Impact Report

2025 – 2026 Financial Year

Centre for
Non-Violence

Our Vision

Gender and social equality in a violence free world

Our commitment to First Nations people and communities

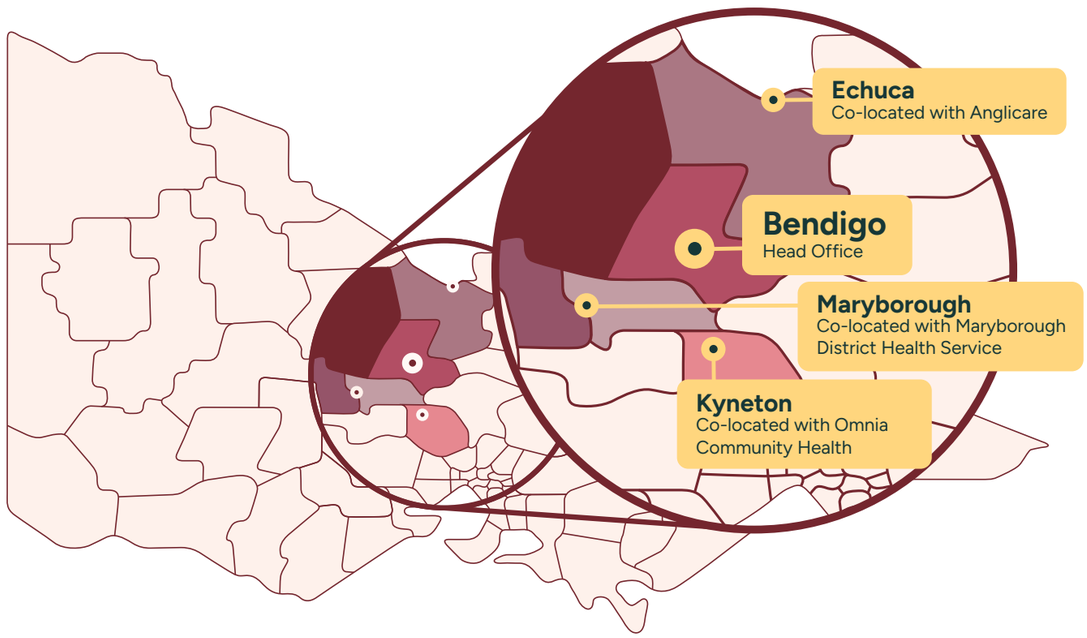
We recognise and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Nations people of these lands and waterways.

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' sovereignty, and sacred connection to the lands and waterways and we celebrate their strong and enduring cultures, identities, and self-determination.

We are sorry for the endured trauma and torment of powerlessness inflicted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples because of the ongoing impact of colonisation, systemic discrimination, and white privilege.

We accept and acknowledge the invitation to walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and strongly support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament and the call for a Makarrata Commission to supervise agreement, treaty, and truth-telling about our history.

We uphold the unique human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as outlined by the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and seek a future where they have power of their voice, rights, destiny, and their children flourish.



Our child and cultural safety statement

CNV is a child safe organisation. We are committed to the safety, participation, and empowerment of all children and young people that engage with our organisation, including but not limited to individuals who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and/or linguistically diverse, gender diverse and/or same sex attracted and people with a disability.

Acknowledgement of survivors of family violence

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of survivors of family violence. Family violence is a social issue that significantly impacts families and communities. We recognise the courage of individuals who have experienced family violence, along with the dedicated workers responding to family violence.

We recognise, welcome and respect people of all genders, sexuality and sexual identities. CNV is committed to improving access and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people.

We work across the lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung, Yorta Yorta and Wurundjeri Peoples to strengthen safety, wellbeing and connection for people of all backgrounds, cultures, genders, sexualities, ages and abilities.

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Welcome to our 2025/26 Impact Report

At CNV, our work is driven by a simple but powerful goal: helping people live free from family violence and creating safer, more equitable communities. Every interaction, partnership and intervention is an opportunity to improve safety, strengthen wellbeing and support recovery for individuals, children and families across our region.



