

# Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–2026

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**YEAR 8 HIGHLIGHTS CARD 2022–23**  
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**Queensland**  
Government

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## Our journey so far

Queensland's domestic and family violence (DFV) reform journey maintains momentum in its eighth year of implementation of the **Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–2026** (the Strategy). Robust foundations were set by the Government response to the **Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland** report (2015), which set the vision and direction for this significant reform agenda – **a Queensland free from DFV**.

We are realising this vision through targeted efforts across a series of action plans to change attitudes and behaviours toward DFV, integrate service responses and strengthen justice system responses so that victim-survivors are safe and people using violence are held to account.

The **First Action Plan (2015–16)** under the Strategy established the foundations and transformed the way government and community work together to address DFV. The **Second Action Plan (2016–17 to 2018–19)** saw continued efforts to make meaningful change, while the **Third Action Plan (2019–20 to 2021–22)** embedded cultural change and encouraged continued community ownership of Queensland's DFV reforms.

Sustaining this momentum, the **Fourth Action Plan (2022–23 to 2025–26)** renews the focus on activating community-driven change. It recognises the strengths and cultural wisdom of First Nations peoples and prioritises embedding approaches that are co-designed, culturally appropriate and reflect self-determination. It includes actions to prepare the DFV service and justice systems for commencement of our coercive control legislative changes, and places focus on strengthening responses to people using violence.



Implementation of the Government response to the recommendations outlined in ***Hear her Voice – Report One – Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland*** (Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce) is well underway with most of the actions in the Fourth Action Plan mirroring Government’s commitments to implement these recommendations, with a strengthened focus on the prevention of DFV and responses to people using violence.

The DFV reforms also encompass the recommendations arising from ***A Call for Change Commission of Inquiry into QPS responses to DFV*** – the final report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence. These recommendations are intended to drive structural and cultural change within the Queensland Police Service and ensure all police officers understand and respond appropriately to DFV calls for service.

Significant progress is already being made to implement the actions in the Fourth Action Plan. This includes the development of the *Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence System Monitoring and Evaluation Framework* (forthcoming) and associated indicator matrix to guide ongoing, system-level monitoring and evaluation efforts.

The forthcoming new *Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence System Monitoring and Evaluation Framework* is proposed to replace and expand upon the existing [Evaluation Framework for the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy \(2016–2026\)](#) and its associated [Revised Indicator Matrix](#). This approach supports ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities under the Strategy while allowing for a system-level approach to monitoring and evaluating the broader domestic and family violence (and sexual violence) reforms. This is appropriate given the significant expansion of the DFV reform agenda following the Government’s support (or in-principle support) for all 89 of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations. Annual highlights reports will be released until the end of the Strategy in 2026.

We maintain a commitment to working together at all levels of leadership and with the community to realise our vision of a Queensland free from DFV. We also maintain a commitment to critically examine what more can be done to keep victim-survivors safe and hold people using violence to account.

## Our impact to date

The three previous action plans were independently reviewed to determine the effectiveness of the foundational work to embed the foundational elements of the Strategy and determine outcomes resulting from system-wide reform initiatives occurring across Queensland.

The structured reviews of the first and second action plans were largely process-focused, however they identified some early outcomes. The First Action Plan review found there were strong foundations in place to deliver long term reforms, and that there was genuine enthusiasm around creating change and improving responses to DFV among stakeholders. The Second Action Plan review found that progress was being driven in part by strong leadership, collaboration and innovation.

The Third Action Plan structured review identified positive outcomes across the three foundational elements of the Strategy, which are:

- 1) Shifting community attitudes and behaviours
- 2) Integrating service responses
- 3) Strengthening justice system responses.

The review showed that more Queenslanders are aware of the physical signs of DFV, and more communities and workplaces are taking action against DFV. The review also showed improvements in information sharing and the integration of frontline services, as well as improvements within the criminal justice system such as specialist DFV courts and services. It identified that further efforts are required to achieve generational changes in attitudes and behaviours and suggested that work continues to consolidate, embed and evaluate reforms to integrate service delivery to determine the extent to which these are leading to quality outcomes for victim-survivors and people using violence.

The first [Women's Safety and Justice Reform Annual Report \(2022–23\)](#) also showed significant progress with implementing the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce which reflect actions in the Fourth Action Plan.

### Some of our key achievements are:

- » rollout of the Respect program, respectful relationships education hub, and supporting resources to all Queensland schools along with tailored professional development for state school staff to strengthen delivery of respectful relationships education; all state schools have also been provided with Teacher Relief Scheme funding to allow teachers additional time for curriculum planning and/or professional development
- » enhanced resourcing and expansion of High Risk Teams across Queensland, with three new locations announced (Townsville, which has already commenced operations, Rockhampton, and Redlands); this brings the High Risk Team count to 11 locations (9 currently operational), up from the three initial trial sites outlined for action in the First Action Plan under the Strategy
- » revision, continued promotion and uptake of the DFV Common Risk and Safety Framework and aligned risk assessment tools to improve Queensland's approach to recognising, assessing and responding to DFV
- » collaboration with states, territories and the Commonwealth Government to deliver the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–32](#).

In October 2023, the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Bill 2023 was introduced to Parliament, providing for a new, stand-alone offence of coercive control. The offence (if passed) will carry a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and will criminalise conduct of an adult where the person is in a domestic relationship with another person; the person engages in a course of conduct against the other person that consists of domestic violence (DV) occurring on more than one occasion; the person intends the course of conduct to coerce or control the other person; and the course of conduct would, in all the circumstances, be reasonably likely to cause the other person harm (with 'harm' defined in the Bill to mean any detrimental effect on the person's physical, emotional, financial, psychological or mental wellbeing, whether temporary or permanent).

As government continues to take action to change attitudes and behaviours towards DFV, enhance integrated service responses and strengthen justice system responses, we will continue making progress to keep victim-survivors safe and hold people using violence to account.

## Structure of this report

This Year 8 Highlights Card provides analysis of key indicators of change. This includes data dating back to 2020, where possible.<sup>1</sup> The Strategy and the Fourth Action Plan contain one primary long-term outcome underpinned by seven supporting outcomes. Highlights from 2022–23 are outlined under each outcome area below.

### Core measures of success

The key outcome of the Strategy is: **all Queenslanders live safely in their own homes and children can grow and develop in safe and secure environments**. The indicators used to measure the extent of this outcome are outlined in Table 1.

The Strategy is showing strong signs of impact, particularly in relation to community willingness to act by calling police in response to observing or becoming aware of DFV. The central tenet of the Strategy was ‘Not now, not ever’ which was backed by a strategy for cultural transformation to change attitudes and behaviours condoning violence against women, focused on prevention of DFV and where DFV is already occurring, preventing further harm and victimisation. It is everyone’s responsibility to take a stand, step up and commit to change.

