

COMMUNIQUE

The fifth meeting of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on Tuesday 15 October 2019.

At the meeting, CAWG members were updated on progress implementing priority initiatives under Action Plan1: Changing Attitudes, Intervening Earlier and Responding Better (2018-2021). Data, the sexual violence prevention and response framework and security clearances for security officers and contractors was discussed.

The CAWG reports to the Children and Families Standing Committee (CFSC) on a six-monthly basis. CAWG members noted the its first report to the CFSC will be considered before the end of 2019.

Risk Assessment and Management Framework

Territory Families has commissioned Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) to develop a Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF) and common risk assessment tool.

ANROWS has partnered with Jackie Burke, Clinical Director of Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia, to undertake consultation across the Northern Territory in the development of the RAMF. Targeted consultations have been finalised and public consultations are currently underway in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

Information Sharing Entities participating in the Information Sharing Scheme are required to align their policies and practice with the RAMF. The RAMF and common risk assessment tool will be incorporated into the updated Family Safety Framework Guidelines.

The RAMF will be made available to any DFSV service provider who chooses to utilise it, promoting consistency in the assessment and management of risk across services.

The RAMF is expected to be released in early 2020.

Northern Territory Correctional Services

The CAWG was presented an overview of Northern Territory Correctional Services programs delivered to prisoners prior to sentencing (on remand, also extended to community) and in custody. All programs are voluntary.

These programs include the Family Violence Program; Recognising Anger and Gaining Empowerment Program (RAGE Program); Sex Offender Program; and Violent Offender Treatment Program.

National Plan and Council of Australian Governments

The CAWG noted that the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed the Fourth and final Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 on 9 August 2019. The Implementation Plan of the Fourth Action Plan will be launched before the end of 2019.

The next COAG summit will be held in Alice Springs in April 2020.

Next meeting

The CAWG is scheduled to meet in Darwin on Wednesday 4 December 2019.



Katherine Local Reference Group



Tennant Creek Local Reference Group

