



Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Family and Domestic Violence Pilot

Report of key findings

October 2024

Produced by Australian Red Cross. Coordination, writing, research and administrative support for the preparation of this report was provided by Rona Weerasuriya, Pia Angelucci, Jenny Gillett, Reza Massourian, Nicole Batch, Kimberley Trawn, Petra Ball and Simon Murnane, based on data gathered through the Temporary Visa Holder experiencing violence Pilot which is funded by the Department of Social Services. Acknowledgment is made to the 8,800 people who used the service and whose disaggregated data contributed to this analysis, and all the Australian Red Cross people working to deliver the Pilot since 2021.

Front cover image credit: iStock, VikramRaghuvanshii

October 2024

Version 1.0

Executive summary

This report documents insights and findings from the Temporary Visa Holder Escaping Violence Pilot Program (the Program).

The report contains key information about the elements of the Program which have been important to its success.

Between May 2021 and June 2024 inclusive, almost \$17 million has been distributed by Australian Red Cross through the Program, impacting on 8,800 people seeking safety nationally.

Temporary visa holders (TVHs) or people without a visa experiencing violence face additional challenges to secure their safety compared with Australian Citizens or people on secure visas. These vulnerabilities are specific to their visa status. This is recognised in the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 and highlighted by the Harmony Alliance in their 2022 Blueprint for Reform.¹

The key findings in this report highlight the multifaceted challenges faced by temporary visa holders in Australia, particularly in accessing Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) services. The findings also describe specific needs of people on temporary visas or without a visa experiencing violence.

Key challenges faced included prolonged case durations, reluctance to engage with FDV services, visa-related challenges, mental health issues, financial instability, legal and housing needs, and barriers to mainstream support.

A list of findings (pages 12–13) and recommendations (page 15–16) are provided in this report to support the design of the Leaving Violence Program.

Based on this evidence, Australian Red Cross recommends the new, permanent, Leaving Violence Program uses the insights to deliver effective interventions in addressing family and domestic violence for people on temporary visa into the future.



Jai O'Toole

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Executive Director,
State & Territory
Operations



Kate Miranda

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Director,
NSW & Migration

Background

About the Program

The Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (the Program) commenced in May 2021 as an extension of COVID-19 Emergency Relief for temporary visa holders' program.

In ordinary circumstances, people on temporary visas face unique and complex challenges in the face of FDV, due to their limited eligibility for many federal and state and territory government supports, such as housing, Centrelink and FDV supports, added to this, concerns over compromising their visa status.

Australian Red Cross data from the Department of Social Services (DSS) funded COVID-19 emergency relief support to people on temporary visas indicated a concerning increase in clients assessed as high risk of FDV.² Of around 400 people receiving complex casework support at any time, approximately 10% indicated a high risk in September 2020.³

Evidence showed that some people faced additional barriers to accessing support services. They were generally not eligible for mainstream social services supports, they did not have developed support networks, and many feared deportation.

At the request of the DSS, and in partnership with the Department of Home

Affairs (DHA), Australian Red Cross designed the Program to support people on temporary visas to seek safety from situations of violence.

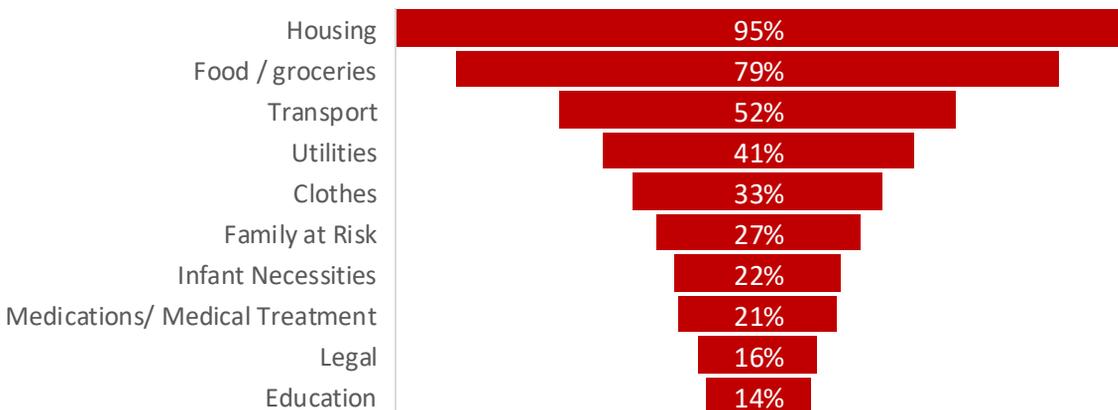
The Program serves to secure immediate safety and not to address longer term goals.