The percentage of Queensland adults in 2022–23 who would call the police if they saw or were aware of DFV involving their neighbours was 30.6 per cent for non-physical violence and 72.2 per cent for physical violence. The Queensland Government is continuing our focus on ensuring adult Queenslanders can recognise, respond and refer those who are at risk of or experiencing DFV, or using violence, through the implementation of a state-wide communication and engagement strategy focused on increasing community awareness and understanding of DFV and coercive control.

The five-year average of homicides in a DFV relationship (2018–19 to 2022–23) was 22.8 deaths. This has trended down each year for the past five years. Since 2006–07 (to 30 June 2023), there have been 413 deaths resulting from homicide in a DFV relationship in Queensland. Any life lost to violence is unacceptable and government is committed to preventing future deaths. To this end, we will continue to prioritise implementation of the Queensland Government’s response to recommendations made by the DFV Death Review and Advisory Board as this is our best evidence of factors that have contributed to DFV homicides, and what can be done to reduce them.

Ninety-four per cent of Queensland adults reported that they feel safe from DFV. This figure has remained steady since 2020.

**Table 1: Core measures of success: Primary outcomes of the Strategy**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Increased community willingness to call the police in response to DFV	Queensland adults who would call the police if they saw or were aware of non-physical DFV involving their neighbours (Source: Queensland Social Survey)	30.6%	25.8%	32.2%	33.6%
	Queensland adults who would call the police if they saw or were aware of physical DFV involving their neighbours (Source: Queensland Social Survey)	72.2%	65.8%	68.5%	77.5%
Reduced deaths related to DFV	Queensland homicides in a DFV relationship from 2018–19 to 2022–23 (Source: DFV Death Review Advisory Board Annual Reports – five-year average)	23	24	25	26
Increased percentage of Queenslanders who feel safe from DFV	Queensland adults who strongly agree or agree that in general they feel safe from DFV (Source: Queensland Social Survey)	94.0%	94.4%	93.5%	95.1%
DFV victims report feeling safe and supported	This measure is captured by data under ‘Queenslanders take a zero-tolerance approach to DFV’ and ‘Respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour are embedded in our community’ below.				

## 2022–23 Highlights by Domain (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)



### Queenslanders take a zero tolerance approach to domestic and family violence (DFV)

Coercive control legislation has been introduced sending a clear signal that there is no tolerance for any form of DFV.

The data shows adult Queenslanders are aware of the behaviours that constitute DFV, with some disparity between those who are aware it is DFV and those who consider the behaviours to be 'serious'.

The proportion of Queenslanders who said they would take action if they saw or were aware of either physical or non-physical violence involving neighbours increased by 2.4 and 3.6 percentage points, respectively, between 2021–22 and 2022–23.



### Respectful relationships and nonviolent behaviour are embedded in our community

There has been an increase in the number and proportion of schools using the Department of Education's Respect program.

Since 2020, a high proportion (over 95%) of adult Queenslanders agreed that teaching children about respectful attitudes and behaviours in relationships will help reduce DFV in the future.

79.6 per cent agreed that DFV is more likely to occur where one partner in a domestic relationship believes themselves to be superior to their partner because of their gender. This figure has been relatively steady since 2020.

Approximately 2 in 3 (63.3%) Queenslanders agreed that reducing gender inequality in society will help to reduce DFV in Australia.



### Queensland workplaces / workforce challenge attitudes contributing to violence and effectively support workers

In 2020, a requirement was introduced for Queensland Government departmental employees to complete the *Recognise Respond Refer* eLearning program, or an agreed alternative and there are now more employees participating in DFV awareness raising programs compared to previous years. Queensland Government staff have also shown consistently high confidence in responding appropriately to a colleague or employee affected by DFV.



### Queensland community, business, religious, sporting and government leaders take action and work together

Fifty-eight (58) events were listed on the DFV Prevention Month calendar (May 2023), compared with 65 the previous year. Event organisers include individuals in the community (11 events), non-government organisations and foundations (39 events), government organisations (2 events) community groups (6 events). Events ranged from galas to BBQs and family fun days.

In 2022–23, 11 community organisations received *Safe and Diverse Communities* grants totalling \$247,222, to respond to and prevent DFV and sexual violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

In 2022–23, 53 organisations were awarded *Investing in Queensland Women* grants to lead projects and events to create positive change for women and girls. The estimated number of participants at these events was 577,981 people (an average of 10,905 participants per event). This is relatively consistent with the previous grants rounds and suggests the grant program is successful in supporting community initiatives and events that advance the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls in Queensland, including those that are impacted by DFV.



### Victim-survivors and their families are safe and supported

The number of people on the Housing Register with a DFV indicator who were allocated social rental housing has steadily increased since 2020, with 3,292 people allocated housing in 2022–23 while 1,173 people had their social housing tenancies transferred to government-managed social rental housing as a result of DFV.

In 2022–23, 91,455 total calls were made to DVConnect Womensline and Mensline. Following an increase in calls to DVConnect in 2020 (128,829 callers, coinciding with the onset of COVID-19), the number of calls received has steadily returned to the pre-2020 baseline of around 84,000 callers.



### Perpetrators (people using violence) stop using violence and are held to account

Funded DFV organisations have reported increased referrals and demand for perpetrator interventions, and the data shows an increase in the number of people using violence who have completed a behaviour change program (both in Correctional Centres and in the community). Approximately 2,200 people were assessed by a funded service provider delivering behaviour change programs as having reduced their use of DFV in each of the past 2 years.

In response to this increased demand, Government has committed an additional \$25.5 million over four years and \$4.4 million ongoing to perpetrator intervention related reforms.



### The justice system deals effectively with DFV

Since 2016, there has been an increase in DFV related matters attended by QPS (87,102 in 2016 compared to 171,714 in 2023). In 2023, this has resulted in an average of approximately 470 DFV related callouts each day.

More people are recognising behaviours that constitute DFV and are seeking help. Of these callouts, 15 per cent (26,215) resulted in a police-initiated DV application (including Police Protection Notices).

Since 2020, there has been an increase in the number of reported breaches of DV orders (up 76 per cent from 33,747 in 2020 to 59,396 in 2023). This may in part be due to increased awareness, education or confidence in the system and may also be the result of the introduction of capabilities for victim-survivors to report DFV incidents online during the pandemic.

In the 2022–23 financial year, duty lawyers provided a total of 26,320 hours of legal assistance and advice to aggrieved persons and respondents involved in DFV matters. There has been an increase in the number of hours provided by duty lawyers since 2020, which is consistent with the reports of increased pressure and demand on Queensland Courts.



## Domain 1 – Queenslanders take a zero tolerance approach to DFV

All Queenslanders have a role to play in contributing to a culture of zero tolerance towards DFV so that every person across Queensland feels safe, supported, and protected from all forms of DFV. First responders, witnesses and bystanders to DFV should be supported to recognise, respond, and refer effectively, and people using violence should be held to account and assisted to stop using violence through initiatives such as behaviour change programs. To achieve this, all Queenslanders need to play their part and say ‘not now, not ever’ to DFV.

