

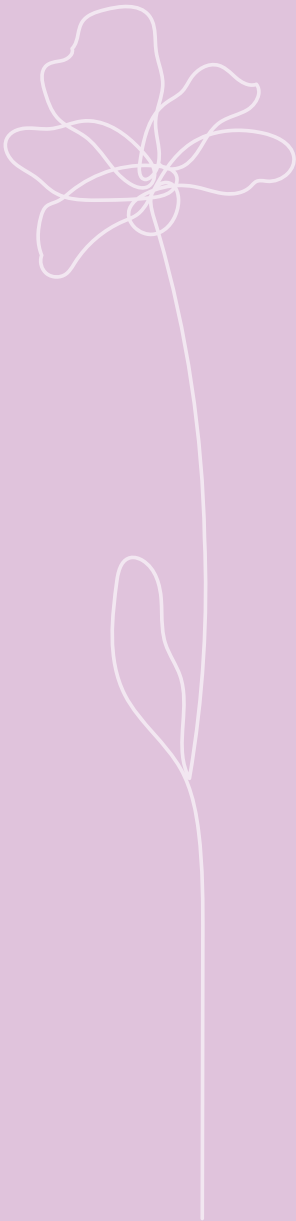


2022-23

Annual Report

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country



WESNET would like to acknowledge and pay respects to all First Nations people, as the traditional and only custodians of this country we call Australia. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the people of the lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung where our main office stands. Throughout the year we have had staff working in other nations including Eora, Ngannawal, Woiworung, Bundjalung and Iutruwita, and we would like to acknowledge those traditional owners as well. We recognise First Nations peoples' culture, wisdom, and connection to this land and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future. We recognise the loss of land and culture, acknowledging the consequences of dispossession and colonisation on First Nations peoples. We acknowledge that sovereignty over this land was never ceded. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

First Nations women have multiple roles and identities relating to their culture, community, age, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity. WESNET works tirelessly for an inclusive future free from violence. We acknowledge the strength and resilience of First Nations women, particularly those who have experienced domestic and family violence, and those who support and advocate for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. We pay our deepest respects to those who have lost loved ones as a result of domestic and family violence. WESNET will actively work to be informed by the experiences and advocacy of First Nations women, and to support First Nations women in their quest for safety and equality.

Acknowledgement of Victim-Survivors

WESNET also takes this opportunity to acknowledge all victim-survivors of gender-based violence. We pay respect to those who did not survive and to their family members and friends.

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Chair Report

A message from Julie Oberin AM

It is again a pleasure to present WESNET's annual report. This year will be my last as National Chair as I intend to step down from this position ahead of this year's annual general meeting. Having been closely involved in various leadership roles with WESNET for over a quarter of a century, I am confident that now is the right time to pass the baton to a new National Chair for WESNET.

The big highlight of this year was of course gaining new funding for our Safe Connections program. This is a measure of the value of the program and in WESNET's stewardship, enabling us to go on to help hundreds more women directly benefit from new phones, and from the quality training and risk assessment practices handed on from WESNET to our members and Safe Connections agencies.

The heart of WESNET's central purpose is to provide relief to women and children escaping violence, and we do this directly through Safe Connections, Uber Rides, and other core programs, as well as through building capacity in our member services. As CEO of Annie North as well as National Chair of WESNET, I see the results of these efforts day after day. Women working in domestic and family services carry an enormous load and fulfil a critical need in our communities across Australia. I am proud to be one of these women, and to be able to provide practical assistance via WESNET in the modest but useful ways that we do.

While helping women escape violence is the reality we confront daily, the enduring legacy that I want personally and for WESNET is a role in ending violence against women. This may sometimes feel like a lofty goal, but we're a lot closer now than when I struggled firstly as a victim-survivor, and then working with other victim-survivors. It is clear that the more we know about what causes violence, and

the more we can get policy and decision makers committed to our end goal, the closer we will get to a violence-free future.

At a slightly less lofty but no less important level, another key driving motivation—which goes to the same ends—is the recognition of specialist domestic and family violence services. These services—your services—have been at the forefront of the women's movement since the 1970s. Our collective commitment to maintaining specialist domestic and family services—in the face of cost-saving and ideological government agenda tilted towards generalist services—is not just historical and self-serving. We stand up for specialist services because we know that they are better. They provide so much more than short-term band aid assistance: they seek to understand and address the circumstances of each woman and child, and they seek to keep women and children safe over their life course by building agency and capacity.

In this context, and beyond WESNET's clear and more visible program delivery role, I am exceedingly proud of WESNET's achievements in building the evidence-base, being a voice for women escaping violence and women more generally, and supporting women's specialist services. While space limits preclude an exhaustive list of achievements there are a few things that I think will particularly stand the test of time.

Over the last decades, WESNET fought hard for, and gained, a seat at the table in the development of major policy initiatives aimed at ending violence against women.

Culminating most recently in the second National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, we worked together over many years with other advocates to finally see gender inequality recognised as the key driver of men's violence against women. In the new plan we also agitated for and oversaw the embedding of women's specialist services, intersectionality and victim-survivor voices into the plan.

At the same time, WESNET has been at the forefront of recognising how technology is misused in perpetrating harms against women and children, as well as its potential to help keep women safer.

Over the years we have continued to build expertise and are now recognised as the leading non-government expert in the intersection of violence against women and technology in Australia. Our successful annual Technology Safety Summit bears witness to this.

Technology safety has been a central, but not exclusive, arm of our research work. Our 2020 National Technology Abuse and Domestic Violence Surveys, undertaken in collaboration with Curtin University, provided the first detailed and longitudinal insights into prevalence and forms of tech-abuse in Australia. It has been used repeatedly by a wide range of academics and policy makers to underscore the extent of the problem and to inform approaches to addressing it, and has aided in cementing our credentials in building the evidence-base. Our reputation means that we continue to be approached by a multitude of researchers to partner in research projects, including the five projects that are currently underway.

In terms of policy and research impacts, the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) was, at its height, a leader in the field. WESNET founded and auspiced AWAVA across its lifetime. While the responsiveness of governments to AWAVA's advice waxed and waned depending

on the government of the day, AWAVA's work as a funded national alliance was always of the highest quality, bringing together experts and practitioners across all spheres working to end violence against women. AWAVA's defunding remains mystifying—given its proven track record—but AWAVA's legacy will live on as Australia's first National Women's Alliance focused on women's safety. AWAVA—and its diverse membership—very firmly put intersectionality and victim-survivor voices at the centre of policy debate surrounding violence against women and children.

Last but not least, I would like to mention the work done by WESNET in building its member services. This work is funded fully by WESNET members. It is important that we keep member fees as low as possible given the stretched circumstances of our sector, and so our services are designed to serve where they can impact the most. Our first class training and assistance is augmented by other educational activities, such as webinars, and through information sharing and newsletters. Above all else, a member base gives us the imprimatur and the gravitas to make representations to government, internationally, and to academia and corporate Australia, on our members' behalf on measures to support women escaping violence and, ultimately, to end violence against women. This benefits us all.

With the new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children in force, and with Safe Connections funding secured for the next four years, it has been a big year for WESNET and I feel it is a good time to support others carry on this good work. I will remain connected to WESNET in various ways but I wish the incoming leadership team all the very best. I am sure they will thrive with the continued support from our outstanding CEO Karen Bentley and her skilled and dedicated staff.

Julie Oberin AM
National Chair



CEO Report

A message from the CEO Karen Bentley

It is good to be writing about a year that was slightly more 'business-as-usual' than the ones preceding it, and which provided some key highlights beyond the day-to-day crisis management of an evolving pandemic. It was also good to be outside a federal election year and its immediate aftermath and have some certainty moving forward.

For WESNET, this certainty manifested in the much-sought renewal of federal government funding for the Safe Technology for Women program. With renewed and expanded funding we are very relieved that we can continue to provide the thousands of new smartphones—kindly donated by Telstra—to women escaping violence. As CEO, this means I can spend less time looking for funding sources and worrying about job security for staff. As a woman working in the sector, it delivers peace of mind that we will be able to keep more women safer. It enables me and the Board to look ahead and plan in a much more concrete and tangible way, and to broaden our organisational hopes and ambitions, safe in the knowledge that Safe Connections will now continue into the foreseeable future.

The WESNET Board and team worked together to review and renew our [Strategic Plan](#) during the year. We reaffirmed our organisational commitment to work to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence so all women and children live free from violence. Our priorities over the forthcoming years include:

- Providing support for women victim-survivors and their children.
- Strengthening and supporting the women's family and domestic violence sector.
- Strengthening WESNET's position as the national leader of member services to the sector.

- Using our specialist knowledge to achieve our purpose and maximise our capacity to eliminate family and domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

More broadly across the sector, the new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children delivered a road map for the next ten years. As a member of the National Plan Advisory Group (NPAG), I attended meetings and reviewed countless drafts along with my NPAG colleagues often with very short turnarounds. I was pleased to see each subsequent draft evolve into a much more relevant and useful document. While the document was never likely to push as far as our sector seeks, we managed to significantly broaden the context that underpins the plan, including having gender inequality and other forms of oppression recognised as the drivers of violence against women and other forms of gender-based violence. Critical issues such as systemic barriers like workforce and housing are also acknowledged along with the need for prevention, early intervention, response and healing and recovery.

The new National Plan has a much more ecological approach than ever before and it is good to finally see the central role of women's specialist services named and acknowledged. While there is a long way to go in getting women's specialist services properly recognised and funded, this is at least a step in the right direction.

Another pleasing development during the year was our involvement in—and the government's willingness to examine online dating safety. This

is an area that sits well within our expertise, with its focus on technology as well as women's safety. WESNET's invitation into this space also facilitates acknowledgement of the important role the sector plays in primary prevention and early intervention. Too often assumptions are made that women's specialist family and domestic violence services have an exclusive focus on crisis response and recovery. While this focus is undoubtedly essential, it fails to acknowledge the other very important aspects of our work.

WESNET's invitation to the roundtable hosted by the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, along with our collaboration with Tinder and the production of our Dating Safety Guide, allowed us to shine a light on some different aspects of our sector's work.

Reflecting a return to other pre-pandemic practices, it was good to get another Technology Safety Summit off the ground in September 2022 after a four-year hiatus. In deference to the pandemic however, we went ahead with a virtual event—avoiding the need to bring people together in a physical setting. Although this was our first large-scale virtual conference, the summit went very smoothly and was received well. Attendees noted in particular the corporate panel with Telstra, Meta, Match Group, Google, Uber and the Commonwealth Bank, along with keynote presentations including victim-survivor Nicole Lee and Professor Bronwyn Carlson, not to mention the high level of professionalism and expertise displayed by WESNET's own technology safety specialists. I was very proud of how their contributions proved a linchpin to the summit proceedings.

