

Queensland Government's implementation updates to recommendations arising from the *Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board 2018-19 Annual Report*

Recommendation	Responsible agency as at 31 December 2023	Implementation update
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The Queensland Government increase the availability, accessibility and integration of services that support young mothers and their families experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic and family violence.</p> <p>Funded services should incorporate key elements, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery of early intervention and supportive responses • a focus on continuity of midwifery care • provision of trauma-informed responses to intergenerational violence • delivery of services in an integrated fashion utilising multi-disciplinary approaches. <p>These services should give appropriate consideration to the intersections of vulnerabilities and complexities experienced by all mothers; and be accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait</p>	<p>Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Queensland Government's response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>The Queensland Government has increased the availability, accessibility and integration of services for young mothers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrating specialist domestic and family violence workers into mainstream family support services (Family and Child Connect, and Intensive Family Support) to strengthen multi-disciplinary service integration and accessibility to domestic and family violence support • establishing eight domestic and family violence high risk teams across the state comprised of representatives of a range of government agencies as well as specialist domestic and family violence organisations to support people at high risk of domestic and family violence. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander senior project officers provide a cultural connector role for advice and referrals and supporting prevention and early intervention • improving the ability of midwives to support and refer all women experiencing domestic and family violence during pregnancy according to recommendations in the <i>Not Now, Not Ever</i> report and previous Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board (the board) annual reports. Comprehensive training has been provided to midwives to screen for, respond to and refer women experiencing domestic and family violence, an additional 100 midwives have been recruited across Queensland public maternity units, and through the First 1,000 Days project. The First 1,000 Days project aims to improve access to continuity of carer models across pregnancy, labour and birth, postnatal and early parenting to the child's second birthday • launching the <i>Growing Deadly Families Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternity Services Strategy 2019-2025</i> in November 2019. The strategy and implementation plan focus on developing and strengthening



<p>Islander families and those with disabilities.</p>		<p>meaningful partnerships; co-design of services; providing care that is culturally safe and woman-centred; and increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce in maternity services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementing Queensland’s plan to respond to domestic and family violence against people with a disability, building on the domestic and family violence reforms already underway in Queensland to further drive improvements to services, systems and data to increase awareness of, and better respond to, people with disability impacted by domestic and family violence • Children’s Health Queensland, with support from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to co-design the right@home program in Caboolture to ensure the program is culturally sensitive and accessible. The right@home program is a home visitation service focused on early intervention to support children and families at risk of exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma • establishing regional child youth and family committees and local level alliances across the state to promote the integration of responses to children and families • developing and launching the Queensland’s <i>Framework for Action to Reshape our Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence</i> in response to Recommendation 20 of the board’s annual report 2016-17. The framework, launched in May 2019, aims to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are considered across all responses to domestic and family violence. <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is continuing to deliver a range of responses to ensure families receive holistic responses that address their multiple needs, and responses are informed by an understanding of trauma including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two Young Parents Programs delivered by Micah, Young Mothers for Young Women and Caboolture Young Mothers for Young Women established in 2017/18, the latter of which includes a nurse/midwife role • two health home visiting programs operating in South East Queensland, one piloting the right@home program in Logan, that assist new parents experiencing heightened risk of harm from domestic and family violence, including screening for domestic and family violence • specialist domestic and family violence practitioner roles within family support services, including new investment in specialist domestic and family violence workers in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services.
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	<p>Specialist domestic and family violence worker roles will be embedded within community-controlled organisations delivering the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services to provide a culturally sensitive response to domestic and family violence when required by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The locations for the initial trial of this initiative are the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Bowen and Townsville.</p> <p>Work will continue on the implementation of the 2019-21 action plan to support Queensland's <i>Framework for Action to Reshape our Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence</i>, led by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women in collaboration with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships .</p> <p>The career pathways and models of care across the First 1,000 Days Project has been initiated to support women undertaking midwifery-based care during pregnancy. An evaluation of the project will be undertaken at the mid-year review. Based on the outcome of this review, the initiative will be considered for further funding.</p> <p>On 7 June 2021 the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs responded:</p> <p>Specialist domestic and family violence workers have been established in all Family and Child Connect and Intensive Family Support services to strengthen multi-disciplinary service integration and access to domestic and family violence support. These workers screen for domestic and family violence issues and undertake risk assessments. Similar roles are being trialled in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services.</p> <p>Regional child, youth and family committees and local level alliances have been established across the state to promote the integration of responses to children and families. They include representatives from the domestic and family violence service sector.</p> <p>Two young parent programs were established and delivered by Micah Projects, with a nurse/midwife role included in one of the programs. An independent evaluation conducted by the University of Queensland found that young parents who participated increased their confidence as individuals and as parents. Findings will be applied to other targeted family support services and inform future investment should funding become available.</p> <p>The family support services identified are subject to quarterly reporting and regular reviews and these actions form ongoing business as usual for the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Queensland Audit Office <i>Family Support and Child Protection System Report 2020-21</i> regarding governance arrangements for the Regional Child Youth and Family Committees are under consideration. Once implemented this recommendation will be considered delivered.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>The Queensland Government increase the availability, accessibility and integration of primary prevention service responses and awareness campaigns to families, children and young people with the purpose of breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma and violence.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the importance of prevention and integration across service responses to domestic and family violence aimed at breaking existing cycles of intergenerational trauma and violence, and ensuring young people understand the importance of healthy relationships.</p> <p>Respectful relationships education is implemented in all Queensland state schools. This will continue to be delivered through strengthening implementation of the curriculum and ensuring the quality of programs delivered.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will continue to roll out public awareness raising messages, promote the domestic and family violence information portal, strengthen integrated service responses and include accessibility and integration as key themes in the new practice standards for the domestic and family violence sector (which commenced on 1 July 2020).</p> <p>On 14 September 2021 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>On 12 November 2020 the policy area responsible for women and violence prevention within the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women transitioned to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has implemented a range of community awareness campaigns and primary prevention service responses to families, children and young people, as well as contributing to national campaigns and campaigns undertaken by funded organisations such as Our Watch, which target this cohort.</p>

		<p>For example, the annual Domestic and Family Violence Help-Seeking Campaign has taken place from December-February each year since 2018-19. In early 2020, an extension of the 2019-20 campaign targeted young people aged 13-17 for the first time, via social media, search and digital placements. The campaign directed people to help and support services including DVConnect and Kids Helpline. The 2020-21 campaign continued this messaging.</p> <p>The department's work in this space will continue and now transitions to business as usual. A focus on breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma will be maintained.</p> <p>The Department of Education will continue to support key domestic and family violence primary prevention and awareness raising campaigns and will continue to promote primary prevention and response services for students and families as part of their business as usual.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women amend the Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework to incorporate evidence-based questions that specifically assess for risks to children who are exposed to domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</p> <p>The Queensland Government's response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>A multi-agency work plan has been developed to strengthen Queensland's integrated service response to domestic and family violence, in response to findings from the evaluation of the integrated service response trial completed in 2019. The revision and validation of the Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework (the framework) is a key action of the multi-agency work plan.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will explore options to revise and validate the framework, ensuring the framework is evidence-based and inclusive of priority populations such as children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disability and LGBTIQ people.</p> <p>This work will be supported by partner agencies through their participation and implementation of the integrated service response working group and multi-agency work plan, with a view to the eventual statewide implementation of the framework across the domestic and family violence service system in Queensland, reflective of local co-designed approaches to integrated services delivery.</p> <p>On 14 September 2021 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>On 12 November 2020 the policy area responsible for women and violence prevention within the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women transitioned to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.</p> <p>The department has engaged a supplier to revise and validate the Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework to ensure it is evidence-based and considers the needs of diverse populations including children,</p>

