



SETSCoP Gender, Families & DFV Subgroup Meeting – Meeting #1 (2023)

Date: Tuesday, 23 May 2023

Facilitated by: Katrina Swanston (SPG) and Juliana Mantilla (Challenge DV)

Communique:

Overview:

- The SETSCoP Gender, Families & Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) Subgroup will meet three times in 2023.
- The group discussed:
 - The link between domestic violence and women's health.
 - Facilitating men's and boy's (prevention) groups, including challenges and how to make programs effective.
- SETS providers with men's group and prevention programs put forward the creation of a Working Group (WG) on Men's Groups and Prevention Programs to share experiences on this aspect of DFV and gender specifically.

Discussion points:

- SETS providers shared updates on women's groups and men's groups, and how the groups support co-design of activities, community capacity building, and provide platforms to discuss health and DFV prevention.
- SETS providers discussed the importance of these groups vis-à-vis programs that are too overt and direct regarding different topics, such as DFV.
- SETS providers working with men and boy's groups raised the importance of exploring ways to creatively engage with participants and potential participants. Delivery of men's and boy's groups in settlement is still a work in progress in terms of how they can best be delivered, how they can provide spaces for men to have male-to-male talks, and the topics men wish to engage with further.
 - Men and boys require different approaches than those used to engage and work with women. This includes building on men's strengths.
 - There are challenges in female-led and delivered sessions, which can be perceived by some groups to be culturally inappropriate.
 - A SETS provider found that some male clients perceive that support systems are geared only for women and that men are at a disadvantage to women in legal systems (i.e., in family breakdowns). These perceptions feed into disinterest and lack of attendance in men's group programs.
 - SETS providers have seen men send their wives to attend SETS programs and sessions on their behalf. This can be because of the above reasons about (mis)perceptions of SETS or because men say they are too busy to attend.
 - SETS providers find it effective to communicate with both men and women about the importance of male attendance to SETS programming. Another effective approach is to tailor sessions themselves to men, with examples of topics such as "becoming a father" and "the role of men in parenting and healthy relationships".
 - SETS providers find it helpful to embed topics into group sessions, including discussions on men's roles in families and building healthy relationships.
 - A SETS provider shared their experience in delivering sessions to boys in high schools. Topics include self-care and respectful relationships. The sessions have become a safe space for young boys to ask questions and in some instances to disclose situations that they are experiencing at home.
- The DFV subgroup noted the importance of exploring the link between DFV and women's health.



Outcomes:

- Explore how a network of SETS providers working with men and boys can be created so they can connect, share resources and work together to make SETS programs in this domain more effective.

Next meeting: Scheduled for 24 July 2023 (2pm – 3:30pm AEST)

Attendees (28 SETS):

Katrina Swanston (SPG)

Juliana Mantilla (Challenge DV)

Maria Rosales (SPG)

Nicholas Ross (SPG)

Tania (InTouch)

Marita (Migration Information Centre)

Katie (CatholicCare)

Farida (Communicare Perth)

Marijo (Migration Information Centre)

Victoria (Pilbara Community Legal Service)

Ahmad (Multicultural Australia)

Biba (North Coast Settlement Services)

San (North Coast Settlement Services)

Erin (MRC Northern Tasmania)

Ngun (Wyndham Community and Education Centre)

Mcing (Metro Assist)

Tashkar (Ballarat Community Health)

Carmen (Assyrian Australian Association)

Rowayda (Arabic Welfare)

Diana (SVDP QLD)

Divya (Southeast Community Links)

Maggie (Bundaberg)

Nicole (Multicultural Australia)

Hiba (Whittlesea Community Connection)

Jantina (SSI)

Urika (AMWASA)

Melody (54 Reasons)

Saja (AMWHCR)

Hayam (CatholicCare)

Eva (City of Stirling)

Sandra (Chaldean League)

Tatiana (Gymea)

Fadi (Antiochian Orthodox)

Contact:

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