needs; prioritising workforce wellbeing; implementation of best-practice quality standards; measures to grow the pipeline of skilled and diverse workers; development of a culturally responsive clinical supervision guide to support workers to receive regular, high-quality supervision; and development of a First Nations community-led workforce sustainability plan for Aboriginal workers.

The strategy must also address the need to strengthen the sector’s ability to provide culturally responsive support to migrant and refugee victim-survivors. This requires investment in both the diversity of the workforce, including bicultural and bilingual practitioners and uplifting the capacity of mainstream workers to provide culturally responsive practice. Given the diversity of the NSW population, ensuring

quality, safety and equity, requires the domestic and family violence workforce to be equipped to respond to the unique needs of migrants and refugees.

Addressing the workforce challenges identified through implementation of the workforce strategy has the full support of the specialist domestic and family violence sector. If this strategy is to be successful, the NSW Government must genuinely fund implementation of the workforce strategy beyond year one.

Recommendation 7: Commit a further \$8 million to effectively implement the *NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan*.

Key outcomes

- Expanded access to culturally safe domestic and family violence services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families
- A stronger and fully supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, with more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander frontline and senior roles
- Improved capacity of mainstream and community services to deliver culturally safe, coordinated responses that address barriers and the impacts of colonisation



“I’ve just been spending time in a remote area doing outreach. This takes up a lot of our time. Many First Nations people have a very high distrust of government and services. They have been let down too many times.”

Domestic Violence NSW member service 2025

Domestic Violence NSW recommends that the NSW Government fully fund the implementation of the *NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan*, with a strong emphasis on building the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to respond to domestic, family and sexual violence, and ensuring mainstream services are resourced to provide culturally safe and effective support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

A stand-alone *NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence Plan* (the Plan) is essential due to the significant overrepresentation of Aboriginal women and families in domestic and family violence statistics. Aboriginal women are more likely to experience violence, more likely to be hospitalised due to assault, and face compounding barriers when seeking help through mainstream systems (AIHW 2025). This overrepresentation reflects the ongoing impacts of colonisation, intergenerational trauma, systemic racism, and a lack of culturally responsive services.

The Plan is important because it provides a framework for targeted, community-led, and culturally safe responses that address the specific needs and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Its full implementation would strengthen the role of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver specialist domestic and family violence services while also supporting mainstream providers to improve cultural safety for Aboriginal clients who may choose not to access Aboriginal-led supports. By addressing these gaps, the plan can help ensure Aboriginal women and families have access to a full spectrum of safe, culturally responsive services.

To be effective, the Plan must be backed by substantial and sustained NSW Government funding. This includes direct investment in specialist Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations delivering domestic and family violence services, recognition and support for Aboriginal workers through cultural supports, professional communities of practice and networking opportunities, and funding for more Senior Aboriginal Workers embedded in mainstream domestic and family violence services to drive systemic reform.

The sustainability of the Aboriginal Women’s Advisory Network must also be ensured, so that Aboriginal women’s voices and leadership continue to inform the policy, design, and delivery of domestic and family violence responses across the state.



Monica is an Aboriginal woman aged in her 30s who has spent the last three years escaping domestic violence. She was referred to our service for case management and legal support by an Aboriginal Health Service. Monica had just moved back to the area from a different region where she was experiencing physical, emotional and financial abuse. She was in crisis, unable to secure temporary accommodation and having no family or friends to rely on. Forced to put her trust in strangers, Monica was terrified.

The health service had been able to provide limited assistance to Monica, supporting her with the cost of three nights of accommodation and referring her to temporary accommodation providers in the region. However, one day we received a phone call from Monica who was at one of the provider's offices, in crisis. We arrived to find her and all her belongings in the provider's reception area, with no staff at the reception and no assistance being provided.

We took Monica back to our office to make phone calls to the health service and to contact accommodation providers to understand the available options. The health service told us that the accommodation provider was meant to be finding suitable accommodation for her. The fact that the client was just placed on the phone to call our service herself, instead of a support worker reaching out to support her, meant that our staff had to spend longer trying to assist Monica and find out what was happening.

Although we had finally managed to find emergency accommodation for Monica by 4pm, the accommodation was above a pub which was hardly appropriate for a woman who had endured severe domestic violence. The crisis continued for a further four days, with constant delays and pushbacks from service providers and Monica not knowing if she would be safe at night. Although like many regional towns we face a severe shortage of emergency and temporary accommodation, the challenges were made even worse by poor communication and coordination between services.

