

DFVDRAB implementation updates as at 31 December 2023

Annual Report 2019-20

RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE <i>'as at 31 December 2023'</i>
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Recommendations 5 to 8 have been implemented with the responses being published in earlier implementation updates.

<p>Recommendation 1 - That the Queensland Government review all domestic and family violence training delivered to frontline services who may come into contact with victims and their children or perpetrators of domestic and family violence, with a focus on identifying opportunities to embed trauma-awareness and trauma-informed service delivery. This review should be informed by the learnings from the Board's systemic report of the deaths of 'George' and 'Jack' and contain dedicated modules on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> trauma-awareness and trauma-informed practice; the gendered nature of domestic and family violence; common tactics used by perpetrators; and culturally appropriate service delivery. 	<p>Accept Significant work has been undertaken and remains ongoing in training Queensland Government staff across frontline service delivery agencies that routinely come into contact with victims and/or perpetrators of domestic and family violence and their children to recognise, respond and make appropriate referrals.</p> <p>This recommendation asks the Queensland Government to take this training further, by ensuring that training incorporates trauma-awareness and trauma-informed practice, the gendered nature of DFV, common tactics used by perpetrators, and culturally appropriate service delivery. The Queensland Government agencies named as lead agencies against this recommendation will ensure the elements outlined in this recommendation are included in any new or revised domestic and family violence training delivered to frontline Queensland Government staff.</p> <p>Agencies will consider opportunities for joint training and sharing best practice across services (for example, through integrated service responses and high risk teams).</p> <p>Consideration will be given to ensuring these elements are also incorporated in policies and practice standards wherever appropriate.</p> <p>WorkUp Queensland, the domestic, family, sexual and women's health and wellbeing capacity and capability building service, delivers trauma-informed domestic and family violence training and professional development opportunities to funded domestic and family violence specialist services on an ongoing basis. This includes training concerning the gendered nature of domestic and family violence, perpetrator behaviors and culturally appropriate service delivery. The resources and training developed through WorkUP Queensland may be able to be used to inform the review and development of training for government frontline staff.</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and other agencies as appropriate, will liaise with peak professional bodies for generalist services who may come into contact with victims and their</p>	<p>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2023 the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women responded: In 2021 and in response to an initial review of the Domestic and Family Violence Toolkit of training resources (the Toolkit), Queensland Health rolled out the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Health Workforce Program (the Program) across the state and established a Domestic and Family Violence Community of Practice. The primary functions of the Program are to increase the capacity of hospital and health services to respond safely and appropriately to suspicions and disclosures of domestic and family violence. The Program is state-wide and delivers locally tailored training opportunities that are accessible by frontline health clinicians across facilities and clinical streams. The Toolkit actively promotes trauma-informed practice and a gendered analysis of domestic and family violence. A common perpetrator tactics working group was convened with resources developed including PowerPoint training slides, case scenario and facilitator notes, fact sheet for clinicians and identification of perpetrators in health records.</p> <p>A process of continuous improvement will be applied to the Queensland Health Toolkit of resources as an ongoing objective of the Department of Health, and as identified in other strategic drivers, specifically the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Hear Her Voice – Report One (Recommendation 24), Queensland Government Fourth Action Plan of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26, and the Queensland Audit Office report 'Keeping people safe from domestic and family violence'. Implementation of this recommendation is directly linked to and continues to be actioned and reported on under recommendation 24 of Hear Her Voice Report 1, Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Under this recommendation, Queensland Health is engaging a private consultant to undertake a review of the Queensland Health domestic and family violence Toolkit of resources and develop new content.</p>
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	<p>children or perpetrators of domestic and family violence to request they support staff to undertake domestic and family violence training, inclusive of the elements of this recommendation.</p> <p>Lead agency: Queensland Health</p>	
<p>Recommendation 2 – That the Queensland Government consider, as a matter of priority, how domestic and family violence training can be delivered to all frontline Queensland Health workers, to effectively and sustainably build and maintain domestic and family violence literacy across the secondary and tertiary healthcare systems.</p>	<p>Accept Queensland Health is rolling out the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Specialist Health Workforce Program (the Program) across the state. The primary functions of the Program are to build capacity within Hospitals and Health Services to respond safely and appropriately to DFV suspicions and disclosures. Capacity building will occur through the development and delivery of locally-tailored training opportunities that are accessible by frontline health clinicians across facilities and clinical streams. The Program will be externally evaluated and supported by a Central Coordinator and a Community of Practice.</p> <p>Lead agency: Queensland Health</p>	<p>The Queensland Government’s response to the recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2023 the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women responded: In 2021, Queensland Health committed to rolling out the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Health Workforce Program (the Program) across the state. The primary functions of the program are to build capacity within Hospitals and Health Services (HHSs) to respond safely and appropriately to domestic and family violence suspicions and disclosures. Capacity building occurs through the development and delivery of locally tailored training opportunities that are accessible by frontline health clinicians across facilities and clinical streams. The program is supported by a Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Central Coordinator and a Community of Practice.</p> <p>The Community of Practice supports the HHSs to share resources, protocols, practice approaches and facilitates state-wide reporting of data on the delivery of DFV training. The DFV Community of Practice identified a need for development of a capability framework to define common Queensland Health DFV behaviours, skills and knowledge, and the need for professional supervision and/or peer support for DFV clinicians. The Community of Practice developed a DFV telehealth state-wide guideline for all clinicians that use telehealth.</p> <p>The Program continues to build capacity within HHSs to respond safely, sensitively and effectively to suspicions and disclosures of DFV through the development and delivery of locally tailored training opportunities. Since commencement of the program, there have been 1,421 training sessions offered across the HHSs with 17,292 staff trained. The average time per face-to-face training session was 60 minutes. The DFV Specialist Health Workforce clinicians in some HHSs utilise the role as a point of contact for DFV, resulting in 1,153 case consults, 89% of these relating to patients as victim-survivor.</p> <p>With all 16 HHSs in receipt of recurrent funding for the program, Queensland Health will continue to deliver DFV training and expert advice to its frontline workforce through the DFV Specialist Health Workforce Program, supporting the DFV Specialist Health Workforce clinicians and Community of Practice, whilst providing ongoing development of integrated service responses. With recurrent funding secured to support the ongoing delivery of the DFV Specialist Health Workforce Program, this recommendation is considered accepted and implemented.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 – That the Queensland Government, as a matter of priority, review and enhance domestic and family violence training and resources to ensure that all frontline Queensland Health workers, particularly those in the areas of sexual health, mental health and alcohol and other drug services, understand domestic and family violence perpetrator tactics, complex trauma presentations, and the link between</p>	<p>Accept Queensland Health will review and update its DFV Toolkit of training resources to include information to support understanding of perpetrator tactics, the impacts of relational trauma and the links between suicidality and experiences of DFV.</p> <p>During 2021-22 and 2022-23, Hospitals and Health Services will prioritise the delivery of the DFV Toolkit of training resources to the frontline workforce within their sexual health, mental health and alcohol and drug services.</p> <p>Lead agency: Queensland Health</p>	<p>The Queensland Government’s response to the recommendation is implemented.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2023 the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women responded: Since 2021, Queensland Health has rolled out the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Health Workforce Program (the program) across the state. The primary functions of the program are to build capacity within Hospital and Health Services to respond safely and appropriately to domestic and family violence suspicions and disclosures. Capacity building occurs through the development and delivery of locally tailored training opportunities that are accessible by frontline health clinicians across facilities and clinical streams. The program is supported by a Central Coordinator and a Community of Practice. The Community of Practice and the Department of Health consulted with clinical and other stakeholders to develop content covering priority topics</p>

