

DFSV Primary Prevention Community of Practice Communique April 2026

The Community of Practice

This is the seventh Communique for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Primary Prevention Community of Practice (CoP), an initiative of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in partnership with Our Watch. This was the 15th CoP held on Wednesday 29 April 2026. The CoP was established in 2023. It is an action of the DFSV Reduction Framework and the DFSV Workforce and Sector Development Plan.

The purpose of the CoP is to facilitate 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; and
- consolidate a shared understanding of good practice in primary prevention for the NT.

CoP members are organisations funded by DCF for DFSV primary prevention projects delivered in the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years. Further details can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Participation

14 participants attended from 12 organisations, with 9 of those being grant recipients. Organisations to attend included Catholic Care NT, NAPCAN, Katherine West Health Board, Galiwin'ku Women's Space, YWCA, United Muslims NT, Jawoyn, Our Watch and NTG DFSVP.

Topics

The key topic:

- Gender and Working with Men

Member reflections

Members sharing and discussion included:

- Presentation delivered by Brendon Harris (KWHB) and Robert Cross (Catholic Care, NT). Brendon presented on key themes relate to developments in gender and “working with men” including The Manosphere, Men's Health and Vulnerability, Gender Equality, Working with Men and Aboriginal Masculinities.
- **Approach:** Need to work from a strengths-based approach with men.

- “Change happens in relationships not lectures.” Engage to empower, and with understanding of current context.
- **Key message:** gender equality is a shared goal for men and women that benefits both.
- The dominant narrative in some spaces (e.g. the “Manosphere”) is pitting men against women, creating greater issues for both and widening the divide between them. The job is to engage men in a way that recognises their real challenges, at the same time as challenging the false narrative that gender equality or women are the cause of their social and financial problems.
- Rob added information that related to No MORE which is the campaign that Charlie King founded. No MORE also do work in the Top End at Men’s Sheds etc. Rob highlighted The Stand project which linked in with sporting groups.
- The group reflected on the positive development that there are more men working in this space now. There is greater recognition of the importance of “Working with Men”, and this is being backed up with increased funding. Aboriginal men working with Aboriginal men is important for identity and connection. Increasingly, Aboriginal women’s groups are calling for more men’s groups.

Workshop insights

Members provided feedback including:

- These sessions support prevention practice and professional development for organisations.
- The attendees agreed that it would be great to have more funded providers share their projects through this forum on a rotating roster.
- Attendees suggested a focus on the below topics for the coming CoPs.
 - Remote community leaders to present on prevention
 - Youth prevention programs