Government Response to the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board Annual Report 2024-2025

Recommendation	Responsible agencies	Government Response
Recommendation 1 **Build bystander awareness, action, and reporting mechanisms** *The Board's case review called attention to the need to engage and support bystanders of Domestic and Family Violence (DFV). In nine of the 16 homicide events reviewed family, friends, colleagues or neighbours of the offender or primary victim were aware of threats to the Primary Victim's life but did not report them.* *Building on existing public health campaigns already raising awareness of DFV will further support community bystanders to report threats and support primary victims of DFV. Any campaign developed must also extend beyond the portrayal of DFV in heterosexual intimate partner relationships and raise awareness of the occurrence of DFV in LGBTQIA+ relationships, family relationships and informal care relationships.* *As several cases reviewed had evidence of work colleagues hearing threats made by the person using violence a bystander training program should be developed for workplaces and community members to:* *a) recognise warning signs of DFV and stalking;* *b) understand how to report threats safely and confidentially; and* *c) reduce social normalisation of abuse within peer groups.* The Board is aware public service organisations already provide this support to their employees, however, supports should be provided for small businesses and private sector organisations to provide such workplace education as well.	Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) In consultation with relevant Government agencies.	The Queensland Government supports Recommendation 1 in principle, recognising the importance of building bystander awareness, action, and reporting mechanisms to address domestic and family violence (DFV). DFSDSCS acknowledges the diverse manifestations of DFV across different community and cultural contexts. This includes the unique barriers faced by people with disabilities, particularly cognitive impairment or intellectual disability who may require accessible information and tailored support. The *Safer Families, Safer Communities: A Domestic and Family Violence Reform Strategy (Safer Families, Safer Communities Strategy) for Queensland* (May 2026), prioritises prevention, early intervention, and improved outcomes for those affected by DFV and holding persons using DFV to account. Under the strategy, DFSDSCS will continue to identify opportunities to better inform, support, and work with communities to raise awareness about and reduce incidence of DFV. Further, DFSDSCS will assess, in consultation with relevant agencies, the development of a bystander training program to support bystanders to report DFV and support victims. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has already implemented significant reforms following the Commission of Inquiry into QPS responses to DFV, including introducing culturally safe reporting approaches, the establishment of a Safe Space in Cairns, and the development of community-specific cultural induction packages for officers working in First Nations communities. QPS will continue to work with DFSDSCS on public awareness activities.
Recommendation 2 **Increase appropriateness of DFV services available** *The review demonstrated the need to increase the appropriateness of DFV services available for primary victims, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, LGBTQIA+ people, people living with a disability, parents living with adult children, people with mental health concerns and culturally and linguistically diverse people. This is a complex multi-faceted recommendation which may be addressed by implementing the below measures.* *Providing nuanced and tailored supports to meet the needs of primary Victims* *- by:* *a) improved culturally appropriate police interactions and service options for all parties, including access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led services;* *b) access to safe housing for parties following separation, rather than cohabitation; and* *c) availability of services and supports that are non-adversarial and reduce barriers for primary victims who do not wish to engage through QPS. Pathway should include options for those experiencing FV including those located in rural and regional areas.* *- Enhancing multi-agency coordination through:* *a) improved information sharing between QPS, QH and DFV services to identify high-risk cases;* *b) development of a standardised LGBTQIA+ DFV risk assessment tool to be used across agencies; and* *c) annual DFV reviews to track systemic gaps in LGBTQIA+ DFV responses and ensure continuous improvement.* *- Improving services and supports for LGBTQIA+ people impacted by DFV through:* *a) mandatory LGBTQIA+ DFV training for QH frontline staff including doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, sexual health clinicians and burn clinics. QH has already developed this training in collaboration with LGBTQIA+ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation and has access to See, Hear, Believe (eLearning course), but it is not mandatory. Making this training compulsory will increase early*	Whole of Government	The Queensland Government supports Recommendation 2 in principle, recognising that some people experiencing domestic and family violence encounter greater barriers to accessing assistance. Across Queensland, DFSDSCS funds a wide range of DFV services that support victim-survivors, including specific services for diverse cohorts. Further work is being undertaken by DFSDSCS to tailor responses and improve coverage across the service system through the review of the DFV Common Risk and Safety Framework and new 5-year Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioning Plan. In collaboration with the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW), new and replacement shelters are being delivered, alongside specialist mobile housing support services to help victim-survivors access safe, accessible and affordable housing, QPS continue to offer training opportunities to allow officers to improve responses and early intervention for victim-survivors from diverse cohorts. The QPS partner with social services, including through the embedded worker and liaison networks, to ensure responses for victim-survivors are integrated. Further, Queensland Health has developed the Queensland Health DFV toolkit, which is available for the entire Queensland Health workforce to access and includes specific training modules in relation to DFV responses for diverse cohorts.

