Meeting Summary Communique – 15 November 2024

1. **Meeting a space to connect across agencies and locations:** The SETSCoP Men's Groups & Prevention Programs Subgroup grew out of a desire by DFV Subgroup members who were working with men and boys in the space to connect with one-another.

2. **AMWCHR Launch of Research Report – Voices for Change: Engaging Muslim Men in the Prevention of Family Violence.** AMWCHR discussed the report which was launched on the day of the meeting (15 Nov 2024). There is a major lack of services to support men (it is difficult to find services in general, but even more so services for multicultural communities). It is women themselves that want these services to support healthy relationships, hold men accountable, help men instead of family break-up, and for women and children to bear the pressure of the lack of help for men. The report addresses assumptions and stereotypes in regard to culture and religion in DFV and notes patriarchal systems. The research engaged with men in the community. The report outlines support provision in tailored and accessible ways.

   Next steps include advocacy for resourcing on men's behavioural change programs and for organisations to have the ability, agency and flexibility to design culturally-responsive programs.

   Link to report: https://amwchr.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/AMWCHR-Voices-for-Change-Research-Report.pdf

3. **Major gap in funding for men:** This includes a lack of funding and resourcing for case management services for men. It also includes a lack of funding for working with families. There are funding gaps for prevention programs as well as behavioural change programs for perpetrators and men who use violence.

4. **Continuing and new programs:** SETS providers at the meeting are continuing programs conducted in previous years working with men's groups. SETS providers are also starting (or recommencing) new programs. There was discussion that the information shared in the meeting was helpful for people in their thinking around the design and implementation of their programs.

5. **Framing and design of programs are important:** Labelling programs "Family Violence Prevention" or similar leads to disengagement and very low participation. Instead, programs that are co-designed and address topics that men are interested in are much more successful, such as outdoor activities, parenting or being a father in a new culture, leadership, health, and addressing struggles and sharing experiences. This makes programs more inviting and call on the best qualities of men. The design is also important: Using funding for a 10-session program, it might take 5 sessions to build a trusting relationship, safe space, and rapport to successfully start to discuss challenging issues like domestic and family violence. It cannot happen in the first session. It's important for program designers, but also funders, to understand the time initiatives take.

6. **Different aged men have different experiences**. In some communities, younger men are more quickly completing their education and getting jobs, while it is the older men who are feeling isolated and disconnected, where programs such as traditional weaving offer a space to connect with others and support their settlement journey.

7. **There is work being done to build culturally responsive and co-designed men's behavioural change programs for multicultural communities.** This builds on work done by InTouch, Relationships Australia, and YFS. This will address needs and gaps in referral services, for example, from courts or police where migrant men lack culturally appropriate programs.

8. **Previous meeting communiques may be helpful for people designing men's groups and similar programs to read over:**
   - 6 March 2024

- [26 October 2023](#)
- [15 August 2023](#)

9. **Settlement practitioners have been to a range of useful trainings, meetings, and conferences recently.** This includes: A training on the [innerBoy app](#), developed by 'She is not your rehab' founders, which is being planned to expand beyond New Zealand to Australia; the AMWCHR Report Launch, Arabic Welfare's range of short films; the Sunraysia Settlement Network meeting where multicultural organisations attended and researchers from regional universities shared their research; the Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) Family Violence in Migrant & Refugee Communities 2 day training; the FECCA conference; and an upcoming conference on coercive control.

OUTCOMES

The subgroup will collectively work towards concrete outcomes over the coming financial year. Ideas discussed and to be progressed in future include:

1. Updating the SETSCoP DFV eLearning course, with a specific module on working with boys and men, given this approach should be understood by all settlement workers, including those working with girls and women.
2. Developing an Online Seminar or Webinar on the topic and expanding it for other settlement providers to attend. Speakers include subgroup members, DFV stakeholders (including mainstream organisations that would benefit from hearing about multicultural approaches in the space), and experts. This includes InTouch, Relationships Australia, YFS, White Ribbon, Movember, and Manbox.
3. Work on advocacy for increased funding and needed resources. The practitioners in the subgroup are doing such important work, but there is very limited resources for these programs. Increased funding would mean the ability to have more men's prevention programs, more men's behavioural change programs, and more men's case management, responding to the pressures on women and children and aligning with societal objectives on addressing domestic and family violence.

Attendees (10 SETS Staff / 9 SETS Providers):

Nick Ross (SPG – SETSCoP Secretariat)	Maree (SSI QLD)
Chai Oonnankat (SPG – SETSCoP Secretariat)	Madan (Mosaic NSW)
Ahmad (Multicultural Australia QLD)	Nawras (Arabic Welfare VIC)
Mariam (AMWCHR VIC)	Maesie (Wyndham CEC VIC)
Nino (Intereach VIC/NSW)	Jacques (Albury-Wodonga ECC NSW/VIC)
Magdalena (Intereach VIC/NSW)	Nayif (CatholicCare Toowoomba QLD)