Of course, none of the work we do would be possible without the support we receive from our administration staff, particularly those in our main office. While we flexed quickly throughout the pandemic to keep people as safe as possible,

there was essential work that needed to be carried on, often in person. Be it answering phone calls, ensuring a supply of new phones to our Safe Connections agencies, providing phone credit top-ups, paying bills, or helping members and women escape violence in a dozen other ways, our administrative staff showed up day after day. Their support, as always, provides the foundation for all that WESNET delivers.

We remain only as strong as our membership base. Thank you again to all our members for their ongoing support. I look forward to ramping up our engagement with our members, including through the 2023 Technology Summit, which will be held in Melbourne later in the year. Over the next year, we will continue to take every opportunity and create new opportunities to represent the best interests of our members and of women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

In closing, I would also like to say a special thank you to Julie Oberin AM, who has indicated her intention to step down as National Chair at the AGM in 2023. Julie joined the WESNET Committee in November 1996 as the Victorian Rep and has been the National Chair of WESNET for 19 out of the past 27 years.

During her times as National Chair she has steered WESNET through some incredible highs and lows. She has done this with wisdom, strategic nous that is second to none, and an unwavering commitment to ending gender-based violence in all its forms. I also wish to personally thank Julie for being an excellent mentor to me as CEO of WESNET over the years. We are very pleased that Julie will remain on the Board of WESNET as we enter a new chapter.

Karen Bentley,
CEO



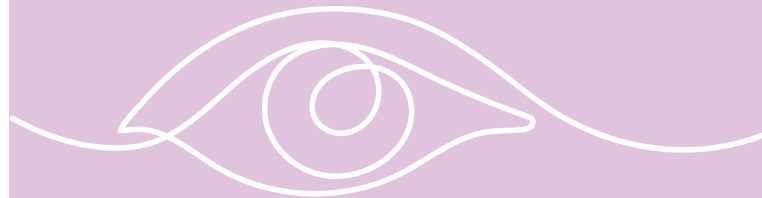
Our Members

WESNET represents more than 320 specialist women's services across Australia who are providing support to women, non-binary people and children experiencing domestic and family violence and other forms of gender-based violence. WESNET member services are women-led, and work within an intersectional feminist framework—acknowledging that patterns of oppression (including patriarchy, ableism, colonialism, imperialism, homophobia and racism) impact uniquely on multiple identities—and deliver their services with a woman-centred, empowerment approach.

WESNET's member services are diverse, and include women's refuges and shelters, safe houses, halfway houses and medium-term housing schemes, information and referral services, outreach and advocacy services, women's legal and court advocacy services, counselling services, state-wide peak bodies, community and health services, and sexual assault services. Our members provide support to women, non-binary people, and children from diverse populations, and include services targeted to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children, younger and older women, migrant and refugee women, the LGBTQIA+ community and women with disabilities.

The majority of WESNET's member services are Public Benevolent Institutions and/or direct service providers. They are distributed across all states and territories and are located in cities, regions, and rural and remote areas.

Members' unique and rich on-the-ground experience has led to specialist women's services providing leadership in developing Australian best-practice domestic and family violence prevention and early intervention programs, and frontline practitioner education and support. Their collective knowledge informs research and provides the foundation on which emerging domestic violence practices and policy and legislative reforms are shaped.



Vision

WESNET's vision for the future is that all forms of gender-based violence are eliminated, and that all women and children live free from domestic and family violence.

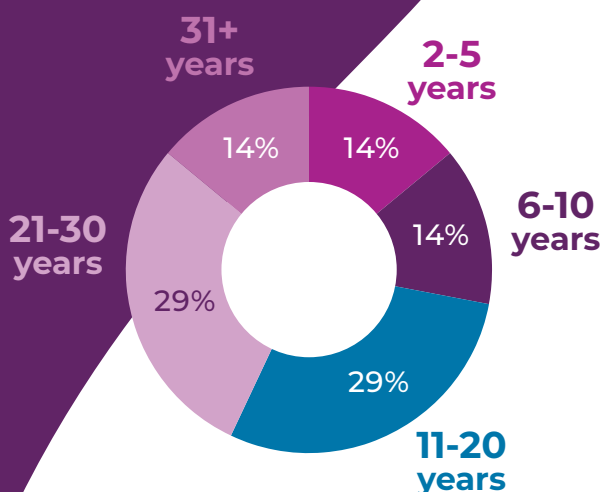
Opportunities for impact

WESNET's overarching purpose and objectives are defined in its Rules of Association. Over the next strategic planning cycle, WESNET aims to:

- Provide support for women victim-survivors and their children,
- Strengthen and build the women's family and domestic violence sector,
- Strengthen WESNET's position as the national leader of member services to the sector, and
- 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.

Our National Board

YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN THE DFV SECTOR



EXPERTISE ACROSS THE FOUR DOMAINS

some significant substantial

Primary prevention



Early intervention



Response



Recovery



WESNET's national board is comprised of elected representatives who are skilled and experienced leaders within the women's services sector, committed to eliminating gender-based violence.

Board members are elected by member services to represent states and territories. Diversity representatives are also elected to help ensure we live our intersectionality and diversity values, as well as improving the quality and relevance of our work.

Drawing on our board survey which is run annually, we know a number of things about our board.

The current board membership has excellent experience in not-for-profit, non-government organisations, government, and peak and representative bodies.

The board has a very good mix of skills with no concerning gaps. Major strengths include in relation to domestic and family violence services and policy, legal and governance, strategic development, communications, advocacy, and in people and financial management.

The board represents a range of experience across the sector, including substantial experience in crisis services, women's refuges and peak bodies; and significant experience in perpetrator programs and in research, education and policy development.

The board is geographically diverse with members from all states and territories and from metropolitan, inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote service delivery locations.

The board is broadly representative of women in the community with respect to a diverse mix of lived experience and demographic characteristics. WESNET is highly committed to ensuring that our values continue to be embodied in board membership.

We are very grateful to our board members for their generous contribution to further the interests of WESNET's member services, by volunteering their time, expertise and energy.

Board Members

Julie Oberin AM

National Chair & Diversity representative

Jennifer Kingwell

(resigned November 2022)

Deputy Chair & South Australian representative

Amie Carrington

Deputy Chair & Queensland representative

Margaret Augerinos

Treasurer & Victorian representative

Angie Piubello

Secretary & Australian Capital Territory representative

Jo Gamble

Northern Territory representative

Delia Donovan

New South Wales representative

Diane Burton

Tasmanian representative

Leanne Barron

Western Australian representative

Dr Merrindah Andrew

Public Officer

Board Member Reports

Australian Capital Territory

Angie Piubello

ACT representative and Secretary

Angie works in the ACT in the beautiful country of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri People with Beryl Women Inc in the role of specialist child/youth domestic violence case worker.

What were some of the major things impacting the ACT this year?

This last financial year has been a challenging year for the specialist domestic violence sector in the ACT, with commissioning for services being a major focus for specialist domestic violence services. Not only has the commissioning process been an additional burden for services recovering from the pandemic, but it has also brought with it uncertainty and concern for the future direction of funding and fear that services may lose funding. This has also brought added pressure for smaller services such as Beryl Women Inc, the longest-running refuge in Australia, and other small services. Thanks to the support of Buoy Group consultancy, our service was successful in securing ongoing funding and will keep our doors open for another year.



What were the highlights of 2022-23 in the ACT?

This last financial year Beryl Women Inc had an increase of Aboriginal women and children accessing safe accommodation which shows us the work we are doing alongside our Aboriginal community in the ACT is stronger than ever, and women and children recognise our service as a culturally safe space to access. Sadly the rate of child removal for Aboriginal children in the ACT is one of the highest in the country, and for many of these women and children, domestic and family violence is a major cause for child removal.

In September 2022, the ACT government introduced legislation to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner. The establishment of the Commission is part of a commitment under the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for Government to fully implement the recommendations from the Our Booris, Our Way review. We look forward to working together with the new Commissioner to ensure our Booris can live safe lives strongly connected to family and culture.

In my work directly with children and young people this financial year, several specialist domestic family violence services were successful in the ACT Family Domestic and Sexual Violence grant round funded through the National Partnerships Agreement, with several new projects identified for funding to enhance service delivery and address barriers facing individuals that have experienced domestic and family violence in the ACT.

One new project Beryl Women Inc. will be excited to offer in the ACT is the Kids & Young people Safe & Strong Van. The project will deliver specialist therapeutic interventions, trauma counselling and support to children and young people in the ACT who have experienced domestic and family violence.

What were WESNET's major achievements and what do you hope for WESNET for the future?

Beryl Women Inc relies heavily on donations and the support of other organisations such as WESNET

to meet the needs of our families and provide the important resources needed to work with women and children who have high safety needs due to fleeing domestic violence.

The WESNET Uber rides program ensures staff and clients have access to discreet and safe court support, reducing identification of vehicles, while the WESNET safe phones ensure women and young people can be connected to services and safety planning. The technology safety training WESNET offers to services is also vital to ensure staff are up to date with best practice in the area of safety technology and, importantly are applying an intersectional and gendered lens when working in the space of technology safety for all women.

I would like to express my gratitude and respect to all the members of the WESNET Board for their ongoing commitment to WESNET and to ensuring that women and children are supported across the country to access safe and secure specialist services. I would also like to recognise our CEO Karen Bentley for her professional and outstanding leadership and the WESNET team for their unwavering commitment and hard work this year.

New South Wales

Delia Donovan

New South Wales representative

Delia is Chief Executive Officer of Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW), a peak body representing 150 specialist services across the state of NSW.

What were some of the major things impacting New South Wales this year?

Labor won the New South Wales state election in March 2023. This is the first Labor government in the state in 12 years, ending the longest Coalition government in New South Wales history. Our sector looks forward to seeing election promises followed through, including the move to five-year contracts, introducing an independent victim services

commissioner, the partnership with Settlement Services International to establish a new specialist multicultural domestic and family violence centre in South West Sydney and several funding commitments to the domestic and family violence sector.

From July 2024, coercive control will be a criminal offence in New South Wales when a person uses abusive behaviours towards a current or former intimate partner with the intention to coerce or control them. DVNSW and others continue to advocate for the implementation process to be thorough, including extensive engagement and co-design opportunities between the sector and the justice system.

What were the highlights of 2022-23 in New South Wales?

Positively, 20 specialist children's workers were refunded due to extensive advocacy from DVNSW. DVNSW hopes these roles will be extended across the state as part of the New South Wales 2024 Budget.

DVNSW has been funded to support the implementation of quality standards across domestic violence services in New South Wales, building off the Good Practice Guidelines.