Recommendation 8: Commit a further \$50 million to effectively implement *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028*.

Key outcomes

- *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-28* is funded to meet its potential
- Community-led primary prevention services are funded to deliver primary prevention programs and resources are made available to ensure they are independently evaluated
- Women and children have access to a safer future free from domestic and family violence

Domestic Violence NSW recommends that the NSW Government commit a further \$50 million to effectively implement [*Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028*](#) (*Pathways to Prevention*). This investment is critical to ensuring the success of the current strategy and to laying the groundwork for a second, long-term prevention plan.

In 2024, the NSW Government announced \$38 million to initially implement *Pathways to Prevention*. This investment falls far short of the \$100 million over four years as advocated by Domestic Violence NSW on behalf of the specialist domestic and family violence sector.

Why this investment matters

Domestic and family violence are symptoms of wider gender inequality. Preventing violence requires sustained, long-term investment in primary prevention, including changing attitudes, norms and behaviours to stop violence before it starts.

A 2009 KPMG report for the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (funded by the Commonwealth Government) found that for every woman whose experience of violence could be prevented, \$20,766 in costs could be avoided. Reducing violence against women and their children by just 10 per cent in 2021-22 would have saved \$1.6 billion in costs to victim-survivors, their friends/families, perpetrators, children, employers, government, and community.

With only two years left of *Pathways to Prevention*, Domestic Violence NSW is seeking a \$50 million commitment from the NSW Government to fully fund Years Three and Four of *Pathways to Prevention*.

This investment would focus on community-led prevention projects across the State including projects designed and delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Future direction for prevention in NSW

Following the completion of *Pathways to Prevention*, Domestic Violence NSW strongly recommends the development of a second Prevention Plan, supported by an ongoing investment of \$25 million per year. While not included in the current funding ask, this is essential for sustainable, generational change.

By fully funding the *Pathways to Prevention* and committing to a second prevention plan, the NSW Government can lead on this important long-term work.

Conclusion

To keep women and children safe, it is critical for frontline services to have sufficient government resourcing to effectively meet demand. Responding effectively to domestic and family violence will also significantly reduce the exponential costs to our economy, and the pressure placed on our health, justice and social service systems.

The three key areas for NSW Government investment for long-term change are:

1. **Core funding increase for specialist services** – prioritising a 50 per cent core funding increase for all specialist domestic and family violence services, so that frontline services have sufficient resourcing to meet demand (\$177.4 million).
2. **Meeting the demand for services** – paying a loading to all specialist domestic and family violence services operating in regional, rural and remote locations in NSW; funding Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services to provide victim-survivor support in response to Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring related referrals from Community Corrections (Corrective Services NSW); and investing in flexible housing options to increase the availability of safe and accessible transitional and long-term housing for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.
3. **Supporting strategic reform** – fully funding implementation of the domestic and family violence Quality Standards committing a further \$11.4 million to effectively implement the *NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety Framework*; committing a further \$7.5 million to effectively implement *Strengthening the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Sector: Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35*; committing a further \$8 million to effectively implement the *NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan*; and committing a further \$50 million to effectively implement *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028*.

This funding will save lives. The NSW Government must continue to work with the specialist domestic and family violence sector to achieve our vision to end violence against women and children.

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Appendix one – Terminology

Domestic violence

Interpersonal violence or abuse perpetrated by an intimate partner or ex-partner. Domestic violence can include a variety of forms of abuse including but not limited to, physical, sexual, psychological, financial abuse, physical stalking, and intimidation. Domestic violence is gendered and is most commonly underpinned by coercive control, which is a pattern of behaviour utilising many different tactics to create a web of entrapment, often involving the exploitation of power imbalances.

Family violence

Violence perpetrated by a family member, carer, guardian, child, or kinship carer. Family violence can include a variety of forms of abuse including but not limited to, physical, sexual, psychological, financial abuse, physical stalking, and intimidation. Family violence is gendered and is most commonly underpinned by coercive control, which is a pattern of behaviour utilising many different tactics to create a web of entrapment, often involving the exploitation of power imbalances.

Gendered violence

Gendered violence or gender-based violence refers to harmful acts directed at an individual or a group of individuals because of their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. The term is primarily used to draw attention to the fact that structural, gender-based power differentials place women and girls at risk for multiple forms of violence. While women and girls suffer disproportionately from gendered violence, men and particularly boys can also be victims. The term is inclusive of LGBTIQ+ populations, referencing violence related to norms of masculinity/femininity and/or gender norms.

