

## Safer Pathway

### What is Safer Pathway?

Safer Pathway is a streamlined and integrated approach to safety assessment, referrals and service coordination for victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence victims across NSW receive a consistent, effective response, regardless of where they live by:

- Consistently assessing the threat to victims' safety
- Providing a single contact point for victims to access the support they need more easily, and reducing the need to repeat their story
- Working together to provide victims at serious threat of harm due to domestic violence with a targeted, priority response.

### What it means for victims

Under Safer Pathway, people who have experienced domestic violence will be provided with coordinated support, reducing their need to re-tell their story and relive traumatic experiences.

When Police attend a domestic violence incident they will assess the level of threat to the victim.

This will result in a number of actions:

1. A victim identified as at threat or at serious threat will be referred to the state-wide Central Referral Point.
2. When the Central Referral Point receives the information, the case will be allocated to the nearest Local Coordination Point.
3. A domestic and family violence worker from the Local Coordination Point will then contact the victim and focus on their safety. They will explain the process and refer them to any other services they may need.
4. Victims identified as being at serious threat will be referred to a Safety Action Meeting.
5. A Safety Action Meeting will involve government and non-government service providers who will share the information needed to develop a plan to keep the victim and their children safe.

Better sharing of information will help build a clear picture of a victim's circumstances to increase their safety. Wherever possible, information will only be shared with the victim's consent.

### Where will Safer Pathway be available?

Safety Action Meetings cover one or more NSW Police Local Area Commands. By September 2018, there will be 48 Safety Action Meetings covering all of NSW. For a list of current sites visit [www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au)

### How are the reforms funded?

The NSW Government has allocated \$53 million over four years for the state-wide roll-out of Safer Pathway with \$13 million for the 2017-18 Budget.

This is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars the government spends each year to combat domestic and family violence through mainstream services in justice, police, health, child protection, social housing and homelessness services.

### Getting help

- Anyone in immediate danger should call Triple Zero (000).
- Women experiencing domestic violence can call 1800 WDV CAS (1800 938 227) for support and information in their area.
- For information and support call 1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732.
- Men having problems with violent behaviour can call the Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491.