DVNSW and the Country Women's Association held its 3rd Regional Forum in 2023. It brought together key stakeholders, Ministers and members to discuss the impact of disaster on domestic and family violence. The 2023 forum focussed on the prevalence of domestic and family violence following disaster and the impact of gender inequality on disaster and recovery management in the regions. Members and service providers agreed that a cohesive and collaborative government approach is vital to disaster and recovery management, particularly in the context of domestic and family violence.

What are the big issues ahead for the sector in New South Wales?

Supporting and strengthening the workforces that prevent and respond to family violence is critical and urgent. Our sector is moving through rapid change and faces many obstacles, particularly around workforce ageing and workforce retention.

While our national plan asserts it will end gender-based violence in a generation, this can only be done if we significantly invest in services and housing solutions.

What were WESNET's major achievements, and what do you hope for WESNET for the future?

WESNET, as the peak national peak body for specialist women's domestic and family violence services, continues to pivot, grow and thrive, ensuring it can be responsive to the sector's needs.

WESNET is a trusted federal government advisor and has supported accountability and transparency mechanisms between its members and government in particular as the national plan consultation work took place.

WESNET is the 'go to' for all technology safety advice and was essential in supporting DVNSW in NSW Police collaborations with the Empower You App launch.

Since its inception in 2015, the Safe Connections Program has provided over 38,000 new smartphones with \$30 credit have been given to women experiencing violence.

Northern Territory

Jo Gamble

Northern Territory representative

Jo Gamble a board member for WESNET from the Northern Territory. She has been the CEO of the Katherine Women's Crisis Centre for the past 18 years.

What were some of the major things impacting the Northern Territory this year?

The DV sector continues to express concerns about the significant levels of demand across the NT, and about funding levels not keeping up with demand and other cost pressures, including wage and superannuation increases.

With the NT having the highest rates of DV in Australia with Aboriginal women 18 times more likely to experience DV, shelters across the NT have called for the federal government to allocate funding according to need. The NT DV sector is not asking to take from other DV services across the country, we are asking for appropriate funding to be committed to the issue of DV.

The NT Attorney-General's Department thanked everyone for their submissions into the Review of Legislation and the Justice Responses to Domestic and Family Violence in the NT. These are being reviewed with legislative reform to be developed. Systemic reform recommendations are currently being considered by the DFSV Interagency Coordination and Reform Office (ICRO).

NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTPFES) Family Harm Coordination Project that recently commenced in Alice Springs was welcomed as an innovation, however services requested further information from police to fully understand the project.

The sector calling for grassroots community activity to respond to DFSV in Tennant Creek and the Barkly Region was acknowledged by the NT Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG).

Infrastructure funding provided to DAWN House, Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women's Shelter (DAIWS), Catherine Booth House (Salvation Army) and the Katherine Women's Crisis Centre was announced to support greater capacity to provide accommodation to victims of DV.

The critical shortage of safe housing in the NT is causing victims to choose between homelessness or staying with or returning to abusive relationships as there are just no options, particularly given that the priority waitlist within Territory Housing is 4-5 years. A new housing program is being launched with the NT government and is providing \$2.125 million to two community housing providers; one in Darwin and the other in Alice Springs offering affordable long-term housing to victim-survivors.

Community Housing Limited will provide 17 furnished homes in Darwin and eight homes in Alice Springs provided by Central Australian Affordable Housing Company. Darwin will partner with Dawn House and Alice Springs will partner with Women's Safety Service of Central Australia. Each home will be subleased from the private market. While we welcome this initiative it is not creating more housing.

NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles announced the construction of six new public houses allocated to Katherine. That's six new houses with approximately 530 families on the waitlist according to NT Shelter Chief Executive Peter McMillan.

What were the highlights of 2022-23 in the Northern Territory?

For the first time in the NT a Prevention of Domestic, Family & Sexual Violence Minister was appointed. This appointment was taken up by Minister Kate Worden who also holds the portfolios for families, sport, disability, multicultural affairs and urban housing.

A focus on data—NT Health particularly Darwin and Palmerston Hospital—commenced a project to undertake an audit of domestic and family violence related presentations to the Emergency Department. NT Health across the Territory are looking at how and what data to capture in relation to DFV.

The Director of the Office of Domestic Family Sexual Violence Reduction (ODFSVR) is the NT's representative on the Jurisdictional Working Group with counterparts from all states and territories. The Jurisdictional Working Group has been working on the development of the draft National Plan Action Plan, with a parallel process underway with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence working on the standalone First Nations National Plan and Action Plan.

There was the establishment of a Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Interagency Coordination and Reform Office (ICRO) under the new minister for the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence so that the health, families, housing and communities, education, Attorney-General's and justice departments and the NT Police all work together as one on DFSV.

Under the ICRO work was done with government agencies and NGOs to develop a clear logical framework to guide the efforts to address DFSV, and develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Attorney-General's Department put out a call for submissions to review the Justice Responses to Domestic and Family Violence Legislation in the NT.

Lisa Dietrich, Primary Prevention Program Officer from Our Watch, provided an overview of her newly formed role which focusses on supporting primary prevention practice in the NT under the Northern Territory Government Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework: Safe, respected and free from violence.

The role is funded for two years with three main functions:

- Sector development and engagement, including training and professional development; contributing to the Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Conference 2023; and the Primary Prevention Community of Practice;

- Developing a framework for primary prevention specific to the NT context; and
- Support primary prevention evaluation in the NT.

Dr Lucy Owen from Territory Health advised that a project is commencing to undertake an audit of domestic and family violence related presentations to the Emergency Departments at the Royal Darwin Hospital and the Palmerston Regional Hospital. NT Health is in the process of working on DFSV clinical guidelines for all hospital and health staff. This will support Hospital staff to identify victims and conduct risk assessments.

The Director of ODFSVR accompanied the Minister for Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence at the launch of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 in Canberra in October.

An Aboriginal Advisory Board for DFSV was recently established, the terms of reference are yet to be developed. The Aboriginal Advisory Board will feed into the CAWG. Given the Board has only just developed its membership we look forward to seeing how it takes shape.

What are the big issues ahead for the sector in Northern Territory?

There will be new programs being developed within the coming year:

- NT Police are about to implement their newly developed General Orders.
- NT Health will be testing their developing Clinical Guidelines.
- PART: Prevent Assist Respond training is in the process of being developed. This specialist DFSV training is currently for police and healthcare workers.
- NT Police are developing a co-responder pilot program in Alice Springs. We look forward to the details of the program as they emerge.

Queensland

Amie Carrington

Queensland representative and Deputy Chair

Amie Carrington is Chief Executive Officer of Domestic Violence Action Centre, and Co-Convener of Ending Violence Against Women Queensland.

What were some of the major things impacting Queensland this year?

Queensland has been progressing action to respond to the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports. We welcomed the government response to the recommendations and support or support in principle to all recommendations. We have contributed to the thinking and development of reform within Queensland to improve the experience and outcomes for victims of domestic and sexual violence across the criminal justice system.

What were the highlights of 2022-23 in Queensland?

Collaboration across domestic violence, women's health, sexual violence and women's refuges in Ending Violence Against Women Queensland has provided a united voice on key areas of reform. The reform environment is an exciting and rare opportunity for Queensland to lead the way in the design of legislation, the establishment of a Victims Commissioner and a statewide domestic violence services peak body.

What are the big issues ahead for the sector in Queensland?

Keeping women safe in the home (KWSITH) services have not been provided within Queensland since 30th June 2022 due to contracts not being renewed. We are eager to have future funding certainty to ensure that victims can get more support to be safe from domestic violence. Our domestic and sexual violence services continue to be heavily burdened with increased demand prevalence and insufficient service delivery investment.

What were WESNET's major achievements and what do you hope for WESNET for the future?

WESNET continues to provide support for victim-survivors and is trusted to provide information and expertise around technology-facilitated abuse with a broad national reach. WESNET provides a powerful voice and positive solutions to gender-based violence—the impact is demonstrated through the training and phones provided, and increased safety reported by clients.

WESNET has a positive future and will continue to strengthen as the national peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services.



Tasmania

Di Burton

Tasmanian representative

Di is the Salvation Army State Manager for Tasmania and Team Leader at McCombe House.

What were some of the major things impacting Tasmania this year?

The main things affecting Tasmania services this year were staff shortages and funding shortfalls. The impact of housing shortages on family violence survivors—and on the services that support them—continues to be a major issue as well.

What were the highlights of 2022-23 in Tasmania?

The Misidentification Forum and the provision of Magnolia Place extra crisis accommodation—12 units for family violence survivors and their children—were highlights this year.

Additionally, the Tasmanian State Government amended the Criminal Code to:

- Reflect that there is no free agreement to sexual intercourse in the event of certain conduct regarding condoms, and
- Create the new stand-alone offence of strangulation, choking and suffocation.

The Family Violence Reforms Bill 2022 was passed and will amend the *Family Violence Act 2004* and other Acts to:

- Introduce a Serial Family Violence Perpetrator Declaration to identify perpetrators who repeatedly commit family violence offences against a single partner or multiple and successive partners
- Introduce an option for the court to order mandated rehabilitation program participation as a Family Violence Order condition, and

- Expand the definition of family violence to include additional specific offences, and expand the definition of harassing to reflect that making unwelcome contact is a form of family violence

The Hearing Lived Experience Survey opened in February 2022 for 12 months. Over 700 responses were received. Outcomes from the survey have shaped *Survivors at the Centre*, and continue to inform its implementation.

The Tasmanian Government has also committed to establishing Tasmania's first Victim-Survivor Advisory Council. The council will provide an ongoing voice to government and will inform the ongoing evolution and implementation of *Survivors at the Centre*.

What are the big issues ahead for the sector in Tasmania?

The resolution of issues associated with workforce and equal pay, and housing need to be a focus.

What were WESNET's major achievements?

WESNET programs—including Uber Rides and Safe Phones—are major achievements and provide direct relief to women and children escaping violence. WESNET's technology safety training is also highly valued.

Victoria

Margaret Augerinos

Victorian representative and Treasurer

Margaret is Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Non-Violence, as well as a board member of Safe and Equal, the Victorian state peak body for domestic and family violence specialist services. She has experience in specialist family violence service delivery, including for victim-survivors and programs for men who use violence.

What were some of the major things impacting Victoria this year?

Some of the biggest issues impacting the Victorian sector (and all jurisdictions) in 2022-23 have been related to cost-of-living issues and pressures and their flow-on effects. In particular:

- Inadequate indexation on core grants—Victorian community services received 2.6% indexation plus a once-off two per cent sustainability payment—which has not been sufficient to meet significant operational cost increases across the board
- Lack of housing (crisis, short, medium and long-term affordable) impacting on service delivery, and
- Lack of housing impacting staff recruitment in rural and regional areas—there are not enough housing options to support our workforce growth.

