



# Shepherd's Voice

Edition No. 54 | Winter 2022

Welcome to this very special issue of Shepherd's Voice. At this time of the year, our end of financial year appeal is a wonderful opportunity for Good Shepherd supporters to show their compassion for women and children who face domestic and financial abuse.

Thanks to the contributions of our donors, partners and stakeholders, our work continues unabated across our portfolio of holistic and connected services, supporting thousands of women, girls and families to be **safe, well, strong and connected**.

## Violence against women continues to be a widespread issue in Australia. THE FACTS:

Each **week**, on average,  
**one Australian woman**  
will be **killed** by a current or former partner

**1 in 4 Australian women (23%)**  
since age 15 has experienced **physical or sexual violence** by a current or former intimate partner

The time of a relationship break-up is particularly dangerous. **2 in 3 women** killed by their current or former partner had **separated within 3 months of the homicide**

Domestic violence is the **primary cause of death to mothers during pregnancy**, both in Australia and internationally. During the pandemic, **pregnant women were between 3 and 4 times more likely** to experience physical and sexual violence compared to women who were not pregnant

**First Nations women experience violence more than 3 times**

the rate of non-indigenous women and are nearly 11 times more likely to die due to assault

**Women with disabilities** in Australia are around **2 times more likely**

than women without disabilities to have experienced sexual violence and intimate partner violence

People living in **remote and very remote areas** are **24 times more likely to be hospitalised** as a result of family violence

**1 in 3 migrant and refugee women** experiences some form of **domestic and/or family violence**

## Our reach and impact

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, partners and stakeholders, Good Shepherd was able to support 60,000 women, children and families last year across our continuum of care – the largest number in our history.

As well as supporting 760 women and children through the **Family Violence After-Hours Outreach Crisis Response Program** we:

Provided longer-term housing options, beyond emergency options, combined with tailored supports under our innovative **Refuge to Recovery program**.

Continued our work on the **Victorian Alexis-Family Violence Response Model** which sees us working with local police to provide timely responses to incidents of abuse which is leading to a significant reduction in repeated incidents.

Developed the **Safe, Strong and Connected Program**, working in women's prison settings to deliver a psycho-education program for inmates and staff to improve their understanding of family violence. Individual support is provided to women, assisting them to prepare for release.

Completed the 'Living Lab' (integrating research into real life) phase of the **Financial Independence Hub (FIH)**, a free and confidential service that supports people recovering from domestic violence and financial abuse.

**To keep these programs and many more, financial support from our generous donors is vital. You can donate via the enclosed form and reply-paid envelope or donate online at [goodshep.org.au/endviolence](https://goodshep.org.au/endviolence)**

### What happens behind The Orange Door?

The physical restrictions, work and education pressures, relationship anxiety and financial stress we've seen during the pandemic all contribute to the escalation of domestic and family violence and economic abuse.

Coupled with the increase in demand, lockdowns also meant that Good Shepherd had to reconsider the way we safely and confidentially delivered our family violence programs. We responded by delivering face-to-face support when necessary and safe to do so, but support transitioned to be delivered predominately through phone and online communication.

One example of our work is **The Orange Door** – an integrated, multidisciplinary and multiagency partnership of 11 organisations that provides intake and assessment for specialist family violence services, family services, Aboriginal services and services for men who use violence. The service's response is designed to comprehensively assess and respond to individual client needs.

**In 2020/21, 4,736 families were supported by the Good Shepherd team through The Orange Door.**

### Helen's Story

Helen\* called **The Orange Door** for family violence support after experiencing abuse at the hands of her husband for 30 years. She was from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and had two adult daughters who were working and living separately from her and their violent father. A thorough risk assessment and needs analysis revealed the extent of the abuse experienced by Helen.

Coercive control had taken many forms over the years, including financial abuse, monitoring and forced isolation from relatives and friends. Despite having full-time employment, Helen had no control over her personal finances or joint savings. With her wage paid into an inaccessible joint bank account, she would be forced to ask her husband for money, and he would limit her allowance each week.

**The Orange Door** worked with Helen to access essential legal services, including an application for an intervention order and assistance with filing for divorce. Her support worker helped her to apply for workplace family violence leave and provided intensive assistance to access cultural support services. To support the transition to her new life, **The Orange Door** brokered \$5,000 for the purchase of new furniture for Helen's apartment.

\*Name changed for safety reasons

## Good Shepherd goes to Canberra

**In the words of Rosie Batty AO, Good Shepherd Client Advocate:**

**“I work with Good Shepherd because their mission to tackle the significant issues that impact women, girls and families aligns with my own journey of advocacy and their values, particularly justice, enable me to continue to challenge the systems that disadvantage those most vulnerable.**

**The service I’m most passionate about is the Good Shepherd family violence service. As a family violence prevention advocate with lived experience of family violence, I realise the critical importance that Good Shepherd plays in responding to families in crisis.**

**To know that you are being genuinely listened to and able to contribute to systemic change is empowering for victim survivors and absolutely assists them in their recovery journey.”**

We’re thrilled that Rosie Batty AO is supporting Good Shepherd as a Client Advocate allowing us to embed the voice of the client in everything we do.

