

# DFSV Primary Prevention Community of Practice Communiqué 2

March 2024

## The Community of Practice

This is the second Communiqué for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Primary Prevention Community of Practice (CoP), an initiative of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC), in partnership with Our Watch.

The CoP was established in 2023. It is an action of the [DFSV Reduction Framework](#) and the [DFSV Workforce and Sector Development Plan](#).

The purpose of the CoP is to facilitate peer learning and connection and enable participants to:

- reflect on current practice challenges, innovations and learnings;
- share successes and achievements - even minor ones;
- exchange skills, resources and knowledge and engage in skills development activities; and
- consolidate a shared understanding of good practice in primary prevention for the NT.

CoP members are the organisations funded by TFHC for DFSV primary prevention projects delivered in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 financial years. Further details can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#).  
Face to face CoP overview

- The scheduled ninth CoP meeting was cancelled during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign period.
- The tenth CoP and first face to face CoP meeting was held in Darwin on 6 and 7 February 2024. Twenty three participants attended from 12 projects, with only one member organisation unable to attend. A further 5 TFHC staff attended from the Office of Gender Equity and Diversity and the DFSV Reduction Division.
- A Welcome to Country was provided by Dr Christine Fejo-King, TFHC Elder in Residence.
- The sessions were facilitated by Our Watch and Cygnet Centre for Peacebuilding and Transformation, and included:
  - Men in Focus resource on engaging men and challenging harmful 'masculine' norms and stereotypes
  - Member review of the Terms of Reference and how to enhance the CoP moving forward
  - Exploration of practitioners' existing strengths in primary prevention work
  - Strategies for framing messaging and advocacy; and
  - Working with different forms of resistance.

## Member reflections – Strengths of the CoP

A structured feedback process will be undertaken, with member reflections from the event including:

- It is important to strengthen connection, relationships and partnerships for safe and effective work

- The event affirmed a sense of connection, ownership and belonging to the CoP group
- Members felt motivated and confident in the collective strength and power of the group
- The benefit of two-way learning and sharing, valuing and honouring lived experience, and centring relationships in the work was reinforced; and
- Learnings would be shared with broader teams to consider application to their work.

## Workshop Insights – Challenges

Over the two days, members shared challenges experienced in being able to deliver safe and effective primary prevention work. These included:

- The differences and tensions between European/colonial and Aboriginal cultural systems and practices
- Navigating funding requirements and processes while supporting community decision-making
- Holding people who use violence accountable while understanding and healing trauma
- The additional responsibility and added burden on Aboriginal staff who hold dual roles, including paid work as well as community and cultural roles
- The challenges for practitioners doing their own work to heal trauma, challenge norms and address lived experience, while at the same time facilitating this work for the broader community
- Having aspirations and goals for significant change that don't align with the reality of observed change
- The context of working in urban versus remote areas, and the different resources available; and
- The impact of racism and racist stereotypes that frame Aboriginal violence as a cultural issue, and non-Aboriginal violence as individual behaviour.

For further information please contact TFHC Domestic Violence Reduction [dfv@nt.gov.au](mailto:dfv@nt.gov.au) or 08 892 44170.