Program objectives:⁴

- Provide financial support to help people establish a life free from violence;
- Assist temporary visa holders experiencing domestic violence to deal with their immediate crisis situation;
- Deliver services in a way that maintains the dignity of the individual and families;
- Refer people to other relevant services, such as Women's Community Legal Centres; and
- Encourage greater self-reliance by providing assistance to support their economic independence.

Between May 2021 and June 2024, Australian Red Cross distributed \$16,927,960 of cash assistance impacting on approximately 8,892 people through 4,865 approved applications. Needs address included housing, food, transport and utilities.

Needs addressed by payments May 21 – June 24



Program design

Through the Program, Australian Red Cross provides:

- Payments of up to \$5,000
- Referral to a specialist FDV agency or other services
- Casework support for up to three months

The program is delivered nationally and through local teams who developed awareness of the program within local support services and community organisations.

For those with significant vulnerabilities that are not linked to specialised support, the Program also provides short-term casework support.

Information about the program is available on the Australian Red Cross website in 18 languages (see [Family and domestic violence financial assistance | Australian Red Cross](#)). The website has high ranking search engine optimisation.

Participant feedback

People who received support from the program frequently provided feedback about its value. In the words of one participant, the impact was a gift of hope.

"I haven't slept for days because of my fear. He emptied the fridge as he was leaving the house and I starved for days. I couldn't tell anyone ... [Now,] for the first time in years, I felt like a human being. For the first time, I felt valued. Thank you for making time for me, for hearing my silent scream, and for seeing me. you gave me hope for the future. I will be grateful to you all my life. I hope you have good hearted people like you in your life."

Program participant.

Family and Domestic Violence Financial Assistance Program

Australian Red Cross' Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) Financial Assistance program is now open for individuals seeking support and service provider referrals.

The program is available to all people on temporary visas, or with uncertain visa status, experiencing family and domestic violence, in need of financial support.

Is the program able to support me?
The program can support people who are:

- not Australian citizens or Permanent Residents, and
- experiencing or at risk of family and domestic violence, and
- experiencing financial hardship.

What sort of support can I get?
Support offered could include:

- financial assistance
- referrals to other organisations
- casework support (up to 3 months)

To help us make a payment, you will be asked to provide:

- **Visa status** such as your passport number or ImmiCard number. If you are uncertain or do not currently hold a visa, you are still able to apply, and Red Cross will call you to discuss your situation.
- **Bank documents** such as a bank statement. If you do not have a bank account in your name that is safe for you to access, you are still able to apply.

Will my personal information be safe?
Red Cross does not share your personal or visa information with the government. The contact you make with Red Cross is confidential. We keep the information you provide with your application safe at all times.

Please do not send any documents with your personal information via email.

I need help to apply
If you need an interpreter to help you contact the TIS on 131 450, state your preferred language and ask to be connected to Red Cross. 1800 733 276.

If you need help to make an application and do not have anyone that can help you, contact Red Cross on 1800 733 276, or email pat_fdv_pilot@redcross.org.au

For more information go to www.redcross.org.au/familyviolenceonline

Programang Tulong sa Pananalapi ng Australian Red Cross para sa Karahasan sa Pamilya at Tahanan

Programang Tulong sa Pananalapi ng Australian Red Cross para sa Karahasan sa Pamilya at Tahanan

Maari kang maging marapat kung natugunan mo ang sumusunod na mga pamamayan:

- Hindi ka isang mamamag ng Australia o isang pamanenteng residente, at
- Nakakaranas ka o nasa peligro ng karahasan sa pamilya at tahanan
- Nakakaranas ka ng kahapran sa pananalapi

Pano ano makakalkuha ng suporta?
Maari kang mag-reply para sa tulong sa online sa www.redcross.org.au/familyviolenceonline.

Kung kailangan mo ng tulong upang makagana ng aplikasyon makipag- Cross sa 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276) sa oras ng repleyo. Lumitaw Byemes, o mag-email sa NAT_FDV_PILOT@redcross.org.au.

Kompletional ang publiko-ograpi mo sa Red Cross. Pripasational naming oras ang impormasyon halagay mo sa iyong aplikasyon.

Kung kailangan mo ng isang interpreter, maari kang makipag-ograpi sa The Interpreting Service sa 131 450, sabihin ang iyong pinatong wika at itatagpuan sa 1800 733 276.