Ahead of the Federal Budget’s release on Tuesday 29 March, Rosie travelled with Good Shepherd CEO Stella Avramopoulos and our Director of Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships, Sarah Trainor to Canberra to meet with Ministers and Shadow Ministers to discuss our funding and policy priorities.

**“Women’s economic inequality and insecurity are at the heart of gendered violence. Increased investment in economic safety measures is a key step toward ending violence against women and children,” said Rosie.**

Our goal is to continue to build strong relationships with key parliamentarians, politicians and policy makers to advocate for our clients, share the impact

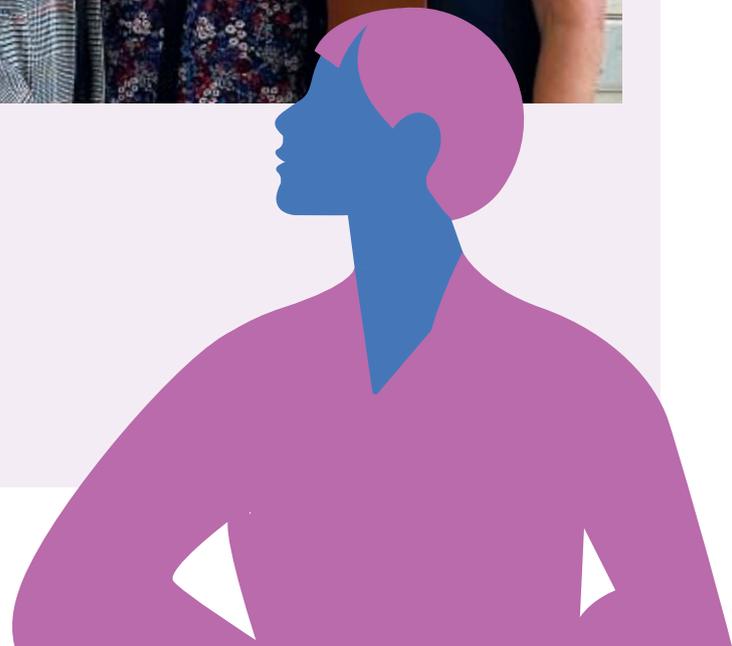
of our work and the progress we’re making on the gaps we see in the services meeting the needs of vulnerable women and children.

This year, Good Shepherd contributed to the development of **The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan)** to replace the existing National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 when it ends in mid-2022.

The new (draft) National Plan has been developed through consultation with victim-survivors, specialist services, representatives from the health, law and justice sectors, business and community groups, all levels of government and other experts.

We look forward to continuing to be deeply involved in the finalisation and implementation of the plan.

**Pictured below from left to right:** Good Shepherd Director Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships, Sarah Trainor, CEO Stella Avramopoulos, and Client Advocate Rosie Batty AO.



## Our client-led approach

Good Shepherd provides a range of youth and family services for children, young people and families across New South Wales and Victoria that supports them to realise their value and improve their relationships through education, counselling and wellbeing programs.

### The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM)

we apply to all our programs and services enables our teams to conduct a comprehensive risk and needs assessment through trauma-informed systems and developmental frameworks. They then provide safety planning, material aid and emotional support to secure safety and service access to support immediate needs.

Counselling is an integral part of our suite of services in New South Wales and Victoria. We provide counselling to children, young people and families including specialist therapeutic support for victim survivors of domestic and family violence and sexual assault counselling for victim survivors.

We work with community agencies, schools and parents to improve the outcomes and the wellbeing of young people.

**In 2020/21, we provided counselling support to 180 women and children through the family violence program and sexual assault counselling support to 91 young people.**



Using a strengths-based and trauma-informed lens, our supports address the underlying drivers of vulnerability to achieve safety, stability and development for children, young people and families.

## There really is no place like home

Domestic and family violence is an epidemic. Violence against women in particular costs the Australian economy more than \$22 billion each year, the majority of which is borne by victim-survivors.

Through ten captivating episodes, **There's No Place Like Home** by Future Women pull back the curtain to reveal the nature and impact of domestic and family violence in Australia. Told in survivors' own words, each episode tells the story of extraordinary people who generously share their most intimate thoughts, feelings and experiences.

Sometimes it might be hard to listen. Hard to front up to the truth of abuse that happens behind closed doors in homes around Australia. But we must listen, so we are able to comprehend the sheer

scale and individual nuance of how domestic and family violence is perpetrated in this country and the damage it does.

Search for **There's No Place Like Home** in your preferred podcast service. For more information visit [futurewomen.com/theresnoplacelikehome](https://futurewomen.com/theresnoplacelikehome)



Hear from Good Shepherd in Episode 10 sharing the work of our Financial Independence Hub.



## How to donate

Donating to Good Shepherd is simple. There are three main ways:

- 1 Make a one-off contribution via EFT, your credit card or send us a cheque
- 2 Make a recurring contribution via EFT or your credit card
- 3 Leave a bequest in your Will.

For more help on how to donate to us, go to [goodshep.org.au/endviolence](https://goodshep.org.au/endviolence)

