

Joint Commonwealth agency submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children

6 December 2022

CONTENT WARNING

This submission discusses violence against women and children, missing and murdered women and children, sexual violence and racism. Free advice and support is available online and via telephone 24/7 through the following services:

- [1800RESPECT](#) (1800 737 732) National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service
- [13YARN](#) (13 92 76) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support
- [Beyond Blue](#) (1300 22 4636)
- [Lifeline crisis support line](#) (13 11 14)
- [Kids Helpline](#) (1800 55 1800)
- [Mensline Australia](#) (1300 78 99 78)
- [Blue Knot Foundation](#) (1300 657 380)
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) (1300 659 467)
- [Headspace](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the First Peoples of this country and recognise their continued connection to the land and seas that make up Australia. Collectively, we pay our respects to Elders, past and present. We also pay our respects to all First Nations people with a lived or living experience of violence, and acknowledge the memory of all missing and murdered First Nations people, and their families, across the country.

It is vital to acknowledge that First Nations cultures differ vastly across Australia, and the reciprocity that exists between First Nations people and physical country of origin, which transforms the ecological landscape to a socio-cultural one; this includes honouring the unique beliefs, identities, histories, values and experiences. With this is the fundamental importance to recognise and respect the unique cultures of First Nations people.

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1. Introduction

The Australian Government (the Government) welcomes the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee's inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children, and its focus on both the number of First Nations women and children who are missing and murdered, and the systemic drivers of all forms of violence against First Nations women and children – including the underlying socio-economic, systemic and institutional factors contributing to higher rates of violence. We welcomed the opportunity for departmental representatives to appear before the Committee on 5 October 2022, ahead of providing this submission.

This submission was jointly coordinated by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and the Attorney-General's Department (AGD), with input from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (including Office for Women), Department of Social Services (DSS), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), and the Department of Finance. The submission is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** acknowledges the need for coordinated national responses that centre the voices and views of First Nations women and children
- **Section 3** provides an overview of the submission, including a high-level overview of the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*, the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-32*, and the Government's First Nations Justice package
- **Section 4** outlines Government women and children's safety initiatives to improve First Nations women and children's safety
- **Section 5** discusses data on First Nations family and domestic violence.

We recommend reading this submission in conjunction with the separate submission provided by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), which addresses law enforcement and operational matters.

1.1 Note on terminology

The terms 'First Nations peoples', 'Indigenous peoples' and 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' are used interchangeably throughout this submission due to differing past naming conventions across Government policy and programs.

This submission also uses binary language such as 'women' and 'men' in many places. We recognise that gender is socially constructed and does not exist simply in binary categories. However, these categories have been used in data collection and continue to have real effects on the lives of Australians and thus can be useful to frame discussions about gendered violence. We acknowledge that there are people whose experiences are not captured by the use of binary language, including in LGBTQIA+ communities.

2. Centring voices of First Nations women and children

First Nations experiences and culture must be at the centre of our approach to understand and safeguard First Nations women and children from violence. All levels of governments need to understand the five elements that drive cultural strength – Land, Lore, Language, Family and Ceremony.¹ These elements operate collectively and work to keep culture and community strong, which in turn empowers First Nations peoples to feel safe and proud of their identity.

¹ Paulson G, & Brett, M, '[Five Smooth Stones: Reading the Bible through Aboriginal Eyes](#)', in abridged version of a paper published in [Colloquium: The Australian and New Zealand Theological Review, November 2013](#). See further, Steven Jampijinpa Patrick, Miles Holmes and Lance Box, Ngurra-kurlu: A Way of Working with Warlpiri People [DKCRC-Report-41-Ngurra-kurlu.pdf \(nintione.com.au\)](#); Alice Springs: Desert Knowledge CRC, 2008

Reducing the rates of violence requires community-driven, trauma informed approaches that prioritise cultural healing, family restoration and the strength of First Nations families. Solutions must support frontline and prevention services, while also addressing the structural and systemic drivers of violence.

No single, isolated factor contributes to the experience of interpersonal, family and community violence for First Nations people. Rather, multiple intersectional factors, including ongoing impacts of colonisation, racism and intergenerational trauma, compound experiences of violence. It is therefore critical that national policies and plans are responsive to the multifaceted experiences and adaptive to the circumstances of First Nations women and children, including increased availability of services in remote areas of Australia.

The *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report*² emphasises the importance of self-determined and First Nations women-led responses to achieve systemic change. The report encompasses community safety and references First Nations women who have reported the disappearances and deaths of First Nations peoples. They have expressed a lack of urgency, intent and competency during investigations, and consequently many cases remain unsolved. The *Australian Government response to the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report* responds to the report's recommendations in line with National Agreement obligations.

In line with *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report*, the Government recognises any recommendations from this Inquiry will require community-driven responses and must centre the voices and views of First Nations women and children to capture the strength, knowledge and insights of their lived experiences and cultural authority.

3. Overview

The Government acknowledges that action is required to ensure the safety of all First Nations women and children in Australia, including action to address the underlying systemic factors contributing to violence.

First Nations women and children experience disproportionately higher rates of homicide, family, domestic and sexual violence, child removal and incarceration, and poorer outcomes across health, housing, education and employment. First Nations women aged over 15 are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family and domestic violence, with the figure even higher in remote areas of Australia.³ Research shows that between 2006 and 2020, First Nations women represented 23 per cent of homicides (excluding deaths where Indigenous status was not stated) in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Data also indicates that First Nations women are 3.4 times more likely to experience sexual assault.⁴

Research indicates women and girls with disability are more likely to experience sexual violence (25 per cent compared with 15 per cent of women without disability) and physical violence (40 per cent compared with 26 per cent of women without disability) after the age of 15.⁵ The intersection of disability and gender based violence (perpetuated by individuals of all backgrounds) is an additional risk factor for First Nations women with disability; whose experiences of disability and

² *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Securing Our Rights, Securing Our Future Report: [Wiyi Yani U Thangani Report \(2020\) | Australian Human Rights Commission](#)*

³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019. Cat. no. FDV 3. Canberra: AIHW.

