



Fourth Action Plan (2019–22) to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children – ‘Recognise, Respond, Refer’ and national training for primary care workforce

The Government is boosting support for people affected by domestic violence with an additional \$9.6 million investment to train 5,000 GPs across Australia to respond better to family violence and to expand the successful ‘Recognise, Respond, Refer’ program where health care professionals are trained to recognise and refer domestic violence. This will link primary health care into local domestic and family violence networks and develop local care and how to best refer victims for help. Experts in trauma training and professional development for the health and community sectors will deliver the training.

Why is this important?

Making sure women and children suffering domestic violence get the help and support they need in the right place, at the right time and in the right way, is a priority of the Government.

After family and friends, it is GPs and other primary care providers who survivors of family and domestic violence turn to for support. The quality of the response from the GP has been found to have a deep and profound impact on victims, influencing whether they seek help and support in the future.

Who will benefit?

Victims of family and domestic violence will benefit from better access to services when they need them most. GPs and staff will be better equipped to identify the signs of abuse, sensitively make enquiries, and effectively respond to disclosure.

Up to 5,000 health practitioners and practice staff in metropolitan and rural and remote areas across Australia will be able to better respond to the needs of victims.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$9.6 million from 2019–20 to 2022–23.