

DFSV Strategy 2025-28 Biannual Update (1 July – 31 December 2025)

The [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence \(DFSV\) Reduction Strategy 2025-2028 \(Strategy 2025-2028\)](#) of the [Domestic, Family, Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018 - 2028](#) contains 45 actions across 4 domains: primary prevention, early intervention and accountability, response and recovery and systemic enablers and reform. Note that initiatives usually fall under more than one domain, since domains are intersecting. This reflects the reality that prevention, early intervention, response and recovery, and systemic enablers and reform, do not represent a linear progression. Each agency is required to provide biannual updates against their initiatives, and this report will be published bi-annually to provide transparency of outcomes. This report is accurate as at 30 December 2025.

Initiative number	Initiative	Lead agency	Agency Biannual Update, Q3+Q4 (1 July – 31 December 2025)	Domain				Reporting status
				1	2	3	4	
1	Primary Prevention grants	DCF	In 2024-25, DCF Research and Evaluation Unit conducted a process evaluation to assess the extent to which the DFSV Primary Prevention grants were implemented. The evaluation was completed in July 2025 and helped inform the 2026 DFSV Primary Prevention Guidelines. The 2026 Primary Prevention Guidelines were developed in line with the recommendations from the evaluation. The guidelines maintain the three-year project length and focus on primary prevention projects, as well as the evaluation funding and requirement, and support for projects through a Community of Practice. DCF held a sector grant briefing on DFSV Primary Prevention Grants in December 2025, and the DFSV Prevention Grants opened in late December 2025. The second phase of evaluation will be conducted in July-October 2026 to examine individual grants projects and evaluation reports and identify key learnings.					
2	Primary Prevention activity in schools	DET	The following activities have been completed in the 2025 academic year as per the project plan: - establishment of the Respectful Relationships Education (RRE) delivery and support approach, including resources, professional learning, and engagement with local networks and partnerships - co-design of whole school approaches through a trial implementation with a cross section of schools representing various learners and regional contexts - developed and expanded the suite of materials to support implementation in schools including online professional learning, curriculum resources, and implementation guides and toolkit. RRE whole school professional learning training was delivered to 287 teachers between March and December 2025 - development and implementation of a communications plan, including resources, professional development and promotion of implementation support activities across the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Education and Training (DET) corporate and school environments - completed gap analysis to identify and understand the policy, resource, professional development, and support needs to deliver RRE across all ages and stages of schooling, including the professional development of school staff and leadership - completed needs assessment through consultations with internal stakeholders including schools and students, as well as external stakeholders such as Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) - establishment of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assist schools in evaluating their readiness to implement RRE, goal setting and evaluation of whole school implementation.					
3	Community Activities and Events to raise DFSV awareness	DPSC	In the reporting period, the Office of Gender Equity and Diversity (OGED) provided grant funding to 8 community activities that raise DFSV awareness providing \$41,309 in funding. Activities included: - Alice Springs Town Council event for 16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence - Ruby Gaea's Reclaim the Night event and a Young Voices for Action Network - Charles Darwin University's (CDU) Stronger Together Pilot Program - Dawn House event: Standing with the Frontline - Recognising courage, care and community - Darwin Youth Services to develop a Jealously Jenga resource and providing free DFSV recourses to community - Women's Safety Services of Central Australia's workshop on youth intimate partner violence.					

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- 4** Domain 4: Systemic Enablers and Reform Coordination - effective architecture for a coordinated and evidence-based system