Pano magsangguni ng isang kliyente
Kung ang isang indibidwal ay kailangang ipinapag-ograpi ng eksperto ng FDV o sa iba pang serbisyo, ang ipinakarabilis at pinakaligalig na parang ng pangangailangan ang pagpapalagay sa ahensya sa wika, pagpapag-ograpi sa pagpapangailangan (referral form), at paghalaga sa kopya na makapagpapalagat.

May makukuhang karagatang suporta
Makakuhang ang karagatang suporta sa pamamagitan ng sumusunod na serbisyo:

- 1800 737 732 1800 RESPECT - pamamagitan ng helpline sa seksuwal na karahasan sa tahanan
- 13 11 14 Supporting Helpline sa krusa at pagpapag-ograpi sa pagpapalagat Kids Helpline
- 1800 55 1800

Para sa karagatang impormasyon tumugan sa www.redcross.org.au/ten

Brigada Mga Kalkula ng Suporta sa Pamilya at Tahanan

Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) Financial Assistance program is now open for individuals seeking support and service provider referrals.

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Data analysis

Methodology

Data was analysed using a mixed methods approach.

Quantitative data gathered was collated and analysed for trends, and changes to the Program design were noted.

Qualitative data gathered throughout the pilot and provided to DSS in monthly reports was coded inductively and emerging themes and sub-themes were created to highlight both fulfilled and unmet needs for clients.

Using a mixed methods approach fulfilled the objectives of understanding and highlighting program trends and aggregated usage of the service over time, alongside gaining in-depth knowledge of participants lived experiences, and describing these with authenticity.

Quantitative results highlight family composition, nationality, geographic reach, and visa type. Analysis of program impact through client-pre and post support reporting is also included.

Findings based on quantitative and qualitative analysis are separated into two parts:

1. Findings which are specific to the experience of someone on a temporary visa or without a visa.
2. Findings which are more general to the Program.

Nine overarching recommendations for action based on the analysis of the Program to date are identified.



Image credit: iStock, FatCamera

Program development

As part of active program management, Australian Red Cross reviewed program data monthly.

Data gathered from service usage and caseworkers were analysed using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Insights and trends from the analysis were shared with DSS.

This active monitoring and evaluation identified issues and opportunities through the course of the Program which led to refinements in the program model.

In response to data and insights, several Program variations took place.

| Date | Change |
|--------------|--|
| March 2021 | Co-design of pilot with DSS based on previous emergency relief evidence |
| May 2021 | Commencement of Program |
| June 2021 | Program extended from 'women' on temporary visas experiencing FDV, to 'people' |
| October 2021 | Financial hardship eligibility assessment extended to include all temporary visa holders regardless of eligibility for any other government supports. Financial assessment is based on the needs of the person at that time. |
| July 2023 | Payment amount increase by \$2,000 per applicant from \$3,000 to \$5,000 |

The Program was designed with three intake streams:

- A. People linked to FDV support who need financial support to meet basic needs or gain access to safe housing and stability. In this instance, Australian Red Cross only provide / facilitate financial assistance.
- B. People who need payment, assessment and short-term casework / referrals to FDV specialist services.
- C. People experiencing significant vulnerabilities who need payment, assessment and ongoing support and have additional barriers to accessing FDV service support.

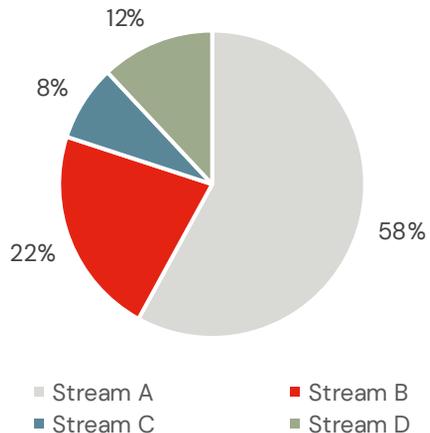
In 2022, Stream D, was created to capture referrals from specialised FDV caseworkers in non-FDV agencies.

Program modelling assumed that 70% of clients would be Stream A and only require cash assistance. On average, 69% of clients have been Stream A or D.

However, in some months, Stream B and C clients were more prevalent, reaching 63% of intake in February 2023.

This required changes to the delivery model to meet casework needs.

Program clients by program stream, May 2021 – June 2024



Quantitative results

Family composition

Family composition of clients consisted primarily of single people with or without children. (97% of applicants).

