

DFSV Primary Prevention Community of Practice Communiqué 1

November 2023

The NT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Primary Prevention Community of Practice (CoP) has been established by NT Government in partnership with Our Watch. It is an action of the [DFSV Reduction Framework Action Plan 1](#) and the [DFSV Workforce and Sector Development Plan](#).

The purpose of the CoP is to facilitate an environment for peer learning and connection and enable participants to:

- Reflect on current practice challenges, innovations and learnings;
- Share successes and achievements - even minor ones;
- Exchange skills, resources and knowledge and engage in skills development activities;
- Consolidate a shared understanding of good practice in primary prevention for the NT.

CoP members are the organisations funded by TFHC for DFSV primary prevention projects delivered in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 financial years. Further details can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#).

The inaugural CoP meeting was held in November 2022. Subsequent meetings have been held approximately six weekly. Eight meetings have been held to date. Due to participants being located across the NT, meetings are primarily held online. A face to face meeting is scheduled for early February 2024.

Lead Organisation	Project Title
Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation	Together We Can: Strengthening Safe, Equal and Respectful Relationships for Young People Girls Can Boys Can
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation	Malparara Malparara Women's Advisory Group
Equal Research Pty Ltd	U Right Sis? Staying Safe Online
Galiwin'ku Women's Space	Dhatam Primary Prevention Program
Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation	Ngalmuka Healing – Time and Place
MusicNT Incorporated	Safe Venues Program - The All Good Project
UMNT Incorporated	Nisaa
Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation	Respectful Relationships Workshops & Resources for Yuṭa Yolṅu
YWCA Australia	Amplifying Voices - A Leadership Program For Young Women With Lived Experience
World Vision Australia	Channels of Hope for Gender
Catholic Care NT	NO MORE Campaign
NAPCAN	Safer Communities for Children

Topics and presentations at CoP meetings 1 to 8

- Establish the Terms of Reference, meeting schedule and other functional and administrative matters.
- Overview of DFSV primary prevention frameworks and a brief introduction to evaluation tools developed with the NT Department of Treasury program evaluation toolkit.
- Presentation by the [Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program](#) on the development of their Mums Can, Dads Can and Girls Can, Boys Can programming, and the [Grow model](#).
- 12-month project reflections: strengths and challenges.
- Tailoring DFSV primary prevention messaging for diverse audiences in the NT.
- Presentation about the NPY Malparara-Malparara Women's Advisory Group project.
- Discussion of different types of violence present in the NT and exploring use of an informal tool to assist in prioritising and planning work in alignment to the DFSV primary prevention evidence base.
- Discussion of NT wide plans for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, discussion of challenges and strategies when sharing information about primary prevention project activities.

Member reflections on CoP meetings to date

Participants shared that:

- The CoP provides a safe space to have challenging conversations and acknowledge that there are sometimes no easy answers. Engaging in reflective processes together can be enriching for participants.
- Members benefit from a sense of connection through exploring common work and purpose.
- Together they celebrate the resilience and strength among the women participating in programs which create safe spaces for women to own and embody their power.
- Seeing the frameworks and theories that other providers apply, and the process and results of their projects over time, is helpful – particularly for workers on newer projects.
- There is more to be done and recognising and naming the challenges together is important.

Challenges and opportunities - NT DFSV primary prevention work

The points below represent a summary of the reflections that have been shared and discussed during CoP meetings about challenges and opportunities delivering DFSV primary prevention projects in the NT.

- Establishing rapport with and among participants are the foundations of DFSV primary prevention work.
- DFSV primary prevention takes time, and resourcing for DFSV primary prevention projects needs to reflect this. Shared roadblocks to delivering DFSV primary prevention projects include the amount of funding available over short time periods, the administrative burden of contracts, access to employee housing and vehicles in remote locations; and staff recruitment, retention and security of employment.
- DFSV primary prevention language can be a barrier for project participants, but particularly when it is unfamiliar or hard to translate. Linguistic and cultural translation of concepts are equally important.
- Co-developing effective DFSV primary prevention messaging is complex. Ensuring clarity, accessibility and relevance, planning for and managing resistance to the messages, avoiding collusion while building rapport with participants takes time and skill. The process is as important as the output.
- Creating change in the violence supporting attitudes held by individuals has limited impacts if it is not supported by similar changes at the system and/or institutional level.
- Healing can be a vital part of preventing DFSV. High rates of DFSV and high levels of intergenerational trauma in the NT mean many Territorians are living with the long-term and ongoing impacts of this harm.