This year, our data demonstrates meaningful impact. Service users reported improved safety, wellbeing and support, with all surveyed victim survivors and adults using violence indicating that CNV contributed positively to their outcomes. Through child-centred practice, coordinated risk management and information sharing, we see strengthened responses to risk and supported families to access help when they needed it most.

At CNV, we believe family violence is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and that lasting change requires collective action. We thank our partners, funders, supporters and communities for their commitment to creating a future free from violence.

Our Theory of Change guides how we measure impact and progress towards three long-term outcomes:

- Increased safety and wellbeing for women, children and diverse communities.
- Improved lives for people who have experienced violence.
- Increased action by people, systems and structures to advance social justice, equality and safety.

Family violence does not start at crisis, and neither should our response. CNV works across the continuum of prevention, early intervention, response and recovery, supporting victim survivors from first contact through to recovery while working alongside men using violence to increase accountability and support behaviour change.

Every statistic in this report represents a person, child or family seeking safety, healing and hope. Together with victim survivors, partner organisations, funders and communities, we are creating safer futures and working towards a future free from family violence.

Margaret Augerinos (CEO)



> **“Every statistic in this report represents a person, child or family seeking safety, healing and hope.”**

Our Growing Impact

Every day, CNV supports victim survivors to achieve safety, stability and recovery, while working with adults using violence to take responsibility for change and reduce future harm. Through specialist family violence services, including our role within The Orange Door, we work to improve long-term safety, wellbeing and recovery for individuals, families and communities.

99,335 hours

of specialist family violence, recovery and behaviour change support delivered

8,749 people

supported through risk assessment, safety planning, case management and therapeutic recovery services.

Who We Support (Victim/Survivors)

18% identify as having a disability

13% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

9% identify as culturally and linguistically diverse

4% identify as LGBTIQ+

100% of surveyed clients reported CNV contributed positively to their outcomes

$1.13M

Financial support provided to help people stay safe and recover

497 people supported

$1.04M for victim survivors

$86,325 for adults using violence

Specialist support across the service system

Keeping People Safe

Supporting Recovery

36,624 hrs

of risk assessment, safety planning and support through **The Orange Door Loddon**

5,956 people supported

3,943 victim survivors including children, young people and adults

2013 adults using violence

62,711 hrs

of specialist case management and therapeutic support within **The Centre for Non-Violence**

2,793 people supported

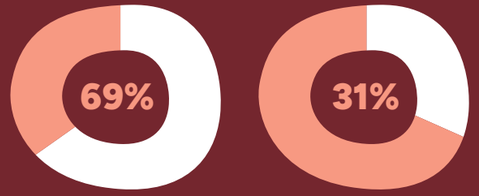
2,405 victim survivors including children, young people and adults

57% of clients were children and young people

388 adults using violence

Pathways to Support

Referrals to Victim Survivor Services



Professional referrals

Self referrals

2,770 Comprehensive family violence risk assessments completed

40% of victim survivors presented with **10 or more lethality indicators**

Controlling behaviour remained the most common risk factor identified.

Long-Term Housing Stability

91% of victim survivor stays were long-term (30+ nights)

74 nights average stay for victim survivors

Safety, Housing and Recovery

15,150 nights

Safe and secure accommodation provided

198 people supported with crisis and transitional accommodation

12,960 nights for 176 victim survivors

2,190 nights for 22 adults using violence

Programs and services

CNV delivers a range of prevention, crisis response and therapeutic services designed to support people experiencing family violence. We walk alongside adult and child victim survivors from their first contact with us through to recovery, providing compassionate, person-centred support that prioritises safety, wellbeing and choice. At the same time, we work with adults who use violence to promote accountability, reduce harm and support meaningful behaviour change.

Our programs and services include:

Brief Intervention

Immediate support, information and referrals to help people navigate their next steps safely.

Comprehensive Assessment

A holistic assessment of risk, needs, strengths and goals to inform tailored support and planning.