Further to this, we have experienced:

- Significant demand on services with growing waiting lists across our system
- Change reform and fatigue, and
- Ongoing challenges in recruitment and retention of our workforce.

The Victorian Government has announced that accreditation against the Human Service Standards will no longer be required from December 2023, to be replaced by the introduction of the Social Services Regulations from 1 July 2024 and their requirements for services to self-assess against six new standards. We are uncertain as to what this may mean for our sector in terms of compliance requirements and costs and impacts to meet the new regulations.

Additionally, the Victorian Government has released its Fair Jobs Code that enables the government to use its purchasing power to promote secure employment and fair labour standards, and ensure compliance with employment, workplace and industrial laws. A working group has been established to determine what impact this may have on the broader community services sector.

Victoria was significantly impacted by floods in October 2022. For the first time, specialist family violence services in flood-affected areas were provided with some additional capacity to respond to community members in those areas. The funding was short term (six months) and there was pressure to implement quickly. While there has not been a formal evaluation of the program, specialist family violence services have informally reported that the funding was provided at the wrong time and would have been better implemented much later down the track. For many families who were dealing with ongoing relocation and temporary homes (such as caravans and tents), this was their main priority, and engaging in therapeutic recovery programs or intensive family violence support was just not possible for them given their immediate needs.

The sector in Victoria has also had significant new requirements introduced around service delivery standards, including:

- Implementation of the new case management program requirements that set out expectations for specialist family violence services in delivering case management for victim-survivors. The requirements aim to promote a response to victim-survivors that is consistent, equitable, accessible and high-quality, no matter where they live or what support they need.
- Implementation of a new Family Violence Crisis Response Model—to improve the way the family violence system works together to support victim-survivors in crisis. The model outlines a concept of shared responsibility that promotes coordinated responses to victim-survivors that are consistent, clearly communicated, and jointly managed by the services involved.
- New Child Safe Standards—a set of mandatory requirements to better protect children and young people from abuse. The standards build on those developed in 2016 and include new requirements such as: involving families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe; a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people; and managing the risk of child abuse in online environments.

What were the highlights of 2022-23 in Victoria?

Over 2022-23 there was a significant focus on housing affordability and supply of social/public housing; the Victorian Government has committed \$5 billion to increasing stock by 12,000 units over four years.

New affirmative consent laws were introduced during the 2022-23 year—taking effect from 1 July 2023. The changes will include updated definitions of consent, the introduction of an affirmative consent model, changes to circumstances where there is no consent, the inclusion of non-consensual condom tampering or removal, stealthing as a sexual offence, changes to image-based sexual abuse laws and improvements to the justice system to better protect victim-survivors, including increased education and direction for members of a jury to understand sexual violence.

Some small funding increases announced in the May 2022 budget were implemented in the 2022-23 year, including investment in primary prevention and perpetrator responses, expanding the Central Information Point, and refuge and crisis accommodation.

What are the big issues ahead for the sector in Victoria?

The big issues ahead for the sector include:

- Ongoing workforce recruitment and retention
- Elevated workloads and increased demand
- Impact of reforms such as The Orange Door on the broader sector—service design
- Increased workloads to comply with new policy, practice, legislative and regulatory environment
- Unrealistic targets that do not reflect the nature of current service delivery model, and
- Inadequate indexation and funding increases.

What were WESNET's major achievements and what do you hope for WESNET for the future?

WESNET had a number of worthy achievements over the course of the year, including:

- Achieving a three-year funding commitment from the federal government for the Safety Net Technology for Women project
- Strong advocacy in development of the new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 and the First Action Plan 2023-2027
- Maintaining strong advocacy and support around issues that impact the specialist family violence sector
- Ongoing engagement with the Global Network of Women's Shelters
- Continued support of AWAVA
- Strong engagement with the sector and stability of memberships
- Strong social media profile, and
- A strong, stable and capable staff team.

Looking ahead to the future, I am hopeful that WESNET will continue to engage with the sector and elevate and amplify their voice and experience to policymakers and funders, and also that it will work to secure ongoing financial sustainability and security, and continue to advocate and influence.

It's a pleasure and privilege to be part of the WESNET Board.

Western Australia

Leanne Barron

Western Australia representative

Leanne is the Chief Executive Officer of Starick, a specialist women's family and domestic violence service operating in the southeast metropolitan corridor of Perth (Boorloo).

What were some of the major things impacting Western Australia this year?

The housing crisis is continuing to impact the sector and the safety of victim-survivors. The lack of housing options means the average length of stay for women and children in refuges has increased from three to six months, and this, in turn is impacting the capacity of refuges to accommodate women and children in crisis.

The second Action Plan for Western Australia's State Path to Safety and the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy have both stalled, which means we are not getting the strategic and coordinated approach that was hoped for and needed. Spending on prevention, early intervention and recovery services in particular, is lagging.

What were the highlights of 2022-23 in Western Australia?

A number of initiatives are being led by the state peak, the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing. These include:

- A workforce development strategy for primary prevention
- Development of a Code of Practice and Audit Tool for specialist family and domestic violence services for victim-survivors
- A project to develop and promote transitional housing models.

The Department of Justice and the Department of Communities are jointly leading a project to develop

Western Australia's first Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy.

What are the big issues ahead for the sector in Western Australia?

Major issues include workforce development, particularly in the prevention space and also to enable services to respond to the greater complexity of issues facing clients.

Safe housing options, including transitional housing options, are critical to enabling women to safely exit refuges.

What were WESNET's major achievements?

WESNET's achievements include the provision of high-quality training and resources to address technology-facilitated abuse, along with providing sector leadership in this space. WESNET has also been successful in providing high-quality information for the sector through regular newsletters, and through reports and submissions.





Diversity and Inclusion

Julie Oberin AM

Diversity representative and National Chair

Julie is also Chief Executive Officer of Annie North Women's Refuge and Domestic Violence Service.

Intersectionality

It is important to remember the history, meaning and importance of the concept of intersectionality. Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term intersectionality in the late 1980s as a way to explain the oppression of African-American women. Crenshaw described intersectionality as "a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects. It's not simply that there's a race problem here, a gender problem here, and a class or LGBTQ problem there. Many times that framework erases what happens to people who are subject to all of these things" ([Crenshaw 2017](#)).

WESNET's activities

WESNET has been involved in several activities, groups and research projects over the last year that have highlighted the need for a more intersectional focus on structural and response barriers to women experiencing gender-based violence. These include:

- AWAVA (Australian Women Against Violence Alliance) Advisory Group
- Release of our 'conversation guides' and our 'what is tech abuse' posters in several languages

- Participation on the National Advocacy Group on Women on Temporary Visas Experiencing Violence
- *Technology-facilitated coercive control: Mapping women's diverse pathways to safety and justice* (AIC CRG) with Dr Asher Flynn and Professor Anastasia Powell from Monash University
- Understanding Technology-facilitated Domestic Violence in the Pacific and Building Support Services for Victim/Survivors with Dr Diarmaid Harkin, Dr Mary Iliadis and Professor Marilyn McMahon
- Working with the Australian Federal Police on delivering training as part of the Cyberpasifika program.

National approaches

It is important that governments and service providers continue to focus on dismantling the structural oppressions that intersect on people's lives, rather than focus on just celebrating diversity.

In other areas in Australia this last year, it is noted that the government has taken the approach to set up a standalone First Nations Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children. The Attorney-General is establishing [a sexual violence lived experience advisory group](#). Stefani Vasil and Marie Segrave have published a great article on [technology-facilitated abuse and how it intersects with domestic and family violence and temporary migration](#).

Blueprint for Reform

In 2022, the National Advocacy Group on Women on Temporary Visas Experiencing Violence (of which WESNET is a member) published the [*Blueprint for Reform: Removing Barriers to Safety for Victim/Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence Who are on Temporary Visas*](#). The 'Blueprint for Reform' highlights the myriad of ways that women on temporary visas who experience family violence are denied basic human rights and essential services in Australia. These include access to income, the right to work, childcare, housing, and free public health. The report outlines four recommendations to immediately improve the situation for these women. These are:

- Improve the migration system so that all women on temporary visas who experience domestic, family and sexual violence and their dependents can access protections, services and justice.
- Expand eligibility and access to social security (including Medicare) for women on temporary visas who are experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Expand eligibility and access to social and public housing for women on temporary visas who are experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Ensure long-term and sustainable funding for specialist and legal services that support women on temporary visas who are experiencing or are at risk of domestic, family and sexual violence.

WESNET hosted the launch of the blueprint on 14 June 2023. The webinar launch provided a detailed account of the Blueprint as well as identifying relevant budget measures, their likely impact, and key policy and program shortfalls. Hosted by WESNET CEO Karen Bentley, speakers included Professor Marie Segrave, Monash University; Sophie de Rohan, Senior Solicitor, Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre; Professor Manjula Datta O'Connor; Michal Morris, CEO, InTouch (Michal has since left InTouch); Nuria Alarcon Lopez, Harmony Alliance; and Juliana Nkrumah AM, SSI.

The webinar is available for viewing on the WESNET website.

Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability

[The Royal Commission into Violence Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability](#) is currently underway.

The Royal Commission inquiry is rightfully committed to a strong focus on human rights of people with a disability. This includes the right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Royal Commission also focused on listening and reflecting the voices of people with lived experience of disability and has put in place a number of ways for the community to participate. The Royal Commission conducted community forums and meetings with people with disability and their families, friends and supporters about their experiences and views to provide valuable information and to guide the Royal Commission's investigative and policy work. Engagement activities were underpinned by consultative mechanisms such as the First Nations Peoples Strategic Advisory Group and a Community Engagement Strategy.

As with domestic and family violence and sexual abuse, violence against people with disabilities also overwhelmingly impacts women.

Overall, people with disability experience violence at higher rates, and more frequently, than those without disability. [One-half of people with a disability have experienced violence since they were 15 years old.](#)

Report findings are due to be handed down in the second half of 2023.



Our Work

Australia's national peak body for domestic and family violence services

WESNET is Australia's peak body for specialist women's domestic and family violence services. We provide strong, connected leadership for services and their workers who are supporting women and children experiencing and escaping violence.

Established in 1992, WESNET is a grassroots organisation, run by women, for the women's services sector and the women and children they support.

As a public benevolent institution, WESNET provides relief and support to women and children experiencing domestic violence, family violence and other forms of gender-based violence. And, as a member-led and driven organisation, we provide a range of services aimed at supporting and building capacity in frontline specialist services.

