

Government Response to the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board 2018-19 Annual Report

The Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board (the Board) was established as part of the Queensland Government's implementation of recommendations from the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence Final Report - '*Not Now, Not Ever*' *Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland (2015) (Not Now, Not Ever Report)*.

The Board is established under the *Coroners Act 2003* and plays an important role in reviewing domestic and family violence (DFV)-related deaths (including suicides) to identify patterns, trends and risk factors and make recommendations to improve legislation, policies, practices and services to prevent, or reduce the likelihood of, future DFV-related deaths.

The 2018-19 Annual Report is the Board's third report and made **16 recommendations** based on the review of 24 DFV related homicides and suicides. The Board examined the impact of DFV on vulnerable populations, including children, young people, people from priority populations, and those who are socially and geographically isolated.

The Government supports the intent of the Board's recommendations that seek to enhance the system response to DFV through extending upon current and planned activities with regard to:

- better supporting and meeting the needs of young mothers and families impacted by DFV through integrated, trauma-informed responses and a greater focus on early intervention;
- embedding a focus on the impact of cumulative harm and intergenerational trauma on victims of DFV and their children;
- strengthening DFV risk assessment tools to ensure they specifically assess risks to children and also include cultural considerations for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people;
- increasing awareness of intimate partner violence as experienced by older people and strengthening the relationships and referral pathways between elder abuse and DFV support services;
- improving service accessibility for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities (LGBTIQ+) people experiencing DFV; and
- strengthening the operation of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* (DFVP Act) as it relates to financial matters.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$328.9 million to support the Government's 10-year reform agenda under the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016 – 2026* (the Strategy). While much has been achieved since 2015, deaths that occur in the context of DFV – which the Board notes are among the most preventable deaths – continue to occur in Queensland at an unacceptable rate and are a reminder that there is still more to be done to prevent and respond to DFV incidents.

The Board's recommendations align with the broad policy outline of the Government's *Third Action Plan (2019-20 to 2021-22)* (Third Action Plan) of the Strategy, which sets out the actions to be implemented in the coming years under the three foundational elements of reform: changing community attitudes and behaviours, integrating service responses; and strengthening justice system responses. The actions in the Third Action Plan also respond to evidence provided in the Board's earlier annual reports.



The Government continues to meet the needs of young mothers and families through integrated early intervention services, including further investment in specialist DFV workers in Community Controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services, a focus on supporting women experiencing or at risk of DFV through the pregnancy and post-natal period, and through the establishment of eight High Risk Teams across the state to support people at high risk of harm due to DFV. This aligns with Government priorities which provide broader support for families, such as through *Supporting Families Changing Futures 2019-2023*, which seeks to enhance and strengthen cross-agency responses to address the wide-ranging needs of families, children and young people experiencing heightened risk of harm.

To support families and communities to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma and violence, compulsory respectful relationships education is being implemented through the curriculum in Queensland state schools. Greater awareness about DFV in the community is also being enhanced through delivery of a new communication and engagement response, including ensuring high visibility of support services. Launched in May 2019, the DFV support portal (www.qld.gov.au/domesticviolence) now combines all relevant information in one place.

A major focus of the 2018-19 Annual Report is the vulnerable sectors of the community that face particular challenges in terms of DFV awareness and service provision – such as older people and the LGBTIQ+ community. The Queensland Government continues to deliver successful elder abuse awareness campaigns that support people to understand the signs of elder abuse and help make it stop.

Further, through the Queensland LGBTI Roundtable (comprised of members of the Queensland LGBTIQ+ community as well as senior government officers), Government departments have ensured that DFV awareness training is inclusive of LGBTIQ+ individuals, particularly in relation to operation of the courts, hospitals and police. A new statewide campaign directly addressing DFV in the Queensland LGBTIQ+ community launched in December 2018 and ran throughout 2019. The campaign aimed to help raise awareness of DFV within the LGBTIQ community and remove stigmas around reporting violence and accessing support services. It included information and advice on the types of abuse that are unique to the LGBTIQ+ community and dispelled some of the common misconceptions about support options.

While the DFVP Act currently deals with economic abuse as a form of DFV – such as coercing a person to relinquish control over assets or income or removing or keeping a person's property without the person's consent – the Board believes that the DFVP Act should be amended to allow a court to impose a condition in relation to financial arrangements as part of a Domestic Violence Order (DVO). The DFVP Act currently provides a broad discretion for courts to impose any conditions deemed necessary to protect aggrieved person/s. Work will be undertaken to identify potential legislative and non-legislative solutions including promotion of the existing provisions that are available to address economic barriers.