⁴ Based on data from NSW, QLD, SA and the NT. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018. [Family, Domestic and sexual violence in Australia](#) Cat. no. FDV2. Canberra: AIHW

⁵ [People with disability in Australia, Violence against people with disability - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(2022\)](#)

gender compound, further increasing their risk of experiencing family, domestic or sexual violence and leading to greater disadvantage and victimisation.

Under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, all First Nations women and children are entitled to enjoy full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Addressing the issue of missing and murdered First Nations women and children requires a concerted effort, involving all Australian governments.

Under the federal system of government, States and Territories have primary responsibility for child protection and law enforcement, including policing and justice system responses to family and domestic violence. Nevertheless, the Government is committed to increasing the safety of First Nations women and children, and is providing national leadership on a range of important initiatives to respond to discrimination, inequality and gender-based violence, particularly through the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* (National Agreement), the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32* (National Plan) and the First Nations Justice package in the 2022-23 Budget. A First Nations Justice Taskforce is being established within AGD to drive reforms and implement the measures in the First Nations Justice package (outlined at 3.3).

These initiatives are complemented by a range of other frameworks, strategies and action plans, which are outlined throughout this submission.

3.1 National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The National Agreement⁶ holds genuine partnership and shared decision making at its core, and provides a framework to transform the way governments at all levels work with First Nations people. The National Agreement was established in 2020 and centres around four Priority Reforms to transform governments working with First Nations people:

1. Partnership and shared decision-making between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments
2. Building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service sector in agreed outcome areas
3. Transforming mainstream government services to work better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and
4. Building better data and sharing access to the right data to support Indigenous communities to make informed decisions with us.

The National Agreement establishes 17 socio-economic targets, alongside outcomes, for all levels of governments to work towards. The targets and outcomes are interlinked, so the achievement of one target contributes to the success of another. They address key transition points over an individual's life, as well as supports needed at each stage of life. This Inquiry relates to Targets 10 to 13 – particularly Target 13 which aims for the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children to be reduced at least by 50 per cent, as progress towards zero, by 2031.

The National Agreement provides a guide for governments to work together with First Nations peoples to address the inequality experienced by First Nations families, and achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians. The architecture of the National Agreement relies on investment from all parties and a coordinated effort from all jurisdictions in partnership with First Nations peoples.

At the Commonwealth level, the NIAA has a lead role in driving implementation of the National Agreement and its Implementation Plans. This work is done in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks and other First Nations partners, progressed by a Joint Working Group comprising Coalition of

⁶ [Closing the Gap Implementation Plan National Agreement on Closing the Gap | Closing the Gap](#)

Peaks members and Deputy Secretaries from key Australian Government agencies. The Joint Working Group ensures that all levels of government raise their ambitions to achieve sustained progress over the life of the National Agreement.

A number of Commonwealth Ministers have sole or joint responsibility for achieving National Agreement targets relating to this Inquiry. However, the Government commitment to embedding the National Agreement goes further than individual responsibilities of Commonwealth Ministers. All portfolios are responsible for considering how they can meet the targets of the National Agreement, and how they can embed partnership and shared decision-making in their work. To this end, the Government already funds a range of activities to support and achieve National Agreement targets relevant to this Inquiry, which are set out in section 4.1.2

3.2 National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32

The Government is making a record investment of \$1.7 billion to end violence against women and children to support the National Plan (see 4.2).

The National Plan is the cornerstone of the Government's strategy to address family, domestic and sexual violence. It sets the national policy agenda for the next ten years to guide the work of Australian, State and Territory governments, family safety experts and front-line services.

The National Plan acknowledges that family violence is a significant factor contributing to the over-representation of First Nations children in out-of-home care. Fear of child removal remains one of the greatest deterrents for First Nations women to report violence or seek assistance. This fear may be heightened by the current overrepresentation of First Nations children in out-of-home care, ongoing institutional racism and the history of the Stolen Generations.⁷

The development of the National Plan has drawn from existing evidence such as *Changing the picture: A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children* developed by Our Watch and informed by a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Advisory Group, which provided guidance, advice and expertise throughout the project.⁸ *Changing the picture* identifies the specific underlying drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women as the intersection of racism, gendered factors, and the ongoing impacts of colonisation.

The National Plan directly aligns with Target 13 of the National Agreement, and will be supported by two five-year Action Plans and a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan. The National Plan commits to improving and building capacity in mainstream government institutions, services and responses in line with Priority Reform Three of the National Agreement to ensure they are culturally safe and can better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. The National Plan also simultaneously supports building the community-controlled sector to enable community-driven, strengths-based, localised approaches to preventing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in line with Priority Reform Two.

Development of the dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan is being led by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence (Advisory Council), in partnership with Government, and in consultation with First Nations Elders, organisations and communities across Australia. It will deliver a mix of short-term actions to address immediate family safety needs of First Nations peoples and build a strong foundation to support ongoing and long-term change. It is the primary mechanism through which the Australian, State and Territory governments will work to achieve Target 13 under the National Agreement. It is anticipated that the first Action Plan will be released in 2023. The Government has also committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop and deliver a

⁷ [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 \(dss.gov.au\)](https://dss.gov.au/national-plan-to-end-violence-against-women-and-children-2022-2032)

⁸ [Changing the picture – full suite of resources | Suite of resources | Our Watch - Our Watch](#)

standalone First Nations National Plan to address the complex and sensitive factors driving violence against First Nations women and children. The dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan will ensure momentum on efforts to address violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is maintained whilst the pathway and design for the standalone First Nations National Plan are considered.