Policy and legislative reform

National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children

Following intensive work across the sector, the second *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032* was finally launched by the Australian Government on 17 October 2022. WESNET was pleased to see many of our key advocacy points taken on board this time around including, most importantly, the centering of women's specialist services, along with the acknowledgement of gender inequality being at the heart of violence against women.

Pleasingly, WESNET's CEO Karen Bentley was reappointed as an ongoing member of the National Plan Advisory Group. In continuing to urge governments to bring the National Plan to life with real and tangible actions aimed at prevention, early intervention, response and recovery, she is aiming to build on WESNET's success in advocating for a central role and recognition of specialist domestic and family violence services in the action plan due later in 2023.

Over the course of 2022-23, WESNET provided feedback on the first action plan, and expressed our strong support for the work of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council in driving the development of an action plan aimed specifically at addressing the unique oppressions faced by First Nations women.

National Principles to Address Coercive Control

Approaches to addressing coercive control have accelerated over 2022-23, with many states and territories moving towards its criminalisation. While prior to this year only Tasmania had explicitly criminalised non-physical forms of family violence such as economic abuse and emotional abuse or intimidation in its *Family Violence Act 2004*, two more states have since passed legislation. This year, both New South Wales and Queensland passed legislation to explicitly criminalise coercive control commencing, coming into effect, respectively, in November 2022 and May 2023. Consultations and legislative development activities are also currently underway in South Australia and Western Australia.

Nationally, work has continued—albeit slowly—on the development of National Principles to Address Coercive Control, and WESNET has also continued its participation on the Advisory Group convened by the Australian and state and territory Attorneys-General. In this role, WESNET remains committed to ensuring that women most likely to be impacted by criminalisation—including First Nations women and migrant and refugee women—are central to consultation regarding the principles. Another aspect of our role is providing advice and feedback on a range of resource materials on coercive control to be used to raise awareness.



Other submissions and consultations

Submissions

As part of being the national peak body, WESNET makes submissions on a range of issues relevant to our members, to the safety of women and children escaping violence, and to gender equality more generally. Over the course of 2022-23 WESNET made submissions to government and/or Parliament on a range of topics as listed below.

- Draft National Care and Support Economy Strategy
- National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality
- Privacy Act Review Report
- Online Safety Codes
- Inquiry into current and proposed sexual consent laws in Australia
- Safe Places Inclusion Round
- Employment White Paper consultation
- Departmental review: A migration system for Australia's future
- Inquiry into the human rights of women and children
- Inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children
- WESNET Pre-Budget Submission 2023-24
- Fair Work Amendment (Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave) Bill 2022 inquiry.

These are all available on WESNET's website.

Advice and consultations

In recognition of WESNET's expertise, we continued to be invited to consultation activities and approached for advice and input. In 2022-23 this included:

- Participation in the Online Dating Safety Roundtable convened by the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications
- Member of the Executive Group of the National Advocacy Group for Women on Temporary Visas Experiencing Violence
- Member of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Homelessness Statistics Reference Group
- Meetings with Match Group, Bumble and Tinder Safe Space regarding dating safety
- NSW Domestic Violence Social Innovation Accelerator Workshop
- Participation on Meta Women's Safety Roundtable
- Participation on Uber Women's Safety Roundtable Australia New Zealand
- Member of Thriving Community Partnerships
- Member of Commbank Community of Practice
- Member of the Economic Abuse Reference Group
- Panellist on the International Women's Day Presentation hosted by Bumble
- Meetings with government on Keeping Women Safe in The Home (KWSITH)
- Member of the Advisory Group on Image-based Abuse
- Meetings with 1800Respect and DV Alert
- Consultation on the Safe Places Inclusion Round
- Focus Group for the independent review of the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework
- Endorsement of Women's Legal Services Australia submissions on the Family Law Amendment Bill, and consultation with the Attorney-General's Department on the bill
- Our Watch consultation to inform government action for preventing violence against women with disabilities
- Feedback on updated and improved guidance for telcos: Assisting Consumers Affected by Domestic and Family Violence
- Input to the Department of Social Services Position Paper on community services
- Consultation with the Department of Education's Child Care division on the administration of the Child Care Subsidy (CCS)
- Consultation on the Escaping Violence Payment



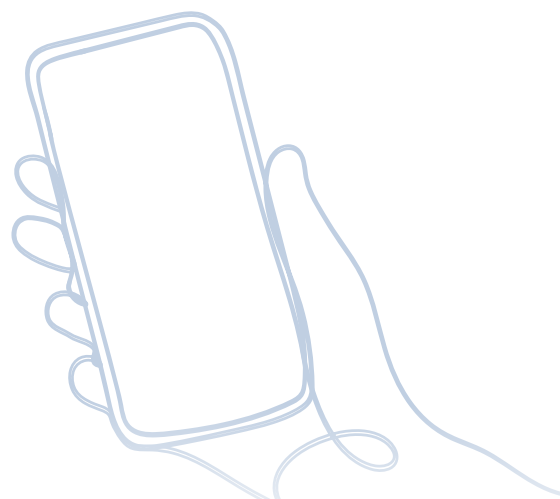
Research and evidence

Another of WESNET's key priorities is contributing to the evidence-base. This supports our members by helping to ensure that their work is better understood by the wider community, as well as contributing to the knowledge underpinning the design and implementation of best practice policies and programs. WESNET responds to a large volume of research queries on an ad hoc basis, and we promote participation in research projects where appropriate. Due to the large number of requests that we receive, and our own and our members' limited resources, we remain selective in those we actively participate in. This year, WESNET continued to work with Monash and Deakin Universities on five external studies.

- **Can CCTV provide safety and security for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence?**—Dr Diarmaid Harkin, Dr Mary Iliadis, Professor Marilyn McMahon, Ms Karen Bentley - funded by the Australian Institute of Criminology
- **Technology-facilitated coercive control: Mapping women's diverse pathways to safety and justice**—Dr Asher Flynn, Associate Professor Anastasia Powell, Ms Karen Bentley - funded by the Australian Institute of Criminology
- **Technology-Facilitated Sexual Harassment: Perpetration, Responses and Prevention**—Dr Asher Flynn, Associate Professor Anastasia Powell, Ms Karen Bentley - funded by ANROWS
- **Understanding Technology-Facilitated Domestic Violence in the Pacific and Building Support Services for Victim-Survivors**—Dr Diarmaid Harkin, Dr Delanie Woodlock - funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs
- **Accessing the family violence provision: enhancing migrant women's safety**—Associate Professor Marie Segrave, Professor Jane Maree Maher, InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, WESNET and Harmony Alliance - funded by ARC Linkage Grant.

WESNET is also one of 32 partner organisations that will be a part of the new **ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW)**. This Centre aims to transform our

understanding of the problem by examining the structural drivers that cause and compound violence against women, and pioneering new, evidence-based approaches to radically improve policy and practice across Australia and the Indo-Pacific. The Centre mobilises survivor-centric and Indigenous methodologies, interdisciplinary collaborations, and Indo-Pacific partnerships to deliver scalable approaches to eliminate violence against women across the legal, security, economic, health, and political systems of Australia and the region.



Programs and Services

Safety Net Australia

WESNET is Australia's non-government expert at the intersection of technology and violence against women. WESNET established and runs Safety Net Australia, a core service that both protects and empowers Australian women. The service protects women from abusers who utilise technology to surveil, monitor, stalk, invade privacy with the goals of coercion and harm manifesting as physical, emotional, sexual or financial abuse, while at the same time ensuring that women can remain on technology. Established in 2011, Safety Net Australia, builds on the US Safety Net project established in 2001 by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

We continued our strong partnership with the NNEDV Safety Net and were also delighted to see the strengthening of the Safety Net Canada program during the year.

Safe Connections / Safer Technology for Women

Since 2014, Telstra has donated brand-new smartphones and pre-paid credit to WESNET to give to women experiencing domestic and family violence through our network of frontline agencies. In 2016, as part of the Women's Safety Package, the Australian Government funded WESNET to expand and manage the program under the Safe Technology for Women program.

Australian government funding and continued generous donations of smartphones and prepaid credit from Telstra have seen over 38,000 phones be provided to women in need.

Importantly, a critical component of the project is the training and resources that WESNET provides to front-line workers so they can support women experiencing technology-facilitated abuse. The training covers all the ways that smartphones can be misused by perpetrators, how to help women be safer on technology, document abuse that later may help them hold their abusers accountable, and how workers can safely provide the phones to women impacted by gender-based violence. WESNET ensures that frontline agencies are provided with the up-to-date information and capability necessary to undertake proper risk assessment and keep women and children safe. It is critically important that women are able to access phones and technology to help, not hinder, their safety and wellbeing.

There were 4,730 women provided with new smartphones and \$40 prepaid credit by frontline practitioners trained to assist them in setting up and using their new devices safely during 2022-23. We also provided top-up credits to 950 women during the year to help them stay safely connected.



For the past four or so years, interest in becoming a Safe Connections agency has significantly exceeded our ability to onboard new agencies due to funding and capacity constraints. With the announcement of much-welcomed renewed and expanded funding in March this year, WESNET brought new agencies into the program for the first time in many years. WESNET will now be able to not only continue but expand the program's reach with funding for the program now committed through to June 2027. This will significantly bolster the program's ability to help keep women and children safe.

Another core aspect of our work is helping women and specialist services avoid and manage tech-abuse more generally. Across 2022-23, our Safety Net team responded to over 4,400 calls and 2,000 emails, and a further 400 email support requests via our website contact form, from frontline workers and their clients requesting assistance with technology-facilitated abuse. The client cases our technology safety specialists managed were predominantly high-risk, technically complex technology abuse cases and those emerging from new technologies, requiring a high level of expertise and knowledge.

Communicating with our Safe Connections agencies is key to the success of the program, and we do this through a number of ways, including direct emails and phone calls, as well as training and webinars. We also have a phones portal, connecting over 3,500 frontline workers, which increased over 15 per cent over the course of the year. Newsletters were sent bi-monthly focussing not just on issues directly associated with the program, but on technology safety more broadly. Of course, communication is a two-way street, and we rely on and value our Safe Connections agencies to keep us in touch with the issues that are most impacting women's safety at the ground level.

A big thank you to all our Safe Connections agencies across the country and the dedicated team members in the Telstra Safe Team for their time and commitment to providing safe phones to women who are in need of a new device. It is the risk and safety planning of the workers in these agencies that makes these phones “safe”.

Technology safety resources

The Safety Net Australia team also develops and publishes technology safety resources for women, practitioners and their clients on techsafety.org.au. Resources include the Women’s Safety and Privacy Toolkit, Technology Safety for Agencies, App Safety Centre, Women’s Legal Guides, and printable resources for services and practitioners. The techsafety.org.au website was visited by 142,746 unique visitors over the 12 months to June and had 239,319 page views.

