



Family and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Grants Program 2026-2028

DOCG202615520

Guidelines

Closing Time: 3:00pm, Thursday, 16 July 2026, Perth, Western Australia

Please note: An **online mandatory briefing session** for all potential Grant Program applicants will be conducted on Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 10.00am.

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About the Grants Program

In December 2025, during the 16 Days in WA – Stop Violence Against Women campaign, the State Government announced a \$109.9 million investment¹ to strengthen Western Australia's response to family and domestic violence.

This funding package was informed by the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce, which identified regional service gaps, opportunities to expand prevention initiatives, and the importance of supporting and resourcing Aboriginal-led responses to family violence experienced by Aboriginal people.

As part of the initiatives supported by this investment, the Department of Communities (Communities) is offering one-off grant funding through the Family and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Grants Program 2026-28. The program will support eligible organisations to deliver primary prevention activities in their region over a two-year period that work towards preventing violence against women and their children.

To support the implementation of primary prevention initiatives, Communities has funded the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing to provide workforce support, including training on primary prevention. For further information about this training program, including upcoming dates, click [here](#).

Mandatory Briefing Session

An **online mandatory briefing session** for all potential Grant Program applicants will be conducted using Microsoft Teams by Preventing Violence Together and Communities. The briefing session will provide further information about the Grants Program and Primary Prevention.

Attendance of the briefing session is mandatory and if your organisation does not have a representative attend the briefing session, you will not be able to apply to receive grant funding through this Grants Program.

Attendance at the briefing session is a mandatory pre-requisite that must be completed in order to be eligible to submit a grant application.

Mandatory Briefing Session Details:

Date: Wednesday 17 June 2026

Time: 10.00am

Registration:

To register for the Mandatory Briefing Session, organisations must email the following details to PrimaryPreventionGrants@communities.wa.gov.au no later than **3.00pm (AWST) on Monday 15 June 2026**:

- Organisation name
- Name of attendee
- Contact email address
- Contact mobile number.

A confirmation email, including the Microsoft Teams meeting link, will be provided to registered attendees prior to the session.

¹ [Cook Government announces record FDV funding boost | Western Australian Government](#)

Background Information

Primary prevention of family and domestic violence is an emerging field in Australia. National and state policy frameworks increasingly recognise the critical role of primary prevention in reducing family and domestic violence and other forms of violence against women.

In 2017, the Western Australian Labor Government committed to implementing a range of measures to break the cycle of violence in families and communities. Government recognised the need to coordinate existing efforts, establish clear priorities, and adopt a long-term strategic approach. This led to *Path to Safety: Western Australia's strategy to reduce family and domestic violence 2020-2030 (Path to Safety)*², which sets out a vision for a Western Australia where all people live free from family and domestic violence.

Path to Safety is structured around four focus areas:

1. Strengthening Aboriginal family safety.
2. Acting now to keep people safe.
3. Growing primary prevention to stop family and domestic violence happening in the first place.
4. Reforming systems to prioritise safety, accountability and collaboration.

As a priority action of *Path to Safety*, Communities led the development of the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy³. This Strategy provides an overarching framework to guide government and community action to improve safety outcomes for Aboriginal women and children. It is one of the key actions in Western Australia's *Closing the Gap Jurisdictional Implementation Plan*, supporting progress towards Outcome 13 – that Aboriginal and Torres Strait families and households are safe.

What are the drivers of family and domestic violence?

For non-Aboriginal women, violence against women including family and domestic violence is driven by gender inequality and other forms of discrimination that give rise to power imbalances between men and women. Primary prevention action starts with addressing the gendered drivers of violence against women and other forms of discrimination.

For Aboriginal women, the drivers of violence are different. Colonisation, intergenerational trauma, and profound disadvantage are key drivers for family violence in Aboriginal communities.

These different understandings about the drivers of family and domestic violence for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women are similarly recognised in the formative work of Our Watch.

[Change the Story](#): A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second edition).

[Changing the Picture](#): A national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children.

² [Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence](#) – Path to Safety

³ [Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy](#)

Primary prevention is about targeting the drivers of violence to enable social and structural change that over time will create lasting results. Primary prevention approaches address the attitudes, behaviours, social conditions, structures and practices that drive family and domestic violence. Action at this level is expected to have the greatest impact on reducing family and domestic violence rates, including fatalities, and deliver economic savings in the long term⁴.

NOTE: Key terms / definitions used in the remainder of these Guidelines.

