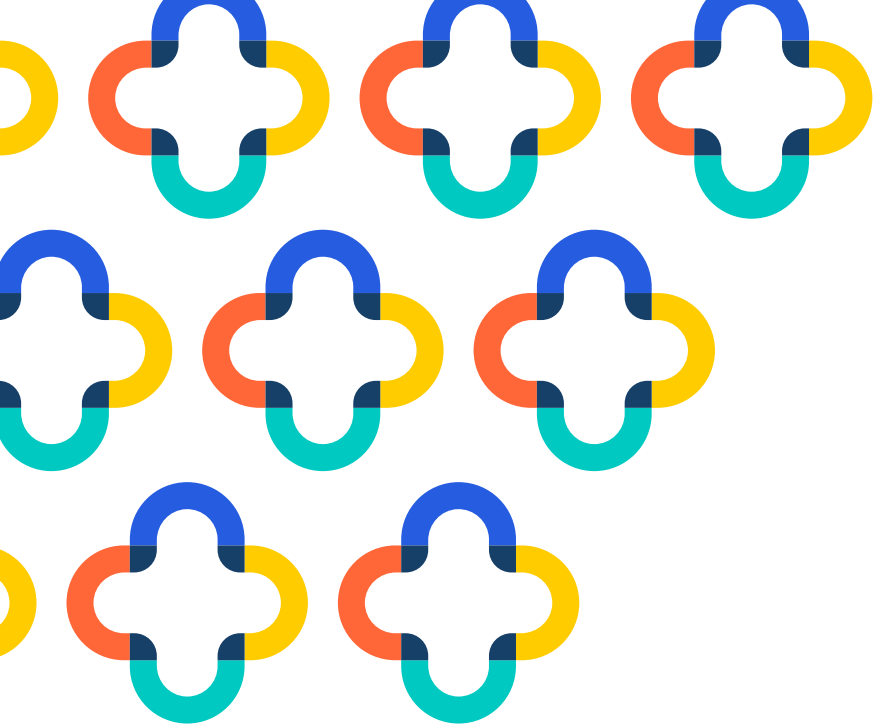


Guide

Engaging men and boys from diverse communities in domestic and family violence prevention

2024





This guide is designed for Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) specialists working with men to address domestic and family violence (DFV) within their communities. It offers practical strategies and examples to facilitate safe and inclusive group discussions for men about DFV within broader themes around fatherhood, healthy relationships and family roles. It also outlines resources and training available to access additional support.



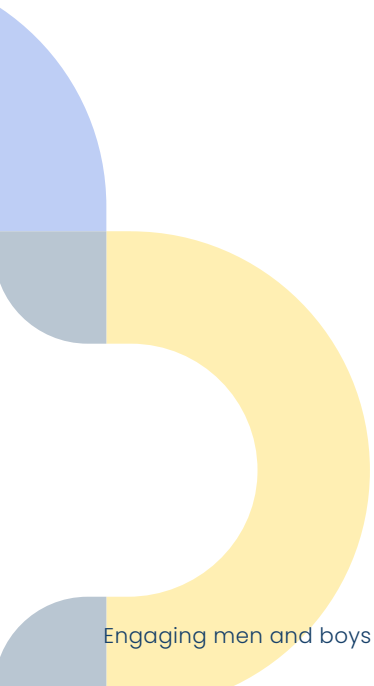
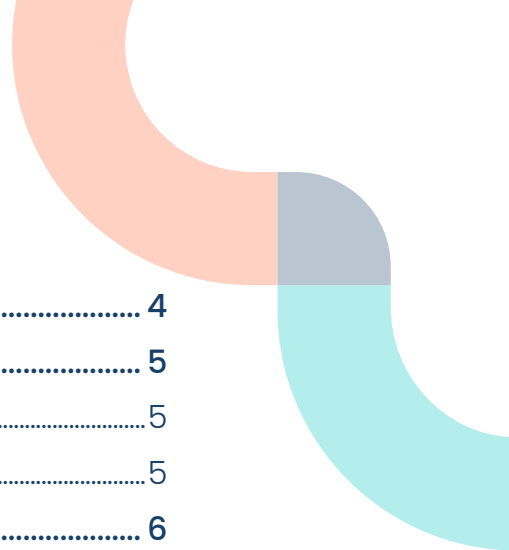
The SETSCoP is a community of practice (CoP) bringing together service providers who support refugees and vulnerable migrants under the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program. SETSCoP is facilitated by the Social Policy Group in partnership with settlement service providers to enable sharing and learning, and improve outcomes for people supported through the SETS program and the wider community.



The Social Policy Group (SPG) is a national, non-government, not-for-profit body with specialist expertise in social policy and program design with a focus on population diversity, social and community cohesion, gender equality, community participation and inclusion, systems' responsiveness, and community outreach and engagement.