The Government has implemented many initiatives – including some which overlap with Board recommendations – aimed towards ensuring that doctors and other health professionals, police and lawyers are trained to identify women and children at immediate risk of violence. These include DFV toolkits for public and private health professionals and specialist DFV training and education and awareness products for officers working within the justice system.

The newly-established Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council (the Council) oversees the Strategy, and will also consider reports provided to the Council from the Board and provide advice as required.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the important work of the Board and its continued role in supporting Government's commitment to ending the cycle of violence.

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Recommendations	Lead Agency	Response
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>That 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 (DFV).</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 Islander families and those with disabilities.</p>	<p>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the additional vulnerability of young mothers and their families experiencing, or at risk of experiencing DFV and has acted to increase the availability, accessibility and integration of services, taking into account additional vulnerabilities and complexities.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist DFV workers have been integrated in mainstream family support services, (Family and Child Connect, and Intensive Family Support) and are also being embedded in Community Controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services to strengthen multi-disciplinary service integration and accessibility to DFV support when required by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. • The Queensland Government has established eight DFV High Risk Teams in locations across the state to bring together representatives of key government agencies and specialist DFV organisations to support people at high risk of harm from DFV. They include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior Project Officers to provide a cultural connector role for advice and referrals and supporting prevention and early intervention. • The ability of midwives to support and refer all women experiencing DFV during pregnancy has

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		<p>been improved in response to recommendations in the <i>Not Now, Not Ever</i> report and recommendations in previous DFV Death Review and Advisory Board Annual Reports. This has included comprehensive training of midwives to screen for, respond to and refer women experiencing DFV, recruitment of an additional 100 midwives across Queensland public maternity units, and through the First 1,000 Days project. The First 1,000 Days project aims to improve continuity of carer models across pregnancy, labour and birth, postnatal and early parenting to the child's second birthday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Growing Deadly Families Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternity Services Strategy 2019-2025</i> was launched in November 2019. The Strategy and implementation plan focus on developing and strengthening 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. • Queensland's plan to respond to DFV against people with a disability is building on the DFV 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 DFV. • The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is working with Children's

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		<p>Health Queensland to facilitate the co-design of the right@home program in Caboolture to ensure the program is culturally sensitive and accessible to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. 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.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>That 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 Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p> <p>The Queensland Government recognises the importance of prevention and integration across service responses to DFV, aimed at breaking existing cycles of intergenerational trauma and violence, and ensuring young people understand the importance of healthy relationships.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has sought to improve access to information about DFV through the development of a new website providing a single point of access to all relevant information, designed in a way to best meet the needs of the community (www.qld.gov.au/domesticviolence). The Queensland Government has also supported increased public awareness of domestic and family violence through a number of DFV awareness campaigns, and by supporting national campaigns including those targeted at young people and families.</p> <p>Delivery of this recommendation will also be supported through the ongoing implementation of compulsory</p>

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		respectful relationships education through the curriculum and ensuring quality programs are delivered.
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>That 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 DFV.</p>	<p>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is leading the ongoing development and validation of a Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF). CRASF is a common tiered approach to risk assessment and management and safety action planning for use across the government and non-government sectors. Following a three-year trial and evaluation, CRASF is currently under review and this process will include consideration of the evidence base regarding assessing risk to children exposed to DFV, as well as victim feedback regarding their experiences of DFV, the response through the CRASF model, what worked well and what could be done differently.</p> <p>Partner agencies will continue to support this work through participation in the Integrated Service Response Working Group with a view to the eventual implementation of CRASF across the DFV service system in Queensland, reflective of local co-designed approaches to integrated services delivery.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>That 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</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p> <p>Government supports in principle the establishment of a national death review mechanism with a targeted focus on deaths of children and parents known to the family court system, noting the importance of avoiding</p>

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<p>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.</p> <p>The proposed death review mechanism should be informed by research and the existing state-based death review mechanisms of DFV 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 DFV related risk. 		<p>duplication with the work of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network. The Council of Attorneys-General (CAG) is considered the more appropriate forum to progress this proposal.</p> <p>The Queensland Attorney-General will write to the Commonwealth Attorney-General, who has jurisdictional responsibility for the Family and Federal Circuit Courts, noting key elements of the proposal included in the recommendation and suggesting he raise the issue for consideration by the CAG.</p> <p>Queensland will expand its existing death review mechanism for children connected to the child protection system with commencement of the <i>Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Act 2020</i>. On commencement, the new independent Child Death Review Board may, where appropriate, coordinate its reviews with reviews of domestic and family violence-related deaths carried out by the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>That 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 DFV is flagged as 'high risk' which triggers a commensurate response.</p>	<p>Queensland Police Service</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange (QPRIME) currently provides capability for a person or address to be flagged, alerting police to consider flagged details in any response. The QPRIME flag function fulfils Recommendation 5 of the Board. Queensland Police Service will continue to support current policy that escalates the persons potential of risk when relationship breakdown; financial pressures; significant life event (suicide/death in family/job loss/bullying);</p>