Intimate Partner Violence

Abuse perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner such as a partner, husband, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, or person who someone is dating. Term is often used interchangeably with domestic violence. People with lived expertise are people who have experience of sexual, domestic and/or family violence whose expertise as context experts due to their lived experience is noted.

Specialist sexual, domestic, and family violence sector

The specialist sexual, domestic, and family violence sector includes crisis and refuge services, transitional accommodation and community housing providers, family support services, Aboriginal controlled organisations, specialist multicultural community organisations, specialist LGBTIQ+ organisations, counselling services, sexual violence services, specialist homelessness service providers, men's behaviour change programs and networks, community organisations working with high-risk communities, specialist women's legal and support services, women's health centres, women and children's support services, Safe at Home programs and the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services.

Victim-survivor

Victim-survivor refers to a person who is being or has experienced violence, acknowledging that people who have been victimised are survivors and are also victims of crime. This is not intended as an identity term. In the specialist domestic and family violence sector, the preferred term is victim-survivor. Domestic Violence NSW notes that the justice sector and legislation use the term victim. In this submission, although used interchangeably, the emphasis has been placed on the term victim-survivor, with victim used at times particularly when discussing the justice system or legislation.

Coercive control

Coined by Evan Stark, Buzawa and Stark (2017, p. 105) define coercive control as "a strategic course of gender-based abuse in which some combination of physical and sexual violence, intimidation, degradation, isolation, control and arbitrary violations of liberty are used to subjugate a partner and deprive her of basic rights and resources". This web of abuse has the end goal of entrapment and is a conscious, concerted effort by the abuser. Also known as intimate terrorism, this coercive control is the foundational underpinning of domestic and family violence, not simply another form of violence. Another way to think about this comes from Emma Katz, who describes coercive control as a toolbox, and the forms of abuse (financial, technological, humiliation and degradation etc.) as the individual tools. This is different to rarer instances of situational couple violence, which can be just as lethal, but are not motivated by the desire to entrap their victim.

Appendix two – Measuring service demand against funding 2024-25

To further quantify the funding and demand pressures facing specialist domestic and family violence services, Domestic Violence NSW conducted a two-week survey of its members, gathering data on their DCJ-funded services for the 2024–25 reporting period.

Twenty-two member organisations responded, providing information on specialist services including Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS), Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE), and Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) (see below for service details). Of these, twelve organisations were based in regional NSW, and ten operated in the Greater Sydney area.

The data reveals a stark snapshot of the current state of crisis specialist domestic and family violence (DFV) services in NSW, highlighting unprecedented demand and a workforce operating far beyond its funded capacity.

Across DVRE, SHLV and SHS, the data shows services are routinely supporting 152% more clients on average, with some reporting service levels exceeding 800-900% over funded capacity. For example:

- One regional DVRE service supported 328 clients on funding for 32 – 925% over capacity
- A regional SHLV service assisted 517 clients on funding for 180 – 187% over capacity
- A metro SHS service supported 1,119 clients on funding for 491 – 128% above capacity

These services are operating at extraordinary levels above their funded capacity to meet escalating demand. Staff are working unpaid overtime, fundraising in their spare time, paying for food vouchers out of their own pockets, picking up excessive client loads – doing everything possible to keep women and children safe, knowing that turning someone away can mean life or death.

“The numbers are becoming overwhelming and at some point case managers will simply not be able to do anymore, and more women will simply go unsupported despite reaching out to the correct service provider.”
– Survey Respondent

“This workload is unsustainable...When services [are forced to] operate below full staffing levels, the impact is immediate – wait times increase, referrals may be delayed, and the safety of women and children is placed at higher risk.” – Survey Respondent

Delivering support so far beyond capacity comes at a severe personal cost to staff – resulting in high-levels of burnout, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue as noted in the NSW Workforce Development Strategy 2025-35⁸.

“Without increased funding and fair recognition of workload, there is a serious risk to service sustainability. Staff wellbeing suffers, attrition increases, and the community loses access to specialist, experienced workers at a time when the need for DFV support is greater than ever.” – Survey Respondent

These pressures also create an unacceptable safety risk to victim-survivors and service structure, forcing a move from individualised care to light touch supports that don’t meet all needs. Despite best efforts, large numbers of women and children are still being turned away due to lack of resourcing:

“Overall, we assisted 2,086 women and children but, due to lack of resources, we could not assist 2,103.” – Survey Respondent

“For every 100 clients we accommodate, 124 are turned away due to no accommodation available. We had 1,847 unassisted clients in FY24/25.” – Survey Respondent

For those who do access support, many only receive short-term or partial help. With limited resources available, staff are forced to focus on the most high-risk, immediate threat cases, leaving others stuck in ongoing cycles of danger and instability.

