

## Family & Domestic Violence

The 2024-25 state budget includes significant and critically important investment into family and domestic violence supports, a package totalling \$96.4 million. It is important to note that this investment does not offer the desperately needed funding uplift to crisis support services or crisis accommodation services.

WACOSS would also like to see further investment in prevention, which would align with the four pillars of the National Plan and funding for the implementation of the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy. Nonetheless, WACOSS commends the State Government for this investment and is pleased to see the funding package incorporates various funding commitments for new and expanded services and supports, aligned with the System Reform Plan.

A media release detailing other FDV investments in the 2024 State Budget can be found [here](#).

<b>Initiative</b>	FDV Taskforce – Strengthen Responses (BP2, V2, P503-504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$60.5 million over four years
<b>Description</b>	<p>Package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6 million over 2 years for Aboriginal Family Safety Grants</li> <li>• \$600,000 over 2 years to boost Access to Domestic Violence Counselling</li> <li>• \$2 million over 3 years for Coercive Control Education and First Responder Training</li> <li>• \$6.04 million over 2 years for continuation and expansion of Perpetrator Intervention Programs</li> <li>• \$7 million over 2 years for the Flexible Support Package</li> <li>• \$300,000 over 2 years for the Housing Families Program</li> <li>• \$2.4 million over 1 year for Munda Mia</li> <li>• \$6.6 million over 4 years for a new Perth CBD Women’s Refuge</li> <li>• \$814,000 over 2 years to Preventing Violence Together</li> <li>• \$6 million over 2 years for Primary Prevention Grants</li> <li>• \$4 million over 2 years on a Public Awareness Campaign</li> <li>• \$1.5 million over 2 years to Respectful Relationships</li> <li>• \$14.2 million over 4 years for the Ruah Perth CBD One-Stop Hub</li> <li>• \$3.1 million over 2 years to Safe at Home</li> </ul>
<b>Implications</b>	The initiatives under ‘Strengthen Responses’ are welcome, particularly in primary prevention and early intervention areas which historically has had very little resourcing. Despite this, longer term commitment to these areas would be necessary to create the change we need to see to prevent violence from occurring.

## 2024 - 2025 Budget

	The FDV Perth Hub will offer victim-survivors easier access to support services with a range of community services co-located.
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<b>Initiative</b>	FDV Taskforce – System Reform Plan (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$53.8 million over four years
<b>Description</b>	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$405,000 over 2 years for a Central Information Point</li> <li>• \$25.6 million over 4 years to expand the FDV Response Teams</li> <li>• \$1.9 million over 4 years for a Lived Experience Advisory Group</li> <li>• \$4 million over 4 years for new Crisis Beds</li> <li>• \$6.2 million over 4 years for the development of a Workforce Entity</li> <li>• \$2.06 million over 3 years for administration</li> </ul>
<b>Implications</b>	<p>We are pleased to see funding commitments aligned with the System Reform Plan, created by the FDV Taskforce.</p> <p>Collaborative multi-agency approaches result in better experiences and outcomes for victim-survivors. The expansion of the FDV Response Teams is welcomed. We look forward to the inclusion of Community Corrections Officers in the Response Teams to bring focus to accountability and intervention for people who use violence.</p> <p>A Lived Experience Advisory Group will enable people with lived experience of FDV to contribute their expertise in a formalised process to inform policy and system development and improvement. This is a commitment under the FDV System Reform Plan, developed by the FDV Taskforce. A proposed model of the Lived Experience Advisory Group has been developed by Kwobap Consultancy through consultation and will be implemented as part of the FDV Taskforce funding.</p>

<b>Initiative</b>	Family and Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (BP2, V2, P421)
<b>Investment</b>	\$396,000 over one year
<b>Description</b>	The Department of Justice to undertake consultation on a new family and domestic violence disclosure scheme for victim-survivors.
<b>Implications</b>	This funding will go towards consultation on a disclosure scheme. If further investment is made, victim-survivors will be empowered with the knowledge of whether a person has a documented history of domestic violence.

<b>Initiative</b>	Breathing Space Services in Calista and Maylands (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$4.5 million over one year

<b>Description</b>	Additional funding for men’s behaviour change program ‘Breathing Space’ in Maylands and Calista
<b>Implications</b>	This means Breathing Space will have additional capacity to work with men who have used violence and support them to choose not to use violence. Men’s behaviour change programs are an important component of a system which provides accountability and intervention with men who use FDV. WACOSS called for increased investment in services for men that increase perpetrator accountability in our State Budget Submission 2024-25.

<b>Initiative</b>	FDV Counselling and Advocacy Support Services (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$3.1 million over two years
<b>Description</b>	Uplift to existing FDV community-based counselling and advocacy services.
<b>Implications</b>	This investment means more victim-survivors will have access to vital healing and recovery supports. WACOSS called for this in our State Budget Submission 2024-25.

Additional investments to note include:

- FDV Victim Advocates in the Justice System (BP2, V2, P421) of \$141,000 over two years
- Legislative Responses to Coercive Control (BP2, V2, P421) of \$585,000 over one year
- 16 days in WA Community Grants Program (BP2, V2, P421) of \$2 million over four years
- Kimberley Sexual Abuse Prevention and Support Service (BP2, V2, P421) of \$2.65 million over four years