Women’s Legal Guides

The [techsafety](https://techsafety.org.au) website hosts a set of comprehensive Women’s Legal Guides for survivors and practitioners on image-based abuse, surveillance, violence orders and relevant criminal offences. The guides were created in 2015 as part of the Recharge Project in collaboration with Domestic Violence Resource Centre and Women’s Legal Service NSW, who updated the content in 2019. The content was updated again in 2022 by WESNET.

App Safety Centre

The App Safety Centre provides advice to survivors about popular apps that are marketed to women, as well as advice to developers and others who are considering building an app for women. The safety centre also promotes our research in relation to apps, including the findings of our App Safety Centre research project, funded by the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), reviewing apps marketed towards women’s safety, and testing for functionality and limitations. This year WESNET spoke to first year social work students from Western Sydney University (WSU) to discuss this project as well as technology-facilitated abuse more generally.

Uber Rides

Our Uber-partnered WESNET Rides program distributed 1,038 Uber rides to victim-survivors to help them travel to essential appointments, including domestic and family violence support, medical, police, and legal services in 2022-23. This means 5,315 rides have been provided through the Uber Rides program since 2019, enabling thousands of women and their children to travel when they otherwise would have difficulty. We are very grateful to Uber for their ongoing financial support of the WESNET rideshare program.

Uber Share a Ride Campaign

Running parallel with the 2022 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (25 November 2022 to 10 December 2022), WESNET launched the Share a Ride, Gift a Ride women’s safety campaign with Uber on 25 November 2022.

The aim of the campaign was to encourage riders to make a difference to an ‘at risk’ woman’s life by turning the use of an Uber safety feature into a donation of a safe ride.

Uber vouched to donate a free ride of up to \$20 to WESNET’s Uber Rides Program every time the Share My Ride safety feature was used during the 16 Days of Activism, capped to \$85,000. The maximum limit was reached within days, and we very much appreciate the valuable boost by Uber to the Uber Rides program.



Image: WESNET CEO, Karen Bentley and NoToViolence CEO, Jacqui Watt at the launch of the Safe at Home Issue of Parity in April 2023.



Events, webinars and professional development

Technology safety

Our technology safety specialists delivered 68 webinars on technology safety during the year, including 32 to our Safe Connections agencies, and a further 36 on a wide range of topics including the latest on stalkerware, working with children and young people and tech-abuse, smart home technology, smartphones and safety, and supporting survivors from a distance. In total we trained 2,373 practitioners and participants in 2022-2023. Since 2015 we've delivered training to 16,182 participants at 537 training events.

We also hosted the 4th Technology Safety Summit as a virtual event in September 2022 after a four-year hiatus. Read more about the event on page 36.

Other webinars and training

Over the course of the year, WESNET focussed on promoting the importance of women's specialist services in a strategic way across a number of forums and media. This included holding two additional significant webinar events: one brought together key experts and peak body representatives to discuss the key role women's specialist services play in ending violence against women; and,

secondly, we were very proud to host the launch of the Blueprint for Reform, which again highlighted the critical role and need for specialist domestic and family violence services, particularly in the context of supporting women on temporary visas. Both events were very well attended, enabling WESNET to promote key messages about our sector to a range of participants including government, academia, policy makers and practitioners.

WESNET is also asked from time to time to carry out specialised training, tailored to meet the needs of particular women or services. This year we provided training to Orange Door, Immigrant Women Speak Out Association and the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing.

Other events

WESNET is often called upon to present at various events, both in respect of technology safety and in relation to women's safety more generally. This year, WESNET CEO and trainers presented at events including:

- National Rural Women's Coalition Conference on the Status of Women (CSW67) event
- CSW67
- Launch of the Parity Journal issue on Safe at Home (WESNET authored a paper)
- Thriving Community Partnerships.



Partnerships and collaborative ventures

Network of DFV peaks and representative networks

Starting late 2022, domestic and family violence peak bodies and representative networks have been meeting on a regular basis to both share information and build strength in joint advocacy efforts. While early meetings focused on administrative matters including resourcing and terms of reference for the group, the group looking forward hopes to address substantive issues including advice for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner on engagement with this group and the specialist service sector. The group also examined the potential for several states/territories to collaborate on a project seeking to develop a shared language and methodology for measuring specialist service capacity and demand—with a view towards building a national data picture. Topics highlighted for future discussion include needs-based funding allocation and mapping the reform landscape across jurisdictions.

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)

In support of AWAVA—now in its second un-funded year—WESNET continued to provide secretariat services, lead on project work, and compile and publish AWAVA's fortnightly Round Up.

AWAVA met five times over the course of the year. It made submissions to the Australian Government on ParentsNext and on the draft National Principles to Address Coercive Control. Twenty one editions of Round Up were produced and circulated to a readership of over 1,800 people.

Global Coalition Against Stalkerware (CAS)

WESNET continued to be an active member of the Global Coalition Against Stalkerware which has been established to address the growing threat of non-consensual tracking of victim-survivors via digital devices. This year we continued to regularly attend Asia-Pacific regional and global online CAS meetings. WESNET has also been involved in frequent and regular communication with other global CAS partners discussing issues involving stalkerware and other monitoring and tracking technologies.

Australian Federal Police and the CyberPasifika program

One of our major projects this year has been with the Australian Federal Police as part of the Cyber Pasifika Program. Together with the Team in Canberra, WESNET has developed and customised training units designed to bring awareness and skills to police officers across the Blue Pacific region in relation to cyber abuse as a form of domestic violence. Several webinars and training resources have been developed as part of the project.

Other partners and projects

As a small organisation we draw strength from partnering with a range of other organisations.

This enables us to target our work and our resources, and to join forces with other experts, to amplify knowledge and results.

In 2022-23 we continued our long-standing strong and ongoing relationships with major technology companies such as Telstra, Meta, Match Group, Uber, and Apple to end violence and abuse on their platforms and within their workplaces.



Image: Meeting of the Global Network of Women's Shelters in New York, March 2023

We have also been working with the Western Australian Department of Justice on the Leave Safe, Stay Safe (LSSS) program. The LSSS program is a collaborative project between WESNET, the Western Australian Department of Justice, Relationships Australia Western Australia, and Regional Alliance West. Each service works together to provide women leaving prison with casework support, information, referrals, technology safety advice and a new phone if they need one. WESNET will be providing the phones and technology safety training to the support workers assisting women leaving prison.

We worked with several government departments during the year including the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and the Attorney-General's Department.

Global Network of Women's Shelters

We remain strong and foundational members of the Global Network of Women's Shelters and were proud to be a part of the official launch to the global helplines project Lila.help during the year. The Lila.help website is a directory of vetted helplines that women worldwide can reach out to safely. It helps provide women with a safe number to call with a trusted agency at the other end of the line.



Image: WESNET Treasurer, and Victorian Representative, Margaret Augerinos delivering the Oceania region report at the Global Network of Women's Shelters CSW67 Parallel event in New York in March 2023. Margot Kuijpers, manager of the Lila.help project is also pictured.

THANK YOU TO Our Supporters

Key agencies and partners in 2022-23

- Department of Social Services
- Department of Justice, Western Australia
- Telstra
- Uber
- Match Group & Tinder Aus
- Australian Federal Police
- Meta
- Global Network of Women's Shelters

Individual Donors

List of all financial donors that donated between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 in alphabetical order.

- Jacqueline Bateman
- John Caley
- Jon Cottam
- Shelby Fisher
- Miguel Jacq
- Anna Lam
- Sarah Palmer
- Brent Turner

Organisations we have worked with during 2022-23

- | | |
|---|---|
| → Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) | → Monash University |
| → ACON | → National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance |
| → Apple | → National Network to End Domestic Violence (US) |
| → Attorney General's Department | → National Rural Women's Alliance |
| → Bumble | → NSW Police |
| → Centacare Catholic Country SA (CCCSA) | → Office for Women |
| → Coalition Against Stalkerware | → Our Watch |
| → Commonwealth Bank | → Stellar Partnerships |
| → Deakin University | → StopNCII (UK) |
| → DV Alert | → Telcos Together |
| → DV NSW | → Telstra Health (1800Respect) |
| → eSafety Commission | → The Orange Door (North East Melbourne) |
| → Forcibly Displaced Persons Network | → University of Western Sydney |
| → Future Women | → Victim Support Services and Reform (VSSR) |
| → Garden of Hope (Taiwan) | → WA Victims of Crime Commissioner |
| → Harmony Alliance | → Western Sydney University |
| → Immigrant Women's Speakout Association | → Westpac |
| → Medibank Health Solutions (1800Respect) | → Women Canada |
| → Meta | → Women's Centre for Safety and Wellbeing |
| → Microsoft | → Women With Disabilities Australia |

Our Staff

WESNET's staff remained stable over the course of the year.

Karen Bentley, CEO

WESNET Team

Bonnie P

Diana H

Jennifer Bushell

June W*

Joanna C

Lina Orozco-Munera*

Natalie M

Rachel*

Sarah B

Willa W*

*Left during the year



Statistics and Facts

FY 2022-23

2,373

frontline workers trained in tech safety during 2022-23

16,182

frontline workers, police, magistrates, customer services, call centre staff, trained since 2015

4,445

calls received to our 1800WESNET number

96.4%

of our Safe Connections attendees felt more confident in improving their client's safety following the first unit of our training

4,730

Safe Connections smartphones given to survivors during 2022-23

949

prepaid credit top-ups were provided to survivors

To the end of June, 38,104

smartphones and prepaid credit, donated by Telstra, have been safely given to women and children via our network

3,559

frontline workers registered on our online portal for the Safe Connections Program

68 webinars delivered in total

1,038

free Uber rides taken by women in the last 12 months

We responded to

404

emails from women experiencing tech abuse or their workers

142,746

user visits to our Tech Safety Website

239,319

page views

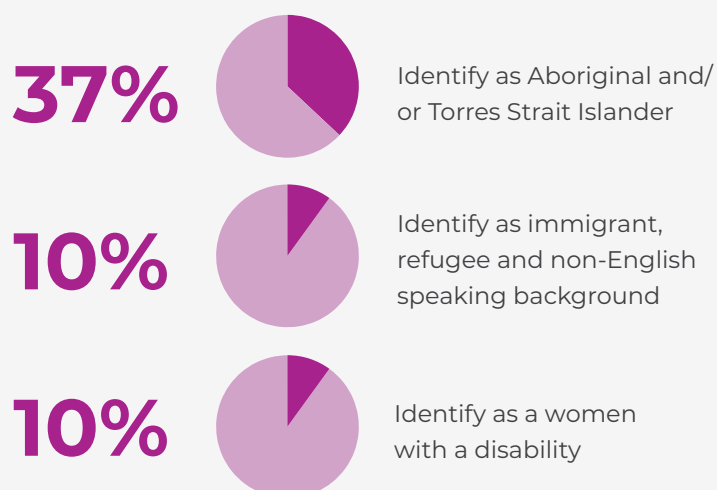
12 policy submissions

Safe Connections Social Impact

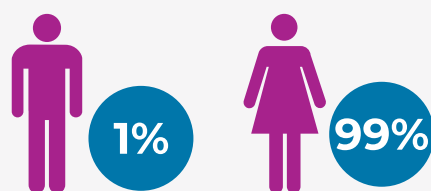
Up to 30 June 2023

Telstra and WESNET have been collaborating since 2014 to provide pre-paid smartphones with pre-paid credit to women impacted by domestic and family violence. With funding support from the Commonwealth Government through the Women's Safety Package, WESNET has been able to support 38,104 women since the program began. The program involves upskilling frontline workers through face-to-face technology safety training and the provision of a phone to survivors with advice on how to set it up safely.