“[Some] women receive a reduced service - support with forms and systems information but not full case management. This leaves only the highest risk with our full service offering whilst mitigating the risk of

⁸ <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/workforce-development-strategy.pdf>

women being murdered while they wait for our service, and avoiding having to completely shut down intakes.” – Survey Respondent

Across NSW, specialist DFV services are stretched to breaking point. Dedicated staff are trying to hold the line to keep women and children safe, but the system is at risk of collapse. Urgent government action is needed to support the workforce and sustain this life-saving work.

The NSW Government must increase core funding by at least 50% to ensure these essential, life-saving services can operate safely, sustainably, and effectively.

“I’ve been a DFV Service Manager for over 20 years, and I can honestly say the current funding level is appalling for the work we do... We need urgent action from Government to right this financial inequality before services go under.” – Survey Respondent

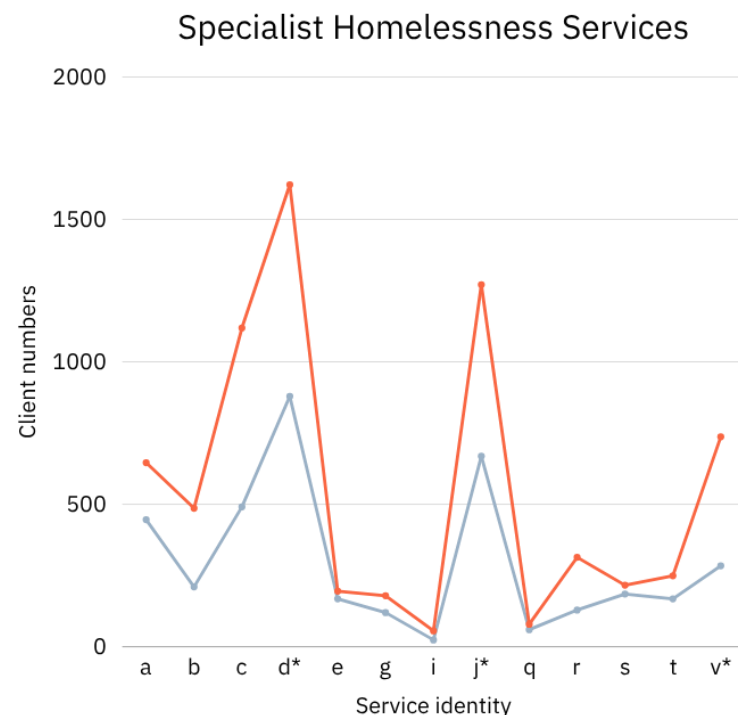
Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE)



Representative of 7 regional services and 3 metro services.
The numbers for each service are as follows:

Service identity	Location	Clients funded to support	Clients actually supported	% over funded capacity
a	Regional	28	255	811%
b	Regional	36	54	50%
c	Greater Syd	49	70	43%
d	Regional	215	476	121%
j	Greater Syd	77	158	105%
k	Regional	30	174	480%
l	Greater Syd	220	307	40%
m	Regional	273	782	186%
r	Regional	30	42	40%
v	Regional	32	328	925%

“The referral rates are steadily increasing – services are consistently exceeding their contracted KPIs; however, no additional funding is provided for this additional work. This means frontline staff carry the pressure of meeting community need without the resourcing to match. The situation is compounded by workforce shortages, high turnover risk, and the emotional toll of responding to complex trauma in regional and remote context” – Survey Respondent.