Each year, a representative sample of adult Queenslanders are asked a series of questions about their awareness, views and action on DFV through the Queensland Social Survey.<sup>2</sup> As evident in Table 2 below, Queensland adults have shown consistently high levels of awareness of the behaviours that constitute DFV, such as harassing a partner via repeated phone or electronic means, denying a partner access to money or repeatedly criticising a partner to make them feel bad or useless. While high proportions of community awareness are positive, there is more work to be done if we are to achieve the goal of zero tolerance to all forms of DFV.

**Table 2: Proportion of Queensland adults that are aware of the behaviours that constitute DFV and proportion of Queensland adults that consider these behaviours to be serious (Source: Queensland Social Survey)**

Indicator and Measures (methods of measurement)	2023	2022	2021	2020
Proportion of Queensland adults who think the following behaviours are forms of DFV				
Repeatedly criticising partner to make them feel bad or useless	97.4%	96.6%	96.1%	
Trying to control partner by denying them access to money	95.7%	94.9%	93.9%	96.8%
Harassing partner via repeated phone or electronic means	97.9%	96.1%	96.0%	98.2%
Trying to control partner by preventing them from seeing family and friends	96.5%	95.3%	95.0%	97.2%
Threatening to share intimate, rude or sexual images of the other without partner permission	96.5%	95.3%	93.9%	97.9%
Proportion of Queensland adults who think the following behaviours are very or quite serious				
Repeatedly criticising partner to make them feel bad or useless	94.6%	95.2%	94.9%	
Trying to control partner by denying them access to money	93.7%	93.1%	95.0%	94.1%
Harassing partner via repeated phone or electronic means	94.4%	94.8%	94.5%	95.5%
Trying to control partner by preventing them from seeing family and friends	93.4%	94.5%	94.3%	96.2%
Threatening to share intimate, rude or sexual images of the other without partner permission	98.7%	97.8%	97.3%	98.1%

\*Shaded cells indicate that no data was available that year as the question was not included in the survey for that year.

When offered a hypothetical scenario on whether they would act if they saw or became aware of either physical or non-physical DFV involving their neighbours, a larger proportion of adult Queenslanders said they would act if they saw physical DFV, than non-physical DFV (see Table 3 below). This result has been consistent since this question was first introduced in 2020. The data also shows that approximately one in five Queenslanders (18.3 per cent) said they ‘wouldn’t do anything’ if they saw or were aware of non-physical DFV involving their neighbours, and nearly half of this cohort (43.5 per cent) said the reason they wouldn’t do anything was that ‘it was not their responsibility, it was a private matter or that it was up to the victim’. This is why we are continuing to focus our efforts on community education and awareness as to the harm that results from non-physical DFV, including coercive control.

**Table 3: Proportion of Queensland adults who would take action if they saw or were aware of physical DFV and non-physical DFV involving their neighbours (Source: Queensland Social Survey)**

Queensland Social Survey item	2023	2022	2021	2020
Queensland adults who would take action if they saw or were aware of <b>physical</b> DFV involving their neighbours	92.1%	89.7%	91.6%	93.3%
Queensland adults who would take action if they saw or were aware of <b>non-physical</b> DFV involving their neighbours	73.6%	70.0%	72.5%	70.7%

In October 2023, the Queensland Government introduced the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 for a new, stand-alone offence of coercive control. The offence will carry a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and will criminalise conduct of an adult where the person is in a domestic relationship with another person; the person engages in a course of conduct against the other person that consists of DV occurring on more than one occasion; the person intends the course of conduct to coerce or control the other person; and the course of conduct would, in all the circumstances, be reasonably likely to cause the other person harm (with ‘harm’ defined in the Bill to mean any detrimental effect on the person’s physical, emotional, financial, psychological or mental wellbeing, whether temporary or permanent).

To maximise the potential for these legislative amendments to be effective and reduce any unintended consequences, implementation is being supported by efforts to improve education, community awareness and understanding, and to strengthen court responses. It is anticipated that the planned whole-of-government and community DFV training framework, communication strategy and primary prevention plan will contribute to further educating the public about safely and appropriately intervening where they identify that DFV in any form, including coercive control, is occurring. Implementation of these initiatives will be monitored and evaluated, and the legislative changes will be reviewed five years following commencement to mitigate and address any adverse impacts of this legislation.

Witnesses and bystanders to DFV can play a critical role in supporting victim-survivors of DFV. As evident in Table 4, willingness to act depended on the relationship with the victim-survivor of DFV. Of the Queensland adults who ‘acted’ after becoming aware of DFV, 83 per cent did so after seeing or becoming aware of DFV involving a family member or close friend, compared with 71.7 per cent where the DFV involved people they don’t know well and only 61.5 per cent where the DFV involved a neighbour.

**Table 4: Queensland adults who have seen or become aware of DFV and have acted in response, by relationship with the victim-survivor (Source: Queensland Social Survey)**

Queensland Social Survey item	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>DFV involving a family member or close friend</b>				
Proportion of Queensland adults who saw or were aware of DFV involving a family member or close friend in the last 12 months	17.5%	15.3%	17.3%	15.9%
Proportion of Queensland adults who acted after being made aware of DFV involving a family member or close friend in the last 12 months	83.0%	81.5%	74.2%	85.2%
<b>DFV involving a neighbour</b>				
Proportion of Queensland adults who saw or were aware of DFV involving a neighbour in the last 12 months	8.9%	9.8%	10.8%	10.5%
Proportion of Queensland adults who acted after being made aware of DFV involving a neighbour in the last 12 months	61.5%	52.3%	60.2%	63.3%
<b>DFV involving people they don't know well</b>				
Proportion of Queensland adults who saw or were aware of DFV involving people they don't know well in the last 12 months	15.2%	14.8%	17.4%	16.0%
Proportion of Queensland adults who acted after being made aware of DFV involving people they don't know well in the last 12 months	71.7%	67.9%	74.7%	55.0%

## Domain 2 – Respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour are embedded in our community

To end DFV, the principles of respect and value for one another need to be reinforced throughout the community. Strengthening positive, respectful and equal relationships is a focus of government policy nationally and in Queensland, driven by the political commitment to shift community attitudes early to prioritise women's safety. The latest data shows there has been an increase in the number of state schools using the Department of Education's Respect program or other respectful relationships materials (898 schools, up from 579 in 2022), with a higher proportion reporting the use of non-departmental resources in 2023 (see Table 5). The Respect program is currently being evaluated as part of the Government response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports, including efforts to increase the number and proportion of state schools utilising the program.

**Table 5: Number and proportion of Queensland state schools using the Respect program or other respectful relationships materials (Source: Department of Education School Information Collection Tool)**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2023	2022
Schools embed respectful relationships and gender equality within their school community	Queensland state schools report implementing the Department of Education's Respect program	340 26.9%	181 14.4%
	Queensland state schools report implementing other respectful relationships materials	558 44.2%	398 31.6%

\*2022 was the first year data was collected for this indicator.

