



## Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory Board on Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

### Communiqué: Meeting 2, 18 and 19 July 2023

The Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory Board (the Board) on Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) held its second meeting in Darwin on 18 and 19 July 2023.

The Hon Kate Worden MLA, Minister for Prevention of DFSV, attended part of the meeting to seek advice from the Board on relevant actions in Action Plan 2 of the Northern Territory's DFSV Framework. These included an Aboriginal community led DFSV prevention initiative fund; and a cross-agency evidence-based framework for programs for people who have committed DFSV in the NT.

The Minister informed the Board about the upcoming launch of the National Aboriginal Action Plan, under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032, and of concerns regarding the unknown level of funding for the Northern Territory attached to the Plan. The Board shares these concerns and supports advocacy for funding that is proportionate to the need. The Board supports the National Aboriginal Action Plan and the development of a local Aboriginal Action Plan.

The Board commenced discussions on one of the priority actions (community led prevention initiatives fund) and saw this as an opportunity to build something with systemic impact. The Board discussed the development of a resource to be used to describe and measure good cultural practice in DFSV response to Northern Territory Aboriginal families. This could impact existing services as well as inform new services and how they are developed and assessed at all levels of government.

A presentation on current DFSV policy and funding was provided by the DFSV Interagency Coordination and Reform Office (ICRO), including an overview of the many Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations delivering innovative DFSV prevention projects as well as response services.

OurWatch, the national DFSV primary prevention organisation, provided a presentation on the evidence base and their prevention frameworks, including *Changing the Picture*, a national resource outlining a set of clear actions that are needed to address the many drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

The Board discussed the importance of cultural inclusion as a measure for government assessing grant submissions and reiterated that truth telling, peace keeping, kinship and healing are core values of the Board. The Board acknowledged that DFSV is a critical issue for Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory and noted that efforts to bring about change will take time and need adequate resources.

The Board value their role as experts and knowledge holders and acknowledge there is still a lot of learning to do including learning from each other, learning their role, establishing goals and developing priorities.

Board members shared and discussed ideas about current effective services, grassroots solutions and service gaps including cultural healing. They told stories about the work that they are doing in their communities, and about where they see the problems and solutions may lie.

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The Board shared concerns regarding systemic racism, and the lack of resources for DFSV programs, noting that much of the DFSV work undertaken in remote communities is done on a volunteer basis.

The Board spent time thinking about and discussing their place in the wider system, the relationship to and with the Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG), the influence the Board can have, and noted they are still clarifying and strengthening their position as an authority in the sector.

Board member Rhoda Dhurrkay presented a visual timeline (below) in Galiwinku of the impacts of DFSV on the community, and how the community works together to achieve peace and safety.

The Board is looking forward to their next meeting which will be held in Darwin, and intend to hold the following meeting in Alice Springs.