* Combined over service area

— Clients funded to support
— Clients actually supported

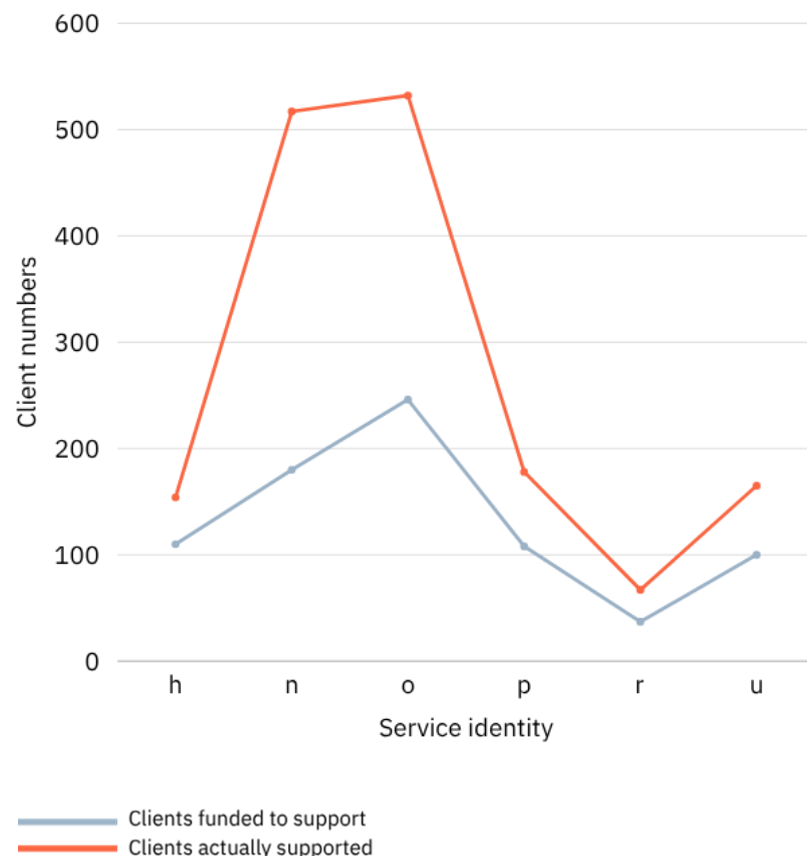
Representative of 7 regional services and 6 metro services.
The numbers for each service are as follows:

Service identity	Location	Clients funded to support	Clients actually supported	% over funded capacity
a	Regional	446	646	45%
b	Regional	201	486	131%
c	Greater Syd	491	1,119	128%
d*	Regional	215	476	121%
e	Greater Syd	168	195	16%
g	Regional	120	179	49%
i	Greater Syd	24	56	133%
j*	Greater Syd	669	1,271	90%
q	Regional	60	79	33%
r	Regional	129	314	143%
s	Greater Syd	185	216	17%
t	Greater Syd	168	249	48%
v*	Regional	284	737	159%

"We are seeing more people needing help that have never accessed SHS services in the past. We turned away 397 last year and this year it will be more due to not having accommodation beds for people who need help" – Survey Respondent.

"As the only place-based SHS in the area, we find a constant tension between meeting the longer-term needs of clients engaged for case management support and meeting the need for crisis services for new clients" – Survey Respondent.

Staying Home Leaving Violence



Representative of 4 regional services and 2 metro services.
The numbers for each service are as follows:

Service identity	Location	Clients funded to support	Clients actually supported	% over funded capacity
h	Greater Syd	110	154	40%
n	Regional	180	517	187%
o	Regional	246	532	116%
p	Greater Syd	108	178	65%
r	Regional	37	67	81%
u	Regional	100	165	65%

“Demand for SHLV has been managed by addressing immediate safety measures and waiting lists for women to be case managed/case coordinated. There is always a burden on staff as they can’t get to women who need the support. The implementation of the NPA-DFSV allowed us to have clients triaged quickly in the initial days but as this program has developed and staff now have caseloads this is no longer possible. Unfortunately, all we can do, is what we can do, and we have to sit with this. Having victim/survivors on a waitlist is never a positive thing.

As a regional area we struggle to have trades travel to do the safety upgrades and when this is possible, we pay travel and associated costs from brokerage which then has an impact on how much brokerage can be allocated to safety upgrades.” – Survey Respondent.

Service information

Specialist Homelessness Services

Specialist homelessness services form a vital part of the system supporting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They focus on those in our community most vulnerable to housing instability, in this context, women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Specialist homelessness services work closely with specialist domestic and family violence services to ensure victim-survivors can access safe accommodation and ongoing support. These partnerships are critical in preventing homelessness by helping people experiencing violence find safety, stability, and long-term housing solutions.

They provide:

- Outreach and case management
- Crisis and transitional accommodation
- Wraparound supports that promote safety, recovery, and stability.
- Links to education, training, and employment pathways

Also, across NSW, a network of specialist women's refuges and crisis accommodation services provide immediate safety and practical assistance for people escaping domestic and family violence. These services are often the first point of contact for victim-survivors and play a vital role in helping them rebuild their lives in safety.

