

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

Meeting 22 of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on 12 March 2024. The meeting was attended by representatives from:

- The Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) networks in Darwin, Alice Springs, Big Rivers, Barkly and the Top End Remote Safe House network;
- the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the Department), the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, Northern Territory (NT) Correctional Services, the Department of Education, NT Health, NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES), the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet;
- the Northern Territory DFSV Aboriginal Advisory Board; and,
- The Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) and the NT Legal Assistance Forum; with apologies provided from the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT).

Sharing and Strengthening our Practice DFSV Conference 2024

Members were invited to provide input into the development of the second Sharing and Strengthening our Practice DFSV conference. The conference will be held on 5 and 6 June in Alice Springs. CAWG members have self-nominated to provide a conference advisory role, and will also assist with conference activities throughout the event.

DFSV service delivery: transition to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and remote areas

Non-government organisation members raised the need to work in partnership on how DFSV service delivery could be transitioned to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, including the vision and learnings from other transitions, such as health.

Members agreed this could be scheduled as a workshop topic in an upcoming meeting, with models of transitioning services from other sectors reviewed for background.

Further, members raised DFSV investment, approaches and expanded service delivery in remote areas. This could include supporting community-led Law and Justice Groups as well as alignment with local decision making principles.

Impact on specialist services from increased DFV screening in universal services

Members highlighted the Northern Territory Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF) implementation across universal services has increased, resulting in improved screening for domestic and family violence in clients. This was seen as beneficial and specialist services confirmed that they were receiving an increased number of referrals for crisis responses and risk management services. Service providers discussed the ongoing challenge of responding to the unmet demand. Further investment would be welcomed.

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



Presentation on NT Police domestic violence and youth structure

NT Police presented to CAWG on the new structure that focusses on domestic violence and youth, which was introduced in November 2023. The new structure includes a new Assistant Commissioner Domestic Violence and Youth and includes regional responsibilities, including domestic and family violence, youth engagement, sex crimes and child abuse.

CAWG Terms of Reference approved

A review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) has been completed and members approved the amended ToR. The name of CAWG will be decided by members out of session and be included in the new ToR. Some of the changes include the establishment of a non-government organisation co-chair; membership amendments to include Aboriginal Advisory Board, Aboriginal Justice Unit and a primary prevention focused member; one meeting to be held in Alice Springs annually; CAWG meetings to be a full day and include a workshop component; and the recommended level for Northern Territory Government members to represent at an agency level.

Next meeting

The next CAWG meeting will be held in June 2024.

For more information about the CAWG, contact the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Division on dfv@nt.gov.au