

## DFVDRAB implementation updates as at 31 December 2023

Annual Report 2021-22		
RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE <i>'as at 31 December 2023'</i>
<p><b>Recommendation 1 -</b> That the Queensland Government commission research in relation to formal and informal help-seeking behaviours by people affected by domestic and family violence in intimate partner relationships, and the key influences in decisions to contact particular services, including perceptions about which services are the most helpful.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b> Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) released the second report from their project "<i>Transforming responses to intimate partner and sexual violence: Listening to the voices of victims, perpetrators and services</i>" in December 2022.</p> <p>This research is a comprehensive overview of help-seeking behaviours and barriers to help-seeking across Australia. The Queensland Government will utilise this research to inform future policy and program development and consider whether additional research is required.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is in progress.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</b> It is imperative that Queensland Government's response to domestic, family and sexual violence continues to be informed by the voices of victim-survivors, persons using violence and the services who provide support. Understanding what promotes and what creates barriers to help-seeking of victim-survivors, persons using violence and bystanders, are essential to ensuring the Queensland Government's responses across the domestic, family and sexual violence service system remains effective. As such, following the completion of the <i>Transforming responses to intimate partner and sexual violence: Listening to the voices of victims, perpetrators and services</i> project by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), the Queensland Government will undertake a review of the policy and practice recommendations developed by the researchers, including the opportunities to improve the service system, build community capacity and promoting access to domestic, family and sexual violence awareness education. This review will consider how the findings and recommendations may be used to enhance existing Queensland Government activities and identify any new opportunities for reform.</p> <p>Once the review of the policy and practice recommendations from the two research reports are complete, the Queensland Government will share the findings of the review with the Board.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2 -</b> That the Queensland Government, in implementing recommendation 9 from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce relating to the plan for the primary prevention of violence against women, provide visible resources for family and friends to obtain information and support. This might be modelled on Ontario's Neighbours, Friends and Families campaign, recognising that many victims of domestic violence tell someone in their informal network about the violence before approaching service providers.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b> Informed by the development of the primary prevention plan in response to recommendation 9 of the Taskforce's Report One, the Queensland Government will identify and pursue opportunities to develop and distribute resources to support bystanders such as family members and friends to appropriately respond to disclosures of domestic and family violence. This will include consideration of opportunities to build on existing resources aimed at supporting members of the community to respond safely and appropriately to people experiencing domestic and family violence.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is in progress.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</b> In response to Recommendation 9 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WJST), Report one, <i>Hear her voice - Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland</i> (Report One), the Queensland Government is developing a comprehensive and integrated <i>Plan for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women in Queensland</i> (the Plan). The Plan will extend and build on current efforts to address drivers of violence at the individual, relationship, community, institutional and societal levels. The Plan will build on existing initiatives that improve awareness and recognition of signs of domestic and family violence (DFV), promote support available, and call on Queenslanders to safely intervene. This includes leveraging off existing implementation activities of the 10-year <i>Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Engagement and Communication Strategy 2016-2026</i>, which has made significant progress towards shifting community attitudes and behaviours relating to DFV. The Plan is expected to be released in early 2024.</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the importance of providing resources to informal supports on how to appropriately identify and respond to disclosures of DFV. As such, the Queensland Government continues to provide resources and programs designed to educate and support informal networks when someone they know is experiencing DFV. Similar to Neighbours, Friends &amp; Families website, the Queensland Government website provides guidance for informal supports, such as</p>



		<p>friends, family members and bystanders, to support someone experiencing DFV and coercive control. This includes providing information on the signs of DFV and coercive control, tips on how to bring up DFV or coercive control in conversations, ways to navigate difficult conversations with victim-survivors and how to support a person using violence or coercive control. The website also provides support for young people who are experiencing DFV. The website has also published resources to assist informal supports in reporting DFV and supporting those experiencing DFV. There is also information for people who use violence about where to get help. The resources include brochures, wallet card and posters, which are all available in 33 languages. For more information please see <a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/support-victims-abuse/domestic-family-violence">https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/support-victims-abuse/domestic-family-violence</a>.