		<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, people with disability and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer.</p> <p>This work will be supported by partner agencies through their participation in and implementation of the Integrated Service Response Working Group and Multi-Agency Work Plan. The revised Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework is expected to be delivered by the end of 2021 with implementation commencing in early 2022.</p> <p>As at 30 June 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>The Queensland Government has conducted a comprehensive review of the Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework (the Framework) to enhance the safety of victim-survivors and their children. The revised Framework recognises that a child’s risk is individual and should not be assessed only as an extension of the victim-survivor’s or the perpetrator’s risk. The Revised Framework includes a new child-specific routine screening tool to support users to identify whether a child is impacted by domestic and family violence and how to respond.</p> <p>The revised Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework will be launched in July 2022.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The Queensland Government propose to the Council of Australian Governments that the Commonwealth of Australia implement an independent and appropriately resourced death review mechanism within the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. This death review mechanism would facilitate learnings from the deaths of children, young people and parents known to the family court system at the time of their death or within appropriate proximity to their death with a view to prevent or reduce similar deaths in future. The proposed death review mechanism should be informed by research and the</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 3 October 2020 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House responded:</p> <p>On 1 September 2020, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice wrote to the Commonwealth Attorney-General, providing copies of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board’s (the board) report and Queensland Government response and outlining the board’s key findings related to this recommendation.</p> <p>This included that the Family Court system does not have a death review mechanism to enable learnings to be made from the deaths of those known to the system and, as a result, it is unlikely the Family Court system is made aware of the death of a child subject to an order and is therefore unable to reflect and make subsequent improvements in service delivery. The letter also noted the importance of not duplicating the national domestic and family violence death review mechanism that already exists through the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network.</p> <p>The Attorney-General welcomed the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s thoughts on the board’s recommendation, including the prospect of further consideration by the Council of Attorneys-General.</p> <p>As explained in the Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation, the Council of Attorneys-General is considered the more appropriate forum to progress this proposal as the Commonwealth Attorney-General is responsible for the Family and Federal Circuit Courts.</p>

<p>existing state-based death review mechanisms of domestic and family violence related deaths and deaths of children known to the child protection system, including the systems that operate in Queensland. The proposed death review mechanism should be independent, transparent, utilise relevant experts and have sufficient scope and powers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access information and address issues of individual accountability • identify common systemic gaps or issues across the system • make recommendations to improve systems, practices and procedures as they relate to identifying and managing domestic and family violence related risk. 		
<p>Recommendation 5 The Queensland Police Service amend its current policies and practices to ensure that any person reported missing who has a history of being a victim of domestic and family violence is flagged as 'high risk' which triggers a commensurate response.</p>	<p>Queensland Police Service</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted. The Queensland Government's response to this recommendation is implemented. On 30 April 2021 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services responded: The Queensland Police Service enhanced the Queensland Police Records and Information Exchange (QPRIME) system to incorporate a risk assessment tool specific to missing persons reports, enabling a risk assessment to be completed by officers at the time of reporting. The prevalence of, or experience of, domestic violence by the missing person forms part of the risk assessment tool in identifying the person as 'high risk'. The risk assessment tool guides the policing response to missing persons, with responses commensurate to the identification of the vulnerability of or high-risk determination of the missing person. The Queensland Police Service reviews and amends the operational procedures manual, as required, to ensure it remains contemporary and is reflective of system and protocol changes required to guide officers in applying</p>

		<p>appropriate supports and safeguards when responding to all incidents. In December 2020, amendments were made to operational procedures manual Chapter 9 Domestic Violence around the service of domestic violence documents and high-risk teams. Work is progressing on a rejuvenated domestic and family violence service manual incorporating operational procedures manual Chapter 9 content and emerging best practice and evidence-based policing approaches to domestic and family violence.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 The Queensland Government (Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) develop a specialist model to identify and respond specifically to intergenerational trauma and cumulative harm within families, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Elements of the model should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a focus on effective early intervention to children and young people • trauma-informed engagement with families who have histories of low levels of engagement with services, or system fatigue • a culturally sensitive approach to engagement with families, children and young-people. 	<p>Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in principle. The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented. On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded: The Queensland Government has a strong commitment to addressing domestic and family violence in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, demonstrated through the development of <i>Queensland’s Framework for Action – Reshaping our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic and family violence</i> (the framework). The framework recognises the impact of intergenerational trauma as a key contributor to social issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The government has invested in 33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services across the state, to undertake trauma-informed work with Indigenous families experiencing complex social issues such as domestic and family violence, to enhance their capacity to care for and nurture their children. The government has committed additional investment in the services to enhance their capacity to offer a holistic response to the diverse needs of families. This includes the creation of 31 youth and family worker roles across the state, and the establishment of specialist domestic and family violence worker roles to provide a culturally sensitive response to domestic and family violence when required by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in five of the family wellbeing services in high priority locations. In addition to its investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women invests in 43 intensive family support services that seek to address the complex family issues that contribute to involvement in the child protection system. The services support families regarding both the immediate practical problems affecting them, as well as the underlying impacts of trauma that render families vulnerable. Independent reports evaluating the trial of two evidence-based models are close to finalisation. Learnings will enhance the capacity of secondary family support services to address unhelpful family dynamics and contribute to long term strengthening of relationships. Evaluation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services, including the impact of the new specialist domestic and family violence positions is due to commence shortly. On 7 June 2021 the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs responded:</p>