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		previous suicide attempt; and domestic violence related are identified.
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>That 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 Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept in Principle</p> <p>The Queensland Government has a strong commitment to addressing DFV 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 recognises the impact of intergenerational trauma as a key contributor to social issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has invested in 33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services across the state, to work with Indigenous families experiencing complex social issues such as DFV, to enhance their capacity to care for and nurture their children.</p> <p>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 DFV specialists in five of the services.</p> <p>In addition to its investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support, DCSYW invests in 44 Intensive Family Support services that seek to address the complex family issues that contribute to involvement in the child protection system. The services support</p>

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		<p>families regarding both the immediate practical problems affecting them, as well as the underlying impacts of trauma that render families vulnerable.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is trialing two evidence-based models that have the capacity to better position services to address unhelpful family dynamics and contribute to long term strengthening of relationships. These models are currently subject to an independent evaluation.</p> <p>Regional staff of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships participate in local level, cross-agency engagement to provide input to the development of local community- based responses, initiatives and strategies.</p> <p>The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships engages with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Queensland's First Children and Families Board to provide input to responses for children and young people in families affected by DFV.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 That the Queensland Government (Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Department of Health, and Queensland Police Service) review existing DFV risk assessment tools to ensure they are inclusive of cultural considerations.</p>	<p>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is leading the ongoing development and validation of a Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF). CRASF is a common tiered approach to risk assessment and management and safety action planning for use across the government and non-government sectors. Following a three-year trial and evaluation, CRASF is currently under review and this</p>

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		<p>process will include incorporation of cultural considerations.</p> <p>Partner agencies will continue to support this work through participation in the Integrated Service Response Working Group with a view to the eventual implementation of CRASF across the DFV service system in Queensland, reflective of local co-designed approaches to integrated services delivery.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>That 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>Accept</p> <p>Queensland Health is implementing a number of projects that are informed by the findings of an in-depth qualitative analysis of system factors related to the clinical care received by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who had a contact with a Queensland Health service prior to a suspected suicide death. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of a culturally informed child and youth suicide prevention pathway as part of the Zero Suicide in Healthcare Multi-site Collaborative. This work will guide pathways developed in Hospital and Health Services across the state. • A Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) project will trial culturally appropriate suicide risk screening and assessment practices and care pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing a suicidal crisis, for implementation within Community Controlled Health Services models of care. • These projects align with the 'Developing culturally capable mental health services' result area in the

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		Queensland Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Strategy 2016–2021.
<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>That 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 DFV 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>	Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors will work with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women in the development of new DFV awareness campaigns where appropriate to ensure intimate partner violence as experienced by older people is better understood in the context of DFV and as distinct from elder abuse.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors will also work together to ensure best practice service responses to older people experiencing intimate partner violence. This will include consideration of how best to embed appropriate content in capacity and capability building initiatives and strengthen referral pathways between elder abuse and DFV services.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>That 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 DFV. This research should inform the development of strategies to increase service engagement and utilisation.</p>	Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors	<p>Accept</p> <p>A range of work has already been undertaken to support service accessibility and engagement for people who identify as LGBTIQ+. The Department of Communities, Disability Services, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Department of Justice and Attorney-General will continue to work together to optimise the use of existing research with consideration of potential further research to support increases in service engagement and utilisation.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 11</p> <p>That Queensland Government agencies review their DFV training and associated resources to ensure materials are appropriate and inclusive for LGBTIQ+ communities.</p>	<p>Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The LGBTI Roundtable, managed and coordinated by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, plays an important role in ensuring policies, programs and services delivered by Queensland Government agencies are inclusive of and responsive to the needs of LGBTI communities, individuals and their families.</p> <p>DFV awareness training was raised as an issue by members at a Roundtable meeting in 2019. Following this, the Director-General of the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors wrote to Queensland Health, Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Queensland Police Service highlighting the importance of DFV awareness training for court, hospital staff and police officers.</p> <p>All agencies provided a response advising of their current and future awareness training and their commitment to support LGBTI individuals and their families in DFV situations. This included the development of a toolkit to raise awareness of the rates of DFV in same-sex relationships and highlight barriers to disclosing DFV for LGBTI people. A suite of educational and training resources has also been developed by agencies to improve understanding about LGBTI communities and raise awareness of support and referral services available for those experiencing DFV.</p>

