

SETSCoP Men's Groups and Prevention Programs – Meeting #3 (2023)

Date: Wednesday, 26 October 2023

Facilitated by: Sian Fullerton (Secretariat)

Communique

Overview:

- SETS specialists 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.
- The SETSCoP Gender, Families & Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) Subgroup was subsequently established and met three times in 2023.
- The group focussed on:
 - The link between domestic violence and women's health.
 - Facilitating men's and boy's DFV prevention groups, including challenges and how to make programs effective.

Discussion points:

- Divya Mohan from South East Community Links (SECL) presented the findings of their recent consultation with men's and boys' community groups. SECL engaged with about 70 males aged from 14 to 55 years from Afghani, Burmese, Pakistani, Indian and Mauritian backgrounds. Their aim was to better understand current social issues and attitudes/knowledge/experience of gender stereotypes. Link to consultation report: <https://secl.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Men-and-Boys-Community-Consultation-Report-July-2023.pdf>
Some of the insights collected included:
 - Taking care of family was important
 - Most said men appeared weak and were shamed if they showed emotions
 - Gender norms were embedded from an early age
 - Success looks like being educated and wealthy
 - Use of language and applying cultural lens critical
- The report and slide deck will be shared with group members.
- The group talked about the importance of considering faith and religion in discussions, a lack of awareness of gender role and prevention concepts, cultural contributing factors to DFV, and how to have difficult conversations safely and respectfully.
- Several members raised there's a lack of practitioners and available services to work with men and boys.
- Jesse from Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre (SMRC) said their chai tea group was proving an effective means of engaging men and providing social opportunities.
- Maree from SSI flagged possibly setting up a network of boys' and men's programs to help fill the current gap in Queensland.
- The group agreed that Hala Abdelnour from the Institute of Non-Violence (ceo@ionv.com.au) would be a great guest speaker at the next meeting.
- Anileen from Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia (MCSCA) suggested Our Watch as a good resource. See <https://action.ourwatch.org.au/what-is-prevention/> and <https://action.ourwatch.org.au/what-is-prevention/preventing-violence-against-migrant-and-refugee-women/>



SETSCoP

Next meeting:

To be confirmed (February/March 2024)

Attendees:

Katrina Swanston (Secretariat)
Maria Rosales (Secretariat)
Nick Ross (Secretariat)
Sian Fullerton (Secretariat)
Marijo (Migration Information Centre VIC)
Divya (SECL VIC)
Anileen (MCS Central Australia NT)
Jesse (SMRC VIC)
Monica (SSI NSW)
Maree (SSI QLD)

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