 On track  Performance unclear or at risk  Off track  Complete

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4	Primary Prevention capability building	DCF	Representatives from five grant recipient organisations attended the online Primary Prevention Community of Practice (CoP) on 30 July 2025. Discussion centred on project updates and on backlash and resistance in community to gender equality education, and resources were shared. Organisations represented included: No More, Channels of Hope, Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, NT Government, Aboriginal Resource and Development Services, United Muslims of NT and Our Watch. Representatives from two grant recipient organisations attended the online CoP on 10 September 2025. Organisations represented included: No More, Tangentyere Council, NT Government and Our Watch. The new Our Watch NT Senior Primary Prevention Advisor commenced in December 2025 and is co-located with the DFSV Prevention team. In December, the Advisor held a Primary Prevention Community of Practice (CoP) meeting, which was attended by 6 organisations and was an opportunity for introductions as well as sharing 2025 achievements within their primary prevention projects. During this month, representatives from the Aboriginal-led grants projects were also invited to join the Primary Prevention CoP.					
5	DFSV intersections with disability and elder abuse	DPSC	The Office of Senior Territorians developed grant guidelines for the Older Persons Abuse Grant Program and the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Grant, and confirmed grant funding to the Darwin Community Legal Service from 2025-2028 to operate the 1800ELDERHelp line on behalf of the NT Government to support Territory residents experiencing - or seeking information on - older persons abuse. The Office of Disability developed and consulted on the draft NT Disability Strategy 2022-2032 Action Plan 2025-2029. Proposed actions include to improve localised responses to people with disability who are victim-survivors of violence, abuse, or neglect, and to support safeguarding initiatives to protect people with disability.					
6	Circuit Breaker	DCF	Circuit Breaker is operational in Greater Darwin, Big Rivers, Barkly, Nhulunbuy and Central Australia. Circuit Breaker policies and procedures were reviewed and updated in 2025 to strengthen the practice interface with domestic and family violence informed practice. At 1 February 2026, there were 243 open Circuit Breaker cases.					
7	Co-Responder model	NTPF/ DCF	NTPF - Reporting to be provided in next biannual report once SLA finalised. DCF - The Co-responder model is currently operational in Alice Springs and Palmerston. The expansion has been delayed to ensure the model has been fully developed within the existing locations. NT Wide guidelines are being developed to support cohesive service delivery. The project plan is currently being finalised. Grants for services will be extended until June 2027, thereafter a new grant commissioning process will be undertaken. An external evaluation of the co-Responder has been funded under NPA and is currently in its final stages of approval and scope, with an evaluation expected in June 2026. The evaluation will consider the implementation process and assess early outcomes.					
8	Early Intervention grants	DCF	The 2026 Intimate Partner Violence Early Intervention Grants will open in February 2026 and be supported by funding from the National Partner Agreement 2025–2030, with \$1.797 million available for 3 year grants. Programs funded through the previous 2023 Early Intervention round will continue until June 2027 as planned, and these providers may apply for 2026 funding with evaluation evidence demonstrating impact.					
9	DFV Audit Team	NTPF	Reporting to be provided in next biannual report once SLA finalised.					