	<p>The government has invested in 33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services across the state to undertake trauma-informed work with Indigenous families experiencing complex vulnerabilities, including domestic and family violence, to enhance their capacity to care for and nurture their children.</p> <p>The government is trialling specialist domestic and family violence worker roles in the services to provide a culturally sensitive response to domestic and family violence. Permanent roles have been created in five locations, and in response to heightened levels of family violence resulting from COVID-19, temporary domestic and family violence specialist roles have been established in the remaining family wellbeing services. These positions are providing direct support to families affected by violence and improving the skills and confidence of the core family wellbeing services staff to assess risk and provide appropriate supports.</p> <p>Independent reports evaluating the trial of two evidence-based models have been completed, and learnings will enhance the capacity of secondary family support services to address unhelpful family dynamics and contribute to long term strengthening of relationships.</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Attorney-General's review of its funded services supporting children who experience domestic and family violence is being finalized and will inform consideration of how both domestic and family violence and family support services can refine their response to better identify and respond to cumulative harm.</p> <p>Evaluation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services, including the impact of the new specialist domestic and family violence positions, is under way and will be concluded by November 2021. The evaluation will inform decisions about the continuation of this investment.</p> <p>On 25 January 2021 the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs responded:</p> <p>The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs provides funding of \$42 million per annum to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to deliver family wellbeing services, which work with First Nations families experiencing vulnerability to build their capacity to care for and nurture their children. The services seek to respond to the intergenerational trauma experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and divert them from involvement in the child protection system. Funding for the services, which operate in 33 locations, was rolled out between 2016 and 2018, and the program is subject to evaluation.</p> <p>Action 2.2 from the Queensland's Framework for Action: Reshaping our Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence has been completed, with the establishment of specialist domestic and family violence roles in a number of the Family Wellbeing Services to test their impact on the services' capacity to respond to families affected by violence. The department will seek to expand the number of services with specialist domestic and family violence roles as resources permit. This recommendation has been met.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>The Queensland Government (Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Department of Health, and Queensland Police Service) review existing domestic and family violence risk assessment tools to ensure they are inclusive of cultural considerations.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>A multi-agency work plan has been developed to strengthen Queensland’s integrated service response to domestic and family violence, in response to findings from the evaluation of the integrated service response trial completed in 2019. The revision and validation of the domestic and family violence common risk and safety framework (the framework) is a key action of the multi-agency work plan.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will explore options to revise and validate the framework, ensuring the framework is evidence-based and inclusive of priority populations such as children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disability and LGBTIQ people.</p> <p>This work will be supported by partner agencies through their participation and implementation of the integrated service response working group and multi-agency work plan, with a view to the eventual state-wide implementation of the framework across the to domestic and family violence service system in Queensland, reflective of local co-designed approaches to integrated services delivery.</p> <p>On 14 September 2021 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>On 12 November 2020 the policy area responsible for women and violence prevention within the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women transitioned to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.</p> <p>The department has engaged a supplier to revise and validate the Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework to ensure it is evidence-based and considers the needs of diverse populations including children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, people with disability and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer.</p> <p>This work will be supported by partner agencies through their participation in and implementation of the Integrated Service Response Working Group and Multi-Agency Work Plan. The revised Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework is expected to be delivered by the end of 2021 with implementation in funded integrated service response locations commencing in early 2022 and a view to the eventual implementation of the revised Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework across relevant government agencies and the domestic and family violence service system state-wide.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>Queensland Health increase the availability and accessibility of culturally safe mental health, alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people experiencing chronic and acute suicidal ideation and behaviours, with particular consideration to experiences of intergenerational trauma.</p>	<p>Queensland Health</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 18 May 2021 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services responded:</p> <p>Queensland Health directly provides and funds a range of culturally safe, trauma-informed mental health, alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people experiencing chronic and acute suicidal ideation and behaviours, including specialist child and youth mental health services in all hospital and health services across Queensland.</p> <p>The Zero Suicide in Healthcare framework is being implemented in 13 hospital and health services including Children’s Health Queensland. The framework supports the consistent use of assessment, safety planning, clinical pathways and assertive follow-up for people of all ages experiencing suicidality. Children’s Health Queensland is leading the implementation of a culturally appropriate child and youth suicide prevention clinical pathway across Queensland’s child and youth mental health services.</p> <p>In addition, partnering with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector and other primary care providers, Queensland Health funds mental health, alcohol and other drug services specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alcohol, tobacco and other drugs youth programs in Cairns, Cherbourg, Mt Isa, Townsville, and the Gold Coast • support for young people released from detention into the community, who may require ongoing care and everyday support • care coordination across South East and Central Queensland for young people transitioning from mental health services to their homes

- community-based support for children and young people (and their families) diagnosed with a mental health issue, exposed to trauma, or at risk of developing a mental illness.

In 2020, the above services have been complemented by targeted First Nations COVID-19 funding which is providing initiatives including (but not limited to):

- telehealth, afterhours care, and home-based care
- school based nurses to identify and support high risk young people and families
- implementation of a culturally safe suicide prevention screening tool in a discrete community's emergency department
- community-led cultural healing events
- a culturally appropriate support line in the Torres and Cape region.

All the culturally safe services listed above, consider and address intergenerational trauma.

Queensland Health will continue to implement a culturally appropriate child and youth suicide prevention clinical pathway across Queensland's child and youth mental health services.

The impact of COVID-19 has highlighted unmet demand for specialist mental health and suicide prevention services specifically targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Through the development of new mental health strategies (both mainstream and First Nations-specific), Queensland Health will build on the availability and accessibility of trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services that focus on culture as a preventative and healing factor. This approach will focus on further strengthening the primary and acute care interface, through partnerships between hospital and health services and local primary health care providers, including the community-controlled sector.

On 9 December 2021 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services responded:

Queensland Health has continued to partner with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector and other primary care providers in the delivery of a range of mental health, alcohol and other drug services specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. These services continued to be complemented by targeted First Nations COVID-19 funding. All of these services have a focus on culturally safe approaches, consider and address intergenerational trauma and identify culture as a preventative and healing factor.

In this reporting period, emergency department projects were resourced at eight hospital and health services to enable emergency departments to partner with local consumers, communities, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce and Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drug Services. These partnerships are designed to create local solutions to provide a more culturally safe service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people presenting to an

emergency department in a suicidal crisis. Projects commenced in January and concluded in September 2021, with the intent that lessons learnt from these projects be shared across all hospital and health services.

Improved aftercare support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers have been implemented through The Way Back Support Services model which has developed additional referral pathways with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO) in locations with a higher Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population including Brisbane, Cairns, and Mt Isa. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support coordinators with The Way Back Support Service partner with relationship coordinators in the ACCHO to strengthen links.

As part of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement), the Queensland Government has committed to reducing rates of suicide towards zero. In focusing effort toward this target, Queensland Health will seek to embed key elements that evidence demonstrates are effective in suicide prevention programs, such as the inclusion of people with a lived experience, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and communities. In accordance with the National Agreement, Queensland Health will actively partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the design and delivery of suicide prevention programs, recognising the value of strength-based approaches and focus on holistic models that promote connectedness to country, culture, spirituality and kin as crucial protective factors in supporting individuals and communities to respond to trauma and stress.

Building on effort over recent years, the Making Tracks towards achieving First Nations health equity: Interim Investment Strategy 2021-22, will continue to prioritise actions to address social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and suicide affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, and will complement targeted effort for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples under the new Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan and Every life: The Queensland Suicide Prevention Plan. This will be supported by the statewide roll out of The Way Back Support Services, and through sharing learnings gained from the emergency department projects across all hospital and health services. These learnings will include information about system enhancements, recommended environmental changes, workforce development, additional resources and community engagement.