Case Management

Ongoing, coordinated support to enhance safety, stability, recovery and connection to community.

Family Safety Contact

Regular engagement with family members to monitor and respond to risk, strengthen safety planning, and support coordinated responses where an adult using violence is engaged in a behaviour change program.

Behaviour Change

Evidence-based interventions that support adults using violence to increase accountability, strengthen parenting and relationship skills, and reduce the risk of future harm.

Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPs)

Multi-agency meetings that bring together key services to assess and manage cases involving a high risk of serious harm from family violence. RAMPs focus on addressing and managing perpetrator behaviour while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of victim survivors, predominantly women and children. They are convened when existing interventions cannot adequately reduce risk due to escalating or persistent use of violence, or systemic barriers that limit the effectiveness of service responses.

Therapeutic Recovery

Individual counselling, parent-child therapeutic interventions and group programs supporting adults, children and young people to recover from the impacts of family violence.



> **"Mark was very controlling and isolated me from family and friends. Even now that we are separated, he is still trying to get back at me for leaving, and I can see the impact on the children."**
>
> Rebecca, victim survivor "

Responding to High Risk and Complex Needs

Understanding risk is central to keeping victim survivors safe and holding people using violence accountable. In addition to those completed in The Orange Door, 2,700 comprehensive family violence risk assessments were completed by CNV during the year, with 57% involving children and young people and 43% involving adult victim survivors.

Risk levels for victim survivors on initial presentation were assessed as exceptionally high. **40% of victim survivors presented with 10 or more lethality indicators**, signalling an elevated likelihood of serious harm or fatal violence. **Coercive control was identified in approximately 85% of assessments**, making it the most prevalent risk factor and reflecting the patterned, ongoing nature of family violence.

Other common indicators included **threats or previous acts of serious harm, stalking, alcohol and other drug misuse, and sexual violence**. CNV also observed increasing disclosures of sexual assault and sexual coercion as tactics of family violence, consistent with broader trends in reporting and greater community awareness.

Safe and secure housing was the most identified need for victim survivors, with 53% of assessments identifying housing stability as a priority. This reflects the critical role housing plays in safety, recovery and long-term wellbeing, including for people remaining in their own homes where family violence places their safety and housing security at risk.

The most frequently identified client needs were:

- **Safe and secure housing (53%)**
- **Safety planning (50%)**
- **System advocacy and service linkage (45%)**
- **Legal support (45%)**
- **Financial support (37%)**
- **Health support (30%)**

Family violence is not experienced in isolation. Alongside immediate safety concerns, victim survivors often navigate complex legal, financial, housing and health challenges that can affect their ability to recover and rebuild their lives.

> **"My home wasn't safe. I needed to leave, but my rental history had been affected by his behaviour. Jordan controlled the money and often didn't pay the rent. He would kick holes in the walls."**
>
> Ashlee, victim survivor

> **"I was so focused on keeping my children safe and managing everything that was happening that my own health deteriorated."**
>
> Belinda, victim survivor



> **"I thought it was unfair when police excluded me from my home after the neighbours reported family violence. Even though I wasn't supposed to go home, I returned later because I couldn't afford a hotel and didn't want to sleep in my car."**
>
> Damien, adult using violence

Information Sharing and Collaboration

Through 2,602 instances of information sharing, CNV strengthened coordinated responses to risk, enabling services to act earlier, make better-informed decisions and improve safety outcomes for victim survivors and children. Information sharing included both proactive disclosures and responses to requests under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS), supporting coordinated risk assessment, safety planning and decision-making.



Collaboration remained central to CNV's integrated approach, with 69% of coordinated case meetings involving external partner agencies and 31% involving internal collaboration. By bringing together specialist family violence, perpetrator intervention and therapeutic expertise, CNV strengthened safety, accountability and outcomes for children, victim survivors and families.