The National Plan complements the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030* (see 4.31) and *Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031* (see 4.1.4).

3.3 First Nations justice package

As part of the Government's broader First Nations reform agenda, the 2022-23 Budget included a landmark investment of \$99 million over four years to implement a package of complementary measures to turn the tide on the overrepresentation of First Nations people in the criminal justice system. The package, outlined at 4.1.2, includes funding for justice reinvestment initiatives, improved reporting on deaths in custody, and additional funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services to provide culturally-appropriate legal assistance to the families of deceased First Nations individuals in coronial inquiries. Ensuring that these families have access to legal assistance and are therefore able to fully participate in coronial inquests will also contribute to better, more informed inquests – enabling the identification of much-needed reforms to the justice system.

Justice reinvestment aims to invest in locally-tailored initiatives that create safer communities and address the underlying drivers of crime and incarceration. Existing justice reinvestment initiatives, such as the Maragnuka Justice Reinvestment project in Bourke, have a proven record of reducing rates of family and domestic violence, by ensuring communities are resourced to provide prevention and early intervention activities, delivered in a culturally appropriate manner that take into consideration family connections and sensitivities.

This package will complement engagement with States and Territories through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General, where improving Indigenous justice outcomes is a standing agenda item.

3.4 Data and research

Effective data collection and use of data is required to guide meaningful decision-making and evidence-based policy development. Section 5 of this submission sets out existing data sources on First Nations family and domestic violence, and Government-led initiatives and commitments to improve data collection and facilitate and support better data sharing and linkages.

The Government acknowledges there are data gaps that prevent a complete understanding of the experiences of First Nations women and children. Improving the quality of Indigenous identification across all relevant data sets continues to be a priority in order to provide more complete information about family and domestic violence amongst First Nations Australians.⁹

While Australian Government policy departments are responsible for delivering programs and policies to improve the lives of all First Nations peoples, they are informed by data collected by State and Territory governments and data collection agencies, particularly the following:

- **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)**, National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics (NCCJS) – leaders in the production and promotion of national crime, safety and justice statistics to inform policy and service towards a safer Australian community. Primarily, the NCCJS is responsible for compiling nationally consistent and comparable data about people that come into contact with the criminal justice system.

⁹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018: [2.10 Community safety - AIHW Indigenous HPF](#)

- **Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)** – Australia’s national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice, compiling trend data and disseminating research and policy advice. The AIC informs crime and justice policy and practice in Australia by undertaking, funding and disseminating policy-relevant research of national significance.
- **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)** – a major national information and statistics Commonwealth agency within the Health portfolio. The AIHW collates and manages data on health and welfare issues; analyses and turns data into useful information and reports to support better policy and service delivery decisions; and makes data available to government agencies, universities, research centres, and non-government organisations.

While different agencies collect, collate and publish data, research institutes and academia play a key role in piecing together the evidence by undertaking research projects to explore issues in more depth. Examples of relevant research and studies are discussed at 5.5.

4. Women and children's safety initiatives and investment

4.1 Closing the Gap measures

All Government portfolios are responsible for considering how they can meet the targets of the National Agreement, and how they can embed partnership and shared decision-making in their work. To this end, the Government funds a range of activities to support and achieve National Agreement targets relevant to this Inquiry, outlined below.

4.1.1 Increasing the safety of First Nations women and children (Target 13)

Target 13 of the National Agreement calls for the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children to be reduced by at least 50 per cent, as progress towards zero, by 2031.

Of particular relevance to this Inquiry is \$203 million from 2020-21 to 2024-2025 which includes support for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services providers, and an additional capability development measure to support Indigenous organisations and non-Indigenous organisations that provide services to First Nations clients who have experienced family and domestic violence.

The Government has also committed to a further range of measures to address violence against First Nations women and children. Other signature reforms include a \$3 million package for community safety in Alice Springs to deliver additional safety patrols and associated services, early intervention support for First Nations young people and holistic wrap around services that address the impacts of violence; \$2.8 million to deliver the final stage of the *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices)* Project which includes a national summit focused on women's leadership and decision making; \$7.7 million to develop cultural awareness and trauma responsiveness of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous child and family sector workforce; and \$38.6 million for the Closing the Gap Outcomes and Evidence Fund, which will fund Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver projects to people experiencing (or at risk of) child removal and/or family violence, focusing on building an evidence base for service impacts informed by First Nations-specific reporting and evaluation models.

The Government has also funded key measures under the National Plan that work towards achieving Target 13. These are outlined at 4.2.

These national reforms and coordination efforts build on existing Government initiatives, including: 1800RESPECT, MensLine Australia, Safe Places, Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes, No Interest Loan Scheme, Safe Phones, DV-alert, Specialised Family Violence Services and the Escaping Violence Payment which includes a two-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place-based trial being established in the Cairns region.

4.1.2 Reducing incarceration of First Nations adults and young people (Targets 10 and 11)

Target 10 calls for the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration to be reduced by at least 15 per cent by 2031. Target 11 calls for the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention to be reduced by at least 30 per cent by 2031.

While State and Territory governments are primarily responsible for criminal justice systems, the Australian Government plays a key leadership role in achieving these Targets.