The Queensland Department of Education undertakes an annual School Opinion Survey to seek views from students, parents/guardians and staff on a range of topics, including seeking perceptions on aspects of school culture such as views on fairness, safety, equality and respectful relationships (see Table 6). The 2021, 2022 and 2023 School Opinion Survey results indicate broadly there are high levels of agreement that staff, students and parents/guardians perceive their school to foster a culture of safety and respect. Approximately 90 per cent of staff and parents surveyed in 2023 said their (respective) schools foster respectful relationships among all students. Students tended to agree, with nearly 90 per cent also reporting that their school encourages students to respect one another. School Opinion Survey results are most meaningful at the school level and can provide schools with opportunities to improve, relevant to their context.

**Table 6: Department of Education School Opinion Survey items and responses<sup>3</sup>**

Participant	Survey item	2023	2022	2021
PARENT	This school fosters respectful relationships among all students.	89.4%	89.4%	88.1%
STUDENT	My school encourages students to respect one another.	91.6%	90.2%	89.6%
STAFF	This school fosters respectful relationships among all students.	92.4%	92.1%	90.6%
PARENT	This school treats students equally, regardless of gender.	90.8%	91.3%	90.4%
STUDENT	My school treats students equally, regardless of gender.	78.9%	75.0%	72.7%
STAFF	This school promotes gender equality.	94.7%	95.0%	94.9%

The Queensland Social Survey also addresses public perceptions on respect and equality. The proportion of adult Queenslanders who agreed that teaching children about respectful attitudes and behaviours in relationships would help reduce DFV in the future, has remained consistently high at around 97 per cent since 2020 (see Table 7), while approximately four out of five Queenslanders (approximately 80 per cent) agreed that DFV is more likely to occur when one partner in a domestic relationship believes themselves to be superior to their partner because of their gender. This data will continue to be monitored to ensure the Queensland community understands the importance of respectful relationships and gender equality.

As outlined in Table 7, approximately two in three Queensland adults in 2023 strongly agreed or agreed with the statement 'Reducing gender inequality in society will help to reduce DFV in Australia' (63.3 per cent). A slightly higher proportion strongly agreed or agreed with the statement 'When one partner in a domestic relationship believes themselves to be superior to their partner because of their gender, DFV is more likely to occur' (79.6 per cent). The Queensland Government is currently developing a comprehensive and integrated primary prevention plan and a communication strategy to increase community awareness and understanding

about the nature and impacts of DFV, including coercive control, so the community is prepared when the legislative amendments against coercive control commence.

**Table 7: Proportion of Queensland adults who believe it is important to educate children about respectful relationships to reduce DFV in the future and proportion who understand the link between gender inequality and DFV (Source: Queensland Social Survey)**

Queensland Social Survey item	2023	2022	2021	2020
Proportion of Queensland adults who ‘strongly agree or agree’ with the statement, ‘Teaching children about respectful attitudes and behaviours in relationships will help reduce DFV in the future’	97.3%	97.8%	96.3%	97.3%
Proportion of Queensland adults who ‘strongly agree’ or ‘agree’ with the statement, ‘When one partner in a domestic relationship believes themselves to be superior to their partner because of their gender, DFV is more likely to occur’	79.6%	78.8%	77.1%	83%
Proportion of Queensland adults who ‘strongly agree’ or ‘agree’ with the statement, ‘Reducing gender inequality in society will help to reduce DFV in Australia’	63.3%	67.4%	65.1%	67.5%

## Domain 3 – Queensland community, business, religious, sporting and all government leaders are taking action and working together

To end DFV in Queensland, leaders from all communities and sectors must take action and collaborate to create the necessary cultural change. Throughout the life of the Strategy, community, business, faith, sport and government leaders have participated in driving reform and embracing changes and innovation within their own organisation to provide better support for victim-survivors and demonstrate respectful relationships.

The month of May each year marks Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in Queensland, an annual initiative to raise community awareness of DFV and the support services available. The theme for 2023 was ‘*It’s in our control to end coercive control*’ (#endDFV, #endcoercivecontrol, #DFVPM2023). In 2023, 58 events were registered on the community events calendar compared with 65 events in 2022 (see Table 8). Events were organised by individuals in the community (11 events), non-government organisations and foundations (39 events), government organisations (2 events) and community groups (6 events). Events ranged from galas and summits to candlelight vigils for victim-survivors of DFV and community BBQs. The Queensland Police Service also hosted a podcast series over the month, publicly releasing five episodes to increase awareness of the wider impacts of, and help available for DFV.

In 2022–23, 11 community organisations received [Safe and Diverse Communities grants](#), totalling \$247,222, to respond to and prevent DFV and sexual violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Examples include Ethni Inc which received a grant to engage and educate young women from refugee and migrant backgrounds in the Logan area about how to address the issues of safety and identify and respond to the impacts of DFV and sexual violence, and The Migrant Centre Organisation Inc which received a grant to deliver culturally sensitive training to community and religious leaders to increase their awareness of DFV and sexual violence and prevention strategies, access to DFV information and services, and improve victim support in the Southport region.

In 2022–23, 53 organisations were awarded [Investing in Queensland Women grants](#) averaging approximately \$10,500 in value each, to lead projects and events designed to create positive change for women and girls.

Based on reporting, the estimated total number of participants at these events was 577,981 people, which averages to 10,905 participants per event. This is relatively consistent with the previous grants round in 2020–21, which saw 59 grants awarded at an average value of \$9,150, and attendance averaging around 13,200 people per event. These figures suggest the grant program is successful in supporting a range of community initiatives and events that advance the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls in Queensland, including those that are impacted by DFV.

The DFV Prevention Council has recently reflected upon their observations of the collaborations between the philanthropic, business and community sectors that are delivering innovative solutions in both DFV service delivery and prevention education and awareness.<sup>4</sup> For example, social impact investing has resulted in two philanthropically funded new transitional accommodation facilities – Peggy’s Place and Hannah’s Sanctuary.

**Table 8: Domain 3 Highlights**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Increased community willingness to call the police in response to DFV	Queenslanders who would call the police if they saw or were aware of non-physical DFV involving their neighbours (Source: Queensland Social Survey)	6.1%	6.6%	8.2%	7.5%
Changes in the scope and scale of community-led DFV prevention initiatives	Events registered on the DFV prevention month calendar to raise awareness of DFV (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	58	65	32	7

## Spotlight on the work of the DFV Prevention Council

During 2022–23, Government re-appointed the DFV Prevention Council (the Council) for the full life of the Fourth Action Plan (to 30 June 2026), with a 50 per cent membership refresh and increased membership to include people with lived experience of DFV, people from regional and remote communities and First Nations community representation.

In 2022–23, Council members undertook 54 engagements to educate the community about DFV. Their contributions encompassed a range of engagements including speeches and presentations, visits to regional and local government authorities, meetings with stakeholders and support for events.

The Local Government DFV Prevention Council Champions Network was also established to enable councils to collectively maintain momentum and continue the journey to mature responses in urban, regional, rural, and remote Queensland communities. The Network is co-chaired by the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Council and met four times in the 2022–23 financial year. The Council Secretariat reported that 23 Local Government Councils are currently engaged in the Champion’s Network.