On 9 June 2022 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services responded:

Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Framework (Making Tracks Together), developed through a partnership between Queensland Health and the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, was released in October 2021. Making Tracks Together provides direction for hospital and health services, community controlled organisations and other healthcare service providers to deliver equitable, culturally safe and clinically effective care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health consumers. Making Tracks Together places Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and voices at the centre of healthcare service design and delivery in Queensland. This agenda has been enacted in Queensland legislation through new provisions in the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*

and Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2012 and is supported through a robust and considered public policy environment.

Through the implementation of The Way Back Support Service, development has commenced for additional referral pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have attempted suicide or are experiencing a suicidal crisis. The expanded referral pathways include Brisbane North, Cairns and Wide Bay with a Support Coordinator employed by The Way Back Support Service who identifies as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, increased cultural capability within the service and enhanced community engagement with relevant services and Aboriginal community controlled health organisations.

A knowledge transfer workshop for hospital and health services participating in the Culturally Welcoming Emergency Departments Project was facilitated to enable sharing of lessons learnt across Queensland. Eight emergency departments partnered with local consumers, communities, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce and Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drug Services to design and create local solutions to provide a more culturally safe service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people presenting to an emergency department in a suicidal crisis. Local solutions focused on improving the physical space, cultural space, emotional space and healing space, through cultural safety training and education for emergency department staff; building relationships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to identify and implement projects to improve patient experiences within the emergency department; and environmental improvements to enhance cultural sensitivity in the emergency department – for example, acknowledgements, displaying flags, symbols and local artworks, wayfinding, yarning spaces; sensory based activities, and support resources; system enhancements such as improving referral pathways.

Consultation has been undertaken to inform ongoing strategies to reduce health inequities, improve cultural quality and safety, leadership by and partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies, services, stakeholders and communities and the commissioning of mental health alcohol and other drugs and social and emotional wellbeing services from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services sector.

Information from consultation will inform development of a new plan for state-funded mental health alcohol and other drug services in Queensland. The plan is a contribution to health equity and better meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities and the health workforce will be considered as part of the development of the new plan including crisis system reform and suicide prevention with final actions and implementation informed through co-design.

The plan will also be informed by the findings of the Mental Health Select Committee established by the Queensland Government to identify key opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders. In addition to the hearings conducted, the committee has received submissions from individuals, organisations and professional groups

covering a broad range of issues impacting the mental health of Queenslanders. The committee will report to the Parliament by 6 June 2022.

As at 31 December 2022 the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women responded:

Queensland Health continued to work across the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector, public mental health services, and primary care providers to increase the availability and accessibility of culturally safe, trauma-informed mental health, alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, including young people experiencing chronic and acute suicidal ideation and behaviours.

Queensland Health has previously reported on its work to establish culturally appropriate care pathways as part of its Zero Suicide in Healthcare framework and the implementation of The Way Back Support Services in Queensland. To date, 12 out of 16 Hospital and Health Services, including Children’s Health Queensland, have implemented the Zero Suicide framework. This framework supports the consistent use of assessment, safety planning, clinical pathways and assertive follow-up for people of all ages experiencing suicidality. The Way Back Support Services are being delivered across Queensland with referrals currently coming from 10 Hospital and Health Services. Individuals over 15 years old who have attempted suicide or are in a suicidal crisis are referred to assertive community-based psychosocial support for up to three months following discharge from a hospital service.

Since the last report, 15 of 16 Hospital and Health Services have released their inaugural First Nations Health Equity Strategies in accordance with the legislated requirements of the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* and *Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2012*. Each Hospital and Health Service strategy was developed in partnership with First Nations stakeholders and includes actions and performance measures to improve access to culturally safe and responsive care, including mental health, alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, where identified as a local priority. Each Hospital and Health Service strategy is publicly available, and an annual report will be released about progress against the performance measures. The remaining Hospital and Health Service strategy is on track for release in early 2023.

The Queensland Health Cultural Information Gathering Tool has also been reviewed and revised, led by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. The tool can be used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, alcohol and other drug workers to identify ways of creating a culturally safe environment for consumers and their families when accessing mental health, alcohol and other drug services. The Queensland Health Cultural Information Gathering Tool

		<p>embraces significant cultural concepts of Social and Emotional Wellbeing with connection to culture, community, land, family and kinship, spirituality, physical and mental wellbeing, and assists clinicians to develop culturally appropriate clinical care plans with a view to concepts of cultural significance, which includes consideration of the impact of intergenerational trauma.</p> <p>Queensland Health has now implemented several initiatives to improve availability and accessibility of culturally safe mental health, alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people experiencing chronic and acute suicidal ideation and behaviours across public and non-government services. While Queensland Health's response to this recommendation has now been completed, it will continue to work with Hospital and Health Services and other partners to monitor and continuously improve culturally safe mental health, alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9 The Queensland Government ensure that service responses, training and awareness campaigns in relation to older people experiencing violence include explicit reference to intimate partner violence as experienced by older people and that this is acknowledged as distinct from elder abuse.</p> <p>The Queensland Government should also explore opportunities to strengthen and clarify the referral pathways between elder abuse and domestic and family violence support services and promote the accessibility of specialist support services for older people experiencing intimate partner violence in any future elder abuse awareness campaigns.</p>	<p>Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Queensland Government's response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded: Key stakeholders for consultation were identified, and stakeholder discussions commenced with a focus on opportunities to build capacity and capability for the domestic and family violence sector to ensure appropriate service responses are available and accessible for older people experiencing intimate partner violence.</p> <p>A literature review and cross-jurisdictional analysis of responses and interventions for older people experiencing intimate partner violence is being undertaken by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (the department). This preliminary work explores a variety of modes to build awareness about intimate partner violence experienced by older people, and explores available referral pathways to appropriate support services.</p> <p>The department will continue to consult with stakeholders in collaboration with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to support domestic and family violence services to build service capacity, and recognise and respond appropriately to older people experiencing intimate partner violence.</p> <p>Messaging and awareness-raising resources will be developed to promote the incidence of intimate partner violence experienced by older people as distinct from elder abuse.</p> <p>On 25 March 2021 the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships responded: The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy compiled a review of literature to inform an understanding of the specific contexts of domestic and family violence experienced by older people including barriers to supports and how domestic and family violence impacts on older people. A range of proposed responses to older</p>

people experiencing domestic and family violence were explored including strategies for awareness raising, developing capacity and capability, and strengthening referral pathways and improving service accessibility. The review includes a jurisdictional analysis of domestic and family violence and seniors service responses across national jurisdictions, including how violence against older people is variously defined across services and the types of supports that are offered to victims across services.