The Justice Policy Partnership (JPP)¹⁰, co-led by AGD and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS), is the first of five Policy Partnerships established under the National Agreement. The JPP brings together all levels of government, the Coalition of Peaks, and independent First Nations representatives to take a joined-up approach to Targets 10 and 11.

¹⁰ [Justice Policy Partnership | Attorney-General's Department \(ag.gov.au\)](https://www.ag.gov.au/justice-policy-partnership)

Issues canvassed at JPP meetings include the misidentification of First Nations women as perpetrators of family and domestic violence, First Nations experiences of coercive control, and eliminating systemic racism in policing and justice system institutions.

The Government has committed \$99 million over four years through the 2022-23 Budget for a package of measures to improve First Nations justice outcomes, including \$81.5 million to partner with First Nations communities to establish and expand community-led justice reinvestment activities to address underlying causes of incarceration; and to establish an independent national justice reinvestment unit, as recommended by the Australian Law Reform Commission in its 2018 *Pathways to Justice* report.

Other key measures in the package include \$13.5 million in additional funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS) to provide culturally appropriate legal assistance to First Nations clients in coronial inquiries; \$1 million to build capacity and support the leadership of NATSILS as the peak representative body for ATSILS; \$3 million to support the work of the National Family Violence Legal Services Forum (NFVLPF); and improving accountability in public reporting of deaths in custody.

Through the NIAA Indigenous Advancement Strategy, the Government also supports youth wellbeing and positive behaviour by funding:

- The delivery of a Youth Through Care program in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Victoria that provides intensive case management to First Nations young people transitioning from detention back into their communities
- 21 Community Safety Patrol providers which employ First Nations people to patrol their local communities, and offer culturally sensitive assistance and transportation to a safe place for those at risk of harm
- Custody Notification Services to provide culturally appropriate health and wellbeing checks and basic legal information to all First Nations people brought in to police custody, and help address the risk of First Nations deaths in custody
- The extension of the Youth Engagement Program, which provides holistic, individualised and flexible support to First Nations young people, supporting them to meet the conditions of their bail and court orders.

4.1.3 Legal assistance funding to support First Nations people

The provision of legal assistance is a key mechanism for the Government to support people to access the justice system. The National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) is a national partnership agreement between the Australian, State and Territory governments for the delivery of Commonwealth funded legal assistance. It delivers over \$2.4 billion of Commonwealth funding over five years to legal assistance providers (legal aid commissions (LACs), community legal centres (CLCs) and ATSILS) through States and Territories based on need, capability and service priorities. Additionally, Commonwealth legal assistance funding is provided through various other funding mechanisms, such as grants under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy referred to above.

ATSILS are First Nations-controlled providers of culturally appropriate legal assistance services. Funding ATSILS is a shared responsibility of the Australian Government and all States and Territories. The Australian Government is providing over \$440 million in baseline funding to ATSILS over the life of the NLAP.

First Nations people are also a priority client group for the delivery of legal assistance services by all providers funded through the NLAP, including CLCs and LACs. The number of LAC services to First Nations clients has been trending up over recent years, and based on National Legal Aid data for the

2021-22 financial year, 12% of total LAC services were provided to First Nations clients.¹¹ In addition, 11% of total NLAP-funded CLC services were provided to First Nations clients in 2021-22).¹²

Each State and Territory (except the Northern Territory) has also prepared a Legal Assistance Strategy and Legal Assistance Action Plan to assess each jurisdiction's legal need. AGD is considering how each jurisdiction plans to address the legal needs of First Nations clients in their service delivery and will use this information to inform future funding discussions on First Nations legal assistance.

The delivery of legal assistance services to First Nations people will also be considered as part of the Review of the NLAP which is expected to commence in 2023.

4.1.4 [Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031 \(Safe and Supported\)](#)

Target 12 of the National Agreement is to reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45 per cent by 2031.

Safe and Supported sets out Australia's 10 year strategy to reduce the rates of child abuse and neglect and its intergenerational impacts.

Safe and Supported will be delivered by two sets of action plans, including an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific Action Plan which focuses on disadvantaged and/or vulnerable First Nations children and families. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan has been developed in partnership between Australian, State and Territory governments and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group, in consultation with the non-government sector through the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing, and is expected to be released in December 2022.

4.2 National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32 measures

The National Plan outlines the Government's vision, in partnership with State and Territory governments, to end violence against women and children in one generation.

4.2.1 [Support for First Nations victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence](#)

Of particular relevance to this Inquiry, and to the safety of First Nations women and children, are the following measures from the 2022-23 Budget:

- \$169.4 million over four years to fund 500 additional frontline service and community workers to support women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence, with support targeted to women and children in rural, regional and remote areas; First Nations peoples; the culturally and linguistically diverse community; women with disability; and the LGBTIQ+ community
- Dedicated funding of \$10.7 million to be provided to the Northern Territory under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership, recognising the higher rates of violence and increased complexity of remote service delivery
- The extension of funding for four Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations which provide culturally appropriate Specialised Family Violence Services in the Northern Territory, with a total commitment of \$3.79 million from 2022-23 to 2026-27
- \$87.9 million to extend the Lighthouse Project (a family safety risk screening and specialised case management pilot) to all 15 primary family law registries, and engage additional Indigenous Liaison Officers to further enhance culturally responsive support for First Nations Australians across the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

Broader National Plan measures that will support First Nations women and children include \$100 million for crisis and transitional housing options; investing in a First Action Plan Priorities

¹¹ Provided by National Legal Aid on 26 August 2022, for the period July 2021 – June 2022.

¹² From jurisdictions' Statements of Services and Funding reports for the period January – June 2022.