At least 3% of clients reported violence that was not from an intimate partner:

120 lead applicants were couples, of whom, 80 lead applicants had children.

Eight lead applicants were children (minors) applying in their own right.

Gender

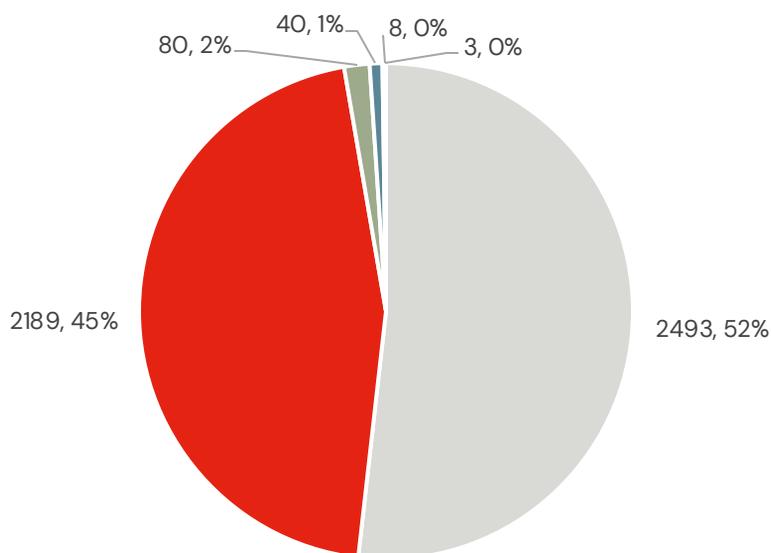
92% of clients were female, 7% male and 1% gender diverse.

Nationality

Support was provided to people on temporary visas born in 77 different countries. The top 10 nationalities of clients were:

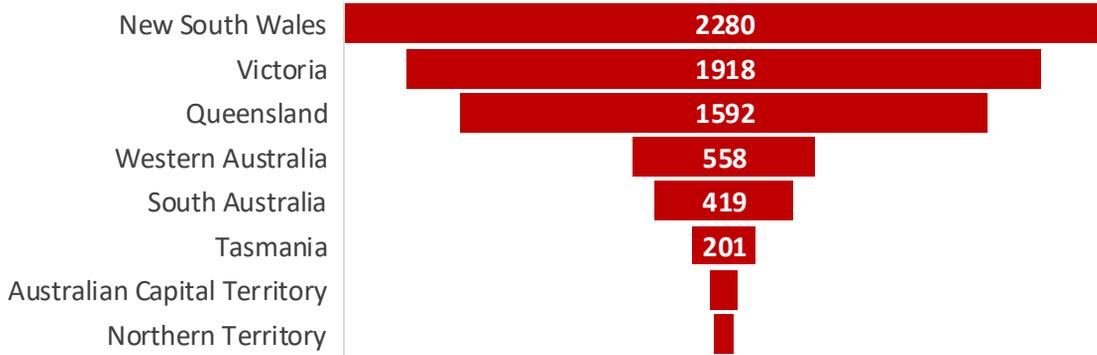
- New Zealand (31%)
- India (18%)
- Philippines (9%)
- Malaysia (8%)
- China (7%)
- Iran (7%)
- Vietnam (5%)
- Papua New Guinea (5%)
- Brazil (5%)
- Pakistan (5%)

Family composition, May 2021 - June 2024



■ Single adult with child/ren ■ Single adult ■ Couple with child/ren ■ Couple ■ Minor ■ Other

Total number of payments per state / territory between May 2021 and April 2024



Geographic trends

Clients provided their postcode at time of application. Most clients (81%) live on the East Coast of Australia.

The map below shows the postcodes provided by people receiving support. It highlights the needs of people living in urban, regional and remote locations where the availability of face to face and in-kind services may be more limited. The program offers remote access and cash-based assistance.