Together, specialist homelessness and specialist domestic and family violence services form a crucial safety net – supporting people to escape violence, prevent homelessness, and secure a safe place to call home.

Domestic Violence Response Enhancement

The Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE) program is an after-hours specialist crisis response designed to keep women and children safe when escaping domestic and family violence. It provides rapid response, after-hours support for those in danger or at imminent risk of homelessness due to violence.

DVRE strengthens the capacity of specialist homelessness services that respond to domestic and family violence. It enables these services to provide 24/7 crisis responses – ensuring that women and children can access safety, accommodation, and support at any time of day or night.

Through DVRE, services can deliver flexible, localised crisis responses that include:

- Immediate safety planning and risk assessment to identify danger and urgent needs
- Rapid access to crisis and temporary accommodation for women and children escaping violence
- Specialist case management and ongoing support to help victim-survivors stabilise and rebuild safely

This program aims to provide women who present in crisis due to domestic and family violence – a specialist, trauma-informed response. However, demand for allocated beds in this program, severely undermines the programs objectives.

Staying Home Leaving Violence

The Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) program is a specialist domestic and family violence initiative that helps women and children to live safely and independently after leaving a violent relationship. It focuses on preventing homelessness and reducing the disruption that often follows when victim-survivors are forced to flee their homes.

SHLV works in partnership with NSW Police and other local services to support women and children to stay safely in their own homes and communities after the removal of the person using violence. The program prioritises safety, stability, and recovery through:

- Comprehensive risk assessment and safety planning
- Enhanced home security measures to prevent further violence
- Case management and advocacy to support legal, housing, and financial needs
- Support for children to maintain stability in school and community life
- Practical assistance to rebuild independence and confidence

SHLV recognises that responsibility for violence always lies with the person using violence — not the victim-survivor. By addressing the barriers that make leaving dangerous or difficult, SHLV helps women and children to remain safely housed, maintain their social and community connections, and continue education and employment without the upheaval of relocation.

At its core, SHLV provides a trauma-informed, specialist response that supports women and children to live free from violence, rebuild their lives safely, and stay connected to the places and people that matter to them.

Respondent quotes.

- “We have to divert some of our human resources to fundraising ventures to help pay the bills. I have been a DFV Service Manager for over 20 years here and can honestly say that the current funding level we receive is appalling for the work we do in our LGA. Working under such financial duress is not conducive to the mental health of staff or Community Board members. We need urgent action from the Government to right this financial inequality, before services go under.”
- “We fundraise to meet client brokerage and casework needs beyond our contracts, investing approximately \$250,000 annually over the past three years into direct client support.”
- “Although not part of the SHS funding we have committed significant time and resources to advocate for the property care of the refuge. Our commitment has required us to cover associated costs including:
 - Rent for temporary accommodation and office space
 - Temporary Accommodation for clients.
 - Employment of a building project manager.
 - Increased administrative and contract management responsibilities.
 - Bridging funding gaps due to deterioration of the building and increased costs due to delays in approval from LAHC and additional DA requirements.”
- “There is overwhelming demand for our service in this region. We are the only DFV specialised service for women and children experiencing homelessness and domestic and family violence. Our refuge is consistently full, our transitional properties are full and the private rental market is unaffordable for our clients or anyone receiving Centrelink payments as their sole income. We don’t have enough community or social housing properties to support the need here in this region. We have had families living in temporary accommodation or our women’s refuge for more than 12 months now due to the lack of available options for them.”
- “We are seeing more people needing help that have never accessed SHS services in the past. We turned away 397 last year and this year it will be more due to not having accommodation beds for people who need help.”
- “For every 100 clients that we accommodate, 124 are turned away due to no accommodation available. We had 1,847 unassisted clients recorded in FY24/25.”
- “After the coercive control awareness campaigns, our largest referral channel has shifted from WDVCS and other DV services, to clients self-referring. This has also changed the work considerably, as we are sometimes the first or only service contacted and we’re supporting more women in the relationship for longer periods of time while they work through DV psychoeducation. Overall, it means we need to work with clients for longer periods, more intensely.”
- “We have responded to demand by large scale restructures of all aspects of the organisation. We have reduced staff numbers across shared support and service delivery. This has allowed us to increase technological capacity and support reducing unnecessary administration.”
- “Domestic and Family Violence services continue to face overwhelming demand. Staff working at Level 4 and Level 5 under the SCHADS Award are carrying significant responsibility, managing on average 20 active cases each, in addition to intake, crisis response, safety planning, and court support duties.”
- “This workload is unsustainable. DFV staff are highly skilled, but they are also underpaid and overworked, with remuneration not reflecting the complexity of risk management, trauma-informed practice, and interagency coordination required. When services operate below full staffing levels, the impact is immediate—wait times increase, referrals may be delayed, and the safety of women and children is placed at higher risk.”
- Adding to this, the referral rates are steadily increasing. Services are consistently exceeding their contracted KPIs; however, no additional funding is provided for this additional work. This means frontline staff carry the pressure of meeting community need without the resourcing to match. The situation is compounded by workforce shortages, high turnover risk, and the emotional toll of responding to complex trauma in regional and remote contexts.”