Fund; providing access to 10 days of paid family and domestic violence leave; and expanding the Family and Domestic Violence Primary Health Network Pilot.

4.2.2 Prevention, early intervention and response initiatives

The 2022-23 Budget provides funding for prevention activities and campaigns to change attitudes and behaviours around violence against women and children. This includes \$83.5 million over six years for high-quality and age-appropriate consent and respectful relationships education to be taught in schools, as well as funding for additional phases of the Stop It at the Start campaign and a national consent campaign. The Stop it at the Start campaign is adapted to reach First Nations audiences. Specialist First Nations suppliers are engaged to deliver culturally appropriate information and to undertake community outreach activities. Furthermore, \$104.4 million over five years has been provided to support the national primary prevention organisation, Our Watch, to implement its mission to prevent violence, deliver on key priorities under the National Plan, boost efforts in prevention for LGBTIQ+ people, women with disability and migrant women, and educate young people about consent.

The Government also funds services for perpetrators seeking to change their behaviour. This includes \$10.8 million to continue funding No To Violence for a Men's Referral Service, confidential telephone counselling and referrals for perpetrators of family and domestic violence to help change their behaviour, the Brief Intervention Service (which provides multi-session telephone counselling to men seeking support to change their violence or controlling behaviour), and \$25.0 million to partner with States and Territories to apply innovative approaches to address family and domestic violence perpetrator behaviour. \$34.8 million has also been provided for a new early intervention trial for young men and adolescent boys aged 12 to 18 years who present with adverse childhood experiences including family or domestic violence, and who are at risk of perpetrating family, domestic or sexual violence.

4.2.3 Building justice sector capability

The Government is providing \$12.6 million over five years from 2022-23 to support a nationally coordinated approach to education and training on family, domestic and sexual violence for community frontline workers, health professionals, and the justice sector. This includes funding for continued judicial education on family and domestic violence through the National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book and the Family Violence in the Court Training program, as well as development of a new training for legal practitioners on coercive control.

The Government has also committed \$4.1 million over four years from 2022-23 to enhance the effectiveness of police responses to family, domestic and sexual violence through the development and delivery of a national law enforcement training package with a focus on five key issues: coercive control, sexual assault, technology facilitated abuse, child safety and targeting attitudes and behaviours. The enhanced law enforcement training package will include content that recognises and addresses barriers and increased risk factors to First Nations women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence, as well as culturally safe policing responses and embed appropriate trauma informed models.

These training measures complement the five-year *Work Plan to Strengthen Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault 2022-27*, endorsed by all Australian Attorneys-General on 12 August 2022, under which the Australian, State and Territory governments will take collective and individual action to improve the experiences of victim-survivors of sexual assault, including First Nations victim-survivors, in the criminal justice system. The Government has also provided funding in the 2022-23 Budget for a range of measures to bolster criminal justice responses to sexual assault and promote consistent outcomes for all victim-survivors of gendered violence.

4.3 Children's safety and wellbeing measures

The Government recognises that all children and young people should be able to grow up safe, supported and connected to family, community and culture. The National Plan recognises children and young people as victim-survivors of gender-based violence in their own right, while many of the outcomes and targets of the National Agreement relate to achieving positive change for First Nations children and young people. The Government is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children, including through the Safe and Supported framework (see 4.1.4). To support the goal of Safe and Supported, the Government is implementing a \$30 million package involving five initiatives, which include:

- \$10 million over five years to collaboratively develop a National Child and Family Investment Strategy to target early intervention to support children and families experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability, by better co-ordinating and reducing duplication between Commonwealth and State and Territory early support services
- \$8 million over five years to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre of Excellence to provide a central point to bring evidence-based and outcomes-focused approaches to the development and delivery of policies and programs affecting vulnerable and disadvantaged First Nations children and young people, including those at risk of, or who have experienced, family and domestic violence, abuse or neglect
- \$2 million over four years to co-design and commence the role of a National Advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, who would work in partnership with the National Children's Commissioner, to support increased oversight of systems affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

4.3.1 Preventing and responding to child sexual abuse

The Government's efforts to address child sexual abuse may also be of interest to this Inquiry, noting the Committee is examining the systemic causes of all forms of violence – including sexual violence – against First Nations women and children, and actions to remove those systemic causes.¹³

First Nations people are a priority group under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030*. The Strategy, which is being developed and implemented by the National Office for Child Safety (National Office), has two measures specifically designed to support and empower First Nations communities:

- Delivering a trauma-aware, healing-informed and culturally appropriate resource to improve early disclosure experiences of, and access to specialist services for First Nations victims and survivors; and
- Developing healing approaches in partnership with First Nations experts, which are place-based and complement the specialist support service system for First Nations victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

The National Office has also developed the *Keeping Our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations* resource to help organisations that engage with First Nations children, young people and communities to become more child safe in a culturally safe way.

Further, the Government has committed \$22.5 million to establish the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse, which has established a dedicated First Nations College as an advisory body, to provide insights, knowledge and expertise from lived experience from their communities.

¹³ As per terms of reference (d) and (e).

4.4 Other relevant measures

The Government is also leading on a range of other national responses to issues concerning justice, legal systems and the safety of women and children, outlined below.

4.4.1 Coercive control

The Government is working with the States and Territories to develop National Principles to Address Coercive Control (National Principles) which will establish a common national understanding of coercive control. Coercive control is often a significant part of family and domestic violence and is a pressing issue that requires a coordinated, national approach. Coercive control involves perpetrators using abusive behaviours in a pattern over time in a way that creates and maintains power and dominance over another person or persons. Perpetrators may use physical or non-physical abusive behaviours, or a combination of both.