Trends in visa type

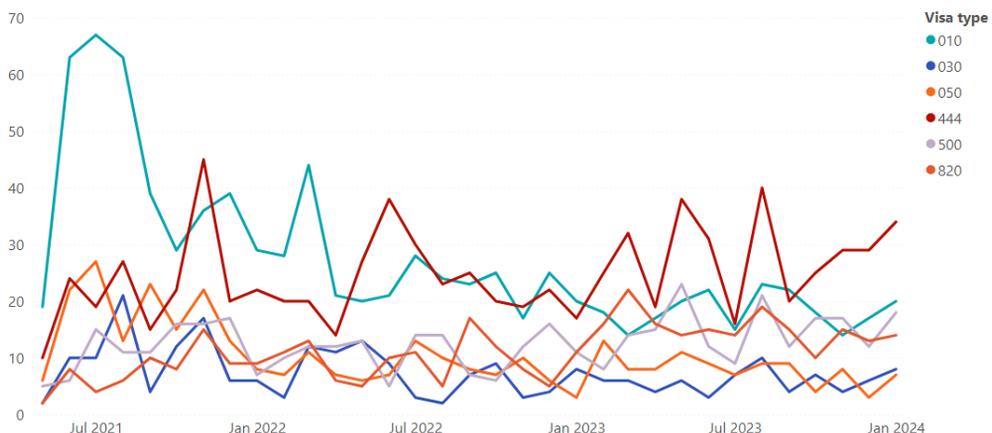
People on a variety of visa types received support through the program. The largest group of recipients were on Special Category visa 444, followed by people on a bridging visa, (010, 030, 050) and people on a student (500) or partner visa (820).

The graph below shows the number of people onboarded varies over time by the top six visa types.

The data highlights the links between government policy and community need. For example, correlations may be made between government resourcing to reduce visa processing times and the number of applicants on bridging visas experiencing violence.

The data also highlights the importance of the family violence provisions in the migration legislation which supports people escaping violence to maintain their visa status. DHA prioritisation of visa applications ensures that those at risk receive timely support and protection.

Clients Onboarding by Visa Type



Program impact

Pre- and post-support reporting

127 clients who received services between June 2023 and June 2024 participated in both pre- and post-support screening interviews.

In these discussions, clients could score their current level of wellbeing out of five against 10 domains, with five being high, and one being low.

Quantitative analysis comparing pre- and post-support results by client show improvements across all domains because of the Program.

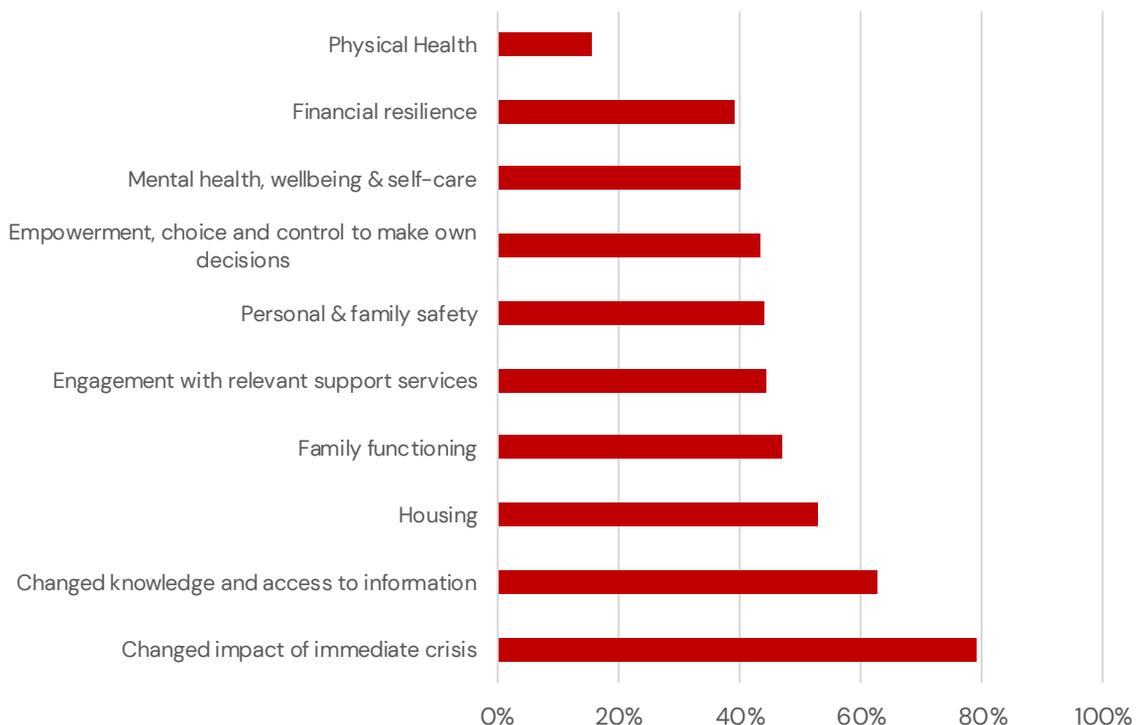
Financial resilience, family functioning, immediate crisis and housing were the domains rated lowest on average pre-support (with scores of 2.4 and less).