Contents

Introduction	4
Creating safe spaces for connection.....	5
Examples.....	5
Key learnings	5
Enabling understanding and collaboration.....	6
Examples.....	6
Key learnings	6
Resources	7
For settlement teams.....	7
For community leaders.....	8
For community members.....	9
Find out more.....	10



Introduction

Domestic and family violence (DFV) affects people from all cultures and faith groups. Research indicates that [one-third of migrant and refugee women experience DFV](#), with temporary visa holders being particularly vulnerable to abuse, including controlling behaviours and threats related to migration.

Attitudes towards gender roles, relationships and family dynamics vary significantly across cultures and can influence perceptions and tolerance of DFV. For example, certain cultures may pressure women to be submissive to their husbands and fathers, endure abusive relationships, and avoid actions that could bring shame to themselves or their families.

Settlement professionals who work with men must understand these attitudes to provide person-centred, ethno-specific support and care that ensures the safety and wellbeing of community members.

This guide is designed for professionals working in settlement services under the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program across Australia whose role involves working with men on DFV prevention, including through men's groups.

It offers practical strategies and examples to facilitate safe and inclusive group discussions for men about DFV within broader themes around fatherhood, healthy relationships and family roles. It also outlines resources and training available to access additional support.

Insights for this guide were drawn from participants in the [SETSCoP Gender, Families & Domestic & Family Violence \(DFV\) Men's Groups and Prevention Programs Working Group](#) meetings held in 2023 and early 2024, as well as the broader Subgroup. These forums connect specialists nationwide to share initiatives, challenges, and learnings to improve outcomes for those supported through the SETS program and the wider community.

SETSCoP is facilitated by the [Social Policy Group](#) in partnership with settlement service providers to enable sharing and learning and improve outcomes for people supported through the SETS program and the wider community.

Creating safe spaces for connection

Establishing safe spaces for men from migrant and refugee communities plays a vital role in DFV prevention. These spaces can provide a supportive and safe environment where individuals can engage in open discussions, receive culturally relevant support and build meaningful relationships.

By nurturing trust and understanding within these settings, men can feel empowered to address issues related to DFV proactively and collaboratively. These spaces also tackle social isolation and enable better resilience among participants broadly, contributing to their sense of wellbeing and connectedness to their new environment.

Examples

The Chai Khana Teahouse in Victoria has been very successful in bringing men from Dari and Persian-speaking backgrounds together to connect on a broad range of topics, from health and mental health to computer skills, and creating a space for respectful relationships to be discussed. They have even started a Carrom Board championship. Another Victorian group focuses on fatherhood and the differences in parenting experiences in Iran compared to Australia.

In regional Queensland, a men's group is building trust and fostering a greater sense of community for the local Yazidi community. This has created opportunities for group members to participate in social activities, including fishing and volleyball, and museum visits, as well as knowledge-sharing opportunities, such as having a young person from the Kurdish community talk about their pathway into tertiary education.

Key learnings

From their experiences setting up men's groups and spaces for community members, SETS providers have found the following:

- Connecting with community members in familiar and welcoming settings, like schools, sporting clubs and places of worship, is an effective strategy for building trust and rapport.
- Engaging community members is initially difficult due to many issues, including competing priorities on their settlement and employment journeys.
- Going to where communities are rather than expecting them to come to the group or initiative is key.
- Building trust is a slow process, but persistence pays off, with providers highlighting that a year on, the trust and relationships formed are priceless.

Enabling understanding and collaboration

Providing opportunities for community members to connect enables knowledge exchange and a pathway towards a shared understanding of how DFV is manifested in their communities and how to prevent it.

Engaging local leaders, including cultural and faith leaders, is important as they are highly respected and seen as experts by community members. However, there is often limited ethno-specific information on DFV for different community groups, which leads to gaps in knowledge in how these leaders respond.

SETS providers found that collaboration and even co-location with other services is a useful way to effectively respond to DFV by improving accessibility and streamlining support. This also includes teaming up with training providers on training that community members already participate in through settlement.

Examples

A member from Western Australia secured funding for a program to provide respectful relationships training to young refugees and migrants, operating in collaboration with education settings, including three high schools, two primary schools and a holiday program.

One member ran a successful “Happy and Healthy Men” program online during the lockdowns to build capacity within Burmese communities, including Chin and Rohingya communities. However, it was hard to continue to engage with the men and as people needed to work, the participation decreased.

Some practitioners are holding information sessions about DFV and related issues during Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) classes at TAFE.

A member set up a Healthy Respectful Advisory Group with community leaders to understand their perspective on what was happening in their community and find out what support was needed to build their capacity. Another member has set up a men’s reference group to advise on current and future initiatives in relation to prevention.

Another member had organised a workshop between religious leaders and a DFV specialist to explore culturally relevant strategies for combating DFV. Advocacy for increased funding and resources for these initiatives, including recognising and paying community leaders, is critical.

Key learnings

SETS providers have found that the following techniques work best for facilitating safe and inclusive group discussions:

- Engaging local community leaders and equipping them with ethno-specific translated information and guidance for supporting their community members (including men) on DFV prevention.
- Learning and skill development opportunities provide a valuable backdrop for sharing broader topics on DFV, fatherhood and healthy relationships.
- Collaborating with local services provides community members with a more streamlined and accessible support experience.