The draft National Principles (released for consultation on 16 September 2022) recognise that understanding the experience of coercive control for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities requires considering the context of colonisation, intergenerational trauma, systems abuse and racist policy and practice. The draft National Principles also recognise that the misidentification of First Nations women as perpetrators of family and domestic violence is a significant issue, and that responses to coercive control must not exacerbate discrimination and inequality for First Nations peoples.

As part of the consultation process on the draft National Principles, a tailored consultation strategy for First Nations peoples has been developed. The strategy involves culturally safe, trauma-aware and healing informed roundtable discussions with First Nations participants, and is being delivered by Arrilla Indigenous Consulting in partnership with KPMG. First Nations people are also represented on the stakeholder Advisory Group for the development of the National Principles.

4.4.2 Ensuring the family law system is equipped to support the safety of users

The Government is committed to restoring the family law system so that it is accessible, safe, properly resourced, simpler to use, and delivers justice and fairness for all Australian families. The Government understands that many of the practices and requirements of Australian legal systems are not responsive or culturally appropriate to the needs and strengths of First Nations people, and that they can face a number of barriers to accessing justice.

A number of reforms have been put in place to enhance the ability of Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities to ensure the safety of users of the family law system, including increased information-sharing and the co-location of State and Territory child protection and policing officials in family law courts, culturally sensitive dispute resolution, and joined-up services (including Domestic Violence Units and Health Justice Partnerships).

In addition to the National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book noted at 4.2.3, the Government is funding the development of a National Bench Book on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Legal System. This Bench Book intends to improve access to and delivery of quality, culturally appropriate justice and legal assistance services to First Nations peoples, by better informing judicial officers and legal professionals about the cultural and legal issues faced by First Nations peoples in the justice system and promoting best practice.

4.4.3 Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme

The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme (the Scheme) is a financial and wellbeing package for Stolen Generations survivors who were removed as children from their family or community in the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory prior to self-government, or the Jervis Bay Territory (collectively known as the territories). The Scheme has been funded \$378.6 million over five years as part of the Closing the Gap Commonwealth Implementation Plan and seeks to recognise the harm and trauma experienced by Stolen Generations survivors.

5. Data on First Nations family and domestic violence

Government agencies use and rely on data in different ways. Policy departments are informed by data when conducting their work, while specialist agencies have a range of data collection and analysis functions.

The following section provides an overview of key data sources relevant to this Inquiry, and initiatives the Government is leading to improve data collection and facilitate and support better data sharing and linkages.

5.1 Data collection

A range of data sources contribute to the evidence base to support policy and programs regarding First Nations community safety, assault, homicide, violence prevention, child protection, and juvenile and adult contact with (and outcomes of) the criminal justice system. Australian and State and Territory governments have also made a number of commitments to improve future data collection in these areas. Examples of these sources and commitments are outlined below. A list of the main data resources on Indigenous safety, protection, violence and justice used by the Government is provided at **Attachment A**.

5.1.1 National Missing Persons Coordination Centre

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC) is funded by the Government through the AFP. Its mission is to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons and to educate the Australian community about this significant issue. The NMPCC is committed to driving and coordinating national research in relation to missing persons. Understanding why people go missing is essential for identifying preventative strategies and establishing a coordinated approach across the sector to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons. There is a strong need for research in the missing persons sector, with only a handful of research reports dedicated to the issue in Australia. Research requires access to jurisdictional police records on missing persons.

5.1.2 National Homicide Monitoring Program

Long-term data collections, such as the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP), provide critical information on the prevalence and patterns of homicide victimisation among First Nations women and children. The NHMP compiles data on all incidents, victims and offenders of homicide recorded by Australian State and Territory police. It includes data on Indigenous status of victims and offenders, as well offender history of family and domestic violence (whether as a perpetrator, victim or both).

The NHMP is Australia's only national system with the capacity to monitor homicide incidents, victims and offenders and facilitate detailed analysis of homicide types and trends. NHMP data and its analysis provides an important foundation for the development and implementation of evidence-based policy, including the Government's response to violence against women and children.

5.1.3 Closing the Gap Data Development Plan

The National Agreement committed all Australian, State and Territory governments to establish a Data Development Plan (DDP) to identify appropriate contextual indicators and information to aid reporting. The DDP outlines and prioritises the data development actions under each target of the National Agreement. It is intended to facilitate a richer array of high-quality data sources attached to all targets over the life of the National Agreement.

The final DDP was agreed by the Joint Council in August 2022 and included agreement that all parties develop data to inform progress against the priority reforms and targets. The Commonwealth and jurisdictions will work together to achieve suitable and consistent data to inform on outcomes.

As part of the National Agreement, the Productivity Commission has also developed and maintains a live dashboard of data on all the National Agreement targets and indicators at a national, State and Territory level, available at <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard>.

5.1.4 Indigenous Personal Safety Statistics

The 2021-22 Budget provided \$31.6 million over five years (2021-22 to 2025-26) to collect Indigenous-specific prevalence statistics, noting that the wording in the Budget papers was ‘funding over five years for a new dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Personal Safety Survey’¹⁴. The concept for this data collection was specifically to support measurement of progress towards Target 13 of the National Agreement.

The first step is a feasibility study, which focuses on understanding whether a prevalence of violence survey has the support of First Nations peoples. This will include feedback and consultation with community, peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and national agencies.

In addition, as part of feasibility and scoping work, the ABS has drafted an internal desktop review report focused on government policy data needs and data gaps, and to outline broad statistical solutions to enhance the Indigenous safety statistics evidence base. In progressing this work, consideration will be given to Priority Reform Four of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (shared access to location specific data and information), as well as the way government agencies engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities on data collection, use and governance.