- “Without increased funding and fair recognition of workload, there is a serious risk to service sustainability. Staff wellbeing suffers, attrition increases, and the community loses access to specialist, experienced workers at a time when the need for DFV support is greater than ever.”
- “We are completely inundated at present. New intakes are occurring daily, and our service is struggling to keep up with demand. The uncertainty surrounding recommissioning has left staff feeling nervous and uneasy, making it difficult to manage the service effectively. It is near impossible to plan for relocation or ensure job security when the future remains unclear.

At the same time, we are preparing for reaccreditation, a significant undertaking in itself, while frontline expectations continue to grow. Despite these pressures, we are supporting an overwhelming number of people in need. Many of our clients are not only experiencing homelessness but are also unable to afford essentials, leaving our already underfunded service constantly stretched financially. We are in a small rural country town and our service always steps up to fill the gaps that naturally exist in these areas but we do struggle and although we are incredibly resourceful and still manage fantastic outcomes, it comes at a cost with staff burnout the number one concern.”

- “The housing crisis has further escalated the issue, forcing many into homelessness or into unsafe, overcrowded living situations, which in turn contributes to higher rates of domestic and family violence. In our experience, no one wants to reside in a refuge or shelter or temporary accommodation. Everyone wants and deserves a home that they call their own but the reality is, the outcomes aren't there. The homes are not there. Refuges are fuller for longer and the impact is devastating.”
- “We have managed this demand over the last 5 years by:
 - at times operating on reduced service protocols, accepting referrals only for high-risk women
 - creating a service module that is low touch, low risk, for women who are not immediately homeless or at high risk of violence. They might have, for example, been given an eviction notice but aren't yet homeless or be couch surfing but not with a perpetrator. These women receive a reduced service - support with forms and systems information but not full case management. This leaves only the highest risk with our full service offering whilst mitigating the risk of women being murdered while they wait for our service and avoiding having to completely shut down intakes.”
- “Overall, we assisted 2,086 women and children but due to lack of resources we could not assist 2,103 women and children.”
- “The numbers are becoming overwhelming and at some point, case managers will simply not be able to do anymore, and more women will simply go unsupported despite reaching out to the correct service provider.”
- “Demand for SHLV has been managed by addressing immediate safety measures and waiting lists for women to be case managed/case coordinated. Back up support where needed is provided by WDVCAS who hold space until SHLV can allocate. There is always a burden on staff as they can't get to women who need the support. The implementation of the NPA-DFSV allowed us to have clients triaged quickly in the initial days but as this program has developed and staff now have caseloads this is no longer possible. Unfortunately, all we can do, is what we can do, and we have to sit with this. Having victim/survivors on a waitlist is never a positive thing.
- As a regional area we struggle to have trades travel to do the safety upgrades and when this is possible, we pay travel and associated costs from brokerage which then has an impact on how much brokerage can be allocated to safety upgrades. There are problems with technology (mobile coverage dropouts) and women in isolated locations especially around Glen Innes, Inverell and Tenterfield which require booster towers for coverage.”
- “The demand is always greater than the allocated resources. We have a small team of only two caseworkers who are always working with a full caseload whilst managing a wait list of people in need of support.”
- “The current KPIs and reporting measures do not adequately capture the complexity, intensity, and duration of support required by families accessing services like ours.
- Many families remain engaged with the service for two to three years, requiring sustained, wraparound support from multiple workers. Current reporting does not account for:
 - Families who are turned away due to limited-service capacity.
 - The volume of referrals that exceed available resources.
 - The intensity of engagement, including high-risk safety planning, crisis intervention, and long-term emotional support.
 - The systemic barriers that impede positive outcomes, such as limited access to safe housing, mental health services, affordable legal support, and visa related restrictions.