identification and intervention for LGBTQIA+ DFV victims and improve healthcare responses; *b) mandatory LGBTQIA+ DFV training for QPS. Training should cover barriers to reporting, coercive control and specific risk factors in LGBTQIA+ DFV, including HIV-related abuse, social isolation and LGBTQIA+ related abuse; and* *c) review and update QPS procedures to ensure cases involving LGBTQIA+ people impacted by DFV are triaged with specialist involvement, including LGTBQIA+ Liaison officers being automatically assigned to cases involving LGBTQIA+ primary victims.*		
Recommendation 3 **Assessment of risk and safety planning when there is a threat of fire-related violence** *Addressing the lack of risk assessment regarding the threat or use of fire by:* *a) adding items to CRASF relating to threats and use of fire and dousing;* *b) escalating the level of risk when a perpetrator uses or threatens use of fire or dousing;* *c) gauging the victim's level of fear (especially if fear is increasing) and appropriately considering or weighing when determining the risk level;* *d) determining when the victims awareness of the escalation in threats being made by the perpetrator; and* *e) including a fire risk assessment of a victims home when safety planning for threats of fire and engaging QFD as a partner in safety planning.* *Working in the intersection between mental health and DFV by:* *a) Mental Health services using a DFV-informed lens to assess risk and safety plan when there are mental health concerns including identifying if the patient has a partner, child or family member and undertaking safety planning for all; and* *b) planning for safe housing when mental health issues are present, including the safety of the person/s the patient will be living with.*	QH Queensland Fire Department (QFD) DFSDSCS QPS In consultation with relevant agencies	The Queensland Government supports Recommendation 3 in principle and will examine risk assessment and safety planning for fire-related violence. The Queensland Government strongly condemns all forms of violence against all victims. DFSDSCS has engaged Griffith University to evaluate the Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF) and associated risk assessment tools. Following completion of this evaluation, DFSDSCS will review the findings and consider enhancements to the framework which may include enhanced guidance relating to threats or the use of fire or dousing. Under the QH DFV Capability Framework, clinicians and staff: • have access to DFV risk screening tools, • conduct safety planning, • recognise signs of violence, • respond in a victim-survivor-centred way, • understand relevant DFV legislation and frameworks, and • make appropriate referrals while documenting DFV-related information. QH's Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs (MHAOD) Services utilise the Assessing and Responding to Violence (ARV) Framework, which provides a structured, tiered approach to screening, assessing, and responding to violence. The ARV Framework includes prompts for DFV and fire-setting risks and emphasises the need to consider partners, children, and family members in safety planning. Additionally, the *Queensland Health Guideline for Working with Parents* supports clinicians in addressing the safety and wellbeing of families and children affected by parental substance use or mental health disorders, ensuring DFV considerations are integrated into treatment and care.
Recommendation 4 **Address data gaps and the need for further research** *Addressing the gap in data and research about the use of wilful fire-setting in the context of DFV by:* *a. adding a question to the Australian Personal Safety survey regarding when fire or wilful fire setting is used as a threat in the context of DFV. This would establish a national prevalence rate which could be monitored over time and will increase understanding of the frequency in which threats to use fire or wilful fire-setting occur;* *b. collecting and collating system level data from DFV specialist services, including about the use of fire and wilful fire-setting as a threat;* *c. undertaking targeted research projects to trial novel ways to collect data about DFV, including the use of fire and wilful fire-setting as threats or to kill; and* *d. enabling health professionals to record results of a secondary diagnosis of DFV injury when treating relevant fire-related burns victims, increasing the collection of prevalence and causality DFV data in Queensland.*	DFSDSCS QH QPS QFD In consultation with relevant agencies	The Queensland Government supports Recommendation 4 in principle subject to further consideration. The Safer Families, Safer Communities Strategy identifies meaningful data and monitoring as a key system enabler and quality data and system performance as one of its four reform objectives. The Strategy proposes a Safer Families, Safer Communities Evaluation Framework that will draw on robust qualitative and quantitative data sources to monitor progress, evaluate outcomes, and measure system performance, supporting evidence-based reform and continuous improvement across the DFV service system. QH is exploring options to enhance DFV data capture within existing clinical information systems. QFD will examine current data collection to assess whether there is a need to amend data sharing relating to relevant fire incidents. Alongside the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) commissioning (over-arching) framework, the department is progressing work to improve the collection and use of data through its commissioning functions and build a robust data and evidence base for future investment. The project will: • map data currently collected by the department across the wide range of funded programs and initiatives, and improve the use of data analytics of this information; • explore opportunities to revise the data collected for each program and initiative, to ensure that data collected and reported is meaningful and useful; • support sector uplift in the DFSV sector on greater consistency in the collection, storage and reporting of data, to ensure a reliable and robust dataset for Queensland; and • explore opportunities for a sector-wide data portal to support oversight and decision-making.