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10	Community-based approaches to child welfare	DCF	Following the appointment of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Partnership (CWSP) Coordinator on 1 December 2025, progress has commenced against the Strategy 2025–28 milestones, with reporting reflecting activity undertaken from that date. Monitoring of the CWSP Framework has commenced through engagement with regional DCF staff and regional CWSP members, including other government agencies and service providers, supported by collection of CWSP meeting records and implementation information. Information gathering is underway to identify thematic service delivery issues and assess the operation of the CWSP Framework against its intended purposes. This includes reviewing information to ascertain Aboriginal community involvement in accordance with Part 5.1B of the CWSP Framework and the Framework Principles, particularly section 293N (c) and (d) of the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007. Early identification of strengths and effective practices within regional CWSPs has commenced to inform opportunities to further embed and, where possible, expand CWSP approaches across regions to increase the safety and wellbeing of children in remote NT communities. Findings will be provided to the Children and Family Safety Working Group to support governance and oversight.					
11	Continue prison-based programs for people who have committed DFV	DoC	DoC continues to deliver prison-based Recognising Anger Gaining Empowerment (RAGE) and Family Violence Programs (FVP), including FVP to prisoners on remand. 2025-26 program participation is on track to surpass 2024-25 numbers.					
12	Develop new prison based DFV programs	DoC	DoC intends to respond to the related coronial recommendation to determine program options for prisoners who refuse or minimise responsibility for DFV, noting that procurement for the design of the program is well underway.					
13	Men's community-based behaviour change programs	DCF	NT Minimum Standards Committee will assess Catholic Care NT and Tangentyere's Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP) alignment with the Minimum Standards in preparation for the current declarations expiring in March 2026. Due to recruitment challenges the Wurli-Wurlinjang Aboriginal Corporation MBCP for the Katherine area has been delayed.					
14	Community based programs for men (in addition to MBCPs)	DPSC	In the reporting period, the Men's Places Grant program opened for applications. It will close in March 2026. Grants of up to \$20,000 are for projects that strengthen men's wellbeing, connection and support (double from previous years).					
15	Strengthened throughcare	DoC	DoC has released the Rehabilitation & Reintegration Framework to strengthen approaches to prisoner reintegration.					
16	RAMF Implementation – universal and specialist services	DCF	Following consultations with other jurisdictions, the NT Government DFSVP team, the two currently funded MBCPs, and relevant services in the Big Rivers Region that will support the new Katherine-based MBCP, a number of Practice Guides and Tools for the Adults Using Violence RAMF expansion have been developed and streamlined. These guides will reflect current sector capability and established ways of working across multiple ACCOs, universal services, and specialist programs, with the aim of strengthening integrated service responses to adults using violence and enhancing victim-survivor safety, aligning with the current RAMF. RAMF Champions evaluation is currently underway by NT Council of Social Services, and an expression of interest process has begun to provide funding for Champions in 26-27, through funding made available in the NPA 2025-30. A commissioning process will occur for funding from 2027-28.					

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			RAMF evaluation is on track to commence in March 2026. The RAMF evaluation seeks to assess the extent to which RAMF has been implemented and is achieving outcomes as intended, identify enablers and barriers, and make recommendations to enhance RAMF implementation. It will be conducted internally with oversight from a Governance Group comprising NT Government and NT DFV sector representatives with strong understanding of the RAMF. It is expected the evaluation will be completed by October 2026.					
17	Specialist DFV Court	AGD (DCF – non legal support component)	AGD: In 2024-25, funding was distributed to Central Australian Women's Legal Service (CAWLS) and Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU) to support victims and respondents with matters being put before the specialist domestic violence court in Alice Springs. Evaluation of the Alice Springs DFV Court is due for completion in the second half of 2026. DCF: Funding for 3 non-legal victim survivor support workers is provided to CAWLS, WoSSCA and CAAFLU under the NPA 500 Workers until 30 June 2027.					
18	Specialist DFV Prosecution and Witness Support	AGD	Recruitment to additional Witness Assistance Services (WAS) positions is underway. Between October and December 2025, WAS staff attended the Darwin and Katherine Local Courts every day, and attended bush circuit courts in Nhulunbuy, Ramingining, Borrooloola, Wurrumiyanga, Wadeye, Galiwinku and Alyangula.					
19	Frontline DFSV crisis and wraparound services	DCF	A comprehensive grants commissioning plan has been developed to guide the work over 2026 in commissioning 8 grant programs, as well as reform grant systems and processes and provide an increase to frontline DFV services by the end of June 2026.					
20	Remote WSH infrastructure and transition to community-based providers	DCF	There are 21 remote women's safe houses (WSH's) funded through the Commonwealth government's Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) program. Of these, 12 are operated and managed by DCF. Under the NTRAI, DCF are responsible for transitioning the 12 DCF operated WSH's to community-controlled organisations. To do this, capital funding under NTRAI will be allocated to the identified WSHs that require upgrades so that any WSHs that are transitioned have safe, functional, accessible and culturally appropriate infrastructure within the available funding.					
21	Housing Pathways	DCF	In August 2025, an independent evaluation of the Housing Pathways Program was completed. A project plan implementing the recommendations has been developed, with actions planned for commencement in February 2026. Through the recent Homelessness Programs commissioning process, the Darwin Housing Pathways program has been extended for a further 4 years, through to 30 June 2029. The Darwin Housing Pathways program has housed 17 DFSV victim survivors and their dependents through the provision of head leased properties. In addition, there are 28 DFSV victim survivors approved for a head lease pending property availability.					
22	DFSV counselling and healing for women prisoners	DOC	Relationships Australia NT are funded to deliver the Healing Inside Model. From July-December 2025, 245 counselling sessions were delivered to female prisoners.					
23	After hours and other specialist DFSV responses in health	NT Health	NT Health is strengthening its afterhours response to DFSV. The afterhours response seeks to provide services when clients experiencing DFSV attend hospital outside of business hours. The objectives are: - build on the existing NT Health frontline responses and strengthen service capacity to respond to DFSV outside of business hours - provide patient centred care and a dedicated resource to support the client journey - provide trauma informed, culturally responsive DFSV support and ensure referral to specialist DFSV sector services and relevant support. New positions are being established in Alice Springs and Katherine to directly support where there is significant need. Implementation was delayed, as the original model included 4 externally funded positions that were expected to continue. However, advice was provided in late					