Physical health and empowered, choice and control to make own decisions were rated highest (scores over 3).

Results

- 79% of clients reported an improvement in their experience of the impact of immediate crisis.
- 63% of clients reported improvements in their knowledge and access to information.
- 53% of clients reported improvements in their housing situation.
- Physical health saw the least improvement, at 16%. However, it was also the domain with the highest pre-support score, on average.

Average levels of reported improvement against 10 domains



Findings

Impacts on people on temporary visas

The review identified eight findings specific to people on temporary visas or without a visa:

- 1. Common support needs:** Financial independence, legal needs, access to culturally safe health services, and support for children are critical for clients. Many require assistance with transport, childcare, and education-related costs. Support systems must address these needs comprehensively to help clients achieve stability and independence.
- 2. Barriers to accessing mainstream support:** Fear of removal / deportation and detention, language barriers, and restrictive eligibility criteria prevent many clients from accessing mainstream support services. These barriers create a 'catch-22' situation where people cannot access the help they need, further marginalising them and exacerbating their vulnerabilities.
- 3. Dependency and control:** Partner-controlled visas often increase clients' dependence on their abusers and overall vulnerability, highlighting the need for protective measures and independent support systems.
- 4. Navigating visa requirements:** Many migrants reported needing support with their visas due to financial and navigational barriers, with partner-controlled visas used as tools for control or punishment. The lack of financial resources and insufficient knowledge about navigating the visa system significantly contribute to these challenges, complicating clients' legal situations and increasing their vulnerability.
- 5. Mental health:** High incidences of mental health concerns, such as depression and anxiety, are reported among people without visas, exacerbated by experiences of violence and visa-related stresses. People report these issues impact their ability to meet immigration requirements and complicate their legal and personal situations.
- 6. Financial and employment:** Clients often lack work rights, leading to financial instability and reliance on cash transactions. This limits their economic opportunities and makes it difficult for them to meet daily living expenses, further exacerbating their financial instability. Many clients who have work rights find it difficult to access work due to childcare costs and lack of a family support network.⁵
- 7. Legal and housing:** The lack of a valid visa increases the risk of homelessness, making immediate legal and housing support critical. Clients require support to stabilise their situations and prevent further decline in their living conditions, particularly in securing safe and affordable housing. Many clients report it difficult to secure long term housing without work rights or ongoing financial support.
- 8. Knowledge and awareness of TVH specific barriers amongst mainstream support organisations:** Existing mainstream services are often unaware of the specific barriers that people on a temporary visa face when experiencing violence (such as those identified in this report), sometimes resulting in agencies de-prioritising or declining a referral.

The Program has also highlighted cultural or communication gaps:

- 1. Knowledge about a broad definition of violence:** There is a general lack of recognition among clients of non-physical forms of FDV, such as financial abuse. Increased awareness and education campaigns are necessary to ensure clients understand their experiences and seek appropriate support.
- 2. Confidence to act on other forms of violence:** Often, people did not prioritise action in response to other forms of violence due to competing living pressures, often related to being on a temporary visa.

Findings

Broader Program findings

In addition, the review identified eight findings that were common to all people experiencing family and domestic violence:

- 1. Access to meet basic needs:** Securing food, safe housing, and legal services are reported as critical initial steps towards independence for clients. Clients tell us that these basic needs provide a foundation for stability, enabling individuals to focus on resolving broader issues such as legal status and mental health.
- 2. Utilisation of financial assistance:** Financial assistance is primarily used for housing-related expenses, such as rent and security measures. While effective in addressing immediate needs, the support provided is often insufficient for medium to long-term needs, underscoring the necessity for extended financial assistance programs.
- 3. Continued needs beyond funding cycle:** Clients often require further support beyond the initial financial assistance period. Long-term solutions, such as peer support networks and partnerships with other service providers, are essential to ensure stability and independence for clients.
- 4. Impact of disability:** A significant number of clients experience disabilities, often resulting from trauma. These disabilities, particularly psychiatric ones, affect clients' engagement with services and financial stability. Support systems need to address both the clients' and their children's disabilities, ensuring comprehensive care and assistance.
- 5. Prolonged case durations and unresolved issues:** Many cases remain open for over 90 days, indicating the extended periods of support needed and unresolved issues for clients. Clients often exit without ongoing support and frequently reapply for financial assistance, demonstrating the short-term nature of current support systems and the ongoing needs of clients.
- 6. Staffing shortages in service sectors:** High demand and insufficient staffing in service sectors resulted in long wait times and an inability to accept new referrals. This leads to prolonged support needs and extended reliance on existing casework, stressing the importance of addressing staffing shortages to improve service delivery.
- 7. Reluctance to engage with FDV services:** Despite high referral rates, client engagement with FDV services remains low. Clients, particularly those on visa subclass 444 (Special Category Visa – New Zealand), often disengage after receiving initial financial aid. This suggests a disconnect between referral and actual service utilisation, potentially due to barriers such as distrust, shame, or misunderstanding of available services. Mental health barriers and/or previous negative experiences emerged through the qualitative analysis as a reason for negative experiences accessing services. This reluctance is compounded by the complexities of their situations, necessitating a more sensitive and supportive approach to service provision.

