

SETSCoP

Communique: Queensland Domestic and Family Violence sub-group

Videoconference – 6 September 2022

On 6 September, 2022, SETSCoP held a meeting for members of the Queensland 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 Queensland. 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 Queensland. The Ukrainian Community of Queensland Inc. has been in contact with around 700 arrived Ukrainians since March. English classes are being delivered by HSP providers and volunteers from the Ukrainian community.

Liana has informed providers that community gatherings are the most effective mental support for newly arrived Ukrainians. Informal weekly information sessions have gained popularity in the community and community events, like BBQs.

The youth organisation PLAST (National Scout Organisation of Ukraine) started operating in Queensland. Ukrainian dancing group and Ukrainian Saturday school have been established.

Finding affordable and available accommodation is a pressuring issue for newly arrivals. Due to low levels of trust in the Ukrainian community in the police, the Ukrainian Community of Queensland has been delivering sessions with Australian police.

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.

The Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety framework in Queensland was developed by four government and non-government agencies. It is optional for SETS providers and has level 1 or 2 tools including a screening tool and risk assessment and safety planning document. The level 1 screening tool has a section for adults and for children. The level 2 tool has a risk assessment tool and within this

has a population specific risk factors section with information for supporting people from a CALD background. There is also a referral tool available.

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 Queensland 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: Hazaragi, Somali, Kirundi (Rundi), and Uzbek.

The main reasons identified by the providers were:

- Health-related disinformation in other languages.
- 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>