

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Advisory Forum (formerly CAWG) - Communique

Meeting 23 of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Advisory Forum (formerly CAWG) was held in Darwin on 18 June 2024. The meeting was attended by representatives from:

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

The Minister for Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, the Hon Kate Worden MLA was also in attendance for part of the meeting.

The meeting was held for a full day in line with the new Terms of Reference, under which meetings now include a half day workshop on identified Action Plan 2 priorities. The half day workshop was dedicated to DFSV funding allocations including Commonwealth funding, and allocation principles for additional DFSV funding.

In line with the new Terms of Reference, the DFSV Advisory Group was co-chaired by the Executive Director of the DFSV Reduction Division, and a co-chair elected from and by the non-government organisation (NGO) membership. The NGO membership have agreed that the co-chair will be the NTCOSS representative on the DFSV Advisory Forum.

Sharing and Strengthening our Practice DFSV Conference 2024

The Minister commented positively on the recent Sharing and Strengthening our Practice DFSV Conference held in Alice Springs in early June and acknowledged the hard work to make it such a success. DFSV Advisory Forum members provided feedback that they found the conference very valuable, well structured, with great panels. Members commented that it was valuable for men to participate and to hear from victim survivors directly. The showcasing of Aboriginal community-led programs was appreciated.

DFSV and Housing

Information on DFSV and Housing initiatives was provided to members. This included information on the Remote Housing Program, the Homelands Infrastructure Agreement, the Housing Australia Future Fund, and the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness. DFSV Advisory Forum members advised on how DFSV could be addressed through these new arrangements.

Update from DFSV Reduction Division

DFSV Reduction Division recruitment is ongoing and 20 out of the 21 positions are now recruited to. All DFSV Regional Coordinator positions, except for the Central region, are filled and all are Aboriginal staff. There are now 3 grants staff, who manage the grants program.

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



The contract with NTCOSS to deliver RAMF Training expires on 30 June 2024, and TFHC is in the process of developing a new arrangement to ensure ongoing training delivery with recommencement planned from August. Members commented that RAMF training was very successful and critical to DFSV reforms.

The Action Plan 2 action on considering a DFSV peak is being prioritised, and TFHC is funding an ACCO based DFSV Policy Officer to work in collaboration with the NTCOSS DFSV Policy Officer.

Members were advised that the DFSVR Division will be releasing a new grant opportunity later this year to support sexual violence prevention and response initiatives.

The first quarterly Action Plan 2 report was circulated with action leads updates provided. This report will be provided publicly every 6 months.

The [Action Plan 1 review report](#) has been uploaded on the TFHC website.

DFSV Data Snapshot

Members provided feedback on the first draft DFSV data snapshot, developed under Action 4.3 in Action Plan 2 to develop and publish DFSV data for the NT. This project will allow stakeholders to easily and quickly access relevant and up to date data on the prevalence and nature of DFSV in the NT through an annual accessible data snapshot. The product will be available online following further development.

Members noted the new position within DFSV Reduction Division to support data and evaluation work under Action Plan 2.

DFSV Aboriginal Advisory Board Update

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Aboriginal Advisory Board are members of the DFSV Advisory Forum, and provided an update from their most recent meeting in June 2024. The Board has been called on to provide advice to a number of initiatives and bodies, and they are also progressing their Action Plan 2 Aboriginal led prevention grants program.

Workshop - DFSV Budget

The Minister advised members that an additional \$30 million over 2 years had been approved in the 2024 Budget for DFSV Action Plan 2, and asked for feedback on where members think it should be targeted within Action Plan 2. The agency is committed to allocating funding in line with Action Plan 2, including funding for frontline services delivered through non-government organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, to continue their dedicated work with victim survivors and people who have committed violence. Funding will also be allocated to enable responses to upcoming DFV coronial recommendations.

Members agreed that allocation principles should include addressing existing funding cliffs, remaining consistent with Action Plan 2, and supporting program sustainability and long term operational funding rather than short term proposals.

Members were provided with briefings on the overall DFSV allocation for 2024-25 and the DFSV Reduction Division budget development, including allocation of National Partnership Agreement funding.

Workshop - DFV Death Review Project

Members provided feedback on a briefing on the proposed DFV Death Review and noted that the consultation will commence shortly.

Change of name

In line with the Terms of Reference review undertaken in 2023, members agreed on changing the name of the CAWG to the DFSV Advisory Forum.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October, to be held over two consecutive half days in Darwin. The workshop topic is the approach to transitioning of DFSV services to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, including a collaborative approach and a shared ambition, learnings from other sectors, and how specialist services will be involved.

For more information about the DFSV Advisory Forum, contact the DFSV Reduction Division on dfv@nt.gov.au