Family and domestic violence is one of many forms of violence against women.

For non-Aboriginal women, work to address the drivers and prevent family and domestic violence will equally support work to reduce violence against women more broadly inclusive of sexual violence, sexual harassment, and disrespect.

Although this grants program is aimed at preventing family and domestic violence, the remainder of these Guidelines will refer to 'violence against women' to recognise the broader effect that primary prevention initiatives can have.

This language is used with an express understanding that family violence in Aboriginal families and communities is not gendered in the same way and has a distinctly different set of drivers.

Promoting positive masculinities and engaging men and boys

An important component of primary prevention is engaging men and boys to address the gendered drivers of violence and supporting lasting cultural and behavioural change.

[Men in Focus: Unpacking masculinities and engaging men in the prevention of violence against women](#) is an evidence review from Our Watch which synthesises and analyses existing research on masculinities and violence against women to develop a deeper understanding of the links between dominant forms and patterns of masculinity and violence against women. It explores how primary prevention efforts can best address and challenge these patterns and effectively engage men in the prevention of violence against women⁵.

Evidence shows that effective primary prevention work supports men and boys to reflect on and challenge harmful gender norms, attitudes and behaviours, and to become active allies in promoting gender equality and respect. Successful approaches work across multiple levels of society and use a mix of strategies to shift norms, practices and structures that drive violence.

Examples of primary prevention initiatives that engage men and boys include:

Policy-based initiatives

- Developing policies in workplaces, sporting clubs or community organisations that promote respectful behaviour among men and boys
- Embedding gender-equality commitments that require male leaders to model positive, non-violent masculinities

⁴ Department of Social Services, Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022 of the National Plan to reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022.

⁵ [Our Watch \(2019\) Men in focus: unpacking masculinities and engaging men in the prevention of violence against women](#), Our Watch, Melbourne, Australia.

Practice-based initiatives

- Programs for men and boys that build skills in respectful relationships, consent, emotional regulation or bystander action
- Fathering programs that promote gender-equitable parenting and challenge harmful stereotypes

Community-based initiatives

- Workshops, yarning circles or peer-led groups for men and boys that explore healthy masculinities
- Community mobilisation projects led by male champions or role models who challenge gender equality

Aboriginal-led initiatives

- Culturally grounded programs for Aboriginal men and boys that strengthen cultural identity, healing and leadership
- Initiatives delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations that address harmful norms while building on cultural strengths

Media and social marketing initiatives

- Campaigns featuring men and boys modelling respect, equality and non-violence
- Digital content that challenges stereotypes about masculinity and encourages positive behavioural change

Sports-based initiatives

- Partnership with sporting clubs to engage male players, coaches and supporters in promoting gender equality
- Education programs within sporting environments that challenge harmful norms and promote respectful behaviour among men and boys.

Primary Prevention versus Early Intervention

A comprehensive response to violence against women, including family and domestic violence, requires both primary prevention and early intervention approaches. **This Grants Program will fund primary prevention initiatives only.** Early intervention activities are not eligible for funding.

Primary Prevention (Funded under this Program)

Primary prevention aims to stop violence against women before it occurs by addressing the underlying social, cultural and structural drivers, such as gender inequality, harmful gender norms and disrespect towards women.

Primary prevention initiatives typically involve:

- **Community Focused action:** Primary prevention initiatives often involve community-wide campaigns, education programs, and advocacy efforts. The goal is to raise awareness, challenge cultural norms that perpetuate violence and promote healthy relationship dynamics.
- **Long-Term change:** Strategies that contribute to lasting cultural, social or structural change (e.g. promoting gender equality, shifting community attitudes).

- Proactive approaches: Activities that build knowledge, skills and environments that prevent violence before it occurs (e.g. education programs in schools, community workshops, and social marketing campaigns challenging gender stereotypes).

Early intervention (Not Funded Under this Program)

Early intervention focuses on responding to people who are already experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, family and domestic violence. These activities are not eligible for funding under this Program.

Grant Program Aims

The aim of this Grants Program is to fund projects that contribute to:

- Building Western Australia’s primary prevention capability.
- Improving the skills and knowledge required to undertake activities and initiatives that work towards prevention of violence against women.
- Building partnerships across sectors for a more planned and integrated approach to activities aimed at preventing violence against women.
- Building the evidence-base around effective prevention of violence against women.

