



# COAG Women's Safety Council

## Terms of Reference

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<p>The Commonwealth Minister for Women and Minister for Families and Social Services.</p>
<b>Membership</b>	<p>The Women's Safety Council (the Council) consists of Commonwealth, state and territory Women's Safety Ministers. Each jurisdiction is represented by a maximum of two Ministers with portfolio responsibility for women, families and/or prevention of family and domestic violence.</p> <p>Each jurisdiction will nominate a Senior Minister as lead representative on the Council.</p> <p>The Chair may invite representatives from other agencies to participate in specific meetings or discussion, as appropriate.</p>
<b>Operations</b>	<p>The Council will meet at least twice a year, in person, by telepresence or teleconference. Further work may be conducted out-of-session.</p> <p>The Council will make decisions on the basis of consensus wherever possible. Where consensus cannot be reached, the Council will make decisions on the basis of a majority of members. In these circumstances, jurisdictions in the minority are not bound to implement the decisions that have been made.</p> <p>The Council will also meet annually with the Council of Attorneys-General (CAG) and the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPPEM) to enable collaborative work, noting that women's safety issues cut across multiple portfolios.</p>
<b>Scope of Council responsibility</b>	<p>The Council provides a forum for member Governments to drive national progress in reducing violence against women and their children.</p> <p>The Council's work will cover the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of actions under the Fourth Action Plan of the <i>National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022</i> (the National Plan) to prevent violence before it starts and provide support to women and children.</li><li>• Development and implementation of the next National Plan, following the expiry of the current National Plan in 2022.</li><li>• Consideration of other actions to reduce violence against women and their children.</li></ul> <p>The Council will ensure that other COAG Councils are included in policy discussions where appropriate.</p>

<b>Review and reporting</b>	The Council will report to COAG as required, on progress implementing measures under the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan, and to raise issues to First Ministers' attention (such as major decisions and intergovernmental agreements).
<b>Priorities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To report on actions to reduce violence against women and their children under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-22.</li><li>2. Plan and deliver a consultation process, consistent with the current Action Plan, including a National Summit on reducing violence against women and their children.</li><li>3. Agree to and progress work on a way forward, including governance arrangements, for a new National Plan following the expiry of the current National Plan in 2022.</li></ol>