CNV provided **$1.13 million in Flexible Support Packages to 497 people**, helping families meet immediate safety, housing, financial and wellbeing needs. Significant investment supported **safe and secure housing ($601,386), personal safety initiatives ($184,790), community connection, transport and access ($135,726)** and **specialist counselling and psychological services ($74,202)**.

Financial Support

Recovery from family violence is not only about physical safety. Financial support helps victim survivors secure housing, meet essential living costs, maintain connection to family and community, support their children and rebuild independence, creating the foundations for long-term safety, stability and wellbeing.

> **"Financial support has allowed us to access play therapy, counselling and recovery programs for our family. Without the added stress of cost, we have been able to focus on healing and recovery."**
>
> Amanda, victim survivor

Supporting children and young people to be safe, thrive and recover

Children and young people represented 57% of all clients accessing CNV family violence services, reinforcing that they are not only affected by family violence but are victim survivors in their own right.

Family violence can have profound and long-lasting impacts on a child's safety, wellbeing, development and sense of connection. In response, CNV prioritises early identification, comprehensive risk assessment and integrated support for children, young people and parents.

Access to safe and stable housing is a critical part of recovery. During the year, **91% of accommodation provided to victim survivors was for long-term stays of 30 nights or more**, with an **average stay of 74 nights**. **This included 2,572 nights of supported crisis and transitional accommodation provided to Aboriginal women and children, with an average stay of 83 nights.** Overall, 92% of accommodation and housing support for Aboriginal women and children was long term (30+ nights), with families staying for an average of five months or more. These outcomes demonstrate the importance of sustained housing support in helping children and families establish safety, stability and the foundations for recovery.

Demand for therapeutic recovery support for parents and children also continued to grow. These specialised interventions help children process trauma, strengthen resilience, rebuild relationships and support healing after experiences of family violence.

Together, these outcomes demonstrate CNV's commitment to ensuring children are seen, heard and supported. By combining safety, housing, therapeutic recovery and family support, CNV helps children, young people and families move beyond violence and towards safety, wellbeing and thriving futures.

> **"My daughter was showing signs of stress and struggling to settle. Staying in a motel for more than a month after escaping family violence helped keep us safe and gave us time to put things in place, but it was incredibly disruptive to my daughter's routine and left us disconnected from our family and community."**
>
> Tessa, victim survivor



Improving the lives of women, children and diverse communities

Safe Thriving and Connected

Safe, Thriving and Connected (STC) is delivered by the **Loddon Gender Equality and Violence Prevention Consortium** across Bendigo, Campaspe, Goldfields, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander shires. The program provides trauma-informed therapeutic support to adults, children and young people recovering from family violence, integrating therapeutic recovery services with specialist family violence risk assessment, safety planning and case coordination.

CNV leads referrals, intake, allocation, waitlist management and reporting across the partnership. In 2025/26, STC received **348 referrals**, including **79 children and young people**, and delivered **2,432 individual therapeutic sessions**.

In addition to individual counselling, STC delivered a range of therapeutic group programs. The **Future Group** supported women and non-binary people who have experienced violence through an eight-week therapeutic program, while the **Parents and Carers Group** provided practical support for parents navigating their own recovery and responding to the needs of children affected by family violence.

The **Strong Voices Choir** continued to grow as a unique therapeutic recovery initiative. Established in 2023, the choir combines music, connection and self-expression in a safe, trauma-informed environment. Led by experienced facilitators and supported by specialist family violence practitioners, the program fosters healing, confidence, belonging and social connection for victim survivors.

Participants also remained connected through an ongoing alumni group, contributing their lived experience to advocacy and community engagement initiatives. Late in 2025, members took part in an arts-based workshop to create artwork and messages for the **Solidarity Postcard Project**, exploring themes of healing, hope and solidarity. Distributed across CNV programs, the cards continue to provide encouragement to victim survivors while strengthening the visibility and influence of lived experience voices in family violence prevention and recovery.

"I didn't see myself as a creative person, but when I saw all the cards and messages together, I felt proud to be part of something so beautiful."

Alice, Alumni group participant

"I am grateful to be part of this beautiful project and help provide hope for others seeking support."

