

SETSCoP

Communique: WA & NT Domestic and Family Violence sub-group

Videoconference – 7 February 2022

On 7 February, 2022, SETSCoP held its first meeting for members of the Western Australia and Northern Territory Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) sub-group. The focus of the meeting was to understand 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 shared information about **social groups for women and children** which are delivered providing a safe space for clients to share about any concerns they have, including DFV, to introduce clients to staff from Legal Aid, or Police and to facilitate support for clients into other specialist organisations. Some of these groups include sharing cultural customs, such as dancing and singing and doing crafts.

Other groups have been delivered which focus on **skill development** including pre-employment skills, digital literacy and driving skills for women to foster protective factors of individuals.

Staff at service providers have attended **training**, such as identifying family violence and training on risk management frameworks. One of the gaps identified in available training is how to have conversations with clients prior to them separating from their partners.

Some service providers are incorporating conversations regarding DFV into **large events** they are delivering, such as International Women's Day, or Harmony Week. These events are fun events (such as high teas) with a section of program including raising important issues, such as DFV. It was noted that the language used when advertising events will influence clients' decisions to attend. Use of DFV will discourage clients from attending due to the stigma attached to these words so needs to be handled sensitively by services.

Tools such as **safety plans** which have been developed by DFV specialist services have been used by providers to show clients and discuss DFV with them. These tools have assisted providers to explain to clients what to look for.

Providers have used a strategy of **training and developing bi-cultural workers** from various communities to build their understanding and knowledge of DFV. It is proposed that these workers will then go into their communities to have one-on-one discussions with individuals. This will be followed by the developing of a resource in various languages which explains what DFV is and includes examples and services available to provide support.

Some service providers have employed additional part time **case managers who specialise in DFV support**, to support their other case workers.

Many service providers are developing **policies and procedural frameworks**, so that intake and assessment procedures can incorporate a DFV screening.

Shared resources

Identifying family violence training – CAWLS Women’s legal service

<https://cawls.org.au>

Safe at home program – Stirling Women’s Centre

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/services-and-support/community-support/families-and-youth/family-and-domestic-violence-support>

Recognise and Recover Guide - https://www.commbank.com.au/support/recognise-and-recover/download-guide.html?ei=anch_CTA-DownloadGuide