In October 2020 the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy prepared a submission on domestic and family violence experienced by older people for inclusion in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners White Book. If included in the White Book, the submission will increase knowledge and awareness among GPs of the contexts, incidence and impacts of domestic and family violence experienced by older people, and will help build capacity and support best practice responses. Should the submission not be accepted, other awareness-raising activities being undertaken will support the intent of the recommendation — and planned consultation activities will support capacity-building and strengthen referral pathways to support services for older people experiencing domestic and family violence.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy has worked with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to further raise awareness of intimate partner violence experienced by older people as distinct from elder abuse. In December 2020 the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy designed resources to raise awareness of domestic and family violence experienced by older people. An e-flyer providing information about the impacts of domestic and family violence on older people and where to seek help, was disseminated to the department's funded seniors services to coincide with the broader summer holiday Domestic and Family Violence Help-Seeking Campaign 2020-21. The e-flyer links to the Queensland Government's domestic and family violence support page and provides a link to communication materials customised for seniors to post social media messages — seniors' services are invited to utilise the materials for publication of a newsletter article, or on their website. Further information on older people's experiences of domestic and family violence was posted on the department's seniors webpage and the Queensland Government discrimination and abuse site.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General are planning consultation activities with relevant agencies that support seniors experiencing violence, including elder abuse services and the domestic and family violence sector, to explore opportunities to build capacity and capability and enable best practice responses to older people experiencing domestic and family violence. The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy is preparing a report on the project outcomes which will include the literature review, awareness-raising activities undertaken for the project, findings from consultation activities including strategies for building capacity and strengthening referral pathways, and next steps to support access to domestic and family violence services for older people experiencing domestic and family violence.

On 14 October 2021 the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships responded:

In November 2020, responsibility for Queensland's seniors strategy transitioned to the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP), following machinery-of-government changes.

This recommendation is now fully implemented through work tasks which seek to distinguish and define intimate partner violence and some which seek to define and support older people through elder abuse, including the following:

- The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships provides approximately \$600,000 per annum to the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit. The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit provides a vital helpline service for older Queenslanders, including information and referrals to appropriate services. The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships also funds Seniors Legal and Support Services (\$3.8 million per annum) in 11 locations across Queensland. These organisations provide legal advice, social work support and case management, including for seniors experiencing domestic and family violence or intimate partner violence. Elder abuse services are required to assist clients and community members to make informed decisions about, and be connected to, the services and support that they need, including to domestic and family violence support services.
- The Queensland Government runs an Elder Abuse Awareness campaign each year to coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June. In 2021, the theme of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships led public awareness campaign was 'Together we can stop elder abuse'. The campaign focused on building awareness and understanding of elder abuse and its impacts on older persons' wellbeing. The campaign encouraged people experiencing or witnessing elder abuse to call the Elder Abuse Helpline for free, confidential advice. The Helpline makes referrals appropriate to a caller's circumstances, including to domestic and family violence support services and specialist support services for older people experiencing intimate partner violence.
- The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships worked with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to roll out the Domestic and Family Violence Help-Seeking Campaign (December 2020 and January 2021) that provided information about the impacts of domestic and family violence on older people and promoted the accessibility of specialist domestic and family violence support services for older people experiencing intimate partner violence. The information was published on the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships [webpage](#) and

		<p>the Queensland Government Discrimination and Abuse site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queensland Government disseminated resources to raise awareness of domestic and family violence experienced by older people including an e-flyer providing information about the impacts of domestic and family violence on older people and promoted the accessibility of specialist domestic and family violence support services for older people experiencing intimate partner violence. This included information on older people’s experiences of domestic and family violence on the department’s Seniors webpage and the Queensland Government Discrimination and Abuse site. The findings of a literature review on intimate partner violence experienced by older people informed these actions. • The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, with support from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, prepared a submission for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in response to their review of the White Book (comprehensive GP resource), and sought to promote the inclusion of older person intimate partner violence as distinct from elder abuse as an issue. • The Department of Justice and Attorney-General worked with High Risk Teams to discuss the inclusion of services that safeguard, advocate for and support older people to understand and exercise their rights, as well the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit and Seniors Legal and Support Services in referral networks for the High Risk Teams, and to ensure that referrals were strengthened. • The Department of Justice and Attorney-General consulted with WorkUP Queensland about intimate partner violence for older people, and this is addressed through their practice development series this year on ‘inclusive, accessible practice’. <p>As a part of ongoing business, the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that service responses continue to be up-to-date and effective in relation to older people experiencing intimate partner violence, including through business-as-usual activities such as future annual elder abuse awareness campaigns and development of a new seniors strategy in 2022 • undertake procurement for elder abuse services which will require organisations to demonstrate their knowledge of, and capacity to make appropriate referrals including to domestic and family violence support services and specialist support services for older people experiencing intimate partner violence • ensure that service agreements with funded services reflect the requirement to provide appropriate and relevant information, advice and referrals to clients and community members
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to work with elder abuse services through future funding arrangements to improve data collection and better understand presentations, related factors and referral pathways • communicate the need for appropriate referral pathways to stakeholders and funded services on an ongoing basis.
<p>Recommendation 10 The Queensland Government commission research in relation to service accessibility and engagement with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities, including to the justice system, in relation to domestic and family violence. This research should inform the development of strategies to increase service engagement and utilisation.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney General Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted. The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented. On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded: Improving accessibility and engagement with domestic and family violence services for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities (LGBTIQ+) is a priority for the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (the department). This work will build on existing evidence, advice provided by members of the LGBTI roundtable, and previous awareness-raising activities to identify whether further research is needed. The department commenced work with support from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to identify key stakeholders for consultation to identify gaps in service accessibility and engagement. The department, with support from Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, will commence consultation with stakeholders including those who work directly with LGBTIQ+ experiencing domestic and family violence. Existing resources will be leveraged and the need to enhance service accessibility and engagement will be further investigated to ensure support for LGBTIQ+ people to access domestic and family violence services. On 6 April 2021 the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts responded: On 12 November 2020 the policy area responsible for communities within the former Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors transitioned to the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy is working with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to develop a coordinated approach to consultation that supports recommendations 10 and 12. A consultation plan was prepared that includes stakeholders from across the domestic and family violence sector; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities (LGBTIQ+) organisations; community legal centres, Queensland Police Services; and academia. Consultation activities commenced in January 2021 and include an online sector questionnaire, focus groups, and face-to-face and online interviews. Consultation interview questions were prepared to identify existing specialised services and supports provided to LGBTIQ+ people experiencing domestic</p>