Rhea, Alumni group participant



"Being connected to the Strong Voices Choir has been life changing. Even on days when I don't feel like attending, I go and always feel more connected and better for it."

Leah, Strong Voices Choir

Adults Using Violence Programs

In 2025/26, **388 adults using violence** were engaged in CNV's programs, including Men's Behaviour Change and Making aMENds group programs, receiving intensive case management and post-program support. Of these, **266 participants received long-term intensive case management**, reflecting the significant and often intersecting challenges related to family violence, parenting, housing and wellbeing. CNV also provided **2,190 nights of accommodation** for men excluded from their homes, helping to support accountability while reducing immediate risks to victim survivors and children

Making aMENds is an integrated, evidence-based men's behaviour change and fathering program. It supports adults using violence to take responsibility for their behaviour, strengthen their parenting and create safer outcomes for women, children and families. The program combines comprehensive risk and safety assessment, case management, men's behaviour change interventions, family-centred practice, therapeutic support and coordinated responses for victim survivors. A strong focus on fatherhood helps participants understand the impacts of violence on children, reflect on their own experiences of parenting and build respectful, non-violent co-parenting relationships.

"I recognise that my verbal aggression towards Sue and the children causes harm and that I need to change."

Sean, adult using violence

CNV's integrated programs are designed around three key pillars:

Safety

- Family-centred safety contact and coordination with victim survivors, children and key services
- Comprehensive risk assessment, crisis response and coordinated intervention.
- Flexible support packages, financial assistance and service navigation to address immediate safety and wellbeing needs.
- Collaboration with Child Protection, Family Services and other specialist services to strengthen safety planning and coordinated responses.

Accountability

- Men's Behaviour Change Programs, including Making aMENds and post-program participation groups.
- Place for Change (Transitional Accommodation) and intensive case management support.
- Family Safety Contact coordinated case planning and referral pathways.
- Participation in Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMP) to strengthen information sharing and risk management.

Recovery

- Therapeutic recovery services for adults, children and families through individual, group and family-based interventions.
- Flexible Support Packages to address recovery, wellbeing and financial needs.
- System advocacy and service coordination to improve outcomes for victim survivors and support sustained behaviour change



"Engaging with CNV helped me reflect on what didn't work in my previous relationship and understand how I can build healthier, more positive relationships moving forward."

Andrew, adult using violence

Increasing actions within communities, systems and structures to advance social justice, equality and safety

Advancing Reconciliation Through Action

Over the past two years, CNV has strengthened its commitment to reconciliation by embedding cultural learning, cultural safety and accountability across the organisation. More than 220 cultural learning opportunities, including Cultural Awareness Training, Anti-Racism Training, Cultural Self-Reflection sessions and On Country experiences, have increased staff knowledge, confidence and capability to work respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

CNV has deepened relationships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Traditional Owners and First Nations advisors through ongoing collaboration, cultural learning and governance partnerships. These relationships have helped shape more culturally responsive practice and informed organisational decision-making.

Significant progress has also been made in strengthening organisational systems, including the development of cultural protocols, anti-racism commitments, culturally safe feedback mechanisms and enhanced RAP governance structures. Beyond the organisation, CNV has actively participated in National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Bendigo District Aboriginal Co-operative Family Days and other local reconciliation initiatives, while increasing investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

While important foundations have been established, CNV recognises reconciliation as an ongoing journey. Future priorities include strengthening formal partnerships, improving evaluation and measurement, and increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and procurement outcomes to support meaningful and lasting change.

Our Innovate RAP has strengthened cultural capability, deepened partnerships, improved organisational cultural safety and embedded accountability for reconciliation. These foundations will guide the next phase of CNV's reconciliation journey.