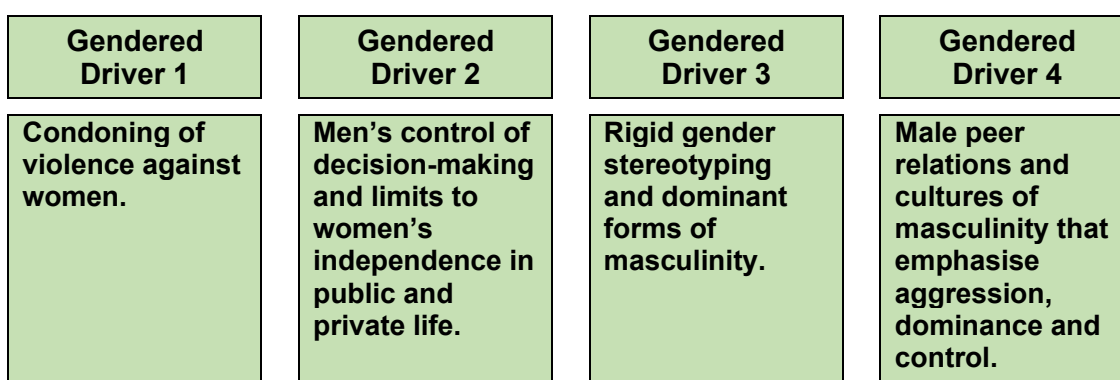
Target Program Outcomes

The successful grant recipients will contribute to the overall outcomes of the Grants Program through:

- Creating improved awareness and understanding of the attitudes, behaviours and social conditions that drive violence against women.
- Reducing the drivers and reinforcing factors of violence against women (see diagrams 1 and 2 below).
- Contributing to primary prevention practice in Western Australia that is accountable to the evidence base.
- Building a common understanding and best practice approach to primary prevention activities in Western Australia.

Diagram 1: Gendered drivers of violence against women⁶.

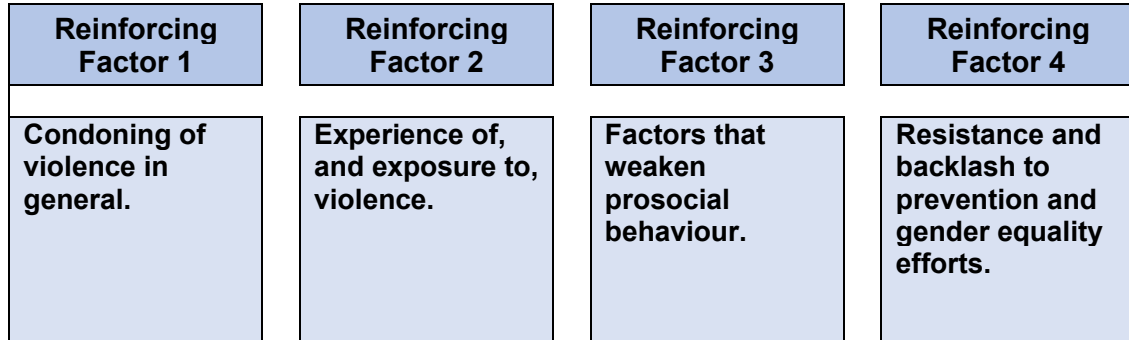
The gendered drivers of violence against women are a constant presence in society: they are manifestations of the underlying social context of gender inequality, and play out at all levels of society, from the individual to the institutional. These are the factors most strongly and consistently associated with violence against women in the evidence base.



⁶ Our Watch, Change the story. A Shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (Second edition).

Diagram 2: Factors that reinforce violence against women⁷

These reinforcing factors each operate in different ways and need to be considered as factors that can both intersect with the gendered drivers and/or have their own influence on the prevalence and patterns of violence against women.



These drivers and reinforcing factors play out at every level of society: from individual attitudes and behaviours to social norms, organisational cultures and practices, laws, and institutions.

Grant Funding Available

A total grant funding pool of \$6 million (excluding GST) is available for the Family and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Grants Program 2026-28.

Funding is available for delivery of one-off projects/initiatives that will run for a minimum of 18 months up to a maximum of 24 months.

Grant payments will be made in two equal installments during financial year 2026-27 and financial year 2027-28.

Eligible applicants can apply for grant funding from \$150,000 (excluding GST) up to a maximum of \$500,000 (excluding GST) per project/initiative.

Please note minimum and maximum funding levels are per initiative not per financial year.