One of the Council’s key achievements in 2022–23 was the Love ≠ Control campaign, with the objective of increasing public understanding of the signs and impacts of coercive control through the voice of those with lived experience (‘real people, real lives’ authentic storytelling’). The campaign was launched on 2 May 2023 with a media event attended by the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the (former) Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, as well as Council members and storytellers in front of a major campaign installation at the State Library of Queensland. Twenty-six local councils, 22 Queensland Government agencies and 30 community organisations partnered with the Council to carry the campaign and its messages to their staff and communities. It is

estimated the campaign reached more than 2.5 million Queenslanders via social media with 506,496 unique accounts and 2,044,140 impressions created in Queensland, and targeted engagement with 1,261 stakeholders via Microsoft Sway platform.

## Domain 4 – Queensland’s workplaces and workforce challenge attitudes contributing to violence and effectively support workers

Workplaces play a significant role in shaping the cultural attitudes and beliefs across Queensland by recognising DFV as a workplace issue and supporting their workers who are at risk of or are experiencing DFV. Queensland employers, workforces and businesses have developed and implemented policies around leave, workforce participation and respectful relationships education to support victim-survivors of DFV to remain in the workforce. [Resources](#) have been made available to support organisations that may have policies but continue to grapple with how to respond appropriately to employees who use or may use violence and abuse in personal relationships.

In 2020, a requirement was introduced for Queensland Government departmental employees to complete the *Recognise Respond Refer* eLearning program, or an agreed alternative. This significantly increased the number of employees participating in DFV awareness raising programs between the years 2020–21 and 2021–22 (see Table 9, an increase from 8,937 to 85,021). The proportion of Queensland adults that report engaging in DFV initiatives within their workplaces in the last 12 months was 45.2 per cent in 2023. This figure has remained relatively steady over time.

Queensland Government staff have shown consistently high confidence in responding appropriately to colleagues or employees affected by DFV. Ongoing training, guidance and education may support further confidence building to improve responses and increase referrals.

**Table 9: Domain 4 Highlights**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Queensland Government employees participate in DFV awareness raising programs	Employees completing the <i>Recognise Respond Refer</i> eLearning program for the period (Source: Queensland Public Sector Commission)	73,912	85,021 <sup>5</sup>	8,937	15,632
Queensland workplaces engage in any DFV initiatives	Proportion of Queensland adults reporting that their workplace engaged in any DFV initiatives in the last 12 months (Source: Queensland Social Survey)	45.2%	41.1%	42.1%	43.4%
All Queensland Government departments participate in a DFV workplace cultural change program	Director-General Performance Agreements demonstrate a visible commitment to DFV prevention	100%	100%	100%	100%
Increased confidence of Queensland Government employees in responding appropriately to a colleague or employee affected by DFV	Percentage of employees and managers who answered in the ‘positive’ to being confident in their ability to sensitively communicate with a colleague or employee affected by DFV <sup>6</sup> (Source: Queensland Public Sector Commission)	(not yet published)	80%	78%	78%

In 2023, the Public Sector Commission consulted with Queensland public sector agencies regarding whether to continue the sector-wide commitment to the White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation program (an indicator presented in previous Highlights Cards). As a result of the feedback received, a decision has been made that Queensland Government will discontinue its sector-wide participation in the program. Participation in the White Ribbon program has played an important role over the years in raising awareness and building the maturity of Queensland Government agencies in responding to domestic and family violence. The sector's commitment to address domestic and family violence remains strong, and is reflected in a range of activities including, but not limited to:

- » building employee capability through the implementation of the *Recognise, Respond, Refer* e-learning program across the Queensland public sector
- » embedding employee supports, including paid leave arrangements, through *Directive 03/20: Support for employees affected by domestic and family violence*
- » implementing recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, including those relating to workforce training and capability building
- » recognising the importance of workplace gender equity and respectful relationships in the *Public Sector Act 2022*.

## Domain 5 – Victim-survivors and their families are safe and supported

Victim-survivors of DFV and their families need to be safe and supported by a specialist and integrated frontline workforce that can respond, rebuild, empower and assist in whichever ways are needed. Integrated service responses bring agencies together from across the service system to deliver high quality, consistent, cohesive and integrated responses to meet the needs of victim-survivors, their children, and people using violence. This includes access to and maintenance of stable and secure long-term housing, which is fundamental to anyone's safety and wellbeing.

DFV continues to be the leading cause of homelessness for women in Australia.<sup>7</sup> With ongoing housing availability and affordability challenges faced across Queensland, and the country, efforts to improve access to housing are needed. The Queensland Government is committed to improving housing outcomes for people experiencing DFV, with responses underpinned by the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* and the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–25*. Responses include rental law reform to improve DFV protections, to allow victim-survivors to safely leave residential tenancies or improve the safety of the premises.

Since 2020, the number of people on the Housing Register with a DFV indicator who were allocated social rental housing has steadily increased, with 3,292 allocated housing in 2023 (up 47 per cent, from 2,238 in 2022 – see Table 10). There has also been an increase in the number of people whose social housing tenancies were transferred to government managed social rental housing as a result of DFV (55 per cent in the past year, or 1,173 people). This reflects the Queensland Government's continued commitment to providing secure housing for victim-survivors and strong action to improve housing outcomes for victim-survivors of DFV.

The data shows a slight decrease in the number of clients assisted by specialist homelessness services funded to target women and children escaping DFV since 2021. With ongoing pressures across the system, some decreases are expected.



**Table 10: Domain 5 Highlights**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Number of people supported to access crisis accommodation	Number of clients assisted by specialist homelessness services funded to assist women and children escaping DFV <sup>8,9</sup> (Source: Department of Housing)	4,273	4,397	4,784	6,036
Victims are supported to access crisis accommodation in a timely way	Proportion of referrals for government funded crisis accommodation completed within 48 hours or more <sup>10</sup> (Source: Department of Housing)	82.7%	81.8%	84.5%	89.2%
Increased number of victims and people using violence receiving advice from specialist DFV duty lawyers	The number of aggrieved seen by DFV duty lawyers (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	10,324	10,109	11,013	10,311
	The number of respondents seen by DFV duty lawyers (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	16,554	14,244	14,537	11,499
Number of people whose housing needs are met	Number of people with DFV indicator on the Housing Register who were allocated social rental housing <sup>11,12</sup> (Source: Department of Housing)	3,292 <sup>13</sup>	2,238	2,513	2,113
	Number of people whose social housing tenancies were transferred to government managed social rental housing as a result of DFV (Source: Department of Housing)	1,173 <sup>14</sup>	756	809	834
	Number of specialist homelessness services clients who gave DFV as a presenting reason who exit specialist homelessness services to sustainable housing <sup>15</sup> (Source: Department of Housing)	5,310	5,692	5,868	5,865
	Number of households experiencing DFV provided with Bond Loans; Rental Grants; and Rent Connect Advisory Services <sup>16</sup> (Source: Department of Housing)	4,763	4,110	4,356	6,566
Total number of referral reports on occurrences with a DFV offence for at-risk individuals to support services	Total number of referral reports on occurrences with a DFV offence for at-risk individuals to support services (QPS) (Data refers to the total number of referrals offered) (Source: Queensland Police Service)	115,427	83,124	89,291	83,218
Number of DFV counselling service users with cases closed/finalised as a result of the majority of identified needs being met	DFV counselling service users with cases closed/finalised as a result of the majority of identified needs being met (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	25,971	26,762	23,469	24,442
Increased number of victims reported by NGOs (funded service providers) as having improved life skills	Service users that have shown improvements in being safe and/or protected by harm (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	32,351	30,558	27,689	

\*Shaded cells indicate that no data was available that year.