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to consider opportunities to build on existing resources aimed at supporting members of the community to respond safely and appropriately to people experiencing DFV when implementing recommendation 1, 5 and 8 of the WSJT Report One. Of note, in response to Recommendation 5, the Queensland Government will market test and develop tailored, accessible resources, co-designed with representatives of key audience cohorts designed to increase community awareness and understanding of the nature of and impacts of DFV.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3 –</b></p> <p>That in the roll out of High-Risk Teams and Integrated Service Responses, practice guidelines and protocols emphasise the need for safety planning based on the specific role that each agency can play in supporting effective safety planning, rather than locating responsibility for safety planning solely with victim-survivors.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to strengthen safety management. This includes ensuring agencies are working across the integrated service response to provide wrap-around, holistic services to protect the victim-survivor and enact interventions to prevent the person using violence from further perpetrating violence. Government and sector stakeholders will be guided on good practice safety management through ongoing implementation of the revised Common Risk and Safety Framework. Good practice approaches will be embedded in the Integrated Service System Training Strategy.</p> <p>The development of a new perpetrator-centric risk assessment tool (in response to recommendations 21 and 29 of the Taskforce Report One) will help to ensure the perpetrator is held accountable for their behaviour.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government is committed to safety management and integrated service responses that provide wrap-around, holistic services to protect the victim-survivor and enact interventions to prevent the person using violence from further perpetrating violence. The revised Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF) guides Government and sector stakeholders on good practice safety management. The revised CRASF has been implemented and good practice approaches continue to be embedded through the Integrated Service System Training Strategy. A protocol has been developed that outlines the requirements of all HRTs and provides guidance on collaborative safety planning, with agencies taking responsibility for safety management, rather than placing responsibility on the victim-survivor.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to monitor and strengthen integrated service responses, including approaches to safety management.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4 –</b></p> <p>That in implementing recommendation 64 from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce relating to the admissibility of expert evidence about domestic and family violence, the Queensland Government give consideration to the need for the accreditation of private practitioners, such as psychologists, working within the domestic and family violence system, particularly those completing reports for court proceedings.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>Legislative amendments to the <i>Evidence Act 1977</i> (Evidence Act) to allow for relevant expert evidence of DFV in criminal proceedings were included in the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (DFVP Amendment Act). The DFVP Amendment Act was passed by Queensland Parliament on 22 February 2023 and commenced on 1 August 2023.</p> <p>The relevant section of the DFVP Amendment Act states that “<i>For this section, an expert on the subject of domestic violence includes a person who can demonstrate specialised knowledge, gained by training, study or experience, of a matter that may constitute evidence of domestic violence</i>”. This is consistent with the common law position on the admissibility of expert evidence. It is noted that, as part of criminal proceedings, there is scope for parties to cross-examine an expert witness, including the ability to</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</b></p> <p>Legislative amendments to the <i>Evidence Act 1977</i> (Evidence Act) to allow for relevant expert evidence of domestic and family violence in criminal proceedings were included in the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023</i> (DFVP Amendment Act). The DFVP Amendment Act was passed by Queensland Parliament on 22 February 2023 and commenced on 1 August 2023.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has given consideration to the need for the accreditation of private practitioners, such as psychologists, working within the domestic and family violence system, particularly those completing reports for court proceedings, determining that it will be further considered in the event it emerges as an issue.</p>

	<p>submit that a particular expert does not have the necessary level of knowledge, training, study or experience.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will monitor whether there is a need for accreditation, after the amendments have been operationalised.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 5 –</b></p> <p>That in implementing recommendation 22 from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce relating to the practice framework and tools for Child Safety staff to work to support victims of domestic and family violence to care protectively for their children and to hold perpetrators to account, the Queensland Government notes that the Board has identified that a significant onus can be placed on mothers to protect their children from domestic and family violence. The Board recommends that the Queensland Government prioritises research on how services can safely intervene when children are identified as high risk, particularly where they have ongoing contact with perpetrators, and that this research informs the Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice and the Safe and Together Program.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to implement and embed the Safe and Together model, which aims to address domestic and family violence in the child protection context, and the Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice (Framework for Practice) across the state. This will include providing staff with improved and ongoing training and tools to support adult victims of domestic and family violence to care protectively for their children, enhance recognition of children as victims of domestic and family violence in their own right, and increased emphasis on holding perpetrators accountable for their use of violence.