Demographics of Victim-Survivors Recipients



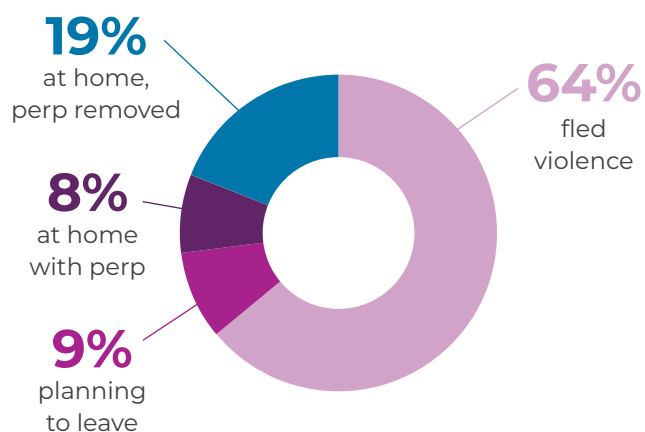
GENDER DEMOGRAPHICS



Most phone recipients were women or girls. Some phones have also been provided to male dependants.

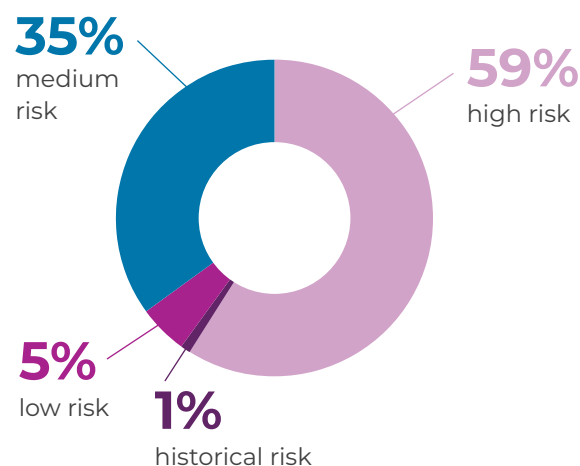
Leaving status

Where the client is in relation to leaving violence when they receive a phone



Client risk level

Frontline worker assessment of the client's risk level



38,104

PHONES GIVEN TO WOMEN TO JUNE 2023

6,614

workers trained in Safe Connection Agencies

3,559

workers with access to online resources

249

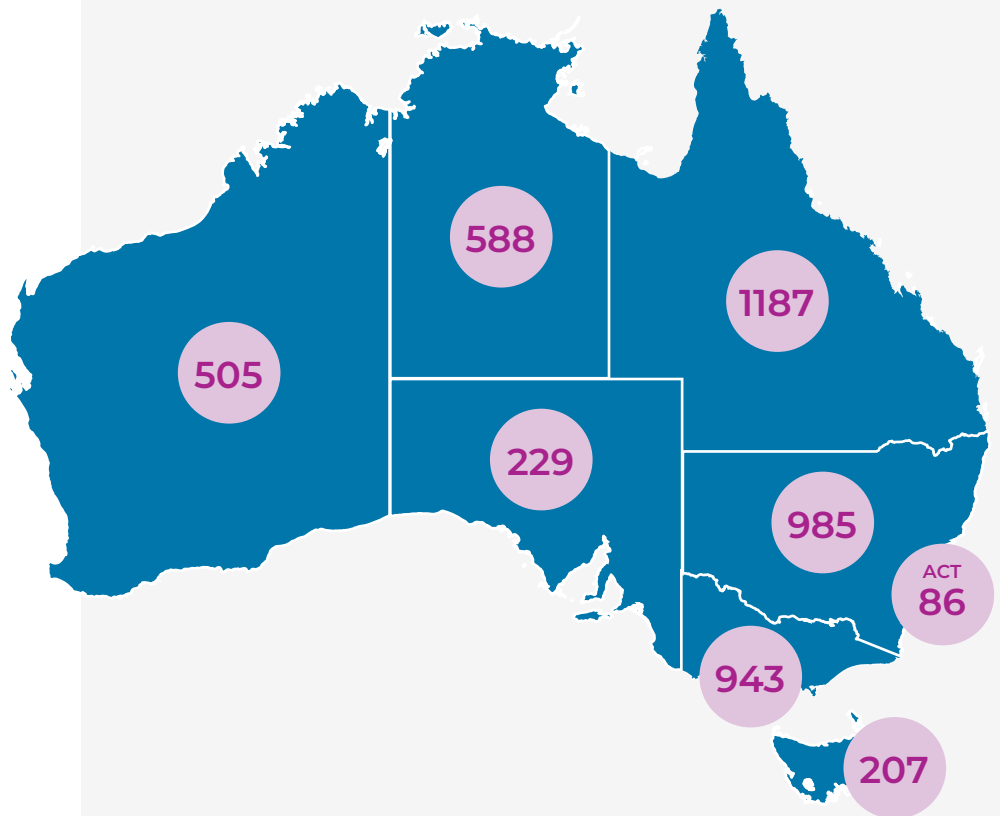
frontline agencies providing phones to women

97.3%

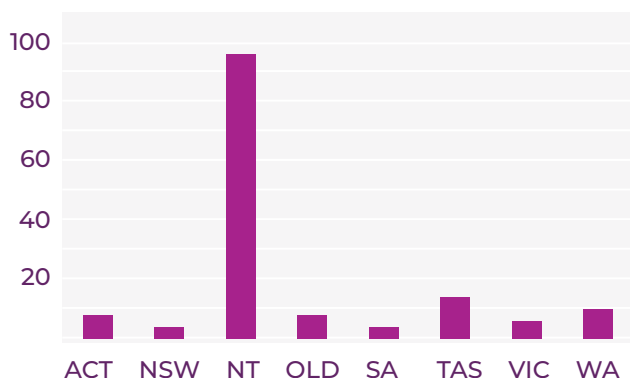
of our training attendees feel their clients are significantly safer

4,730

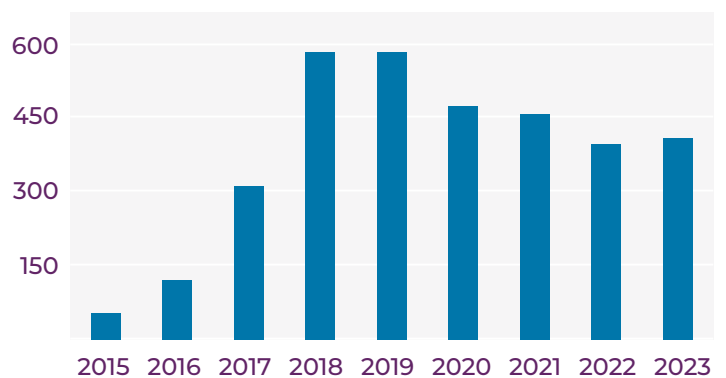
PHONES GIVEN BY STATE AND TERRITORY IN 2022-23



PHONES PROVIDED PER 10,000 FEMALE POPULATION



AVERAGE NUMBER OF PHONES GIVEN PER MONTH



Number of phones being distributed is still impacted by the pandemic

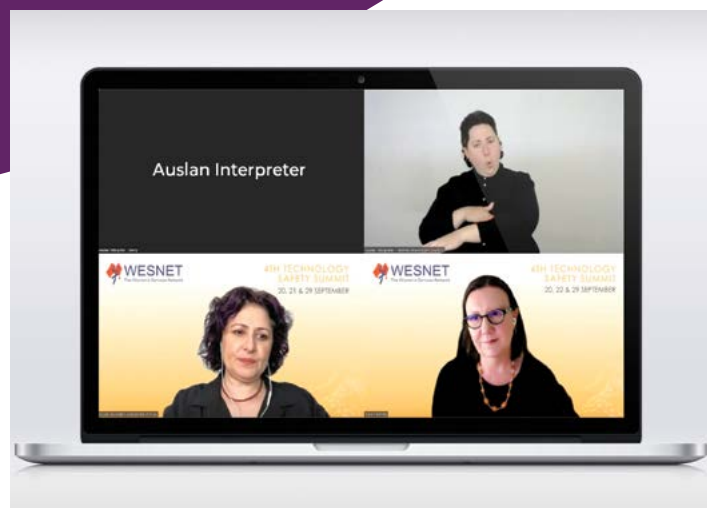
Technology Safety Summit

WESNET's 4th Technology Safety Summit was held virtually on 20, 21 & 29 September 2022.

The Technology Summit 2022—held virtually for the first time—brought together sector and corporate leaders working with or supporting victim-survivors of technology-facilitated abuse. The summit examined the use of technology by victim-survivors, along with their journeys in finding ways to harness technology to improve services. A domestic and family violence lens was applied across the summit, making it a one-of-a-kind event in Australia.

Thirty speakers presented at the conference, and 120 delegates attended.

Keynote speakers included Nicole Lee, Survivor Advocate; Professor Bronwyn Carlson, Director of the Centre for Global Indigenous Futures; Joanna Knox, Telstra; and Erica Olsen, NNEDV (USA).



Another highlight of the summit was a panel discussion by high-level technology representatives from Meta, Telstra, Match Group, Google, Uber and the Commonwealth Bank.

The post-summit feedback survey revealed that 36 per cent of delegates considered their experience of the summit to be 'exceptional', and another 43 per cent rated it as 'excellent'.

Major sponsors included Telstra, Meta, Match Group, Uber, Aussie Broadband and Women with Disabilities Australia.



VIRTUAL
TECHNOLOGY
SAFETY SUMMIT
20-22 SEPTEMBER 2022



Why are women's specialist services critical to ending violence against women?