Analysis

Unique characteristics of the Program compared with the Escaping Violence Pilot (EVP)

The Program was designed specifically for people on temporary visas. Based on the analysis, findings and recommendations, arrangements under the Program significantly reduce the unique barriers faced by people on temporary visas. The EVP differs from the Program in three main ways, outlined in the table below.

| Theme | TVH Experiencing Violence Plot (the Program) | Escaping Violence Payment |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">on a temporary visa, or with uncertain visa status, who are living in Australia, and,are experiencing, or at risk of family or domestic violence in Australia and,are experiencing financial hardship. | Eligible after leaving a violent relationship Change in living circumstances within 12 weeks of application Intimate partner violence |
| Payment amount | \$5,000 cash | \$1,500 cash \$3,500 referral to services |
| Additional Support | One off support, no re-applications | Eligible to re-apply after 12 months |

The Program's core elements include:

- 1. Scope of violence covered:** The Program covers a broader range of FDV scenarios, not limited to intimate partner violence. It can support people experiencing family violence, making it more inclusive. Frequently, the person using violence is a visa sponsor.
- 2. Financial assistance:** The Program provides up to \$5000 in cash. This can be crucial for people needing immediate financial resources to secure housing, purchase essentials, and stabilise their situation in a dignified way. Program clients advise they use the funding primary to meet housing, food, transport and utility needs. Although referrals to services can be valuable, cash assistance means people who may be reluctant to engage can still meet some of their basic needs.
- 3. Eligibility criteria:** The Program has a relatively broad eligibility criteria, allowing more people to qualify for support. It does not have restrictions based on living arrangements and recent changes. For example, Program staff estimate that approximately 10% of clients have left the situation of violence prior to applying for support. Women with no access to childcare reported they were likely to remain living with a perpetrator to be able to afford to live. Caseworkers also observed that in situations of financial or coercive control, funding may be prioritised for children's clothing, rather than alternative housing.
- 4. Comprehensive support:** The Program provides comprehensive support, potentially including referrals to relevant providers for emergency accommodation, case management, legal and migration advice, and mental health support. This is particularly important where people are reluctant to engage with mainstream FDV services.
- 5. Long-Term support and integration:** The holistic approach and larger financial support of the Program can help people achieve longer-term stability and integration into the community. It addresses both immediate crises and ongoing needs.

Recommendations

Systems-level

- 1. Enhance FDV service capacity:** Invest in increasing the capacity of mainstream FDV services to reduce wait times and provide access to timely support that is culturally safe and considerate of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of people on temporary visas.
- 2. Address FDV service eligibility:** Support mainstream FDV agencies to develop inclusive eligibility criteria so those on temporary visas and without visas can access support.
- 3. Build Migrant trust in Government services:** Create outreach programs to build trust between migrants and government services, ensuring safe access to support without fear of detention or removal.
- 4. Increase awareness of the program and support available:** At an individual (migrant), community and community service provider level, increase awareness about rights, resources and supports to address FDV, aiming to reduce stigma, enhance access to support and increase awareness of FDV forms and available support.
- 5. Streamline visa administrative processes:** Streamline administrative processes for people on temporary visas transitioning to a Bridging Visa C and simplifying work rights applications.
- 6. Address broader support system gaps:** Help people understand, access and navigate the broader system. This should include support to address the unique challenges faced by temporary visa holders, such as:
 - **Cash assistance:** ensure people have access to a financial safety net when they experience violence and to help with their recovery.
 - **Visa process and legal support:** Support people to understand their rights, responsibilities and pathways to access legal support while holding a temporary visa and experiencing FDV.
 - **Mental health services:** Increase access to mental health services that are tailored to the unique stresses faced by migrants, including those without unique visa challenges, including trauma-related counselling.
 - **Childcare support:** Identify options to expand access to childcare for people seeking safety.
 - **Housing support:** Implement or expand housing programs specifically for people on temporary visas experiencing violence to prevent homelessness and provide stability.