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			September 2025 that this funding would cease on 30 June 2026. Following review of needs across the NT, it was decided in late 2025 the distribution of positions. Social worker positions can be hard to fill and are expected to commence by mid-2026.					
24	Specialist sexual assault responses	NT Health	NT Health commissioned the National Centre to provide a leadership role in designing, supporting and evaluating a model and referral pathway to ensure there is an Aboriginal-led, place-based response to child sexual assault in remote and regional Northern Territory. Big Rivers and East Arnhem were identified as pilot sites. In the 2024-25, consultation for the Big Rivers Region was completed where a partnership model was established between Katherine West Health Board (KWHB), Sunrise Health (Sunrise), Wurli Wurlinjang Health Service (Wurli) and NT Health to deliver the healing and recovery service in the Big Rivers Region to support Aboriginal children, young people and their families affected by sexual violence. In 2025-26, service delivery commenced in the Big Rivers region focusing on capacity building. The National Centre could not complete the required consultation and project implementation prior to the expiry of their contract on 30th June 2026. NT Health will directly contract KWHB to deliver the program until 2027 and will engage with individual stakeholders in the East Arnhem region directly.					
25	Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS)	NTPF	Reporting to be provided in next biannual report once SLA finalised.					
26	Family Safety Framework (FSF)	NTPF/ DCF	The FSF continued to strengthen governance, capability, and operational consistency during the reporting period. An FSF induction video is under development to support consistent onboarding and capability building for FSF members across the NT. A business analyst was contracted for six months to develop the Business Requirements and Business Case for the FSF online Portal, and a Project Control Group was established with DCF, NTPF and DCDD. The Portal will improve administrative efficiency and coordination across FSF operations. An FSF Chairs Forum was held to enhance coordination and support consistent implementation and operation of the FSF. Recruitment of FSF staff continues as required to support the effective delivery and ongoing operation of the Framework. A total of seven FSF positions are available to support sites, including six AO4 Intelligence Support Officer positions and one AO7 FSF Senior Coordinator position. The 2025 FSF Annual Reflection Survey to inform continuous practice improvement was completed in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding Clause 6.4.3, with an anonymous online survey open to FSF member representatives between 17 December 2025 and 31 January 2026.					
27	DFSV Service Hub	DCF	A DFSV Hub is being developed to provide a “no wrong door approach” for victim survivors to walk in and access help with co-located services. A site has been identified, refurbishments are underway, recruitment is occurring. Consultation with relevant stakeholders is occurring to inform the final operational model for commencement in 2026.					
28	Alcohol intervention	NT Health	In 2024-25, the cross-government Alcohol Policy Taskforce reviewed previous recommendations from reviews and evaluations of alcohol policy and developed a consolidated list of existing measures to reduce demand, supply and harm from alcohol. Relevant leads for components of reform were identified and a Roadmap to Tackling Problem Drinking has been drafted.					
29	Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) rehabilitation	NT Health	In December 2025, NT Health finalised a strategic framework identifying mandatory program options and pathways for individuals involved with the justice system. The uplift of AOD rehabilitation and treatment services has included strengthening of the Continued Care Program (aftercare coordination for those who have accessed treatment). Improved access to AOD support includes strengthening of the Support and Healing Program which transitioned from the former Remote AOD Workforce Program.					
30	DFSV Training and Resource centre	DCF	Consultation on the DFSV Training and Resource Centre (TRC) was completed in December 2025. The consultation process received more than thirty submissions and survey responses from sector stakeholders, reflecting strong engagement and interest in the development of the TRC. Feedback will inform the commissioning phase, including the development of grant guidelines for the procurement of the TRC coordination service. The TRC is scheduled for establishment from 1 July 2026.					