On 15 February 2023, WESNET hosted a webinar exploring the role of women's specialist services and why they are so important. A recording is on the WESNET website. The session was facilitated by Julie Oberin AM, WESNET National Chair, who was joined by panellists:



Amie Carrington
CEO, Domestic Violence
Action Centre, Queensland



Helen Campbell OAM
Executive Officer, Women's
Legal Services NSW



Michal Morris
CEO, inTouch Multicultural
Centre Against Family
Violence



Nicole Lambert
Vice Chairperson, National
Association of Services
Against Sexual Violence



Mali Hermans,
Senior Policy Officer, First
Peoples Disability Network

Who are women's specialist services?

First up Karen Bentley, WESNET CEO, presented an overview of the sector, including its roots in feminist activism, its international underpinnings, and the current domestic framework as represented in the new National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children. Karen described the sector—including the various types of women's specialist services—and focused on the things that make women's specialist services unique. The AWAVA Good Practice Principles were highlighted as a good descriptive source, noting the centrality of trauma-informed and women-centred practice.

Intersectionality

Mali Hermans talked about intersectionality and how a really important precondition for embedding intersectionality across service provision is making sure that there are workers within the services who come from the communities themselves. In the context of women with disabilities, Mali highlighted a Brisbane-based service WWILD—a self-determined service in which women with intellectual disabilities hold decision-making power as well as act as peer support workers for each other—as one of many women's specialist services who have historically led the way in adopting intersectional practices and embedding comprehensive analyses of power and oppression.

"[Having] someone who has gone through that experience or is connected to your community is integral to providing trauma-informed care for people."

—Mali

Understanding safety

Michal Morris highlighted how women's specialist services have a very complex understanding of safety. In the case of her work—working with migrant and refugee women—this means knowing how culture plays a role in family violence, and how it contributes to structural and systemic injustices that need to be taken into account when assessing safety and risk of the individual and their families.

“It is that specialist knowledge of community that specialist services have, and getting people from that community to come into the solution is essential because the risks are incredibly high.”
—Michal

Generalist versus specialist services

Panellists expressed a range of views about the consequences of moving specialist functions into generalist services. Helen Campbell, for example, noted that defunding specialist services means fewer services for women, not just in terms of women's choice but also in overall coverage and availability. Drawing on the experience of budget decisions under the former federal government of moving funding from women's services to community legal centres and legal aid, she described how this deprived women of access to the services they needed.

Other key points raised included the inability of generalist services to leverage knowledge, networks and expertise to wrap a range of services around women; that specialist services are one of the only ways that marginalised women, in particular, know that they will get access to trauma-informed care; and that reducing access to specialist services will reduce safety and reduce outcomes for victim-survivors.

Critical pressures on services

Amie Carrington described the current critical pressures on services as centring on unmet demand, workforce sustainability for the specialist workforce, and the rising impact of global warming and weather events. Amie talked particularly about the impacts of the economic outlook and the housing crisis, and about how these create a crisis point in supporting victim-survivors to have their needs met when fleeing. A need to invest in growing the workforce was highlighted, along with the direct impacts of climate change.

“I still have staff whose houses are not fully repaired because of the floods 12 months ago. This really stretches our organisational capacity to ensure that we can have business continuity during these crisis events.”—Amie

Consequences of service shortfalls

Amie noted that her service was currently turning away around 30% of people who could be eligible for safety upgrades and that even with motel accommodation hard to find at this time, many women were remaining in unsafe circumstances. In the context of legal services, Helen highlighted that 40 per cent of the women who seek assistance from women's legal services are turned away and that these women are likely to remain in a dangerous situation and continue to experience abuse and trauma.

Need for a national approach

Nicole Lambert spoke about the importance of a national approach in ensuring equity in accessing services so that each person can get the same level of response wherever they are. She noted that current differences between state and territory service and funding models, and legislation and policy, inhibit services' ability to achieve a good service standard for all clients.

"The availability of services and the scope of services differs incredibly, depending on where they are and also how they're funded...This means there's not a lot of consistency or equity around access to specialist responses for victim-survivors."—Nicole

Key messages to governments

Panellists were invited to highlight one key message to governments and the community about women's specialist services.

- Specialist services—when they're appropriately used within an integrated service system—are able to channel limited resources within the bigger system to get better results for safety, to get better quality of care and support for victim-survivors, and also improve perpetrator accountability. Investment is needed now to better manage the increased demand that we're going to see over the upcoming years.

- Women's specialist services are a lifeline for so many victim-survivors, particularly those who come from marginalised backgrounds. Without access to these services, it's very unlikely that oppressed people will see justice or have the support needed to begin a recovery journey or start having access to healing.
- The second National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2023-32 provides an excellent opportunity for governments to work with the specialist sector in partnership about what its implementation looks like. There is an enormous depth of experience and understanding within the sector, and knowledge about what is needed to actually end violence.
- There is a need to keep applying a firm gender lens. It is a giant step forward that it has been finally acknowledged that violence is gendered, and that violence against women stems from gender inequality, but it is still absolutely essential that services be delivered within a feminist framework so that women and victim-survivors remain central.
- Specialist service provision requires a specialist workforce with a distinct set of skills, knowledge and expertise, which is already there in existing specialist services but not in generalist services. The most cost-effective way for governments to build workforce capacity is to grow investment in specialist services.

WESNET—as the national peak body for women's specialist domestic and family violence services—looks forward to continuing to work with its members and allied organisations to deliver these messages to government, and to ultimately help our services enable women and children to live free from violence.

Dating Safety

Tinder Dating Safety Guide

WESNET worked with Tinder Australia over the course of the year to create a Dating Safety Guide—the first of its kind in Australia and the world—to provide guidance on the safety features available in the Tinder Dating App. The guide was launched in January 2023.

Although 79% (Tinder, 2022) of Australians reported that dating app safety features were very important for their overall dating experience, only one in three singles surveyed admitted they weren't fully aware of these features. By reminding users of Tinder's Community Guidelines, describing how to use its in-app safety features, and highlighting the recently improved reporting process, the Dating Safety Guide helps inform daters in Australia about the dos and don'ts of dating safely. The comprehensive guide, [available to download](#), aims to help Australians get the most out of their dating experiences while remaining vigilant online and offline.

The Dating Safely Guide includes some of the new updates built into the Tinder app around reporting abusive and harassing behaviour and more.

The guide went on to win silver at the Public Relations Institute of Australia awards.

National Roundtable on Dating App Safety

On behalf of WESNET, CEO Karen Bentley was invited to attend the National Roundtable on Dating App Safety on 25 January 2023 organised by the Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP.

The purpose of this event was to examine ways to better protect Australians when using online dating apps. Attendees (which included government ministers, representatives from dating apps such as Match Group, Bumble, Grindr and a wide range of NGOs) examined the policy, regulatory and technology settings that can improve protections for those using online dating applications and websites, and stop perpetrators who exploit these services from causing harm.

Key messages WESNET took to the roundtable were:

1. Everyone must have the freedom to enjoy technology in safety.

A key underpinning principle to online dating safety is that everyone should have the freedom to be able to enjoy technology in safety. Governments, businesses and the community should be working together to enable this and to end violence against women and other forms of gender-based violence.



2. Linking online dating safety to the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children is essential.

This will help ensure measures to address online dating safety are informed and underpinned by the driving factors and principles that have been captured in the National Plan. It is particularly important that we all understand that improving gender equality and attitudes about women helps prevent all types of violence and abuse, including those experienced online and when dating.

Dating platforms are not able to eliminate this violence on their own, and we especially need to keep perpetrators in sight.

3. Victim-blaming must be avoided –‘she should have checked’.

Governments and the community need to be very careful that measures taken to address online dating safety do not reinforce the victim-blaming culture routinely experienced by survivors of sexual violence. For example, placing the responsibility for finding out whether a future partner has a history of violence on an individual, could then lead to an expectation that ‘she should have checked’. There is compelling evidence that domestic violence disclosure schemes have not been effective in other countries, and they are rarely considered good practice by researchers and specialist women’s services. Background check processes undertaken by survivors also need to ensure they do not give a false sense of security to users.

4. We can’t rely on unreliable data.

Criminal activity and/or registers as a mechanism to share information to dating platforms for ‘filtering’ abusers are unlikely to be useful due to the incredibly low rates of both reporting and conviction in relation to both sexual and domestic violence. Many intimate partner homicide perpetrators have little or no interaction with the justice system. There is clear evidence that criminal justice is tilted away from women, and that oppressed groups are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

5. Protecting the most oppressed must be a priority.

Measures must be designed to protect those most in danger. There have been major regulatory advances across banking, telecommunication and rideshare sectors, but not all are trauma-informed, focused on survivor safety first, or non-discriminatory. For example, regulatory responses that include mandatory reporting of personally identifying information of sexual assault survivors should be avoided. Mandatory ID checks in some industries have had a significant adverse impact on gender-diverse populations.



Treasurer's Report

The last financial year has seen a stable financial outlook for WESNET, with revenue of \$1,446,882 compared to \$1,193,356 the previous financial year, reflecting small increases across grant, donation, fees and charges and membership revenue. Most of our funding this year continued to be from Commonwealth Government grants for our Safer Technology for Women Program. We continued to diversify our revenue streams with more sponsorship and other income sources. Membership revenue, donations and other fees and charges remained steady. Our expenses remained steady.

WESNET ended the year with an overall surplus of \$221,227. Our assets at 30 June 2023 were \$1,813,429, with liabilities of \$676,637. Most of these liabilities relate to payments in advance for work to be carried out in the next financial year and associated end of financial year liabilities. We also entered into a lease for the first time in some years during the year. Our equity at 30 June 2023 was \$1,136,792.

The 2022-23 audit was an unqualified audit, and on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank RSD Audit Pty Ltd and Karen Bentley, Diana H and Wendy Thomas for their work during the year and taking the finances through to audit.

Margaret Augerinos
Treasurer



Financial Summary 2022-23

Below is a summary of our audited financial statements. A full copy of the 2022-23 Financial Statements is available on request or from the ACNC website. The audit of our financial records was completed in October 2023 by RSD Audit Pty Ltd.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net cash provided by operating activities	146,666	112,611
Net cashflows used in investing and financing activities	(15,563)	0
Net increase in cash held	131,103	112,611
Cash on hand at the end of financial year	1,468,581	1,337,478
INCOME STATEMENT		
Revenue	1,446,882	1,192,729
Expenses	1,225,655	1,172,721
Net current year surplus	221,227	20,635
BALANCE SHEET		
ASSETS		
Current Assets	1,583,448	1,493,842
Non-Current Assets	229,981	0
Total Assets	1,813,429	1,493,842
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	452,581	540,675
Non-current Liabilities	224,056	37,602
Total Liabilities	676,637	578,277
Net Assets	1,136,792	915,565
Total Equity	1,136,792	915,565



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