In 2022–23, 91,455 total calls were made to DVConnect, Womensline and Mensline. Following a large increase in calls to DVConnect in 2020 (coinciding with the onset of COVID-19 and multiple high-profile cases), the number of calls received has steadily returned to the 2020 baseline of around 84,000 callers (see Table 11).

In terms of demographics, the data shows that women make up most of the calls to DVConnect, with:

- » approximately 90 per cent of all First Nations callers to the Womensline (10 per cent to the Mensline);
- » approximately 87 per cent of all culturally and linguistically diverse callers to the Womensline (13 per cent to the Mensline); and
- » approximately 51 per cent of all LGBTIQ+ callers to the Womensline (49 per cent to the Mensline).

However more people with disability called the Mensline (67 per cent).

**Table 11: DVConnect callers and clients (Source: DVConnect via Department of Justice and Attorney-General)**

Indicator and method of measurement	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Total number of calls to Womensline and Mensline	91,455	96,392	100,976	128,829
Total number of first time clients <sup>17</sup> receiving support	38,521	37,170	26,231	24,382

Table 12 provides information about High Risk Teams since 2020, indicating that there are a consistently high proportion of cases accepted by High Risk Teams within 48 hours and a consistently high proportion of multiagency safety plan actions completed. In acknowledgement of the benefits of High Risk Teams, the Queensland Government has enhanced resourcing and expanding High Risk Teams across Queensland, with three new locations announced (Rockhampton and Redlands, not yet commenced and Townsville which commenced preliminary operations in July 2023 and commenced taking referrals in August 2023).

**Table 12: High Risk Team responses (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Increased proportion of multiagency safety plan actions completed across High Risk Team sites	Number of multiagency safety plan actions completed across High Risk Team sites <sup>18</sup>	1,336	1,461	1,228	1,327
	Number of multiagency safety plan actions across High Risk Team sites <sup>19</sup>	1,555	1,489	1,463	1,457
	Proportion of multiagency safety plan actions completed across High Risk Team sites	86%	98%	84%	91%
Timely and efficient responses to high risk DFV through the High Risk Team sites	Average period of time (weeks) a case remains open to the High Risk Team sites <sup>20</sup>	18	12	14	
	Proportion of High Risk Team cases accepted within 48 hours <sup>21</sup>	91%	91%	94%	

\*Shaded cells indicate that no data was available that year.

As evident in Table 13, children continue to be impacted by DFV, with 36.5 per cent of families referred to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services (providing tailored, culturally safe support) and 44.2 per cent of families referred to Intensive Support Service (for multiple/complex needs) with DFV as a presenting concern in 2022–23. The number of cases closed as a result of the majority of identified needs being met by specialist DFV services for children experiencing DFV has steadily risen since 2020, increasing by 30 per cent in the past year.

**Table 13: Services for children experiencing DFV**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Number of children exposed to DFV with cases closed/ finalised as a result of the majority of identified needs being met	Cases closed/finalised for children as a result of the majority of identified needs being met (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	2,753	2,119	2,201	1,961
Prevalence of DFV risk factors in child protection system	Families referred to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Service (providing tailored, culturally safe support) where DFV was a presenting concern (Source: Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services <a href="#">Our Performance</a> )	36.5%	38.5%	38.1%	36.3%
	Families referred to an Intensive Support Service (for multiple/complex needs) where DFV was a presenting concern (Source: Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services <a href="#">Our Performance</a> )	44.2%	44.8%	43.0%	45.4%

## Domain 6 – Perpetrators (people using violence<sup>22</sup>) stop using violence and are held to account

Holding people using violence to account and supporting them to change their behaviour is integral to ending DFV in Queensland. People using violence must be provided the support they need to take responsibility for, and change their abusive and violent behaviours. Appropriate sanctions must be in place to ensure people using violence are held accountable for their actions. To prevent violence occurring in the first place, respectful relationships must be modelled and expected everywhere people live, learn, work and play to uphold the right for every person to live free from violence.

In addition to the DVConnect, Mensline (reported in Domain 5), the Department of Justice and Attorney-General funds behaviour change programs for men aged over 17 years who have used DFV. This includes men that have been directed through the justice system, via Queensland Courts and Queensland Corrective Services. The programs are designed to address their use of DFV in their relationships. The department also provides specific funding to the Brisbane Youth Service to work with young men aged up to 25 years of age who are using violence towards their partners and family members.

The programs must operate within a practice framework that prioritises victim-survivor safety and incorporates appropriate information sharing and victim-survivor advocacy. Service providers must actively participate in and contribute to local, integrated responses to DFV including government and non-government agencies. They must also comply with the *Domestic and family violence services practice principles, standards and guidance* (practice standards) and the *Perpetrator Intervention Services Requirements* (requirements). The requirements set a minimum program standard leading to quality outcomes for victim-survivors and people using violence as well as consistency across the sector. The requirements relate to group readiness, duration of group programs, maximum number of group participants, gender of co-facilitators, qualification and experience requirements of co-facilitators, the role, qualification, experience, frequency and duration of a victim advocate and the role, experience and frequency of an observer.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General funds a range of organisations to provide behaviour change programs to people using violence. In 2022–23 there were seventeen funded service providers across 24 service outlets delivering 123 behaviour change programs across Queensland. Table 14 shows an increase (46 per cent) in the number of people using violence who have accessed a perpetrator intervention program or related service (e.g. individual counselling) and in May 2023, the Queensland Government announced \$3 million per annum in additional funding to existing men’s behaviour change programs. The number of people using violence who have been assessed by a funded service provider as having reduced their use of DFV has increased steadily since 2021 but the data shows there is high attrition from the programs. People using violence who commence a behaviour change program or other related service may cease the program for a range of reasons, however departmental data suggests that, of those that commence *and complete* a funded behavioural change program, around 90 per cent are assessed by a funded service provider as having reduced their use of violence. This figure has remained relatively consistent over the past four years.

