

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2022-2026

## OUR PLAN

WESNET is working to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence so that all women and children live free from domestic and family violence.

The **2022-2026 WESNET Strategic Plan** sets out the key ways we work to achieve this.

As the national peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services across Australia, we support these services as well as provide direct relief to women and children escaping violence.

Our strategic priorities recognise our central business, as well as the underpinning pathways to achieving our objectives. We work with our members, governments, other peak bodies, corporate Australia and academia to keep women, non-binary people, and children safer from men's violence.


While we have articulated what we aim to achieve, we have also underscored the need to do it well. We have built a reputation on our specialist expertise and our contribution to building the evidence-base. This is central to our success. There can be no half measures when lives are at stake.

This plan is consistent with our usual planning cycle where we rigorously review progress and re-set where necessary. This plan does, however, come at a time of notable challenges and potential opportunities. After three years of upheaval caused by climate catastrophes, the Covid-19 pandemic, and global political unrest, we have a very clear vision of a world where gender inequality continues to persist.

We know without doubt that women, non-binary people and children suffer the worst consequences of both natural and man-made disasters. We see how patterns of oppression - including patriarchy, ableism, colonialism, imperialism, homophobia and racism - are readily revived and more difficult to suppress without concerted and cooperative action both domestically and internationally.

The period 2022-2026 could well be a watershed across the globe in terms of either embracing positive change to protect people and the planet, or in retreating to dangerous patterns and behaviours of the past. Within our modest field of influence, WESNET is hopeful that the new *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children* signifies a new Australian era in cooperation to meaningfully create change, and we will continue to work proudly to these ends.

On behalf of WESNET Board and Staff,



**JULIE OBERIN AM**  
National Chair, WESNET Board

*We acknowledge and pay our respects to the past, present and emerging traditional Custodians and Elders of the country on which we work. We also accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart to walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.*



## OUR VALUES

WESNET embraces core guiding principles and values that shape the organisation and its work.

### INTERSECTIONAL FEMINIST ANALYSIS

WESNET is committed to and applies intersectional feminist analysis to reflect on how family violence is situated within gendered and structural oppressions.

### GENDER EQUALITY

WESNET understands that domestic and family violence and abuse is gender-based violence and is a human rights issue. Freedom from violence is a critical obstacle to achieving substantive gender equality as well as to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Gender inequality is a key driver of gender-based violence.

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

WESNET recognises that children and young people are the subject of their own rights.

### FEMINIST ORGANISATION

WESNET is a feminist organisation, promoting woman-centred practice. Women are experts in their own lives and women using services have the right to participate in planning and decision making. WESNET fosters and encourages women's roles in management and leadership.

### WORKING IN SOLIDARITY

WESNET acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we live, work and play. We commit to working in solidarity.

### DIVERSITY & MULTICULTURALISM

WESNET is intersectional, and celebrates diversity and multiculturalism. We understand that patterns of oppression - including patriarchy, ableism, colonialism, imperialism, homophobia and racism - impact uniquely on multiple identities. WESNET works to ensure policies, programs and services serve and support all women and non-binary people. We do not tolerate discrimination.

### COLLABORATIVELY & COLLEGIATELY

WESNET works collaboratively and collegially. WESNET recognises that addressing gender-based violence and abuse takes a coordinated effort across all elements of the community, including governments, NGOs, business, academia and individuals.

### EVIDENCE-BASE

WESNET works from an evidence-base, and from the principle that perpetrators be held to account.

### CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

WESNET acknowledges the impact of climate change and climate change induced disasters globally, and particularly on the most marginalised women and children. We commit to taking action.

# OUR PRIORITIES

## OUR VISION

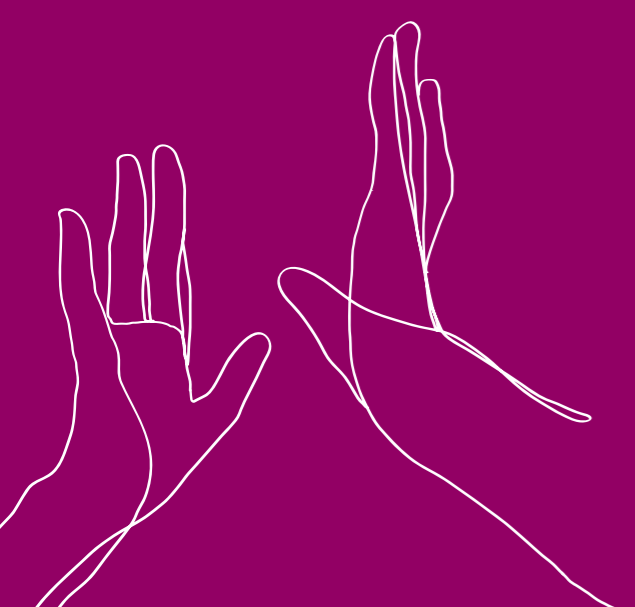
*That all forms of gender-based violence are eliminated, and that all women and children live free from domestic and family violence.*

## OUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

Over the life course of this plan, WESNET aims to:

- 1 Provide support for women victim-survivors and their children,
- 2 Strengthen and build the women's family and domestic violence sector,
- 3 Strengthen WESNET's position as the national leader of member services to the sector, and
- 4 Use our specialist knowledge to achieve our purpose and maximise our capacity to eliminate family and domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

WESNET's overarching purpose and objectives are defined in its Rules of Association.



PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4
<p><b>We will provide support for women victim-survivors and their children.</b></p>	<p><b>We will strengthen and support the women's family and domestic violence sector.</b></p>	<p><b>We will strengthen WESNET's position as the national leader of member services to the sector.</b></p>	<p><b>Will will use our specialist knowledge to achieve our purpose and maximise our capacity to eliminate family and domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.</b></p>
OUR OBJECTIVES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Victim-survivors are safe and receive direct relief from Wesnet programs and services.</li> <li>○ Victim-survivors and the sector benefit from Wesnet's evidence-based resources.</li> <li>○ Front-line services deliver best practice support services to victim-survivors, supported by Wesnet's evidence-based training and advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wesnet is a strong, sustainable, national peak body for family and domestic violence specialist services.</li> <li>○ Wesnet advocates for members, taking into account the diversity of membership.</li> <li>○ Wesnet members are strengthened and supported through improved engagement with, and consultation by, Wesnet.</li> <li>○ Wesnet members build capacity through innovative and best practice Wesnet projects.</li> <li>○ Wesnet leads and influences practice based on praxis, evidence, and research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wesnet is well governed.</li> <li>○ Wesnet invests in its staff.</li> <li>○ Wesnet is a sustainable business.</li> <li>○ WESNET is a respected national voice for specialist domestic and family violence services and the women and children they support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wesnet has a demonstrable social impact.</li> <li>○ Wesnet leads and engages in international work to eliminate family and domestic violence.</li> <li>○ Members, stakeholders and the public are aware of WESNET and its work.</li> <li>○ National policy influencers and decision-makers take into account the practice wisdom of specialist Family and domestic violence services.</li> <li>○ The voices of victim-survivors, past and present, and experts and specialists (many of whom are victim-survivors) are heard and understood at the national level.</li> <li>○ Good practice in ending gender-based violence is well-understood and operationalised.</li> </ul>