5.1.5 Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia

The AIHW also releases data on *Family, domestic and sexual violence data in Australia*, which brings together a range of sources to report a core set of data in an interactive format, and summarises changes in measures of family, domestic and sexual violence over time. The data complements the AIHW’s *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia* report series which provides additional context and analysis of issues.

5.2 Data gaps and barriers

The Government acknowledges there are gaps and deficiencies with the quality and availability of data on First Nations family and domestic violence.

For example, while previous iterations of the Personal Safety Survey provide a general population level view of violence, it is not designed to collect the unique experiences and prevalence rates of family violence in First Nations communities. Specifically, the survey does not include a nationally representative sample of Indigenous people nor people living in very remote communities¹⁵.

While some national prevalence data is available through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) and ABS releases such as *Recorded Crime – Victims*,¹⁶ and some data is available from individual jurisdictions, these sources do not provide a complete picture of First Nations people’s experience of family, domestic and sexual violence.

Gaps in data collection are exacerbated by significant and complex barriers experienced by First Nations women in regard to reporting violence to police. Barriers to reporting identified in the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards violence against women Survey included: fear of institutional racism, lack of cultural safety, reluctance to access the criminal justice system in response to family

¹⁴ [Women's Budget Statement](#)

¹⁵ [Personal Safety, Australia methodology, 2016 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

¹⁶ [Recorded Crime - Victims, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#) and [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2018-19 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

violence because of the ways in which Indigenous people have been negatively treated in the past, fear that their children will be forcibly removed, and fear of homelessness.¹⁷

Further, there is no nationally consistent approach or requirement for the recording of gender and Indigenous status of people reported missing, and Indigenous identification across all datasets remains incomplete, of poor quality, or not collected. Additionally, it is often difficult to compare existing datasets due to differences in collection methods. Improving the quality of Indigenous identification across all relevant datasets continues to be a priority in order to provide more complete information about family and domestic violence among First Nations peoples.¹⁸ The Government is also working to address these issues through improved data sharing and linkages, discussed below.

5.3 Data sharing

The Government facilitates and supports interjurisdictional data sharing. For example, the Data and Digital Ministers Meeting (DDMM), brings together leaders at the Commonwealth and State and Territory level to collaborate on data and digital transformation. As part of the DDMM, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Data Sharing commits all jurisdictions to share public sector data as a default position, where it can be done securely, safely, lawfully and ethically.¹⁹

The Government recognises that data should be shared as default, where appropriate, between government agencies, non-government organisations and community organisations for collaborative purposes. In this spirit, the *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022* (Cth) establishes a scheme for the sharing of Australian Government data between agencies, States and Territories, and certain other institutions such as universities. Appropriately, the scheme precludes the sharing of data by or with Government law enforcement and intelligence entities.

Under the first National Data Sharing Work Program, the DDMM supported a scoping project on family, domestic and sexual violence. Scoping was completed in February 2022 and included a stocktake of projects across jurisdictions and data sharing approaches, processes and barriers. The DDMM agreed to consider future data sharing priority areas in early 2023 in support of the National Plan, which has a key focus on improved data collection, coordination and consistency.

Priority Reform 4 of the National Agreement recognises that shared access to location specific data and information enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities to obtain a comprehensive picture of what is happening in their communities and make decisions about their future. To facilitate this, the Government has a number of partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to support data access and use by First Nations communities, and strategies to make data more transparent. For example, the ABS Round Table for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics advises the Government on relevant activities including the Census, surveys, data integration and data governance. The Government also supports Engagement Managers, who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander officers, to work directly with communities across Australia to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access and use of ABS data.

5.4 Data linkage

Data linkage/integration is a burgeoning field of analysis and research to assist in building the evidence base to support policy development when there is a strong public benefit in doing so. Linkage projects can provide longitudinal analysis of individuals across various engagements with services, and build understanding of relationships between key drivers of outcomes filling important

¹⁷ [ANROWS: National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey \(NCAS\) - ANROWS - Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety](#)

¹⁸ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2018: [2.10 Community safety - AIHW Indigenous HPF](#)

¹⁹ [Intergovernmental agreement on data sharing fact sheet | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(pmc.gov.au\)](#)

knowledge gaps on challenging social issues. It is important to note that data linkage projects require rigorous assessment of privacy impacts and approvals for each custodian of the data.

The AIHW is investigating relationships between child protection and youth justice datasets and is also working with the ABS linking criminal justice datasets, but this linkage is not yet a feature of ongoing reporting. The NIAA is working in partnership with the AIHW, ABS and AGD to develop the *Justice Spine* data project, which is a longitudinal national data asset linking police recorded criminal offenders in Australia's criminal courts with adult prisoners in the corrective services systems. The dataset will show how people move and interact within and across the justice system nationally, and has potential to be linked to other Australian, State and Territory held datasets for deeper analysis of the characteristics of criminal offenders. If endorsed by data custodians, it will be available in late 2023 and will enable analysis of patterns of offending and policies to reduce recidivism.

The AIHW is also developing an Australian Child Wellbeing Data Asset (ACWDA) under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030*. The ACWDA is a data linkage project that will incorporate data on all aspects of a child's wellbeing and improve our understanding of the interaction between wellbeing factors and a child's journey through the service system. The ACWDA will consider how the conceptualisation of First Nations wellbeing may be unique, and how to account for that in the ACWDA.