**Table 14: Domain 6 indicators – Department of Justice and Attorney-General**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Availability of behaviour change programs in locations across Queensland	Number of available funded behaviour change programs (DJAG funded community based)	123	111	134	133
Increased proportion of perpetrators who commence and/or complete a behaviour change program (or other perpetrator interventions) – community based programs	Number of perpetrators who commenced a behaviour change program (DJAG funded community based)	17,084	11,697	9934	11,594
Increased number of perpetrators that have been assessed by NGOs (funded service providers) as having reduced their use of DFV	Number of service users that have been assessed by NGOs as having reduced their use of DFV (DJAG funded community based)	2,197	2,142	1,529	2,998

Funded service providers have told us that they have experienced not only an increase in referral numbers but also in the complexity of the referrals, with housing, mental health and alcohol and substance misuse presenting as major issues. Demand for perpetrator interventions programs and for agencies to work collaboratively to support the victim-survivor by having ‘eyes on him’ is a goal for services and government agencies.

To address this increase in demand, the Queensland Government committed an additional \$25.5 million over four years and \$4.4 million ongoing to people using violence programs and reforms to:

- » provide additional funding of almost \$3 million per annum to help existing mainstream perpetrator intervention services meet increased demand and better support victim-survivors
- » trial different innovative approaches to perpetrator intervention programs including an online program, early intervention program, as well as programs designed to specifically meet the risks and needs of diverse cohorts
- » strengthen and align risk assessment approaches for people using violence by developing a culturally aware perpetrator-centric risk assessment approach and tool.

The increase in people using violence commencing behaviour change programs is logical when considered in the context of the recent funding uplift, which has increased organisational capacity to meet their *Perpetrator Intervention Services Requirements*, particularly as it relates to the use of a victim advocate to support the safety of women impacted by DFV.

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) also funds two distinct behaviour change programs for people using violence – the community-based Men’s Domestic Violence Education Intervention Program (MDVEIP) in Logan (2022–23) and the Disrupting Family Violence Program in four correctional centres across Queensland – Woodford (recommencing in December 2021), Maryborough (from May 2022), Capricornia (from June 2022) and Wolston (from June 2022).

As shown in Table 15, the proportion of people using violence who commenced and completed (MDVEIP) was over 50 percent in 2022–23. As for men’s behaviour change programs in correctional centres, the figures fluctuate over the years due to changes in program availability. Overall, whilst the data shows a decrease in the number of people using violence commencing and completing QCS behaviour change programs in the community since 2020, this can be attributed to the decrease in program availability. It is noted the MDVEIP was available in three locations in 2019–21, two locations in 2021–22, and whilst two locations were operating in 2022–23, the Logan MDVEIP ceased taking referrals in early 2023 and ceased operating in June 2023. In addition, between 2020–21, the MDVEIP was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in delays and alternative service delivery affecting program completion numbers which subsequently carried over into 2022.

**Table 15: Domain 6 indicators – Queensland Corrective Services**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Increased proportion of perpetrators who commence and/or complete a behaviour change program (or other perpetrator interventions) – community based programs	Number of perpetrators who commenced a behaviour change program (QCS community based MDVEIP) <sup>23</sup>	98	126	153	132
	Number of perpetrators who completed a behaviour change program (QCS community based MDVEIP)	52	44	69	62
Increased proportion of people using violence who commence and/or complete a behaviour change program (or other perpetrator interventions) – correctional centres	Number of funded perpetrator intervention programs available in correctional centres (Disrupting Family Violence Program) <sup>24</sup>	1 program at 4 locations	1 program at 4 locations	0	2 versions of 1 program at 3 locations
	Number of perpetrators who commenced a behaviour change program (correctional centres)	70 <sup>25</sup>	37	(program not offered)	68
	Number of perpetrators who completed a behaviour change program (correctional centres)	46	9	(program not offered)	62

The Queensland Government is developing a standalone, system-wide strategy for responding to all people using DFV, regardless of their level of risk, with a focus on early detection, intervention, accountability, and prevention. The strategy is intended to acknowledge all forms of DFV including physical or sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, economic abuse, systems abuse, threatening behaviour and coercive control. It will be designed to include responses to all people using violence, including men, women, and young people while recognising that the majority of people using violence are men.

## Domain 7 – The justice system deals effectively with DFV

In the 2022–23 financial year, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) responded to, investigated, and managed 171,707 (DFV) occurrences, equating to approximately 470 DFV-related matters each day. This is a 90 per cent increase from the 2016–17 financial year (90,349), and a 24 per cent increase on the same period the previous year (138,927).

The increase in DFV-related occurrences in 2022–23 compared to the previous financial year is largely explained by an increase in the number of DFV related occurrences recorded by police as Domestic Violence – Other Action (40 per cent increase) due to a myriad of reasons including changes to QPS recording of DFV, an increase in recorded breaches of protection orders (27 per cent increase), and an enhanced understanding of DFV dynamics and legal precedents guiding and shaping policing responses. Fifteen per cent of all DFV-related occurrences in 2022–23 resulted in a police application for Police Protection Notices (PPN), which is slightly lower than the 16 per cent of all occurrences recorded in the 2021–22 financial year. The extended operating period of protection orders from 2 years to 5 years, changes to the legislation to require the court to identify the person who is “most in need of protection” and the prohibition of cross PPNs, accounts for the reduction in the percentage of all DFV-related occurrences resulting in a PPN, and associated increase in police action for breach of Protection Orders.

The Queensland Government remains committed to implementing reforms to strengthen Queensland’s justice system informed by the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce reports and *A Call for Change: Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence* to ensure victim-survivors are supported and people using violence are held to account.

A critical service is provided by DFV duty lawyers who provide free legal information, advice, and representation, where appropriate. Many Queenslanders across the state access this service. In the 2022–23 financial year, duty lawyers provided a total of 26,320 hours of legal assistance and advice to aggrieved persons and respondents involved in DFV matters (see Table 16). This constitutes a significant increase in the number of hours provided by duty lawyers since 2020 and is expected to improve victim-survivors’ experiences of the justice system.

Table 16 also shows that there has been an increase in DFV intervention orders which are made by a court to require a respondent to attend an approved behaviour change program – up 7 per cent from 2021–22, although the numbers are down 24 per cent from 2019–20.

Organisations in the community and frontline workers continue to support both victim-survivors of DFV and people using violence. With the focus on training and change management, responses to DFV are set to improve to ensure further harm and victimisation is reduced in Queensland communities.