Previous successful applicants through the Primary Prevention Grants Program 2024-26 are welcome to submit a new application, including to build on or extend their existing project. Any applicants seeking an extension must clearly demonstrate additional project scope, such as new target cohorts or new offerings, and positive outcomes over the course of the initial grant period.

Application Limits and Multiple Applications

Eligible organisations may submit **one application only** to the Grants Program. In the instance that an organisation submits more than one application, Communities will only progress one application to the evaluation panel for assessment.

⁷ Our Watch, Change the story. A Shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (Second edition).

Organisations acting as an auspice for unincorporated groups may still submit one application for their own organisation and may auspice multiple applications for different unincorporated organisations. Please refer to the Application Instructions for Unincorporated Groups on page 11 of these Guidelines.

What types of projects/initiatives might be grant funded?

Direct participation programs

These programs can be targeted at men, women and children at the individual, relationship or group level to build the knowledge and skills required to establish and sustain equal, respectful, non-violent gender relationships; build individuals' access to the resources required for such relationships; or to seek to prevent or address the impacts of other factors linked to violence against women.

Organisational and workforce development

This methodology is based on the understanding that organisations and organisational cultures have a powerful role in influencing the behaviours of individuals and groups and so can play a role in violence prevention by modelling non-violent, equitable and respectful gender relations.

Organisational development strategies can also seek to harness resources for undertaking primary prevention. Workforce development involves building the skills of relevant workforces to implement primary prevention activity either informally and opportunistically or at a more formal level.

Community strengthening

This methodology aims to mobilise and support communities to address violence against women and their children and the social norms that make it acceptable. These strategies can also be used to increase community access to the resources required for action and to address broader community-level risk factors for violence against women and their children, such as high rates of early school leaving or localised violent peer cultures.

Communications and social marketing

These methodologies aim to use a range of communication media to raise awareness of violence against women and their children and address attitudes, behaviours and social norms that contribute to this problem. This includes mainstream television, radio and print media as well as the internet and other new communications media, community forums, community arts and so on.

Advocacy

Advocacy involves building collective activity and mobilisations to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women and their children and to encourage government, organisations, corporations and communities to take action on factors contributing to the problem⁸.

⁸ Our Watch (2022). Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second edition).

Who Can Apply

To be eligible to apply for a grant through the Family and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Grants Program 2026-28, applicants must be operating within Western Australia and be:

- an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation
 - An organisation is considered not-for-profit where its governing documents prohibit the distribution of profits or assets to individual members, both while the organisation is operating and upon its wind-up.
- A local government authority, or
- An unincorporated group, applying through an eligible auspice organisation.

Unincorporated groups must apply through an **incorporated not-for-profit organisation or a local government authority** acting as the auspice. The auspice organisation will:

- accept and adhere to all terms and conditions of the grant;
- assume responsibility for financial management of the grant;
- maintain financial records and reporting requirements; and
- receive and administer the grant funds on behalf of the unincorporated group

For further information on auspice arrangements, please refer to the Application Instructions for Unincorporated Groups Applying with an Auspicing Organisation section below.

Communities welcomes applications from disability and LGBTQIA+ organisations, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Application Instructions for Unincorporated Groups Applying with an Auspicing Organisation

If your group is unincorporated, you must apply to the Grants Program through an eligible incorporated not-for-profit organisation or local government authority acting as your auspice.

As part of your application, you will be required to upload a **signed and dated auspice letter** as part of your grant Application Form on SmartyGrants. This document may be a letter, agreement, or declaration, and must:

- confirm the auspice arrangement; and
- include the signature of the auspice organisation's delegated authority or legally authorised officer.

Please ensure this document is completed in sufficient time to allow submission of your application before the Grant Program closing date and time.

Who Cannot Apply

Entities not eligible to apply for funding through this program include:

- Commonwealth or State Government agencies;

- Individuals;
- commercial, for-profit organisations;
- unincorporated, community sector organisations (unless applying through an incorporated body or a local government authority); and
- organisations located in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Organisations that have outstanding acquittal or evaluation requirements from previous Communities' grant or program funding are ineligible to apply until the required documentation has been submitted. Please contact Communities if there are any queries about an organisation's acquittal status.

Items eligible for grant expenditure

A range of items associated with staging an event/activity or directly related to the delivery of the project such as:

- minor administration costs such as postage and phone calls;
- hire of equipment, transport and venue hire;
- publication costs of resources and materials created through the project;
- resource materials, publicity, communications and marketing;
- food and non-alcoholic beverages for community engagement activities;
- staff wages/salaries directly related to the project;
- consultants and facilitators;
- intrastate travel;
- audit costs; and
- project evaluation.

