

# Pilot funding for specialised and trauma-informed legal services for victims and survivors of sexual violence

## FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule																															
Parties	Commonwealth Victoria Western Australia Australian Capital Territory																														
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2026 or on completion of final performance reporting.																														
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will pilot the delivery of specialised and trauma-informed legal services to victims and survivors of sexual violence to support their safe and informed participation in the justice system, guided by their own goals in their journey of recovery.</p> <p>Through the pilot, jurisdictions (Victoria, Western Australia and Australian Capital Territory) will test a legal service delivery model that is trauma-informed, victim- and survivor-centric, culturally safe and accessible, as agreed in this Schedule at <b>Attachment A</b>.</p> <p>The pilot will also develop an evidence base about the use and impact of legal services for sexual violence victims and survivors to support future policy development and service delivery, and build sector capacity.</p>																														
Estimated financial contributions	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to jurisdictions of \$7.650 m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Table 1.1 (\$ million)</th> <th>2023-24</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>2025-26</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Estimated total budget</b></td> <td><b>2.550</b></td> <td><b>2.550</b></td> <td><b>2.550</b></td> <td><b>7.650</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td>2.550</td> <td>2.550</td> <td>2.550</td> <td>7.650</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Victoria</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>2.550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Western Australia</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>2.550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Australian Capital Territory</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>0.850</td> <td>2.550</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 1.1 (\$ million)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total	<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>2.550</b>	<b>2.550</b>	<b>2.550</b>	<b>7.650</b>	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	2.550	2.550	2.550	7.650	- Victoria	0.850	0.850	0.850	2.550	- Western Australia	0.850	0.850	0.850	2.550	- Australian Capital Territory	0.850	0.850	0.850	2.550
Table 1.1 (\$ million)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total																											
<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>2.550</b>	<b>2.550</b>	<b>2.550</b>	<b>7.650</b>																											
<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	2.550	2.550	2.550	7.650																											
- Victoria	0.850	0.850	0.850	2.550																											
- Western Australia	0.850	0.850	0.850	2.550																											
- Australian Capital Territory	0.850	0.850	0.850	2.550																											
Additional terms	1. The Commonwealth will, within each jurisdiction and on a tripartite basis, meet biannually with officials from the State and delegates																														

representing relevant legal assistance service providers to discuss the operation of this Schedule.

2. The jurisdictions will ensure legal assistance service data is collected and reported consistent with the *National Legal Assistance Data Standards Manual*.
3. The Commonwealth, States and relevant legal assistance service providers will participate in monitoring and evaluation activities.
  - a. The States will provide regular performance reports in accordance with **Table 2** and **Attachment B**.
  - b. The Commonwealth will conduct, and the States and relevant legal assistance service providers will participate in, a final evaluation of the pilot legal service delivery models in 2025-26.
  - c. The Commonwealth will establish an evaluation steering committee, comprising representatives from each State, to oversee monitoring and evaluation activities.
4. The Parties note that legal services delivered through funding provided under this Schedule may extend beyond the expiration of this Schedule.

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Finalise the legal service delivery model	Commonwealth acceptance of a project plan outlining the legal service delivery model and its implementation	30 November 2023*	\$0.850 m per State
Delivery of legal services to victims and survivors of sexual violence	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at <b>Attachment B</b> for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024	30 September 2024	\$0.850 m per State
	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at <b>Attachment B</b> for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024	31 March 2025	Nil
	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at <b>Attachment B</b> for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025	30 September 2025	\$0.850 m per State
	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at <b>Attachment B</b> for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025	31 March 2026	Nil
	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at <b>Attachment B</b> for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026	30 September 2026	Nil

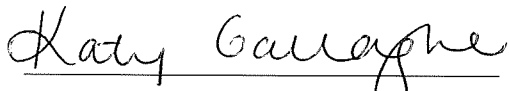
Notes: The Commonwealth may provide templates for the States to use for the project plan and performance reports required in Table 2 of this Schedule. If provided, the project plan and performance reports must be completed in accordance with these templates.

Performance reports should be provided on the report due date or the next business day.

\* subject to the Schedule being signed before this date

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by*



**Senator the Honourable Katy Gallagher**  
Acting Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]  
1 11 23

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria by*



**The Honourable Jaclyn Symes MLC**  
Attorney-General of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]  
04/12/2023

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by*

---

**The Honourable John Quigley MLA**  
Attorney General of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by*

---

**Shane Rattenbury MLA**  
Attorney-General of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

## Attachment A – Legal service delivery models

Each State will test a legal service delivery model that is trauma-informed, victim- and survivor-centric, culturally safe and accessible, as outlined below.

State	Service providers	Legal service delivery model
Victoria	Victoria Legal Aid Djirra Women's Legal Service Victoria	To expand the state-wide Victims Legal Service (VLS) to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• legal information, procedural advice and referrals for victims and survivors of sexual assault through the VLS helpline on confidential communications</li> <li>• targeted advice and casework (including representation in subpoena applications) to protect confidential communications made to health and counselling professionals, and</li> <li>• tailored support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and survivors seeking to report sexual assault to police.</li> </ul>
Western Australia	Women's Legal Service WA Aboriginal Family Legal Service Ruah Legal Services	To provide state-wide integrated, specialised and trauma-informed legal services to victims and survivors of sexual assault at known points of disengagement and withdrawal from the legal process.
Australian Capital Territory	Women's Legal Centre ACT Victim Support ACT	To establish the ACT Sexual Assault Legal Service to deliver (among other things): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• legal assistance (including representation) to support victims and survivors to engage with the criminal justice system and on related legal issues, and</li> <li>• integrated, wrap-around services for victims and survivors, including financial assistance, counselling, and specialist support.</li> </ul>

## Attachment B – Minimum performance reporting requirements

The reporting requirements in this attachment are the minimum performance reporting requirements. Changes may be made by agreement between Commonwealth and jurisdictions' Senior Officials (for example, the inclusion of jurisdiction-specific reporting requirements).

### Information to be provided for each six-month reporting period

#### *General service delivery information*

A statement about the operation of the service delivery model, including:

- the general utilisation, impact and effectiveness of the service
- how the service is operating in a trauma-informed, victim- and survivor-centric, culturally safe, and accessible manner (including for staff, clients and the community)
- collaborative arrangements with legal and non-legal support service providers, and
- referrals made (and to what type of organisations).

Two case studies.

#### *Legal assistance service and client data*

The number and percentage of legal assistance services delivered, disaggregated by service type, primary law type (or law type), and problem type (where collected).

The total number of clients who received legal assistance services broken down into the following groups:

- women
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- children and young people (up to 24 years)
- older people (aged over 65 years or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 years)
- people with disability
- people who are culturally and linguistically diverse
- people residing in rural or remote areas
- people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual or with other diverse identities (LGBTQIA+) (where possible)
- people in custody and/or prisoners (where possible), and
- people who are employed in sex work (where possible).

#### *Financial information*

Breakdown of funding allocated to:

- the service providers to deliver legal services, and
- the State for program administration.

### Information to be provided annually (in 2024-25 and 2025-26)

Results from surveys<sup>1</sup> (or similar) of:

- clients
- service provider staff, and
- community partners and justice system organisations.

<sup>1</sup> Based, at minimum, on pre-existing questions and methodology developed by the Parties and in accordance with guidance issued by the Commonwealth.