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31	DFSV Workforce Capability - qualifications	DCF	A Curriculum Working Group has been established to ensure the new CDU unit, Understanding and Responding to DFV, is grounded in NT knowledge, practice and multidisciplinary expertise. Led by the Molly Wardaguga Institute, the group has made strong progress toward the planned Semester 2, 2026 start date, with enrolments for the subject already open. Other actions have included drafting the course outline and content, submitting ethics approval for the unit evaluation and completing a review of DFV knowledge across the wider Graduate Certificate, Safer Communities. The unit will be delivered across 12 week-long modules, focusing on the patterns, drivers and dynamics of DFV, culturally safe and trauma-informed practice, response-based approaches, and building organisational readiness to respond effectively.					
32	DFSV sector conference and policy officers	DCF	The 2 DFSV Policy Officers at NTCOSS and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT) continue to support the service sector to engage in the implementation of the DFSV Framework and DFSV Strategy 2025-28. Coordination of the Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Conference is planned to be part of the commissioning process for the DFSV TRC.					
33	RAMF Implementation - NTG	All agencies	RAMF implementation plans are being developed by all agencies with drafts due to DCF 31 April 2026.					
34	DFSV Research	DCF	The DFSV Research Grant Guidelines are under development and due to be finalised in February 2026. This project is in its development stage.					
35	DFV Death Review	DCF	The development of the DFV Death Review will be revisited in the second half of 2026.					
36	Housing, Homelessness and DFSV intersections	DCF	DFSV Prevention attend the Specialist Homelessness Services Reform Group meeting held by DCF Homelessness Team. The purpose of this meeting is to understand the cross over priorities and challenges faced by the Homelessness sector and opportunities for better collaboration between government and non-government. DFSVP continue to maintain strong relationships within Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development, including ensuring opportunities for frontline Housing staff to attend RAMF Training.					
37	Permanent DFSV Prevention mechanism for whole of system coordination	DCF	DFSVP Division has confirmed an organisational structure with 25 staff working across Strategic Policy, Grants and Contract Management, Regional Coordination, Performance and Evaluation. The DFSVP Division is responsible for overseeing system performance, policy development and implementation. DFSVP coordinates the project management of Strategy 2025-2028 implementation including project plan templates, service level agreements, the action officer implementation group and reporting. A new DFSVP Partnership Group has been established with government and non-government members to provide advice and share information. DFSVP continues to coordinate, manage and negotiate funding mechanisms with the Australian Government, and commission new programs for delivery that align with Strategy 2025-2028 and the National Plan. The Aboriginal Advisory Board met in September 2025 and is being rejuvenated in 2026 to align with the tenure of existing members expiring, with an aim to improve and strengthen its role and function.					
38	Monitoring, Evaluation & Accountability Plan	DCF	The DFSV Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan (MEAP) is in place to ensure that progress is measured, tracked and can be shared. All Service Level Agreements with agencies under the Strategy 2025-28 have been signed and returned to DCF with the exception of NTPF which is being redrafted due to some initiatives being delivered as business as usual (BAU) or closing out. Biannual reporting for the July-December 2025 reporting period was due on 30 January 2026. DCF have hosted 2 Action Officer Working Group meetings to support action leads in finalising project plans and biannual reporting.					