Items not eligible for grant expenditure:

The below items are not eligible for grant funding:

- purchase of infrastructure and capital equipment;
- operational staff wages, not directly related to the project;
- prizes and gifts, including cash;
- alcohol;
- interstate and overseas travel;
- ongoing operating costs of the organisation or costs not directly related to project;
- retrospective costs (any money spent before a grant is approved);
- projects involving fundraising, unless the funds raised are expended on the project;
- projects that duplicate an existing or similar project or service within the community (projects that build upon an existing program or to expand a program to include other priority groups may be considered);
- projects that are traditionally funded through other sources (e.g., school activities or sporting/cultural events); and
- projects that could be delivered through an existing service agreement or grant agreement the organisation has with Communities.

Grant Program Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

Pre-requisite

Eligible organisations **must** be able to evidence attendance at the mandatory briefing session in order to apply for funding through this Grants Program.

Applications received from organisations who cannot evidence that a representative attended the mandatory briefing session will not be progressed to the evaluation panel for assessment.

Assessment Criteria

All proposed projects will need to demonstrate value for money, including provision of a clear, realistic budget that includes verified costs for activities that meet the Grant Program Aims and Target Program Outcomes.

Each application will be assessed on value for money, and against the following criteria:

- The project aligns with the grant program aims and target outcomes.
- The application demonstrates how the project/initiative addresses the issues related to the primary prevention of violence against women.
- The application demonstrates the ability to build in sustainability or sustainable aspects for longevity of project aims beyond discrete funding period.
- The application provides evidence of sound planning, including clearly defined and achievable project outcomes and timeframes, and demonstrated ability to manage the project.

All the above criteria have equal weighting, and the application will be assessed on its merit in its entirety.

All information provided in the Application Form, and any supporting attachments, will be reviewed by an independent evaluation panel against the assessment criteria outlined above. The evaluation panel will not review any information that is not contained within the application or attachments when making its assessment. For example, if weblinks are referenced in an application, the evaluation panel will not access this external information when evaluating the application.

After meeting the above core requirements, Communities may prioritise applications for funding with consideration to the following:

- Achieving a balance in investment for programs targeting Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people; and
- Funding a range of projects across Western Australian, including regional and remote areas.

Outcome notification

All applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application by mid-December 2026.

Successful applicants

Communities will develop Grant Agreements with successful applicants. An example Grant Agreement, including relevant Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions has been provided.

Successful applicants will be required to report regularly during the grant agreement term. This may include but is not limited to:

- Six (6) monthly progress reports on project activities, participants, partners, challenges, and outcomes achieved and a final project report including project summary, findings and recommendations; and
- A financial acquittal report upon project completion.

Reporting requirements, including performance measures and report templates, will be discussed and agreed with successful applicants prior to commencement of the grant agreement.

Where there are any unspent grant funds, Communities must be notified. Any unspent grant monies must be returned to Communities, unless agreed otherwise in writing by both parties.

How to apply

1. Thoroughly read these Guidelines.
2. Register to attend the mandatory briefing session.
3. Complete the online Application Form on SmartyGrants.
4. Upload any supporting documents, where required.
5. Ensure the application is reviewed and approved by the authorised delegate of the organisation.
6. Submit the application on SmartyGrants.

Applications **must** be submitted on **SmartyGrants** before the closing date and time.

Late applications will not be accepted. The SmartyGrants portal will automatically close at the advertised closing time. We strongly recommend submitting your application well before the deadline to avoid any last-minute issues.

Once you submit your application through SmartyGrants, you will receive an automated email confirmation acknowledging receipt. This email will include a copy of your submitted application and a reference number for future correspondence.

If you do not receive this confirmation email within a short time after submission, please check your junk or spam folder.

If you still cannot locate confirmation of receipt, please check your SmartyGrants account as it is likely your application has not been fully submitted. However, if you have submitted and have still not received confirmation, please contact Communities via email at grants@communities.wa.gov.au to confirm that your application has been successfully received.

Grant Program Assistance

If you have any questions about the Grants Program or require assistance when completing the application form, please contact:

Denise Shedley

Senior Procurement Officer

Telephone: 0435 632 586

Email: grants@communities.wa.gov.au

If contacting by email, please include "DOCG202615520 Primary Prevention Grants Program 2026-28" in the subject line.