<p>suicidality and experiences of domestic and family violence.</p>		<p>for incorporation into the Queensland Health Domestic and Family Violence Toolkit of resources for health workers. This resulted in the temporary establishment of a Common Perpetrator Tactics working group to assist in the development of tailored training content. The Queensland Health Toolkit of resources and training package includes topic areas relevant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common perpetrator tactics • trauma awareness and trauma-informed practice • the gendered nature of domestic and family violence • culturally appropriate service delivery • suicidality links to mental health and alcohol and other drugs <p>Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Health Workforce clinicians have developed and are delivering training content to priority clinical areas such as; sexual health, mental health and alcohol and other drugs'. In response to recommendation 24 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Hear Her Voice – Report 1, Queensland Health is engaging a private consultant to undertake a comprehensive review of the Queensland Health Domestic and Family Violence Toolkit of resources and develop new content. The updated Toolkit will include training and resources on perpetrator tactics, complex trauma presentations and the link between suicidality and experiences of domestic and family violence. A process of continuous improvement will be applied to the Queensland Health Toolkit of resources as an objective of the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Health Workforce Program clinicians in collaboration with the Department of Health.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4 – That the Queensland Government request that universities and peak professional bodies incorporate evidence-based domestic and family violence education into professional undergraduate courses in key frontline areas, such as psychology, social work, law, criminology and health.</p>	<p>Accept In response to the Board's Recommendation 9 from their 2016-17 Annual Report, the Queensland Government liaised with relevant peak bodies to recommend ongoing domestic and family violence awareness training for registered practitioners.</p> <p>This recommendation seeks to take that work to the next stage, by ensuring that students receive relevant education before they commence practice in areas such as psychology, social work, law, criminology and health.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General will liaise with Queensland universities to request they review their undergraduate courses in areas such as psychology, social work, law, criminology and health to determine the extent to which these courses incorporate evidence-based domestic and family violence education, and consider introducing these elements into courses where they are not already in place.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Women's Safety, and Victims and Community Support)</p>	<p>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is in progress.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2023 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded: The Queensland Government has progressed scoping work to better understand the work already being done at state and national levels across the higher education sector to embed knowledge around domestic and family violence (DFV), its prevention and intervention.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has engaged with Queensland tertiary institutions and industry-led training bodies to embed evidence-based DFV education in undergraduate courses, including areas such as psychology, social work, law, criminology and health. This engagement is being undertaken in the context of the development of a DFV Training and Change Management Framework which will support training consistency and appropriateness across government and non-government sectors.</p> <p>Following the release of the DFV Training and Change Management Framework, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General will identify opportunities for further engagement with Queensland tertiary institutions.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9 – That the Queensland Government develop a standalone, system-wide strategy for responding to all perpetrators of domestic and family violence, regardless of their level of risk, with a focus on early detection, intervention, accountability and prevention. Any strategy should: a. consider the need for legislative and policy reforms to enhance mechanisms to hold perpetrators to account across a</p>	<p>Accept Continuing to address and strengthen responses to perpetrators to lower the incidence and severity of domestic and family violence is a priority for the Queensland Government, and at a national level. Significant work has been undertaken in this area since the release of the Not Now, Not Ever report, including a more than doubling of funding for perpetrator intervention programs since 2015-16.</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, in close collaboration with Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services and with support from other relevant agencies,</p>	<p>The Queensland Government's response to the recommendation is in progress.</p> <p>As at 31 December 2023, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Service and Minister for Women, Department of Youth Justice, Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services, Queensland Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service responded: The Queensland Government remains committed to holding persons using violence to account and keeping victim-survivors safe. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is developing a strategic, long-term framework to guide the Queensland Government's work in strengthening responses to all perpetrators of domestic and family violence (DFV).</p>

