

SETSCoP

Communique: Victoria Domestic and Family Violence sub-group

Videoconference – 7 September 2022

On 7 September, 2022, SETSCoP held a meeting for members of the Victorian 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 Victoria. 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 Victoria. The organisation has been in contact with around 1200 arrived Ukrainians. English classes are gaining popularity, and there has been pressure to increase studying space and improve the conditions of the classrooms.

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.

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 Association of Ukrainians in Victoria have 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.

Due to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Management (MARAM) framework which has been implemented in Victoria, most providers have already completed training in following this framework. Providers discussed the available training MARAM Collaborative Practice Training (see links to registrations for this in Shared Resources).

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 are facing as they support clients who have experienced DFV include: People with particular visa types who face eligibility issues in accessing support and health services and support structures, such as police, who are sometimes not equipped to communicate with victims - survivors of domestic and family violence in an appropriate manner.

COVID-19 and vaccinations

In Victoria 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: Albanian, Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, Hazaragi, Pashto, and Somali.

The main reasons identified by the providers were:

- Health-related disinformation in other languages.
- Low levels of understanding of the differences between the COVID-19 illness and the COVID-19 vaccine-acquired immunity.
- 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 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>

MARAM Collaborative Practice Training: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maram-collaborative-practice-training-20-21-september-2022-online-tickets-402328895557?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1&mc_cid=40f2d8336d&mc_eid=0a16575f3e

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>