	<p>and family violence; sector resources and training available to service staff; barriers and challenges to accessing services; and strategies for increasing service access, engagement and utilisation.</p> <p>Extensive research has been undertaken and a body of literature and other evidence has been collated into a draft report detailing the prevalence, patterns and impacts of domestic and family violence within LGBTIQ+ communities, barriers to accessing services and support, current legal and justice responses, and current Queensland Government initiatives to support domestic and family violence service access for LGBTIQ+ people.</p> <p>Once consultation has been finalised the final report will analyse the outcomes and consultation activities and propose next steps for addressing barriers to services and increasing service engagement and utilisation.</p> <p>As at 30 June 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts responded:</p> <p>The literature review undertaken to identify opportunities for enhancing service engagement and utilisation by LGBTIQ+ people experiencing DFV is nearing completion. Preliminary findings from the literature review support strategies such as increasing education and awareness within the LGBTIQ+ community (about what constitutes DFV, including the unique forms of abuse for people of diverse sexuality and gender), building the capacity and capability of services through specialised training and advice that supports service providers to adopt inclusive practices, and building trust with LGBTIQ+ community members and services with a view to providing collaborative service delivery responses to LGBTIQ+ people experiencing DFV.</p> <p>DJAG will finalise the draft literature review by the end of June 2022 refocusing on findings and outcomes specific to this recommendation, with the identified findings to be further considered as relevant future opportunities arise.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and Leader of the House responded:</p> <p>The research to implement this recommendation was completed in late 2022 by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) in partnership with the then Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE).</p> <p>Key findings included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFV can be erroneously perceived as a heterosexual issue that does not apply to LGBTIQ+ relationships; • heteronormative narratives around DFV can create barriers to reporting DFV and can act as a deterrent to LGBTIQ+ people accessing and engaging with the DFV service system; • there is a lack of research and data specific to LGBTIQ+ peoples' experiences of DFV and how best to respond;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ways in which police and DFV support services understand DFV has implications for how LGBTIQ+ people are responded to and where they are referred; • workforce experience and confidence further impact responses to LGBTIQ+ people experiencing DFV; • the unique forms of DFV linked to the LGBTIQ+ community are not well recognised within the LGBTIQ+ community; and • stigma, trauma, mistrust, and fears of discrimination, being treated unfairly or being outed to family or work colleagues, also impact on accessing and engaging with DFV services, and relationships between LGBTIQ+ communities and police. <p>The findings are being used to inform the development of DFV policy and programs, including implementation of Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations, aimed at enhancing identification of, and response to, intersectional issues so that services and supports are more accessible and responsive to the needs of Queensland’s diverse community including LGBTIQ+ people.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11 Queensland Government agencies review their domestic and family violence training and associated resources to ensure materials are appropriate and inclusive for LGBTIQ+ communities.</p>	<p>former Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted. The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented. On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded: In 2019, the LGBTI roundtable, facilitated by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (the department), raised the issue of domestic and family violence awareness training for government agencies. The department’s director-general contacted Queensland Health, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Queensland Police Service highlighting the importance of awareness among court, hospital staff and police officers, about domestic and family violence experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities (LGBTIQ+). Agencies responded with advice about their current and future awareness training and their commitment to supporting LGBTIQ+ individuals and their families experiencing DFV. Responses included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a domestic and family violence toolkit of resources supported by a suite of face-to-face and eLearning modules. The toolkit resources focused on building knowledge about the nature, dynamics and impacts of domestic and family violence and using sensitive inquiry to respond and make appropriate referrals for LGBTIQ+ people • promotion of an LGBTIQ+ domestic and family violence website providing information, resources and safety planning tips • inclusive training materials that support the needs of LGBTIQ+ people in domestic and family violence court proceedings

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • procedures for ensuring the safety of LGBTIQ+ people attending specialist domestic and family violence courts to ensure their support through the court process • educational resources to improve understanding about key domestic and family violence and other issues facing LGBTIQ+ communities • collaborative research to understand the attitudes, perceptions and beliefs of prosecutors relevant to domestic and family violence in LGBTIQ+ communities. <p>The LGBTI roundtable plays a key role in ensuring policies, programs and services delivered by the Queensland Government agencies are inclusive of, and responsive to, the needs of LGBTIQ+ communities.</p> <p>Recommendation 11 is completed, however the department will continue to engage routinely with the LGBTI roundtable to raise awareness of domestic and family violence in LGBTIQ+ communities, identify gaps in domestic and family violence service accessibility and engagement, and leverage opportunities to recognise survivors and support LGBTIQ+ people in abusive relationships.</p> <p>This work is supported by the Public Service Commission which provides ongoing, business as usual support to government agencies to ensure domestic and family violence workplace responses and resources are appropriate for a range of cohorts, including LGBTIQ+.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12 Government funded and other organisations that currently provide support services for victims and their children, and perpetrators of domestic and family violence, review how their services are promoted and branded to ensure they are inclusive and accessible for LGBTIQ+ people where appropriate.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women commenced a project to implement the government response to this recommendation. The research phase of the project is complete. This included surveying existing research on LGBTIQ+ people’s experiences with the domestic and family violence service system, reviewing the department’s allocation of available funding and exploring contracts with service providers to identify possible improvements, and undertaking a review of how domestic and family violence services are currently promoting themselves when it comes to LGBTIQ+ inclusion.</p> <p>The second phase of the project, scheduled for late 2020 and early 2021, will include consultation with domestic and family violence and LGBTIQ+ services and advocacy organisations. This consultation will focus on identifying domestic and family violence services’ current attitudes, policies and practices when it comes to providing support to LGBTIQ+ people, and identifying challenges for LGBTIQ+ people seeking to access services. Once consultation is complete, the department will develop potential solutions and next steps to address challenges and improve inclusive practices.</p>

On 14 September 2021 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:

On 12 November 2020 the policy area responsible for women and violence prevention within the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women transitioned to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

In collaboration with the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, the consultation phase of the project commenced and will continue through the first half of 2021. Consultation activities undertaken in February and March 2021 included engaging with members of the LGBTI Roundtable, interstate organisations providing domestic and family violence services to LGBTIQ+ people and communities, and individual consultations with academics and experts, to identify good practice, gaps and challenges in providing domestic and family violence services to this cohort. This consultation will also inform work being undertaken to respond to recommendation 10 of the Board's 2018-19 annual report, led by the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

The next phase of consultation, focusing on the domestic and family violence sector and LGBTIQ+ organisations in Queensland, is expected to be undertaken in 2021. Focus areas include identifying domestic and family violence services' current attitudes, policies and practices when it comes to providing support to LGBTIQ+ people and identifying challenges for LGBTIQ+ people seeking to access services. Following the conclusion of the consultation phase, the department will analyse the findings of the consultation and earlier research phases to identify potential challenges and opportunities to promote inclusive practices.

As at 30 June 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacts and associated levels of demand and capacity issues for specialist domestic and family violence services, in addition to further developments that have occurred since implementation of this recommendation commenced, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) has reconsidered its initial intended approach to implementation of the government's response to this recommendation.

Enhancing the way in which funded specialist domestic and family violence services are promoted and branded to ensure they are inclusive and accessible for LGBTIQ+ people has been achieved through:

- Queensland's new *Domestic and family violence services Practice principles, standards and guidance* (Practice Standards) that set out the principles and standards that funded domestic and family violence services are contractually required to comply with (from 1 January 2021); and
- the Domestic and family violence services Regulatory Framework (effective from 1 January 2022) that ensures ongoing compliance of funded domestic and family violence services with the Practice Standards.

