SETSCoP

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

Videoconference – 8 September 2022

On 8 September, 2022, SETSCoP held a meeting for members of the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) sub-group. The focus of the meeting was to share the tools developed as a result of the needs analysis previously published, which are to support practitioners who are working with clients who have experienced DFV. In addition, the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations provided an update on activities being delivered by their member organisations in Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. Questions about COVID-19 vaccination booster uptake were also posed to participants.

Supports available for Ukrainians

Liana Slipetsky from the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations updated providers on the current supports available through Ukrainian associations for Ukrainian humanitarian arrivals to ACT and NSW. The Ukrainian Council of NSW has been in contact with around 1600 recently arrived Ukrainians since March. They have received funding for two part time staff and are working with NSW Health.

English classes are being delivered by volunteers from the Ukrainian community focusing mainly on women aged 40 – 60 years. Liana has informed providers that community gatherings are the most effective mental support for newly arrived Ukrainians. Weekly youth gatherings are held every Saturday. Ukrainian Saturday schools are being held, particularly for those arrivals who came from eastern Ukraine who speak Russian.

Informal weekly information sessions have gained popularity in the community and community events, like BBQs, as arrivals want to connect with their community for moral support. Finding affordable and available accommodation is a pressuring issue for newly arrivals. A volunteer team are supporting people into accommodation. They have also partnered with Harris Farm and Road Food for food packages.

In the ACT a committee has been set up and are in the process of setting up an association. This group are connecting to people and active on Facebook. Most people there are connected to friends or family. There are approximately 70 new arrivals in ACT. They have set up a regular Ukrainian Saturday group.

Tools to support working with victim-survivors of DFV

Tools have been developed by SETSCoP in partnership with inTouch in response to the Needs Analysis which was published in June 2022. The documents link to some of the existing national and state-based frameworks and resources, including the 1800RESPECT resources on their website. When using these documents, it is important to apply the principles of cultural humility, culturally responsive practice, intersectionality and a client-centred approach.

It is important to use an appropriate interpreter when required, some of the existing directory links have been provided in the high-level directory which has been developed. We acknowledge this is not extensive and that some services may change over time.

For the ACT there is a draft tool awaiting release. There is training for tier 2 organisations and some SETS providers may be in that category. This is not yet mandated, but will be. We expect that once the final version is released there will be some mandated tools to be used. It includes a practice guide for screening / identification DFV and a safety plan check list.

For NSW the DVSAT has been developed to support providers consistently and actively support those experiencing DFV. This is not yet mandated, but designed for non-government organisations and government orgs. It is currently under review. It includes a safety planning checklist, however, some service providers find this not comprehensive enough, so use their own tool or Victorian tool (MARAM) or the 1800RESPECT checklist.

The decision tree supports practitioners to move through the process and refer to other organisations when required and decide which tools and template to use.

Key issues providers raised included the recent discussion of forced marriage in the media. This led to a conversation about how to engage women who are not alone and the requirement to ask gentle questions about relationships within the family and make sure that the woman is aware of support available for her independently, if required.

COVID-19 and vaccinations

In NSW the Department of Health have identified several language groups which are behind on their booster COVID-19 vaccines. The communities identified are those who speak the following languages: Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, Syrian Neo-Aramiac, Somali, Arabic from middle eastern countries, Hazaragi and Pashto. In ACT the language groups behind on booster vaccines includes Arabic speakers.

The main reasons identified by the providers were:
-      listening to conspiracies about the vaccine from overseas sources.
-      Lack of conversation around COVID-19.
-      The absence of a booster mandate.

Providers were also asked about their knowledge of the availability of oral treatments for COVID-19. Providers knew about the existence of the oral treatment but not about the lifted eligibility requirements for accessing it.

Shared resources

Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations:
https://ukrainians.org.au/welcome/

Domestic Violence Support in Settlement - Sector Needs Analysis:
https://setscop.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/DFV-Needs-Analysis_Final.pdf
Guidance document:
https://setscop.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Guidance-document.pdf
Directory:
https://setscop.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Directory-of-DFV-Services-National-State-Territory.pdf

Decision tree:

https://setscop.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/decision-tree.pdf

MARAM Framework:

https://www.vic.gov.au/maram-practice-guides-and-resources

1800RESPECT Resources:

https://www.1800respect.org.au/resources-and-tools/risk-assessment-frameworks-and-tools/risk-assessment

COVID-19 oral treatments: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-oral-treatments