5.5 Research and studies

Individual datasets provide a snapshot of populations engaging with services, but are usually not linked, and are thus unable to follow an individual across multiple interactions with services. Research and studies from organisations such as the AIC assist to piece together the known evidence about missing and murdered Australians, including First Nations women and children.

For example, the 2020 Family and Community Safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (FaCtS) Study²⁰, led and governed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in collaboration with urban, rural and remote communities, considered what is needed to reduce family violence and generate evidence into its origins. The FaCtS study found that family and community violence are significant causes of morbidity and mortality in First Nations communities and populations, and that colonisation and related violence enacted on First Nations peoples and communities, perpetuated by intergenerational trauma and the undermining of traditional gender structures, is at the root of this violence. The study also found that the catalysts of violence are housing problems, racism, financial stress, alcohol and other drug use, poor physical health, poor social and emotional wellbeing – including poor mental health – unemployment, contact with and lack of support from the policing and justice systems, and incarceration.

Another example is the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework* (HPF) report²¹ series, which provides a valuable evidence resource for high level population outcomes on health, social determinants and health system performance including measures of [community safety](#), [child protection](#) and [contact with the criminal justice system](#). This resource provides evidence across many datasets by sex, jurisdiction and sometimes remoteness, including on homicide, hospitalisation for assault, experiences of physical and threatened violence, and draws upon published research and evaluations. The HPF has not, as yet, included analysis of missing persons, although this could be explored.

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) is another important project, being the first high-quality, nationally representative study of all five forms of child maltreatment (sexual abuse,

²⁰ [Family and Community Safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples \(FaCtS\) Study \(Guthrie et al 2020\)](#)

²¹ www.indigenoushpf.gov.au/

physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and exposure to family and domestic violence), including the long-term mental and physical health outcomes and the burden of disease related to child maltreatment.²² The ACMS will be released publicly in March 2023, but will not include disaggregated data for First Nations people. Under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030*, the National Office of Child Safety has funded a second wave of the ACMS which will include estimates for key groups – including First Nations people – who require differing methodology to ensure the study findings are culturally safe, accessible, and that systemic bias is not embedded into the research design and findings. Work on the scoping study for the wave 2 is commencing now, with results expected to be available 2026-27

The AIC is also undertaking a number of public surveys focused on the use of internet pornography and social media/dating applications, and their role in sexual violence. The AIC surveys will canvass the experiences of violence within a nationally representative sample of respondents, including First Nations women, in relation to these forms of technology. This information will help address a lack of understanding of how technology intersects with the systemic causes of violence against First Nations women and children, and of the prevalence of technology-facilitated violence victimisation within this population. The link between pornography, especially internet pornography, and sexual violence is well established²³, while emergent research points to the various ways that social media and dating applications can facilitate sexual and other forms of violence.²⁴

In addition, research into the experiences of technology facilitated abuse of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women from regional and remote communities was released in August 2021 under the Fourth Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022*, and the eSafety Commission provided grants to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations for the development of resources and training to support First Nations women and children experiencing technology-facilitated abuse.

²² [The Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#)

²³ [The role of emerging communication technologies in experiences of sexual violence: A new legal frontier? \(aifs.gov.au\)](#)

²⁴ [Sexual harassment, aggression and violence victimisation among mobile dating app and website users in Australia | Australian Institute of Criminology \(aic.gov.au\)](#)

Attachment A

Main data sources on Indigenous safety, protection, violence and justice

Data Source	Indigenous status collected?	Collected by	Coordinating Agency	Comment
Missing Persons	Variable quality. Data reported for NSW, Vic, SA, NT	States & Territories	National Missing Persons Coordination Centre, AFP	Routine quantitative analysis is not done. Analysis requires research into data held by jurisdictional police
National Child Protection Data Collection e.g out-of-home care	Yes	States & Territories	AIHW	Tasmanian Indigenous status data requires caution as status is no longer cross-checked with other databases
National Hospital Morbidity Data e.g assault hospitalisations	Yes	States & Territories	AIHW	Can yield family violence related assault when relationship to perpetrator is a family member – however, this is likely under-reported.
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2014-15, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2018-19	Yes	ABS	ABS	Self-reported experience of physical or threatened violence in last 12 months and relationship to perpetrator. Significant limitations, potential under-reporting/self-censoring of experiences of violence as surveys are conducted in face to face interviews in the respondents' home
National Homicide Monitoring Program	Yes	States & Territories police data and National Coronial Information System	AIC	The National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) collates data from police services, the National Coronial Information System and court documents on homicide (murder, manslaughter, infanticide) incidents, victims and offenders. AIC provided the Committee with a detailed submission to this Inquiry.
Police e.g. recorded crime	NSW, Qld, SA and NT	States & Territories	ABS	
Criminal Courts e.g. defendants	NSW, Qld, SA and NT	States & Territories	ABS	

National Prisoner Census e.g. incarceration rates	Yes	States & Territories	ABS	WA – Indigenous status collection differences
National Corrective Services corrective custody, adult community-based orders	Yes			WA – Indigenous status collection differences
Youth Justice National Minimum Dataset	Yes	States & Territories	AIHW	
Specialist Homelessness Services Collection	Yes	States & Territory services funded under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement	AIHW	
National Community Mental Health Care Database mental health service contacts	Varying quality of Indigenous identification across jurisdictions, Indigenous status missing in 5% of contacts	States & Territories	AIHW	
Alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services	Yes	States & Territories (publicly funded services), but not all Indigenous specific AOD services are included	AIHW	
Population and Housing Census – Homelessness data	Yes	ABS	ABS	
Personal Safety Survey (PSS)	Not able to be reported	ABS	ABS	An Indigenous specific PSS is being developed.

Note: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW); Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)