		<p>These mechanisms require Queensland funded domestic and family violence services (during auditing processes under the Human Services Quality Framework) to provide evidence of accessibility of services for all clients, including LGBTIQ+ people experiencing domestic and family violence.</p> <p>Additional opportunities that will progress as business as usual, to continue to address and strengthen accessible and equitable funded domestic and family violence services for LGBTIQ+ people, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an investment review (currently underway) that will identify needs and gaps in service delivery and guide future investment. This will be undertaken through open tender processes that allow transparent and fair procurement that will achieve the most appropriate service delivery to meet the diverse needs of victims and children experiencing domestic and family violence; • an undertaking to develop an Investment and Commissioning Framework for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General funded specialist domestic and family violence services in Queensland. This Framework will encapsulate the vision for a vibrant and diverse sector and will further strengthen accessible and equitable support and assistance for clients using domestic and family violence services; and • consideration of any relevant learnings arising from the literature review in progress for Recommendation 10.
<p>Recommendation 13 The Queensland Government (Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women) support the development of community-led strategies to help drive local community action, including in rural, regional and remote areas, to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded:</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors are working together to identify and engage with domestic and family violence services in rural, regional and remote areas with a high incidence of domestic and family violence. This work includes a review of the specific contexts of domestic and family violence in these areas, and exploration of creative responses to domestic and family violence using existing resources in local communities.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors will work together to develop a plan to engage rural, regional and remote communities to support development of community-led strategies to help drive local community action to reduce incidence and impacts of domestic and family violence.</p> <p>On 14 September 2021 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>On 12 November 2020 the policy area responsible for women and violence prevention within the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women transitioned to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.</p>

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy have undertaken an initial literature review to identify the contexts of domestic and family violence in rural, regional and remote Queensland locations including the specific challenges and barriers experienced by individuals and communities in these areas. An analysis is underway to identify potential focus areas for the project with consideration of data, risk indicators and other key evidence relating to the incidence of domestic and family violence in Queensland regions. Plans for consultation and communication activities have commenced to support connections with key stakeholders and identify strategies being conducted to raise awareness of domestic and family violence in rural, regional and remote locations.

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council is also committed to a program of regional visits to raise awareness and consider local community actions in place to prevent domestic and family violence.

A review of literature and other available evidence is a work in progress that will be further developed over the period of the project. Consultations will be undertaken with funded domestic and family violence and community services in focus areas to identify community need and existing awareness raising activities being undertaken. It is expected this will identify opportunities within existing service responses to raise awareness and support local community action to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic and family violence in the target rural, regional and remote locations, and the role peak bodies could play in these activities.

As at 30 June 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Economy and Minister for the Arts responded:

The approach included in the previous update has been superseded by other initiatives. As the Third Action Plan of the Domestic and family Violence Prevention Strategy places increased focus on community engagement and participation, there has been a significant increase in community led activity, and government support for localised initiatives. The initial scan under the previously proposed project confirmed that there were community led activities in place across regional, rural and remote Queensland and resources were better allocated to supporting those through existing mechanisms such as grant programs and partnerships. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General continues to work with the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy on a scan of existing mechanisms through which rural, regional and remote areas are engaged and responding to domestic and family violence (DFV) in their local context. Through partnerships with the Local Government Association Queensland, the DFV Prevention Council and other groups of community stakeholders such as the DFV prevention Corporate Roundtable, the range of local initiatives are being supported to grow. This work relates to the Corporate and Community Engagement Framework under development through the Third Action Plan.

		<p>A report outlining existing and emerging local responses that contribute to the achievement of the recommendation will be published for awareness purposes. Work will then continue through partners and peak bodies to continue to facilitate locally relevant responses to raise community awareness and support local community action to reduce the impact and incidence of DFV in rural, remote, and regional communities. This work is continuously developing and adapting and remains an ongoing priority for both Departments as a usual business activity.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14 The Queensland Government (Department of Housing and Public Works and Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women) continue to harness support from sporting clubs in all local communities to raise awareness and create safe environments for victims and children; and partner with male leaders in sporting settings to challenge behaviours and change attitudes that excuse, minimise or condone violence against women. This should be prioritised in regional, rural and remote areas where there may be limited community resources available for victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Tourism, Innovation and Sport</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted. The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented. On 14 September 2021 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and the Minister for Tourism, Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport responded: The Queensland Government continues to work in partnership with peak sporting bodies to raise awareness within the codes and externally to fans and participants about the impacts of domestic and family violence. Sporting organisations such as Netball Queensland, AFL Queensland, Queensland Rugby League and Queensland Rugby Union continue to help amplify the message through their clubs and online through the extensive social media reach. Local partnerships have developed between sporting clubs and domestic and family violence services such as: Gold Coast Suns AFL supporting RizeUp, and the North Queensland Cowboys NRL working with the North Queensland Women’s Legal Service and The Townsville Fire basketball to promote domestic and family violence awareness and raise funds through their ‘Tackle Domestic Violence’ campaign. The Queensland Government also continues to support and promote the Play by the Rules initiative which provides educational resources to assist the prevention and management of discrimination, harassment, child safety, inclusion and integrity issues in sport across Australia. Play by the Rules resources are promoted by states and territories including through Queensland’s sport and recreation networks. The Queensland Government will continue to develop these partnerships and further embed this work at club level through the corporate and community activities associated with implementing the Third Action Plan 2019-20 to 2021-22 of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. As at 30 June 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and the Minister for Tourism, Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport responded: State level sporting organisations such as Netball Queensland, AFL Queensland, Queensland Rugby League and Queensland Rugby Union continue to help amplify the message through their affiliated clubs and online through their extensive social media reach. During the 2021 Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Prevention Month, OurWatch</p>

		<p>implemented the Doing Nothing Does Harm campaign during sporting events with the AFL across Australia. Local partnerships continue to develop organically between the DFV sector and sporting organisations.</p> <p>The Queensland Government's response is implemented, however the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's Office for Women and Violence Prevention, and Sport and Recreation within the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport are committed to working together to address DFV matters. This includes continuing to work in partnership with peak bodies to raise awareness about the impacts of DFV, and to promote the Play by the Rules Initiative through Queensland's sport and recreation network.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15</p> <p>The Queensland Government review the operation of the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> to strengthen the ability of the court to impose conditions within a protection order with respect to financial arrangements. Any review should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant provisions from other jurisdictions, in particular the legislation in Victoria • the need to address the economic barriers that victims face in leaving an abusive relationship, as well as the continuing impact of prior economic abuse • the need to implement cultural change within the judiciary and the legal services system to promote the use of existing provisions that intersect with the family law system. 	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</p> <p>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>The <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> provides a broad discretion for courts to impose any conditions considered necessary or desirable to protect aggrieved persons from domestic and family violence.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Public Works service offering has been enhanced to support customers to resolve housing needs with flexible assistance that includes addressing the economic barriers that victims face in leaving an abusive relationship by increasing access to safe, secure housing.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will work with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General will identify potential legislative and non-legislative solutions that meet the intent of this recommendation. This may include jurisdictional analysis of legislation in other jurisdictions and consideration of existing provisions that are available to address economic barriers and consideration of the intersection with the family law system. The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Department of Justice and Attorney-General will work together to understand the extent to which courts are exercising existing jurisdiction in respect of financial arrangements of parties in domestic and family violence proceedings.</p> <p>On 14 September 2021 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>On 12 November 2020 the policy area responsible for women and violence prevention, including the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> (DFVP Act) transferred from the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.</p> <p>In addressing the component regarding economic barriers, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General published information online for support services regarding brokerage and financial support that can be accessed by people leaving an abusive relationship, which is available here.</p> <p>Some preliminary discussions with victim survivors of domestic and family violence have been undertaken to identify specific barriers to leaving relationships and inform future work. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will</p>