**Table 16: Domain 7 Highlights**

Indicator	Measure (method of measurement)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Proportion of police attended DFV incidents where police issued a DFV intervention order on behalf of the victim	Percentage of police attended DFV incidents resulting in police-initiated DFV intervention order (including Police Protection Notice) (Source: Queensland Police Service)	15%	16%	18%	19%
Percentage of applications finalised within acceptable time standards	Percentage of applications for protection orders finalised within 6 months of being lodged (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	92.5%	90.5%	86.8%	93.5%
Time (in days) for considering a temporary protection order resulting from an application, Queensland wide	Average days from application lodgement to making of temporary protection orders (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	6.3	5.6	5.2	5.2
Total number of hours DFV duty lawyers are available to clients at court	Total number of hours of DFV duty lawyers are available to aggrieved and respondents at court (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	26,320	25,062	25,099	22,592
Number of intervention orders made	Number of intervention orders made by a court to require a respondent to attend an approved behaviour change program (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	424	395	515	560
Increased number of reported breaches of DV orders	Number of reported breaches of DV orders (Source: Queensland Police Service)	59,396	46,601	39,962	33,747
Increased number of perpetrators, victims and families assisted by the Community Justice Groups	Number of perpetrators, victims and families assisted by the Community Justice Groups (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	2,609			2,757
Community Justice Group DFV Coordinators attend DFV specific professional development/training opportunities	Number of DFV specific professional development/ training opportunities attended by DFV Coordinators (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	93	62	42	47
Community Justice Group DFV Coordinators attend local authority meetings	Number of local authority meetings or other community meetings attended by DFV Coordinators in which DFV matters are discussed (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	112	135	133	289
Proportion of DFV court applications dealt with in a specialist court environment	Volume of applications dealt with at specialist court sites versus volume state-wide (Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	25%	25%	26%	25%

\*Shaded cells indicate that no data was available that year.

## Endnotes

- 1 As noted in previous Highlights Cards, trend analysis is impacted by revisions to the indicator matrix, changes in data collection and reporting methodologies for certain datasets, and for some indicators, limited data availability.
- 2 The Queensland Social Survey is commissioned by the Queensland Government and run by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office each year, since 2017. The survey will run through to 2026, which marks the end of the DFV Prevention Strategy. Contemporary and historical datasets can be found [here](#).
- 3 The Queensland Department of Education undertakes an annual School Opinion Survey to obtain the views of parents/caregivers and students in years 5, 6, 8 and 11 and school staff from each school, on a range of topics. These topics include seeking perceptions on aspects of school culture, including views on fairness, safety, equality and the fostering of respectful relationships. It should be noted School Opinion Survey results are most meaningful at the school level. Data obtained can provide schools with opportunities to improve, relevant to their context.
- 4 Content taken from the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council newsletter ([July 2023](#)).
- 5 There are several factors that may have contributed to the high demand for the *Recognise Respond Refer* program in the 2021/22 financial year: 1) *Directive 03/20: Support for employees affected by domestic and family violence* took effect in July 2020, mandating the completion of *Recognise Respond Refer* or an agreed alternative; 2) Agencies delayed rolling out the program until the refreshed *Recognise Respond Refer* program became available in September 2021, and 3) Agencies implemented *Recognise Respond Refer* training as part of White Ribbon workplace reaccreditation arrangements.
- 6 The Working for Queensland Survey was reviewed in 2022, and as a result the metrics do not match the previous indicators and measures in the revised indicator matrix. The Working for Queensland survey question 'If I became aware that domestic and family violence was affecting a colleague, I am confident that I could respond appropriately' (80%) is a proxy metric for 'Percentage of employees and managers who answered in the 'positive' to being confident in their ability to sensitively communicate with a colleague or employee affected by DFV'. Survey results for 2023 are not yet published, therefore 2022–23 results aren't available to report.
- 7 Australian Government Institute of Health and Welfare 2020. [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2019–2020](#).
- 8 Data is as of 31 March 2023, and therefore is incomplete for 2022–23. Data presented for the previous years is also until 31 March, to aid comparison.
- 9 Some specialist homelessness services funded to target women and children escaping DFV are funded to provide both crisis accommodation and mobile support. The 2019–20 count of 6,036 includes clients assisted by mobile support, while the 2020–21 and 2021–22 counts do not include those clients.
- 10 Referrals to government funded crisis accommodation data are sourced from the Queensland Homelessness Information System (QHIP). QHIP is an administrative dataset which was developed and implemented to facilitate referrals for crisis accommodation. It was not designed as a data capture, monitoring, or reporting system. Therefore, analysis and findings using this data source should be treated with caution and as indicative only.
- 11 Some people may have been housed more than once during the reporting period.
- 12 The Department of Housing has approved a change to the methodology to measure 'in a timely way' to clarify the methodology. 'Timely way' is measured as being assisted with social rental housing or transferred to government managed social rental housing within 12 months. As such, 2022–23 figures aren't comparable with previous figures however subsequent reports should allow for comparison against 2022–23 given a consistent methodology is used in subsequent reports. The departmental system is unable to record the date a DFV indicator is added to a client's application, therefore for clients already on the housing register that have a DFV indicator added at a later time, may not be included in this result even though they may have been assisted in a timely way from point in time their application was updated to include a DFV indicator.
- 13 It is noted that 3,292 people with DFV indicators were assisted in 2022–23, of which 1,333 were assisted within 12 months.
- 14 It is noted that 1,173 people with DFV indicators were transferred to government managed housing, of which 680 were assisted within 12 months.
- 15 Data is as of 31 March 2023, and therefore is incomplete for 2022–23. Data presented for the previous years is also until 31 March to aid comparison.
- 16 Many households may have received help from two or more of these services.
- 17 This indicator is listed in the revised indicator matrix as 'Total number of first time callers receiving support, however the data provided isn't limited to callers as people can be referred by other sources. This has been changed to 'Total number of first time clients receiving support' which more accurately reflects the data provided.
- 18 The data available is provided at the safety management plan level (i.e. number of safety management plans completed).
- 19 The available data is provided at the cases created level. The general rule is that one case created = one safety management plan created, however there is scope for discrepancies in the data. Data discrepancies can be explained by the timing of case creation i.e. if a case was created on 30 June 2022, there will not be corresponding safety management plan closure data as the safety management plan is most likely to be completed after 30 June 2022.
- 20 This data calculates the average time a case is open in weeks per location and overall. The data range is 1 – 12 weeks and then any cases open after 12 weeks are added together to get an 'Over 12 Weeks' number. To calculate average time, the numbers for 'Over 12 Weeks' have been excluded from the calculations.
- 21 The data provides on response rates for all referrals received – the response could be accepted OR declined.
- 22 The term "person using violence" is used throughout this Highlights Card in recognition of a person's ability to undergo personal development, be accountable for their actions, and transform their behaviours. It also acknowledges that many people using violence (particularly children and young people using violence) have been victims of violence themselves. People using violence are less likely to engage with support services and attempt to change, if they feel that once labelled as a perpetrator they will always be known as a perpetrator. In some cases, the word 'perpetrator' is retained where this is an existing measure or title of a document or service.
- 23 The MDVEIP has a rolling program structure running throughout the year, where enrolment and completion information is collected on a monthly basis. Due to the complex nature of DFV, rolling program structure and program duration for participants, there are many variables that impact yearly data.
- 24 Two versions of the Disrupting Family Violence Program were trialled in three correctional centres in 2019–20, with one version recommencing in 2021–22 at four correctional centres: Woodford (in December 2021), Maryborough (in May 2022), Capricornia (in June 2022) and Wolston (in June 2022).
- 25 Program delivery in three of the four centres did not recommence until May/June 2022 so completions for participants in those centres could not occur until the following financial year.



Domestic and Family Violence  
Prevention Strategy 2016–2026

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**YEAR 8 HIGHLIGHTS CARD 2022–23**  
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