</p> <p>Future work to implement recommendation 22 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce includes reviewing existing practice support, tools and resources, with a view to ensuring adequate consideration for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring children are safe and supported</li> <li>• Perpetrator accountability • Victim safety</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inclusion and leadership</li> <li>• Intersections between mental health and drug and alcohol misuse</li> </ul> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services will also work with Leneen Forde Chair of Child Protection Research at Griffith University, Dr Silke Meyer, a recognised DFV expert, to ensure contemporary understanding of DFV and perpetrator behaviour is influencing child protection policy, procedures and practice.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023, the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs responded:</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government will continue to implement and embed the Safe and Together model, which aims to address domestic and family violence in the child protection context, and the Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice (Framework for Practice) across the state. This will include providing staff with improved and ongoing training and tools to support adult victims of domestic and family violence to care protectively for their children, enhance recognition of children as victims of domestic and family violence in their own right, and increased emphasis on holding perpetrators accountable for their use of violence.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services continues to work with the Leneen Forde Chair in Child and Family Research at Griffith University, Dr Silke Meyer, a recognised DFV expert, to ensure contemporary understanding of DFV and perpetrator behaviour is informing child protection policy, procedures and practice.</p> <p>Future work to implement recommendation 22 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued state-wide implementation of the detailed training and implementation plan to support domestic and family violence-informed practice, the Safe and Together model and the Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice.</li> </ul> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services will continue to work with the Leneen Forde Chair in Child and Family Research at Griffith University, to ensure contemporary understanding of DFV and perpetrator behaviour is informing child protection policy, procedures and practice.</p> <p>On 23 August 2024, the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs updated the implementation status of this recommendation from in progress to implemented.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 6 –</b></p> <p>That in implementing recommendation 24 from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce relating to evidence based and trauma-informed ongoing training and education, the Queensland Government considers the establishment of an independent funded training body to develop and deliver ongoing training and education.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government is developing an evidence-based and trauma-informed DFV training and change management framework in response to recommendation 23 of the Taskforce Report One.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is also exploring options to best implement and embed training and education for all frontline and other relevant staff across government, as well as funded nongovernment agency staff effectively and efficiently in response to recommendation 24 of the Taskforce Report One.</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government is developing an evidence-based and trauma-informed domestic and family violence (DFV) training and change management framework in response to Recommendation 23 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT), Report One <i>Hear her voice: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland</i> (Report One) and considering options to implement and embed DFV training in response to Recommendation 24 of the WSJT Report One, including consideration of an independent funded training body to develop and deliver ongoing</p>

	<p>In exploring implementation options, the Queensland Government will explore if an independent funded training body is required and appropriate to develop and deliver ongoing training and education in line with the Framework, once it has been finalised.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>training and education in line with the Framework. Implementation of this recommendation is directly linked to and continues to be actioned and reported under Recommendation 24 of WSJT Report One.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 7 –</b> That in implementing recommendation 23 from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce relating to the development of a consistent, evidence-based and trauma informed framework to support training and education, the Queensland Government considers the importance of understanding, recognising and responding to escalation in risk.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government commits to including guidance around understanding, recognising and responding to escalation of risk for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, including children and young people, in the Domestic and Family Violence Training and Change Management Framework.</p> <p>The development of a whole of system Domestic and Family Violence Training and Change Management Framework relates to Taskforce Recommendation 23 Report One. In response to this recommendation, the Queensland Government is developing an evidence informed, culturally appropriate Training Framework to promote consistency in content and delivery of domestic and family violence training across government and community agencies. The Training Framework will address the issue of coercive control and support trauma informed service delivery.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</b> The development of a whole of system Domestic and Family Violence Training and Change Management Framework relates to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT), Report One <i>Hear her voice: Addressing Coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland</i> (Report One), Recommendation 23. In response to this recommendation, the Queensland Government is developing an evidence and trauma-informed Training and Change Management Framework to promote consistency in content and delivery of domestic and family violence training across government and community agencies. The Training Framework acknowledges the importance of understanding, recognising and responding to escalation of risk for victim-survivors. Implementation of this recommendation is directly linked to and continues to be actioned and reported under Recommendation 23 of WSJT Report One.