

SETSCoP

Communique: SA & Tasmania Domestic and Family Violence sub-group

Videoconference – 1 December 2021

On 1 December 2021, SETSCoP held its first meeting for members of the South Australia and Tasmania Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) sub-group. The focus of the meeting was to consult members on the systems and tools currently in place to provide DFV supports to SETS clients, identify referral systems and pathways, discuss the intersection between DFV and migration regulations and identify current prevention and intervention programs in place to work with men.

Identifying DFV, risk assessment and safety planning

Members have been training staff in identifying and responding to reports of family violence.

The importance of establishing trust and building rapport was reported as an essential part of the process. Examples of how to do this include through women's and English group activities, as well as through employing bilingual workers to engage with clients. Attendees emphasised the importance of training caseworkers on how to assist clients to access mainstream specialist services and advocate for their client's needs.

Members described the various strategies used to identify DFV and the range of strengths, needs and risks tools used at intake and for risk assessments and safety planning. A group of organisations in SA has developed a set of templates that members use. Members in SA also work with active community members who educate their communities about DFV.

Referral pathways

Providers discussed the importance of clients connecting with people they trust, which is often SETS providers. They noted that mainstream service providers may not have some of the required skills needed to support migrant and refugee clients, particularly how to work with interpreters and provide culturally responsive practice.

Attendees noted that in Tasmania there is a distinct lack of services to support children experiencing abuse from parents. These clients require considerable support navigating the legal and child protection systems. This kind of support is outside of the scope of SETS funding (which is for low and medium level support) and providers find this difficult.

Larger services have established partnerships with various organisations and deliver activities in partnership or organise colocation of staff. It was noted that relationships with

legal services are particularly important. When there is no partnership or relationship, a lot of time can be spent attempting to make contact with services.

There is a need to refer clients to service providers of adjacent services so that clients get the help they need for DFV. This includes:

- Financial support (particularly for those not eligible for Centrelink support)
- Housing
- Legal support
- Police.

DFV and migration regulations

Clients on temporary visas have reported experiencing threats of deportation.

Providers also emphasised the challenges faced by those on temporary visas seeking to leave abusive relationships, as they may have limited community connections, a lack of social or family support and face stigma if they report their partner to the police or authorities.

Attendees noted that they receive many requests for assistance from people who are not eligible for SETS because they arrived in Australia more than 5 years ago. Disclosures of DFV may occur after 5 years particularly from clients who have not accessed AMEP during their initial settlement period.

Recently some other community services received funding to provide legal support for people on temporary visas, which has been helpful.

Men's programs

Members discussed a lack of available programs to support men, particularly in Tasmania.

Some attendees commented that the limited SETS funding means that men's programs are not delivered, as the funding is used in other areas.

Some providers are connecting with community leaders, so that they can engage with men regarding DFV. It was emphasised that work within communities is essential in this area.