consider further opportunities to work with agencies such as Centrelink to strengthen support for women fleeing violent relationships.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy introduced the Flexible Assistance Package in July 2020 to support women experiencing domestic and family violence facing financial and economic hardship to access goods and services and to access or sustain housing, such as removalist costs, repairs to property damage and basic furniture. As at 31 March 2021, 138 people had received \$160,565 in brokerage assistance. The department also introduced the tailored Domestic and Family Violence Helping Hand Head Lease in March 2021 to assist women and their children experiencing domestic and family violence into private rental housing. As at the end of March, three women waiting for public housing or facing other housing barriers have been assisted to access private rental housing.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General notes that the DFVP Act already includes economic abuse within the meaning of domestic violence. The department will continue work commenced by the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women on an interjurisdictional analysis concerning the making of financial conditions in civil domestic violence proceedings, including reviewing relevant provisions in legislation in Victoria. This will assist in identifying potential solutions that meet the intent of this recommendation. This issue will also be further considered as part of the proposed legislative review of the DFVP Act in 2022.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General continues to explore the extent to which courts exercise relevant legislative powers under the DFVP Act, including analysis of state-wide data on conditions imposed relating to the return and recovery of personal property under the DFVP Act. This analysis may identify opportunities for future interagency training and judicial education.

An important part of the government's ongoing program of reform is establishment of the independent and consultative Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Taskforce is to consider how best to legislate against coercive control and the need for a specific offence of domestic violence, with a report by October 2021, and the experience of women and girls across the criminal justice system, with a report by March 2022. The Taskforce's work will be informed by wide consultation with victims and survivors, service providers and networks, legal stakeholders and practitioners and the public generally. The government will review whether the response to this recommendation requires any further consideration following receipt of the Taskforce's reports.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will further consider how best to give effect to the intent of this recommendation as part of the legislative review of the DFVP Act due to commence in 2022.

As noted above, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General is considering other potential opportunities to partner with agencies and financial institutions to support women who face economic barriers to leaving abusive relationships.

As at 30 June 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the

Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:

Targeted professional development opportunities are provided to Queensland Magistrates on domestic and family violence (DFV) related topics with a view to ensuring that Magistrates are kept up to date with developments in both law and practice in this area. The intersection of family law and DFV has been the topic of previous professional development opportunities provided to Magistrates since 2016. Previous sessions include a presentation at the 2020 Annual Domestic Violence Conference by Judge Michelle May AM QC on the intersections of family law and family violence, and a presentation by Lisa O’Neill, Acting Magistrate and Senior Registrar of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCCFCA) on the FCCFCA Lighthouse Project at the 2021 Childrens Court Conference. Professional development opportunities on the intersection of DFV and family law and related issues will continue to be offered to Magistrates.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) has completed an interjurisdictional analysis of relevant legislative provisions concerning the making of financial conditions in civil domestic violence proceedings, including a review of relevant legislative provisions in Victoria (interjurisdictional analysis). The interjurisdictional analysis indicates that Queensland’s legislative framework for conditions relating to personal property is largely consistent with most Australian jurisdictions, with some variations in approach.

An important part of the government’s ongoing program of reform is the establishment of the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce). The Taskforce was established to independently examine and report on its findings in relation to:

- how best to legislate against coercive control as a form of domestic and family violence and the need for a new offence of ‘commit domestic violence’;
- other areas of women’s experience in the criminal justice system.

On 2 December 2021, the Taskforce released its first report, *Hear her voice - Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland* (report). The report makes 89 recommendations about reforms to the domestic violence service and justice systems, as well as setting out a four-phase plan for the implementation of these recommendations. On 10 May 2022, the Queensland Government’s response to the report was tabled in the Queensland Parliament. The response supports or supports in principle all 89 recommendations. The Taskforce’s final report on women’s experience in the criminal justice system was handed down on 30 June 2022.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy has developed and implemented housing services to help women and their children experiencing domestic and family violence, including financial abuse or experiencing financial hardship when they escape a violent relationship. Help to reduce financial and economic hardship faced by women and families experiencing domestic and family violence includes:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted with Flexible Assistance Package brokerage to meet immediate needs such as rent arrears, removals and relocation costs, emergency accommodation and to buy furniture and whitegoods. • Subleasing private rental properties through Domestic and Family Violence Helping Hand Headlease. • One-off Rental Grant of 2 weeks rent, 4 weeks interest and fee-free Bond Loan, or help to find and apply for a place to rent. <p>Although the Taskforce did not make any recommendations with respect to financial arrangements, the findings of the interjurisdictional analysis and the need for any legislative amendment will be further considered as part of the Queensland Government’s ongoing response to recommendations of the Taskforce.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>Legislative options are being considered to strengthen the ability of the court to impose conditions within a protection order with respect to financial arrangements as part of the domestic and family violence reforms arising from the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce taking into consideration relevant legislation from other jurisdictions.</p> <p>As at 30 June 2023 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Leader of the House responded:</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Attorney-general intends to consult with legal and domestic and family violence stakeholders in early 2024 on options to amend the <i>Domestic and family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> to further strengthen the ability of the court to impose conditions within a protection order with respect to financial arrangements.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16</p> <p>The Attorney-General propose a review of funding for family law legal aid and financial counselling services for victims of domestic and family violence. This should include consideration of the need for specialist legal aid and legal assistance services that focus on financial and property settlements where domestic and family violence is present.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>On 3 October 2020 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House responded:</p> <p>The Queensland Attorney-General wrote to the Commonwealth Attorney-General requesting he consider a review of family law legal aid for victims of domestic and family violence, with a particular focus on the need for assistance in financial and property settlement matters.</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is working with Legal Aid Queensland to conduct a desktop audit of activities, programs and funding utilisation in the family law area, specifically focused on property settlements in domestic and family violence cases.</p> <p>The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors — in conjunction with Department of Child Safety,</p>

	<p>Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General — commenced work on a scan of financial products provided by financial institutions to support people experiencing domestic and family violence.</p> <p>On 5 February 2022 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Attorney-General in conjunction with Legal Aid Queensland completed the desktop audit of activities, programs and funding utilisation in the family law area, specifically focused on property settlements in domestic and family violence cases. The findings of the audit will inform future decisions in relation to the allocation of funding across legal assistance services and other support services for victims of domestic and family violence.</p> <p>In 2021, the former Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, in conjunction with the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General completed a scan of financial products provided by financial institutions to support people experiencing domestic and family violence. The scan is published online at www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/end-domestic-family-violence/resources (see 'Financial institutions with domestic and family violence support' under the heading 'For people supporting someone affected by domestic and family violence').</p>
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