

Increasing Specialist Family Violence Services to Meet Additional Pressure as a Result of COVID-19

As part of the COVID-19 Budget package the Government recognises that increased stress and financial hardship from COVID-19 will place extra demand on family violence services.

COVID-19 Budget Package 2020

Enabling people impacted by family violence (including elder abuse) to more quickly get the support they need from specialist family violence services.

Government is investing an additional \$8.6 million in providing additional capacity for MSD-funded specialist family violence services.

- Countries around the world are reporting an increase in family violence following the increased stress and financial hardship caused by responses to COVID-19.
- There is evidence that family violence increases at times of economic hardship. Ongoing social and economic stress within households and families are expected to lead to higher levels of family violence for a prolonged period.
- Specialist family violence services will experience an increase in demand for their services, and this is expected to continue after the lockdown ends, and until recovery is widespread and sustained.
- Funding these organisations for this extra demand now will enable them to make the changes required to work in different ways, such as more remote working, to meet additional demand and prepare for the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on communities.
- The funding allows for an increased focus on perpetrator services. We know that supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour is the most effective way to reduce family harm.
- This funding is additional to that provided to address known cost pressures in the family violence sector (refer Budget 2020 FV CP Factsheet).

Costs (operating) \$m		
2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
7.1	1.5	8.6