

[Social Justice initiatives in the 2023 Budget](#)


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Source: [Attorney-General's Department](#) 

The Federal Government has announced the funding of several social justice and human rights measures in the 2023 Budget. These include:

- **Modern slavery:** the allocation of \$8 million for the funding over 4 years for an Anti- Slavery Commissioner;
- **Sexual assault and consent laws:**
 - the allocation of \$6.5 million to implement harmonised laws across Australia and improve criminal justice responses to sexual assault for victims and survivors;
 - included in this will be funding for a ministerial-level roundtable on addressing sexual violence, intended to inform an Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into justice responses to sexual violence;
- **Family Law measures:**
 - The allocation of \$33.1 million over 4 years for the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) and the Family Court of Western Australia (FCWA) to continue the specialist property list, the priority Property Pools program (PPP500), for property pools of less than \$500000.
 - The allocation of \$13.4 million to state and territory legal aid services, for the expansion of the Lawyer Assisted Family Law Property Mediation Program to facilitate the provision of advice and mediation services for small property pool matters;
 - The allocation of \$18.4 million to introduce schemes to improve the safety of women and children in matters brought pursuant to the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, including a new scheme for financial assistance for eligible respondent parents to access legal representation, equivalent of that of the applicant parent; \$5.3 million for an early dispute resolution program; and \$5.7 million to improve the capacity for the Attorney- General's Department to obtain and submit evidence about family violence to the courts hearing Hague Convention matters.
- **Domestic and family violence measures:**
 - The allocation of \$71 million to the Attorney-General's Department to support the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.
 - the allocation of \$68.6 million over two years for the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services for the provision of culturally appropriate services to first nations victim- survivors of family violence;
 - funding to extend the current Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot to January 2025.
 - \$10 million to expand the family violence provisions within the Migration Regulations 1994 (Cth) to most permanent visa subclasses
- **First Nations initiatives:**
 - The allocation of \$194 million for Australia's first dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan, to be developed in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council on family, domestic and sexual violence to ensure the voices of First Nations people are at the centre of this work. This funding includes:
 - \$145.3 million to support activities which address immediate safety concerns for First Nations women and children who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family and domestic violence;

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- \$23.2 million to partner with local organisations to design, deliver and evaluate community-led, culturally responsive healing programs for First Nations children and families who are impacted by family violence or at risk of engagement with the child protection systems
- \$17.6 million to deliver on family safety initiatives under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan
- \$7.8 million over 5 years to support the development of a standalone First Nations National Plan for Family Safety
- **Privacy:** the allocation of \$45.2 million to privacy protection measures, including:
 - Funding for the restoration of a standalone Privacy Commissioner to deal with the growing threats to data security and the increasing volume and complexity of privacy issues; and
 - Funding for an independent statutory review of the operation of Part IIIA of the Privacy Act, which regulates credit reporting.
- **Health and trauma services:** including the allocation of \$136 million over 4 years for the [Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma](#)  to support the mental health of survivors of torture and trauma before moving to Australia on humanitarian grounds
- **Overseas Humanitarian and Development Assistance:** including a slight increase in the Overseas Development Assistance Fund and the allocation of \$479.4 million to “humanitarian, emergencies and refugees”, a \$9 million dollar increase from the previous year.

Whilst most social justice groups, including the Australian Human Rights Commission have yet to issue responses to the 2023 budget, there have been some criticisms, including from the [Law Council of Australia](#)  who have been critical of the budget’s failure to address the crisis in legal aid funding, and the [Australian Council for International Development](#)  who have expressed disappointment at a lack of increase for funding for the Humanitarian Emergency Fund.