

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

Meeting 18 of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFS) Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on 21 February 2023. The meeting was attended by representatives from:

- the domestic and family violence networks in Darwin, Alice Springs, Big Rivers, Barkly and the Top End Remote Safe House network;
- the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC), the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, Northern Territory (NT) Correctional Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES), the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, and the DFSV Interagency Coordination and Reform Office (ICRO); and
- the Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS), Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT) and the NT Legal Assistance Forum.

## Guest Presentation – Our Watch

Lisa Dietrich, Primary Prevention Program Officer from Our Watch, provided an overview of her role which focusses on supporting primary prevention practice in the NT under the Northern Territory Government Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework: Safe, respected and free from violence.

The role is funded for two years with three main functions:

1. Sector development and engagement, including training and professional development; contributing to the Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Conference 2023; and the Primary Prevention Community of Practice;
2. Developing a framework for primary prevention specific to the NT context; and
3. Support primary prevention evaluation in the NT.

## Family Safety Framework (FSF)

An update was provided to the CAWG following recent meetings between the NT Police and TFHC regarding the FSF and the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. This included presentation of a project update by TFHC to strengthen the FSF's data, reporting and functioning.

## Update from the Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction (ODFSVR)

The Director of ODFSVR provided an update on the ODFSVR's partnership with NTCOSS to deliver Risk Assessment Management Framework training which has been extended until 2024, with dates for 60 RAMF training workshops over the next 18 months [now available](#). The ODFSVR will also be partnering with NTCOSS to conduct consultation to develop the model for the DFSV Resource Centre, an action under the [NT DFSV Workforce and Sector Development Plan](#). Consultation is expected to open in early March.

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



The Director also noted that the first action plan under the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children](#) is drafted and expected to be open for consultation shortly. Parallel to this is the [public consultation](#) on the first national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children, closing 23 February 2023.

### National Partnership Agreement allocation plans

ODFSVR provided information on the planned allocation of Commonwealth funding under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-23.

A total of \$15.5M was allocated to the NT. The NT Government has contributed a total of \$4.3 million in funding to the activities.

The first payment of \$1.2 million was allocated to DFSV services in May 2022 for flexible support packages. The remaining \$14.3 million, and the NT co-contribution of \$4.3 million, is being allocated as follows, following sector feedback and consultations in 2022:

- DFSV early interventions grants (\$6.1M over two years, including \$4M NT funding - this will be an open grant round opening March 2023):
  - Stream One: DFSV early intervention partnerships grants, and
  - Stream Two: DFSV early interventions with young people who are starting to use violence (pilot).
- Flexible support packages (\$2M over two years, including \$0.3M NT funding) - targeted grants to support victim survivor safety to DFSV frontline services (including legal services).
- Supporting RAMF (\$3.3M over two years) – grants to support RAMF implementation within universal and specialist services. This will include an open grant round for universal services opening March.
- DFSV Housing Pathways (\$2.5M over two years) - to support victim survivors to maintain secure accommodation. Funding includes a targeted grants round to community housing providers and DFSV services (\$2.1 M) to open in March, and research and evaluation activities (\$0.3M).
- Response to violence in the Barkly (\$0.5M over two years) - to support services addressing DFSV in the Barkly.
- Strengthening the Family Safety Framework (\$0.3M over two years) - to develop an online FSF portal to streamline referrals and improve FSF data and functions.
- Supplement to DFSV specialist services' baseline funding (\$3.8M over two years) – in recognition of increased demand, and the funding pressures facing DFSV services.

### Update from the DFSV CRO

The Director of DFSV ICRO provided an update on the new DFSV Aboriginal Advisory Board, with members now announced - full details available in the [media release](#).

DFSV ICRO is continuing to work on the road-map for co-design of programs for people who have committed domestic and family violence.

Members were reminded that the cross-agency budget submission to support initiatives under Action Plan Two is subject to Cabinet confidentiality protocols. Outcomes will be known following the NT Budget.

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

NGO representatives reported on current activity, and raised concerns about the significant levels of demand across the NT, and about funding levels not keeping up with demand and other cost pressures, including wage and superannuation increases.

### Next meeting

The next CAWG meeting will be held in May 2023.

For more information about the CAWG, contact the Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction on [dfv@nt.gov.au](mailto:dfv@nt.gov.au)