Recommendations

Factors important to the success of the Program

1. **Provide access to critical services:**
 - a) **rapid and scalable access to cash-based financial support** (\$5,000) to address basic needs such as emergency accommodation and essential supplies; and
 - b) **access to free legal and migration advice** to support people to understand their right to safety and navigate the complex legal landscape of their situation. Support was available nationally via an online portal or in person through hub offices.
3. **Require culturally safe and dignified support:** caseworkers need an understanding of both the temporary visa holder experience and the FDV experience.
4. **Recognise the importance of casework and referral pathways comprising:**
 - a) **a client-centered casework approach** supporting clients to address immediate needs arising from FDV with a tailored and specialised response.
 - b) **comprehensive case management**, addressing not only immediate safety concerns but also referral options to support long-term needs such as health care, mental health support, and social integration were important in the Program, and
 - c) **trusted partnerships and referral pathways** to ensure clients can be connected with local specialist supports they may not otherwise have been eligible for.
5. **Provide emergency support beyond the initial three-month period, when assessed as necessary:** Ensure longer-term or repeat support can be provided to address more complex needs of temporary visa holders affected by FDV.
6. **Maintain awareness of the Program:** Mainstream service providers and community groups need to be aware of the unique vulnerabilities of temporary visa holders experiencing violence and the Program's existence. The Program fostered collaboration between stakeholders, including government agencies, non-profit and community sector organisations, to create a more cohesive and supportive network for those affected.
7. **Require evidence and insights:** Program data helped inform evidence-based policy discussions and developments, resulting in changes to the design of the Program to better support and protect temporary visa holders experiencing violence in Australia.
8. **Support collaboration between the service provider, DSS and DHA:** Client's concerns about visa security were minimised by the family violence provisions in the migration legislation and coordination between DHA, DSS and the Program. For the client, this collaboration meant there was a clear legal pathway to regularise status, faster responses leading to reduced uncertainty with visa issues addressed promptly.
9. **Choose a trusted provider:** Many clients returned to the Program when dissatisfied with the service received from specialist FDV agencies, including when they did not feel the agency understood their unique circumstance due to their temporary visa status. Australian Red Cross is aware of its global to local presence and emblem recognition which has led to migrants saying they trust Australian Red Cross.⁶

Conclusion

The Program has demonstrated the importance of accessible, culturally safe, cash-based assistance with wraparound services tailored to the specific and unique needs of people on temporary visas or without a visa experiencing violence in Australia.

The Program experience and evidence contained in this report can be used by service providers to inform the design of the Leaving Violence Program. Basing the design on the Program's experience and results of this evaluation will ensure the specific needs of people on temporary

visas experiencing violence can be supported effectively through the new permanent program.

Australian Red Cross thanks the Australian Government for responding to the evidence of need in 2021, and acknowledges the work of successive Governments and the Department of Social Services in establishing and running this pilot program.

References

1 Australian Government, (2022), National Plan to end violence against women and children. Department of Social Service. Pages 43–44.

https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/10_2023/national-plan-end-violence-against-women-and-children-2022-2032.pdf and Harmony Alliance, (2022). Blueprint for National Reform. [Blueprint-for-reform-2022-v071222.pdf \(harmonyalliance.org.au\)](#).

2 Australian Red Cross, (2021). COVID-19 Impacts us All: Ensuring the safety and well-being of people on temporary visas during COVID-19. Page 19

<https://www.redcross.org.au/globalassets/cms/publications/australian-red-cross-covid-19-tempvisa-report-web.pdf>

3 Australian Red Cross COVID-19 Emergency Relief data. This project was funded by the Department of Social Services.

4 Program objectives, as defined by the Department of Social Services.

5 This priority and priority seven are reflected in the Blueprint for National Reform 2022 compiled by the Harmony Alliance: [Blueprint-for-reform-2022-v071222.pdf \(harmonyalliance.org.au\)](#).

6 Australian Red Cross, (2023). Trust in humanitarian Action: Migrants' perspectives. [trust-in-humanitarian-action.pdf \(redcross.org.au\)](#)