- Even with comprehensive and intensive support, many families continue to face poor or unstable outcomes due to persistent structural barriers, including ongoing safety risks, chronic mental health concerns, financial insecurity, and lack of accessible services, particularly for women on temporary visas."
- "As the only placed based SHS in the area, we find a constant tension between meeting the longer-term needs of clients engaged for case management support and meeting the need for crisis services for new clients."
- "We are inundated with referrals and requests for support. Our DFV refuge is severely understaffed and overwhelmed with families. The Case Manager currently holds 18 families. On top of that we are not funded for outreach but we receive many calls about women living on the streets needing brokerage. We can't turn them away because there's no one else. We desperately need more funding and more staff to manage the influx of women and children experiencing or at risk of homelessness."
- "The funding we receive does not include anything for brokerage, management costs or overheads, leaving us very stretched to cover the actual costs of delivering a high-quality service."
- "Our two case workers have caseloads of up to 25 clients. The vicarious trauma risk of this is very real. Putting timeframes on tasks is difficult as one call and the associated tasks could take five hours or it could take 30 minutes."
- "We continue to experience sustained and significant growth in service demand, reflecting the increasing volume and complexity of needs in the community."
- We engaged with more than 3000 people across prevention, intervention, response, and recovery and healing initiatives. Demand continues to increase year on year – we worked with 2,260 individuals in the previous 2023/24 financial year. Referral numbers for response programs in FY 24/25 was 712 women (not including children) against referral numbers for response programs in FY 23/24 at 650 women (not including children).
- Recent legislative changes have placed additional financial strain on our organisation, resulting in increased pressure on services and programs. These mandated increases have not been matched by funding adjustments from DCJ, leaving us to absorb the full cost burden. This has directly impacted our ability to maintain core services and prevention programs.
- Our prevention and recovery and healing services and supports are unfunded. We have increasingly relied on community donations to sustain our programs. However, this model is no longer viable. Donations, once used to enhance and innovate, are now essential to cover basic operational costs. This shift undermines our capacity to plan, grow, and respond to emerging needs."

Appendix three – Comparison across other states

Table 5 NSW Government funding for domestic and family violence services as compared to Victoria and Queensland, 2024-25 (Impact Economics 2024)

State	Program area	Funding 2024-25 (\$m)	Funding per capita (\$)
NSW	Prevent domestic and family violence, reduce reoffending and support victim safety ⁹	\$326.6	\$38.07
VIC	Family violence service delivery ¹⁰	\$748.1	\$106.52
QLD	Women's safety and violence prevention ¹¹	\$323.3	\$57.39

While reported funding levels are not fully comparable across jurisdictions due to differences in how funding is allocated across program delivery areas, NSW continues to significantly underspend relative to other states.

In 2025, Domestic Violence NSW conducted research examining the impact of investment in domestic and family violence systems in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, compared to NSW (Domestic Violence NSW 2025b). The research aimed to determine whether higher per capita funding in these states led to improved outcomes for victim-survivors.

Findings from these jurisdictions show that structural reform and long-term investment can improve service visibility, coordination and entry-points for victim-survivors. However, these improvements are only effective when supported by robust, integrated data systems that centre victim-survivor outcomes, alongside adequate investment in frontline capacity and culturally-safe support.

Currently, NSW's data system is fragmented, inconsistent and primarily output-focused, making it difficult to assess whether people are safer, more stable and better supported in their recovery following domestic and family violence. At the same time, NSW's domestic and family violence sector is under increasing pressure from rising demand and over a decade of chronic underfunding. Without proportional growth in core funding for the frontline and integrated data systems across states and territories, NSW risks amplifying unmet demand rather than resolving it.

A 50 per cent core funding increase for specialist domestic and family violence services would help bring NSW in line with Queensland, although it would remain far behind Victoria's long-standing investment. This funding increase would mean that more women and children in need of urgent support would get the support they need right away and may even save lives. This would, in-turn, reduce rates of vicarious trauma on the frontline workforce, knowing that more people are getting the support they need.

⁹ Funding is an estimate based on expenditure reported in the NSW 2022-23 Budget Outcomes Statement. As an outcomes statement was not published in 2023-24, funding for 2023-24 and 2024-25 have been estimated by adding the new funding announced in the Budget for each year, assuming multi-year funding is spread evenly over years.

¹⁰ Victorian Government Budget 2024-25, Department Performance Statement.

¹¹ Queensland Government Budget 2024-25, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Justice and Attorney-General.