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 8 –</b> That the Queensland Government review the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Framework for working with people impacted by domestic and family violence with a view to strengthening and enhancing its use across specialist domestic and family violence services.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government will work with DFV sector stakeholders to strengthen and enhance a whole of system approach to addressing suicide risk in DFV responses. The implementation of the Suicide Prevention Framework will be reviewed with a view to exploring options for increasing its awareness and consistent use.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p> <p><b>Supporting agency:</b> Queensland Health</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women responded:</b> The Queensland Government remains committed to working with domestic and family violence (DFV) sector stakeholders to strengthen and enhance a whole of system approach to addressing suicide risk in DFV responses. The implementation of the Suicide Prevention Framework is being reviewed with a view to exploring options for increasing its awareness and consistent use. Implementation of this recommendation is directly linked to and continues to be actioned and reported on under recommendation 16 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, Report One <i>Hear her voice: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland</i>.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 9 –</b> That in implementing recommendation 18 of the from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce relating to the further rollout of High-Risk Teams, the Queensland Government ensure High-Risk Teams are able to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including by considering an enhanced and formal role for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government supports the need to improve the cultural capability of High Risk Teams (HRTs) to ensure they better serve the needs of diverse communities. In implementing Recommendation 18 of the Taskforce's Report One, the Queensland Government continues to roll out integrated service system responses and will establish new HRTs in three locations.</p> <p>A key element of all new HRTs will be the addition of a First Nations Cultural Advisor role to provide culturally informed and culturally appropriate responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by DFV. The First Nations Cultural</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts responded:</b> The Queensland Government is committed to improving the cultural capability of High Risk Teams (HRTs) to ensure they better serve the needs of diverse communities. In implementing Recommendation 18 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT) Report One <i>Hear her voice: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland</i>, the Queensland Government continues to roll out integrated service system responses and will establish new HRTs in three locations. A key element of all new HRTs will be the addition of a First Nations Cultural Advisor</p>

	<p>Advisors will work closely with the Positive Relationship Cultural Connectors (employed by Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts) to enhance the cultural capability of the HRT and integrated service responses more broadly.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p> <p><b>Supporting agency:</b> Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts</p>	<p>role to provide culturally informed and culturally appropriate responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by domestic and family violence. The First Nations Cultural Advisors will work closely with the Positive Relationship Cultural Connectors (employed by Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts) to enhance the cultural capability of the HRT and integrated service responses more broadly. Implementation of this recommendation is directly linked to and continues to be actioned and reported under Recommendation 18 of WSJT, Report One.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 10 –</b> That the Queensland Government continue to support and establish High-Risk Teams (HRTs) across the State, and that agencies involved in the HRTs continue to enhance integration, protocols, assessments and responses to hold perpetrators to account and to support victim-survivors.</p>	<p><b>Accept</b> The Queensland Government has committed to establishing three new HRTs over four years from 2022-23 to 2025-26. The Integrated Service Systems Oversight Committee (ISSOC), the multi-agency governance group responsible for overseeing and strengthening integrated service responses, will continue to explore and enact options for enhancing integration, protocols, assessments and responses to hold persons using violence to account and to better support victim-survivors.</p> <p><b>Lead agency:</b> Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p> <p><b>Supporting agency:</b> Queensland Police Service</p>	<p><b>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>As at 31 December 2023, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the Minister for Police and Community Safety responded:</b> The Queensland Government remains committed to establishing three new High Risk Teams (HRTs) over four years from 2022–23 to 2025–26. The first new HRT has been established in Townsville, and the second, in Redlands, will commence in the first half of 2024. The third new HRT, in Rockhampton, will commence in 2025. The Integrated Service Systems Oversight Committee (ISSOC), the multi-agency governance group responsible for overseeing and strengthening integrated service responses, will continue to explore and enact options for enhancing integration, protocols, assessments and responses to hold persons using violence to account and to better support victim-survivors.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation is directly linked to and continues to be actioned and reported under Recommendation 18 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, Report One <i>Hear her voice: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland</i>.</p>