



Domestic and Family Violence Support Services Practice Standards Development

Information Sheet 2 – October 2017

TO: Domestic and family violence support services, perpetrator intervention services, relevant peak bodies and networks, DCCSDS staff, other government and non-government agencies responding to domestic and family violence

The DFV Practice Standards Development project is well underway. This second Information Sheet gives a brief overview of progress and invites your continued involvement.

The project

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services has funded this project to review the current standards, and to develop a suite of practice standards and guides. The standards will apply to all service types funded under the Domestic Violence funding area (including supporting local service systems, women's and children's services, counselling, court services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and perpetrator interventions). We are also developing a role description for court support workers, and a tool to monitor compliance with the perpetrator intervention standards.

Round two commencing soon

The second round of consultation starts in mid November. This round will consider drafts of the standards and related practice requirements. We know it is a busy time of year, but please watch out for the forum invitations or find them on <https://noviolence.org.au/research/research-project/> —your input is invaluable.

Regional forums—round one

During round one of the consultation (August to early October) we held ten regional forums and numerous other targeted discussions in each region, as well as talking with the relevant statewide networks. There were high levels of interest, reminding us again of the passion and professionalism of workers in this sector. While of course there is not consensus across the sector on every issue, the thoughtful

views put forward in the consultations have provided us with an excellent briefing for drafting the standards.

Thank you

We thank the domestic and family violence resource services in each region for your pivotal roles and cooperation in helping publicise the forums through your networks. Thanks also to the agencies that hosted a forum or one of the many targeted small group discussions.

The project team

The team consists of Encompass Family and Community (Anne Elliott, Kristy Carr and Norelle McHugh) and a consortium of project workers including QCDFVR (Annabel Taylor and Heather Lovatt), Paul Testro Consultancy Services, Marlene Longbottom (Indigenous PhD. scholar) and Patrick O'Leary (Griffith University).

Some messages from round one:

- *DFV support services told us that the current standards for working with women continue to be relevant and to cover many key practice requirements. The consultation identified that the principles of the existing standards still apply.*
- *Across both women's services and perpetrator intervention services, the safety of victims is the core focus of practice. While holding men accountable, perpetrator intervention services need to support men to engage in change processes towards preventing future violence. The role of women's advocates in perpetrator programs was emphasised.*
- *Consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services emphasised the need for a whole-of-family perspective, a focus on healing, and the need to recognise the impacts of colonisation and intergenerational trauma.*
- *It was noted that there are gaps in the current standards, particularly around working with victims and perpetrators in same sex relationships. Some thoughtful practice is occurring in this area but is not yet reflected in the standards.*
- *Children's workers noted the need for a 'tool-kit' of strategies for engaging children and young people of different ages and development levels, as well as the need for specialist knowledge around trauma and attachment.*



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How to contact us: To have your say, attending at a regional forum is a good option. Your direct input is also very welcome.
Contact us: **email:** enquiries@efac.com.au
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