Key Achievements	Measures
Strengthened cultural capability across the workforce	More than 220 staff cultural learning opportunities delivered through Cultural Awareness Training, Anti-Racism Training, Cultural Self-Reflection sessions and On Country learning experiences.
Increased staff engagement in reconciliation	Staff participation in National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led events and activities.
Deepened relationships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and First Nations stakeholders	Ongoing collaboration with organisations including Bendigo District Aboriginal Co-operative, Njernda and Djirra to inform practice, learning and governance.
Embedded reconciliation into organisational governance	Active RAP Working Group and Advisory Committee oversight, with regular monitoring and reporting to leadership and governance structures.
Improved organisational cultural safety	Development and implementation of cultural protocols, anti-racism commitments and culturally safe workplace initiatives.
Increased visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives	Organisation-wide recognition of significant cultural events and integration of First Nations voices into internal communications and organisational actions.
Supported economic participation	Procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and suppliers, contributing to economic inclusion objectives.
Strengthened accountability for reconciliation	Progress monitored through RAP reporting processes, reflection activities and action planning for future RAP commitments.

Our Social Change Story

Gender and social equality in a violence-free world is possible

At CNV, we work to prevent and respond to family violence, drive systems change, and advance gender and social equality. Our vision is a world free from violence.

Our advocacy is grounded in an intersectional feminist approach that recognises there is no single experience of discrimination, inequality or oppression. We know that systemic discrimination, harmful social norms and structural barriers continue to limit safety, wellbeing and opportunity for women, children and diverse communities.

Amplifying the voices and lived experiences of the regional and rural communities we support is central to our work. We believe everyone deserves access to safe, inclusive and accessible specialist services when they need them.

Over the past 12 months, CNV has worked to elevate the trends, themes and experiences emerging from our frontline services to influence policy, shape reform and strengthen recognition of the critical role specialist family violence services play in prevention and response efforts. This has included contributing to national and international policy discussions, including a submission to the United Nations Human Rights Office to inform the development of guidelines addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.

Driving Change Through Advocacy

During the year, CNV contributed to:

4+ policy roundtables and formal submissions, including:

- Federal Government Second Action Plan 2026
- Federal Budget Submission 2026
- Victorian State Budget Response 2026-27
- United Nations Human Rights Office Submission
- Child, Youth and Families (Stability) Amendment Bill Briefing Paper

20+ advocacy submissions, media releases and leadership activities, including:

- International Women's Day
- 16 Days of Activism
- Homelessness Week
- Diversity Dialogues
- UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters
- Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing (AIHW) Family Violence Pilot Project
- Campaigns focused on children, family violence and violence prevention

Our advocacy also included joint sector letters, public statements and coordinated campaigns calling for sustained investment in specialist services, stronger recognition of work with adults using violence, and policy reforms that improve safety outcomes for victim survivors.

Building Partnerships for Greater Impact

Collaboration remains critical to achieving lasting social change. During the year, CNV participated in more than 30 regional, statewide and national partnerships, networks and collaborative initiatives, including:

- CARE Partnership
- City of Greater Bendigo Gender Equity Coalition
- Bendigo Reconciliation and Allyship Group
- Campaspe Family Violence Action Group
- Greater Bendigo Against Family Violence
- Macedon Ranges Family Violence Action Coalition
- Mt Alexander prevention and systems partnerships
- Safer Futures Partnership with Haven Home Safe and Annie North

These partnerships strengthen collective action, amplify community voices and support coordinated efforts to prevent family violence and advance gender equality across our region.

Innovation and Impact

CNV's advocacy and collaboration efforts are underpinned by the Innovation and Impact Unit (IIU), which leads our social change agenda.

The unit plays a critical role in:

- Developing evidence-informed messaging that amplifies CNV's voice and influence.
- Strengthening access to data and insights that demonstrate both service impact and the complex needs of people experiencing and using violence.
- Building staff capability to represent CNV's expertise in public forums, sector discussions and policy development.

By combining evidence, lived experience and strategic communication, the Innovation and Impact Unit ensures CNV remains a trusted leader in advocacy, service innovation and systems change.

While progress is not always linear, we remain committed to creating the change we seek. Through collaboration, collective action and a shared vision for equality, we believe a gender-equal and violence-free world is possible.



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