

SETSCoP

Communique: ACT & NSW Domestic and Family Violence sub-group

Videoconference – 8 February 2022

On 8 February, 2022, SETSCoP held its first meeting for members of the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) sub-group. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the variety of supports being implemented by SETS providers for clients experiencing DFV and share information regarding the training completed or planned for staff relating to DFV supports.

Service providers discussed their implementation of new **processes and procedures** for supporting clients who have experienced DFV, mostly involving referral to a DFV specialist service. This also involves looking at the frameworks in place and DV Safety Assessment Tool tools (see shared resources) and other tools.

Providers have delivered **group information sessions** and **training** on topics such as gender equality. This has included information on DFV as part of the sessions. Some sessions also included introductions to different groups, such as Police, Legal Aid and DFV counsellors. Some sessions are delivered through TAFE.

The need for group sessions to focus on **raising awareness** of DFV and supports was discussed. Awareness raising is considered critical so that clients have a stronger understanding of what DFV looks like. Consideration of the language used in these sessions must be made, due to this topic being 'taboo' in many of the cultures represented by SETS clients. Language used has included "Strong and Safe families", "Respectful Relationships" and "Thriving and Safe Families". Some of these sessions have been delivered to children, youth and seniors as these groups do not always receive education on this issue.

The need for **staff training** was highlighted noting that the delivery of DFV support has not previously been a focus of the SETS program. Some providers have internal DFV support training, although these have been developed without considering the cultural lens. Some providers are working on the development of staff training and looking to external services to support this. Providers have attended various external trainings, including: STARTTS training, DV Alert, incidental counselling.

Some service providers have employed a **DFV case worker** within their SETS team, who is able to support other case managers as they assess clients and decide on the best referral pathways.

Providers have conducted **women's groups** which are a social groups where life skills are built and clients are welcomed into a safe space.

Some **men's groups** are also being conducted , to encourage a safe space to share and raise awareness of the various forms of domestic violence and the consequences of DFV. These are delivered with specific cultural groups.

The importance of building connections to **other organisations that specialise** in DFV was highlighted. Some providers are working with external services using a co-case management strategy.

Providers are also working on developing **video resources** to share with clients and communities providing information in language on the issue of DFV. In addition, case studies have been shared with cultural media sources to bring awareness of this issue.

Providers recognise that the issue of DFV is a community issue as and such requires a community response. To support this, Providers are consulting and working alongside **Community Leaders** and religious leaders to discuss DFV prevention strategies and partnering with the Department of Communities and Justice.

Shared Resources

STARTTS Domestic and Family Violence, Refugee Trauma and Resettlement training:
<https://www.startts.org.au/training/introductory-workshops/domestic-violence-and-refugee-trauma/>

DV Alert training:

<https://www.dvalert.org.au/workshops-courses/for-frontline-workers/2-day-workshops/general-workshops>

<https://www.dvalert.org.au/workshops-courses/for-frontline-workers/2-day-workshops/multicultural-workshops>

DV Safety Assessment Tool:

https://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/41873/Domestic-Violence-Safety-and-Assessment-Tool-DVSAT.pdf