

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Cross Agency Working Group - Communique

The 16th meeting of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on Tuesday 30 August 2022.

Update from Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction (ODFSVR), Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC)

National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children

Director, ODFSVR, sits on the National Plan Implementation Executive Group and is meeting regularly to finalise the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032. A Women's Safety Ministers' meeting is planned for September with endorsement and launching to follow in October. The Action Plan is now being developed and is expected to be released in mid-2023. Parallel work is occurring on the standalone Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Plan and Action Plan, through the National Advisory Group which includes Shirleen Campbell and Michael Torres from the NT.

Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF)

RAMF training delivered in partnership by TFHC and Northern Territory Council of Social Services (NTCOSS). As at 11 August 2022, 44 workshops have been held across 2021 and 2022 in Alice Springs, Darwin, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, and Ti Tree and 724 people have been trained. Participant feedback has been very positive, with a 97 per cent satisfaction rate with the workshop. Adjustments to training content and delivery have been made in response to feedback. The team is developing a tailored training module aimed at responding to the needs of remote DFV service provision.

NTCOSS advised that reduced numbers in 2022 have been impacted by COVID and illnesses, with a larger number of no shows, especially in regional areas.

RAMF is not intended to be an internal agency guide, but is the Territory-wide practice framework that each organisation must then adapt for implementation in their own settings. Internal agency implementation plans are required.

NT Corrections has been adapting the content of the RAMF and this is assisting to inform their own practice in offender management. There has been positive feedback from Corrections participants.

Update from DFSV Interagency Coordination and Reform Office (ICRO)

Executive Director of the Reform Management Office in which the DFSV ICRO is located, introduced the ICRO team to the CAWG. Each secondee was recruited by their own agency process. The team commenced in mid July 2022 and has commenced the work of mapping DFSV activity across the NT, including Commonwealth funded activity. Following this a gaps analysis will be undertaken.

The development of the DFSV Theory of Change is also commencing to support the evidence base for the final whole of budget submission due at the end of the year. This will be the funding proposal for Action Plan 2 to be launched in July 2023.

The Action Plan 2 consultation and recommendations made in 2021 will feed into this process. These include actions on prevention, a modified Common Risk Assessment Tool (CRAT) for police, RAMF implementation and housing needs.

The ICRO has also been asked to develop options for an ongoing cross agency model including governance. This will include reviewing the CAWG as well as establishing the new Aboriginal Advisory Group (which will be set up by the

Katherine Local Reference Group Tennant Creek Local Reference Group Top End Remote Safe House Network NT Legal Assistance Forum



end of 2022). Information about the EOI process can be found here <https://rmo.nt.gov.au/domestic-family-and-sexual-violence-interagency-coordination-and-reform-office>

Update from Non-Government Organisation (NGO) representatives and discussion of systemic issues

A standing agenda item at CAWG meetings is an update from CAWG NGO representatives on key activities since the last meeting and the systemic issues identified across the services sector. The following matters were discussed:

Housing

Services continue to face complexities related to service delivery in remote contexts, including staff retention and recruitment due to increased cost of living pressures and lack of access to housing stock.

Discussion relating to the proposed changes to public housing rents and the review of industry housing. While some services that supply transitional housing have had positive responses from housing, there was a concern a blanket policy response will effect transitional housing providers in the DV context.

It was noted that the remote rent framework has been deferred for implementation to 6 February 2023 allowing greater time for communication.

NT Police

Discussion relating to misidentification of the person most in need of protection and services were keen to understand what procedures are in place to assist responding officers. Discussion regarding Support Link relating to quality of content and use of referrals.

Domestic Violence Act Review

Acknowledgement that a huge amount of work went into preparing the review and discussion on the six-week timeframe for responses and how victim survivors could be included in the feedback process. The Senior Policy Lawyer, Attorney General and Justice advised the Victims of Crime Committee has been briefed, and the timeframe for feedback is to align with the ICRO's systemic reform work.

National Partnership Agreement (NPA)

Services noted their desire for the NPA to be able to be used for infrastructure spends, acknowledging TFHC and the Minister's advocacy on this with the Federal Government. Services expressed their disappointment at the Federal Government's continued response to DFSV in the NT using one-off funding.

Legal services raised a potential funding opportunity to request NPA funding for DVFSV socio-legal work, noting that some services are directly funded by the Commonwealth.

Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF)

As part of the 2023 RAMF review, services recommended exploring the impact of and evidence base for RAMF implementation in remote Aboriginal communities. Concern was raised that some NT Government departments may not be implementing the RAMF and CRAT with clients.

Family Safety Framework (FSF)

Women's Safety Services of Central Australia (WoSSCA) reported that their service spends up to six hours preparing for FSF each fortnight and can receive up to 20 referrals at each meeting. Suggestions to strengthen local meetings,

including consideration of workload being spread across meeting participants (including NT Government representatives), is to be raised with the FSF chair for local resolution.

Police and TFHC are arranging a meeting of all FSF Chairs and Intelligence Officers to work through issues raised. This will be followed by a forum of all FSF members.

Presentation on the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA)

Representatives from the Aboriginal Justice Unit were welcomed to the meeting to provide a presentation update on the AJA Action Plan 2021-22.

DFSV Agency updates linked to Action Plan One

Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet reported on progress of the My Territory Connections community survey and the data dashboard.

Department of Attorney General and Justice reported on the DFSV Justice Review and related reforms. Stakeholders are being consulted by Ernst & Young consultants about offender programs in relation to these reforms.

Department of Education reported that the Respectful Relationships Education groups have been meeting, and Our Watch provides advice on this work.

NT Police reported the DFSV General Orders are being reviewed. Police are supporting the training project being developed by the Tangetnyere and WoSSCA partnership project.

NT Health reported it is investing additional funding in clinical responses to domestic, family and sexual violence.

Discussion on systemic issue

Dr Chay Brown is consulting with stakeholders to develop a DFSV Theory of Change. This will support the DFSV ICRO's final submission to Government. Dr Brown facilitated a two-hour workshop with the CAWG as the first in the series.

Next meeting

The next CAWG meeting is scheduled for 22 November 2022 at 9am.