

Moving Forward Together to End Violence Against Women and Children

Federal Budget Submission 25/26

As Australian governments and communities work to end the perpetration of violence against women and children, it is important that women and children from all communities, regardless of their cultural background or migration status, are protected and included. This means that we need to develop solutions to prevent violence against women and children that engage the whole community so that we can move forward together toward a safer and more gender-equitable future.

Government strategies to end gendered violence and to advance gender equality clearly recognise that migrant and refugee women make up a priority population that is specifically disadvantaged and therefore disproportionately impacted by gendered violence.¹ It is evident that gendered and racialised disadvantage create an uneven playing field for migrant and refugee women – in workplaces, the health system, education, socially, and in the family.

As Australians are called to respond to the ubiquitous problem of gendered violence, and the economic challenges that face us ahead, and with increasing diversity and complexity of community needs, we must ensure that the most vulnerable people are not left behind. Government must continue to invest in specific programs and initiatives that build equity and safety for migrant and refugee women, and we must ensure that these programs and initiatives are properly coordinated and supported nationally. This will ensure that the whole community is moving ahead together.

¹ Commonwealth of Australia (2023) First Action Plan & Outcomes Framework 2023–2027; Commonwealth of Australia Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2024) Working for Women a Strategy for Gender Equality



The call for investment in tailored programs and national coordination

- 1.** Provide ongoing funding to MCWH to extend its specialist coordination and capacity building role nationally to facilitate national consistency, reduction of duplication, and the sharing of practice wisdom among key stakeholders, including multicultural organisations and communities delivering gendered violence prevention programs and activities.
- 2.** Provide funding to MCWH to engage men and boys from multicultural communities in a program to prevent gendered violence, and develop a national guide for the multicultural sector, multicultural communities and the domestic, family and sexual violence sector.
- 3.** Provide ongoing funding to MCWH and its project partners to deliver in-language education about gendered violence, including domestic, family and sexual violence, and workplace sexual harassment across Australia, utilising the existing infrastructure of the national Health in my Language program.



51.5%

of Australia's population is born overseas or has at least one parent born overseas.

Over

2.6 million

women in Australia are born in a non-English speaking country.

37% of migrant & refugee women told **no one** about their experiences of workplace sexual harassment.

Family violence reporting is **lower** among migrant and refugee women compared to the general population.



In 2023/24, MCWH's education programs reached almost



13,000

participants from

55 cultural backgrounds

The Investment 2025 - 26

To ensure that disadvantaged communities remain front and centre of government investment, and that migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people don't fall further behind, the following investment is needed.

Gender equality, prevention & early response to violence

- a. \$574,564** for MCWH to extend its specialist coordination and capacity building role nationally to facilitate national consistency, reduction of duplication, and the sharing of practice wisdom, among key stakeholders, including multicultural organisations and communities delivering gendered violence prevention programs and activity.
- b. \$594,040** for MCWH to engage men and boys from multicultural communities in a program to prevent gendered violence, and develop a national guide for the multicultural sector, the domestic, family and sexual violence sector and multicultural communities.
- c. \$3,806,036** for MCWH and its project partners to deliver in-language education about gendered violence, including domestic, family and sexual violence, and workplace sexual harassment across Australia, utilising the existing infrastructure of the national Health in my Language program.

Total Investment 25/26

\$4,974,640



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