Resources

For settlement teams

<u>Men, Health and Culture</u>	<p>Useful information about health, mental health, relationships, fatherhood, services and information for teams working with migrant and refugee men.</p>
<u>Connecting Communities: Engaging with Men from Multicultural and Faith-based Communities in Primary Prevention</u>	<p>A resource developed as part of the Connecting Communities program, a partnership between the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (MCHWH) and Safe and Equal to support the learning and professional development needs of the Connecting Communities network.</p>
<u>Change the Story: Men in Focus</u>	<p>The Men in Focus practice guide is designed to support people to address masculinities and work with men in the prevention of men's violence against women.</p>
<u>Project: Partnering with Men Toolbox</u>	<p>Catalyst Foundation has developed a culturally responsive, evidence-based "best practice" domestic violence resource education Toolbox for men from CALD communities through community engagement processes. This aims to enable men to become influential and empowering community leaders and mentors for other men. The Toolbox focuses on African communities, increasing understanding and awareness of domestic violence through culturally appropriate and relevant strategies. The Toolbox has been endorsed by influential African Australian community leaders, who had also directly participated in the development process.</p>
<u>SPEAQ</u>	<p>Queensland's network of practitioners and services working with men to stop violence and abusive behaviour with their partners and family members.</p>
<u>Working with New and Emerging Communities to Prevent Family and Domestic Violence Good Practice Resource</u>	<p>Resource by the Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC) on the prevention of family and domestic violence in new and established communities.</p>
<u>Resisting Collusion & Motivating Change: Working with men who use intimate partner violence training</u>	<p>Resisting Collusion & Motivating Change is a full-day online training by Ada Conroy and Kelly Finch for practitioners who may come across men who use intimate partner violence in the course of their work, and who are seeking to strengthen their practice, contribute to change, and enhance victim-survivor safety.</p>

<u>Settlement support for those experiencing Domestic and Family Violence training</u>	<p>Free online training by the Social Policy Group for general settlement team members to better understand the complexities that arise at the intersection of domestic and family violence and migration.</p>
<u>Consultation report: Exploring life, culture, and relationships with boys and men community</u>	<p>White Ribbon Research Series by Dr Adele Murdolo and Dr Regina Quiazon from May 2016.</p>
<u>Key issues in working with men from immigrant and refugee communities in preventing violence against women</u>	<p>White Ribbon Research Series by Dr Adele Murdolo and Dr Regina Quiazon from May 2016.</p>

For community leaders

<u>Domestic and family violence in migrant and refugee communities: Foundational skills for bilingual community educators</u>	<p>This is a foundational training course for specialists in NSW by the NSW Health Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV).</p>
<u>Understanding Family Violence in Migrant and Refugee Communities</u>	<p>Free public face-to-face training by InTouch for professionals who are not family violence specialists to understand the cultural humility, intersectionality and unconscious bias when supporting refugee and migrant clients experiencing family violence.</p>
<u>Saving FACE Faith Sector Guide</u>	<p>A framework that centres faith as a tool to empower communities and individuals to prevent violence against women and children. An initiative of the Muslim Women Australia.</p>

For community members

Men, Health and Culture	<p>Useful information about health, mental health, relationships, fatherhood, services and information for migrant and refugee men.</p>
Innerboy app	<p>The app, created by survivor and founder of She Is Not Your Rehab; Taimalelagi Mataio (Matt) Brown, aims to provide a free and accessible platform for men to embark on their healing journeys.</p>
Stop it at the Start	<p>A powerful Government campaign highlighting the accessibility of damaging content for young men on the internet. Translated campaign materials are here.</p>
Motivation for Change	<p>Motivation for Change is inTouch's early intervention program for men who use violence.</p>
Our Watch's 'Change the Story'	<p>These animations are the culturally adapted Our Watch Change the story videos for Dari, Hazaragi, Hindi, Punjabi and Tamil-speaking communities. They are useful in gender equality and violence prevention training with multicultural populations. With thanks to South East Community Links together with their Afghan and Indian co-design team members for developing these.</p>
In my voice	<p>This is a series of vignettes by SSI by women with lived experiences from different cultural community members talking in language about their experiences.</p>

Find out more

Visit the SETSCoP website or contact the Secretariat secretariat@setscop.org.au

Lead contributor and subgroup co-facilitator: Katrina Swanston (Social Impact Studio).

With thanks to co-designers and contributors from the subgroup including: Ahmad (Multicultural Australia QLD), Andrea (South East Community Links VIC), Anileen (MCS Central Australia NT), Divya (SECL VIC), Farida (Communicare WA), Jantina (SSI QLD), Jeff (SSI QLD), Jesse (SMRC VIC), Maree (SSI QLD), Marijo (MIC East VIC), Monica (SSI NSW), Rowayda (Arabic Welfare VIC), San (SSI NSW), Shalini (MCS Central Australia NT), Sian (Challenge DV)