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39	Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS)	DHLGC D	As at December 2025 there were 177 casual Aboriginal Interpreters and 7 full-time staff Interpreters. All regions have completed their regional plan on their efforts to attract, recruit, retain and develop interpreters over the next six months (Jan-Jun 2026). During this reporting period, AIS delivered 31 Working with Interpreter Training (WWIT) sessions. Fourteen Interpreters participated in the Domestic Family Violence training that was held at Royal Darwin Hospital on 5 November 2025. Participants were provided with training on the signs of DFSV and its various forms, NT domestic violence statistics, and an outline of the current Culturally Safe DFSV guideline.					
40	Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) in hospitals and clinics	NT Health	Recommendation 28 of the Coroner's findings into the DFSV related deaths of Miss Yunupingu, Ngeygo Ragurk, Kumarn Rubuntja and Kumanjayi Haywood is that the NT Government and NT Health should ensure that the terms of remuneration and supports for ALOs in hospitals are increased in recognition of their unique expertise and the crucial cultural role they provide for clients and staff, including support provided to clients with DFSV. NT Health reviewed Aboriginal Liaison Officer position descriptions, completed the Job Analysis Questionnaire and the Job Evaluation Record and consulted with the ALO workforce to capture the varied tasks ALO staff are currently being asked to undertake. NT Health's activity in relation to this action is complete and further progress on this action needs to be led by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment.					
41	Interpreters and/or Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) in Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre (JESCC)	NTPF	Reporting to be provided in next biannual report once SLA finalised.					
42	Prevent, Assist, Respond (PART) training for NT Police	NTPF	Reporting to be provided in next biannual report once SLA finalised.					
43	Permanent NT Police DFSV Command	NTPF	Reporting to be provided in next biannual report once SLA finalised.					
44	SupportLink	DCF/NT PF	Reporting to be provided in next biannual report once SLA finalised.					
45	Safe and Together Framework Audit	DCF	The evaluation plan (Scope and Design) has been endorsed by the Practice Development Steering Committee (PDSC) (Evaluation Governance Group) on 5 Jan 2026 and approved by DCF Executive Leadership Board (ELB). The evaluation is expected to commence by mid-2026.					

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Acronyms used in this document

ACCO: Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation	MBCP: Men's Behaviour Change Program
AGD: Attorney General's Department	MEAP: NT DFSV Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan
AIS: Aboriginal Interpreter Service	MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
ALO: Aboriginal Liaison Officer	NPA: National Partnership Agreement
AMSANT: Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory	NT: Northern Territory
AOD: Alcohol and Other Drugs	NTCOSS: Northern Territory Council of Social Services
BAU: Business as usual	NTPF: Northern Territory Police Force
CAAFLU: Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit	NTRAI: Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment
CAWLS: Central Australian Women's Legal Service	OGED: Office of Gender Equity and Diversity
CDU: Charles Darwin University	PART: Prevent Assist Respond training
CoP: Community of Practice	PDSC: Practice Development Steering Committee
CWSP: Child Wellbeing and Safety Partnership	RAGE: Recognising Anger Gaining Empowerment
DCF: Department of Children and Families	RAMF: NT Domestic and Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework
DET: Department of Education and Training	RRE: Respectful Relationships Education
DFSV: Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	SLA: Service Level Agreement
DFSVP: Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention	SHSRG: Specialist Homelessness Services Reform Group
DFV: Domestic and Family Violence	Sunrise: Sunrise Health
DHLGCD: Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	TRC: Training and Resource Centre
DoC: Department of Corrections	WSH: Women's Safe Houses
DPSC: Department of People Sport and Culture	Wurli: Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Service
FSF: Family Safety Framework	WWIT: Working with Interpreter Training
FVP: Family Violence Program	
JESCC: Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre	
KWHB: Katherine West Health Board	
MAPS: Multi-Agency Protection Service	

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