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		The Public Service Commission will provide support to government agencies through a multi-agency approach.
<p>Recommendation 12</p> <p>That government funded and other organisations that currently provide support services for victims and their children, and perpetrators of DFV, review how their services are promoted and branded to ensure they are inclusive and accessible for LGBTIQ+ people where appropriate.</p>	<p>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p> <p>Organisations funded by the Queensland Government to provide DFV services are required to be accessible to all, in accordance with the current investment specifications.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will further explore if any additional mechanisms are required to ensure DFV organisations in Queensland are inclusive and accessible for LGBTIQ+ clients.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13</p> <p>That 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 DFV.</p>	<p>Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors</p> <p>and</p> <p>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Queensland Government is committed to changing community attitudes and behaviours regarding DFV including through the Third Action Plan's Foundational element one, which includes key actions around engaging communities through working with local leaders.</p> <p>The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will work collaboratively to identify opportunities within existing service responses and resources to support awareness raising and local community action to reduce the incidence and impact of DFV in rural, regional and remote areas.</p> <p>This will include working with funded services to identify existing awareness raising initiatives, understand</p>

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		community need and exploring the role of peak services.
<p>Recommendation 14</p> <p>That 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 DFV.</p>	<p>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</p> <p>and</p> <p>Department of Housing and Public Works</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Queensland Government is committed to working with corporate and community organisations through the Third Action Plan, including the establishment of a Corporate and Community Engagement Framework that will guide ongoing partnerships with businesses and community organisations to raise awareness, challenge behaviours and change attitudes that excuse, minimize or condone violence.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is supporting the implementation of this recommendation by facilitating DFV organisations across the state to make connections and partnerships with sporting organisations to help create safer homes, workplaces and communities for those impacted by DFV in Queensland.</p> <p>This includes engaging with a variety of sporting clubs throughout Queensland, such as National Rugby League, AFL Queensland, Rugby Union, Netball Queensland, Soccer Queensland, Judo Queensland and Clubs Queensland, who are all on a different stage of their journey addressing DFV.</p> <p>Many of these sporting organisations are raising awareness within their clubs and workplaces through new policies and social media campaigns, with some engaging with the DFV sector to raise funds for</p>

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		<p>domestic violence charities, and bystander education for their staff and employees.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Public Works is promoting good behaviour in sport through the inclusion of a Special Condition requiring funded State level organisations to develop and implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategies, policies and practices promoting good behaviour in sport, including the provision of education and training opportunities to staff, volunteers and service users; and • a complaints management process for complaints made in relation to inappropriate behaviour towards minors. <p>The Department of Housing and Public Works also provides Promotion of Play by the Rules training and resources.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15</p> <p>That 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> <p>» relevant provisions from other jurisdictions, in particular the legislation in Victoria</p> <p>» 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</p>	<p>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p> <p>The <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> currently provides a broad discretion for courts to impose any conditions deemed necessary to protect aggrieved person/s. Work will be undertaken by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to identify potential legislative and non-legislative solutions that meet the intent of this recommendation. This will include promotion of the existing provisions that are available to address economic barriers and intersection with the family law system.</p>

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<p>» 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>		<p>The Department of Housing and Public Works will be undertaking work to address the economic barriers that victims face by increasing access to safe, secure housing. This includes the expansion of flexible assistance packages, head leasing and capacity building in housing service centres to support clients experiencing DFV.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16</p> <p>That the Attorney-General propose a review of funding for family law legal aid and financial counselling services for victims of DFV. This should include consideration of the need for specialist legal aid and legal assistance services that focus on financial and property settlements where DFV is present.</p>	<p>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p> <p>As matters pertaining to family law and the Family Court are a Commonwealth responsibility, the Queensland Attorney-General will write 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>In addition, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General will work with Legal Aid Queensland to conduct a desktop audit of activities, programs and funding utilisation in the family law space, specifically focused on property settlements in DFV cases.</p> <p>The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, in conjunction with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Department of Justice and Attorney-General, will also undertake a scan of current State and Federal financial counselling services with a focus on any services that provide</p>

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		specific support to people experiencing DFV, including a scan (collated by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women) of financial products provided by financial institutions to support people experiencing DFV.

End