

Communique

Summary

- The subgroup broke into smaller groups to provide updates, experiences and best practice across SETS agencies. Along with introductions, SETS providers discussed major reflections and themes that they have been experiencing since the first meeting of 2023 in May.

Discussion points

- The subgroup discussed first meeting of the SETSCoP Men's Groups and Prevention Programs Working Group (12 July 2023), which was spurred by the exchange in the year's first DFV meeting. During that meeting, SETS providers expressed interest in forming a smaller group to share experiences, challenges and solutions regarding men's groups in settlement. The Men's Groups and Prevention Programs Working Group first meeting set the parameters for the group, introduced group members, and reflected on the challenges and solutions of setting up men's and boy's groups which differ from women's groups in key ways (non-work hours is heightened in importance, communicating on the topic differs, who presents and how differs).
- There can be conflicts of interest when working with victim/survivors and perpetrators – especially the case for legal centres who cannot represent both parties.
- There is a diverse array of SETS programming in DFV, including support groups for victim-survivors along with prevention programs.
- SETS providers often work closely with mainstream DFV service providers such as The Orange Door.
- SETS programs on financial literacy, superannuation and tax are important for people settling in the context of financial abuse and coercive control.
- Trust is a major concern, with community members worried that information may be shared too widely if given to police.
- Community leaders and faith leaders play a crucial role in fostering trust with communities. DFV is closely linked to Community Capacity Building (CCB) in regard to leadership development. There is often limited ethno-specific information on DFV for different community groups and knowledge gaps in community leader and faith leader response.
- The lack of housing is at crisis point, particularly for women who are “on the brink” – experiencing abuse but with nowhere to go.
- There are gaps in people's understanding about the broader meaning of DFV upon arrival – while people may know about physical violence, they may not know about mental or financial control and abuse.
- Women fear they will not be believed when they share their experiences. There are also major visa issues, interpreters, and housing remain huge issues.

Upcoming resources to be shared

- “Change the Story” in SECL work with the Board of Imams, translated into Arabic. Andrea (SECL) will share when made available.
- Report on the outcomes of a consultation on healthy masculinity with men and boys. Andrea (SECL) will share when made available.
- Training on culturally appropriate support for community leaders being consulted on by the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General to be released soon. To be shared by Katrina / CoP Secretariat.

Subgroup outcomes

- Subgroup members highlighted the collaborative space for SETS specialists who support people experiencing DFV to share insights, resources, events and tools.



Subgroup outcomes (continued)

- The CoP Men's Groups and Prevention Programs Working Group will continue to meet adjacent to the DFV Subgroup Meetings.
- Subgroup to explore catalogue of resources and training.
- Subgroup to explore framework or resource to align messaging in DFV, bridging different terminologies in each state
- Highlighting issues in frontline practice and intersectionality
- Education piece on different DFV forms – not just physical but financial, etcetera: For staff, community, first responders, community leaders, and religious leaders
- Subgroup to explore advocacy strategy relating to primary prevention, noting gaps in prevention and little coordinated work in the space
- Highlighting elder abuse as an underrepresented area of DFV in settlement

Next meeting: The final meeting for 2023 is scheduled for 1 November 2023 (2pm – 3:30pm AEST).

Attendees (30 SETS staff)

Katrina Swanston (SPG / Social Impact Studio)

Maria Rosales (SETSCoP Secretariat SPG)

Nicholas Ross (SETSCoP Secretariat SPG)

Sian Fullerton (Challenge DV)

Ahmad (Multicultural Australia QLD)

Amy (CMY VIC)

Anileen (MCSCA NT)

Anne (Albury Wodonga VRB VIC/NSW)

Bwe Ku (Bendigo CHS VIC)

Carmen (Assyrian NSW)

Diana (Albury Wodonga VRB VIC/NSW)

Eva (Welcome Hub WA)

Molly (GCAIS)

Hari (MRC Northern Tas)

Hiyah (Whittlesea CC VIC)

Jacqui (MercyCare WA)

Katie (CatholicCare Tas)

Ku Htee (Bendigo CHS VIC)

Leda (Chinese CCSSCI VIC)

Maggie (Bundaberg QLD)

Maree (SSI QLD)

Monica (SSI NSW)

Ngun Bor (Wyndham CEC VIC)

Rachana (Cambodian Welfare NSW)

Rochelle (Accoras QLD)

Andrea (South East Community Links VIC)

Michelle (South East Community Links VIC)

Tashkah (Ballarat Community Health VIC)

Urika (MWASA SA)

Victoria (Pilbara CLS WA)

Farida (Communicare WA)

Mohammad (Communicare WA)

Reikhi (Communicare WA)

Rowayda (Arabic Welfare VIC)

Contact

The SETSCoP Secretariat welcomes any further discussion, feedback and inputs. If you would like to get in touch or would like to register interest in future SETSCoP Subgroup Meetings, please reach out to the Secretariat at:

secretariat@setscop.org.au