

# Police training in domestic and family violence: Trends, gaps and 'best practice'

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# Overview

- Identifying current and international trends and effective practice in police DFV training
- Part of a larger project funded by QPS to evaluate and provide recommendations for improving police training in DFV

## ***Acknowledgements:***

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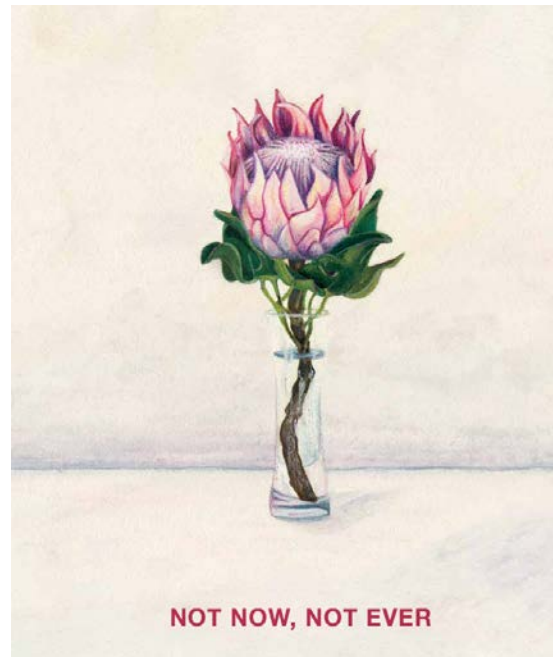
We gratefully acknowledge the funding and support for this project from the Queensland Police Service. Any views expressed however are not necessarily endorsed by QPS.

# Note

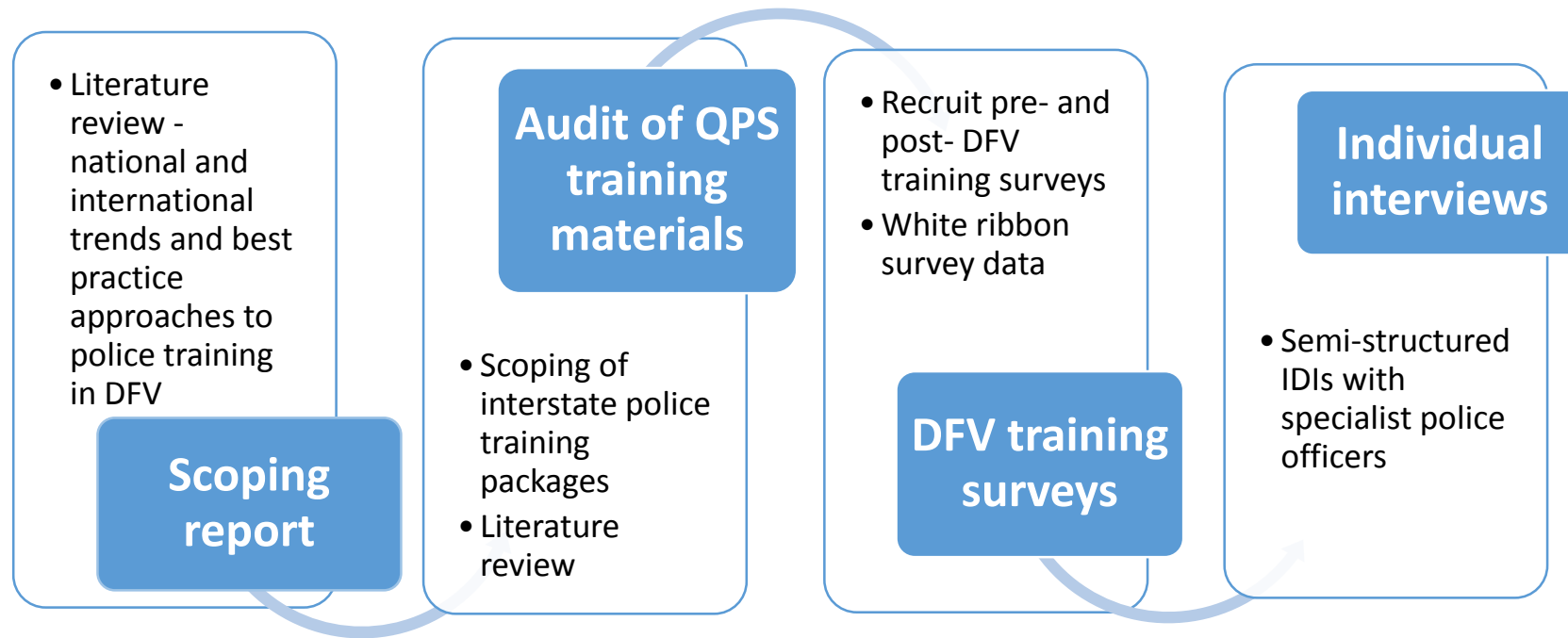
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## Recommendation 138 of Not Now, Not Ever report:

“The Queensland Police Service facilitates an external audit and review of training packages currently available to officers, with a view to assessing the appropriateness and frequency of compulsory professional development opportunities relevant to domestic and family violence. Components for enhancement of officers’ conceptual understanding of dynamics of domestic and family violence, communication skills, as well as cultural awareness and sensitive[ities] should be assessed.”



# Project overview



# Important considerations

- Dual roles - first responders/'crime fighters' & social service capacity
- Many competing demands on officers' time



# Literature scoping – national and international

- Journal articles and books regarding DFV and police training
- Government and other evaluations of training and/or police performance
- Police codes of practice
- Suggested practice guidelines for police





# Police training needs





# Key areas



Dynamics of DFV



Internal culture and attitudes



Addressing sexual assault –  
seen as a separate issue from  
DFV



Strangulation



Understanding traumatic  
brain injury and victim  
behaviour

# Communication

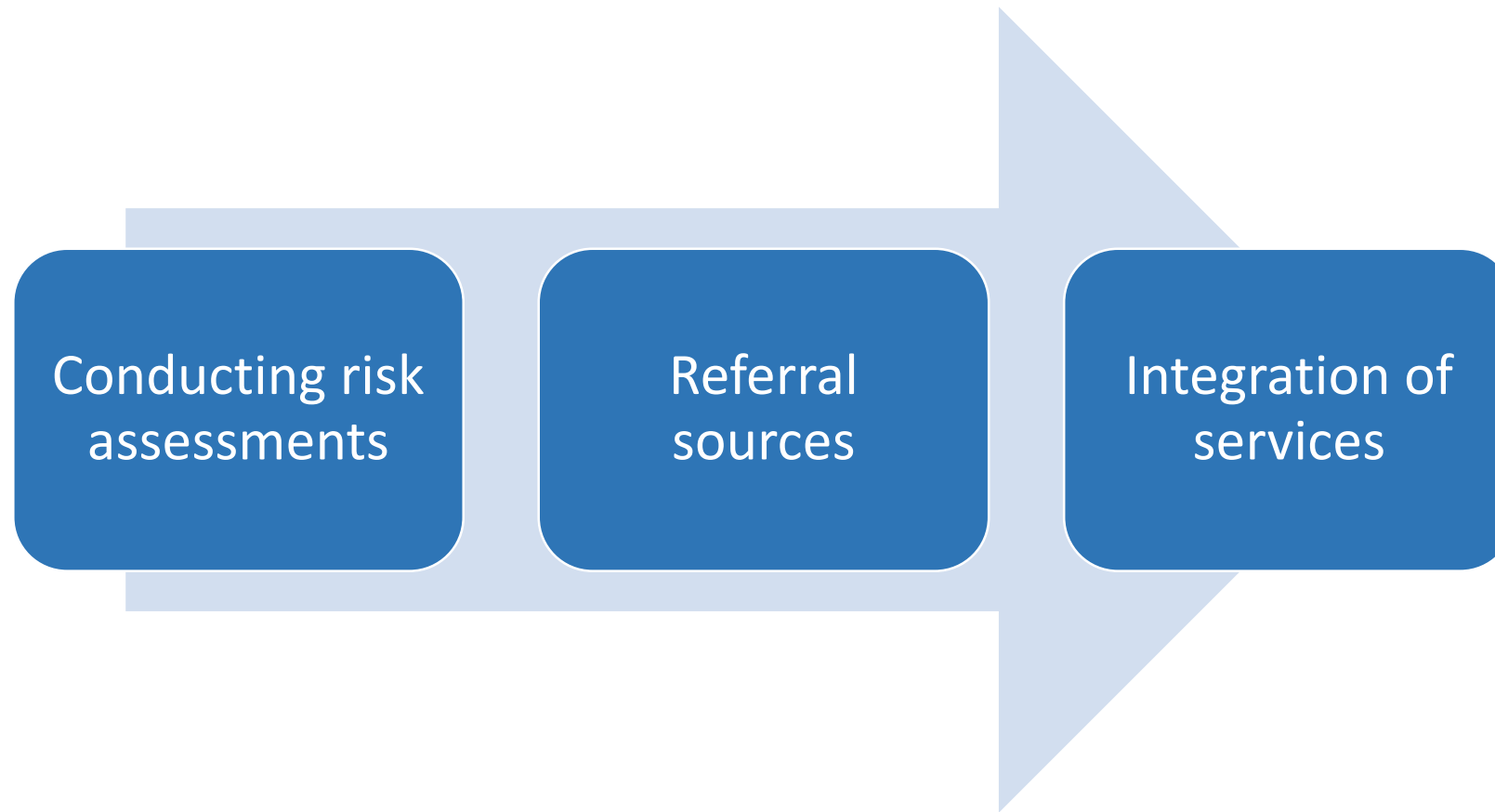
DFV specific communication skills

Engaging with ATSI and CALD communities

Provision of interpreters

Interacting with vulnerable groups

# Risk and referral





## 'Dynamics' of DFV What does it really mean?

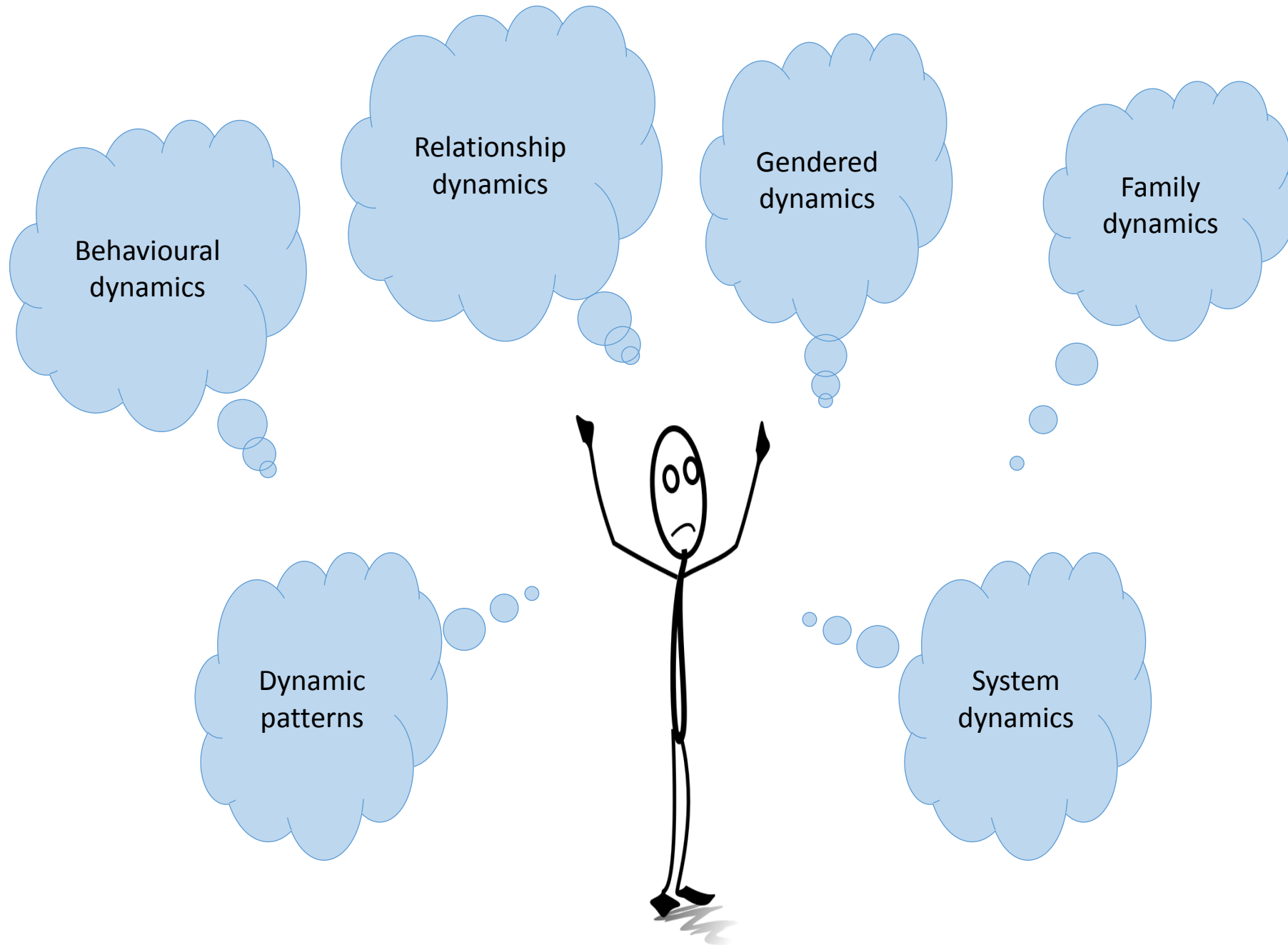


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# Definition of 'dynamics'

1. the motivating or driving forces, physical or moral, in any field.
2. the pattern or history of growth, change, and development in any field.







# Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research

Funded by



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