<p>range of government and non-government services, including specialist domestic and family violence services, police, court services, corrections, child protection services and public and private health and mental services;</p> <p>b. include measures to support early intervention, prevention and the accessibility and availability of perpetrator intervention programs and other programs or services addressing co-occurring issues such as mental health, harmful substance use and/or homelessness;</p> <p>c. be informed by research and the outcome of the advice referred to in Recommendation 8; and</p> <p>d. be developed in consultation with specialist support services, Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and other stakeholders, to ensure there are no unintended consequences.</p>	<p>commits to the development of a strategic, long-term framework to guide the Queensland Government's work in strengthening responses to all perpetrators of domestic and family violence. This will align with the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-26</i> and its action plans.</p> <p>Concerted, long-term effort across government is required to fully address the intent of this recommendation, including both specific DFV perpetrator interventions and services to address co-occurring issues such as mental health, harmful substance use and/or homelessness.</p> <p>The linkages between DFV and child protection will also be noted as part of the framework in light of the Board's findings which confirm the extensive harm children experience from DFV, with an awareness of their vulnerability to be built into the way the framework intervenes with perpetrators. Developmental and age-appropriate strategies will be considered for young people, noting that they can be both perpetrators and victims of DFV.</p> <p>Agencies note that any legislative and policy reforms (part A of this recommendation) and the advice referred to in recommendation 8 (part C of this recommendation) may be influenced by the work of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, which is due to report on coercive control in October 2021 and on its examination of broader issues for women in the criminal justice system in March 2022.</p> <p>Similarly, a review of the operation of the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> will also commence in this term of government. The proposed framework will be responsive to any relevant outcomes of these initiatives as they progress.</p> <p>In developing the framework, the Queensland Government acknowledges ongoing challenges such as the limited national and international evidence base regarding what works to reduce and prevent perpetration of domestic and family violence, and ongoing work required to increase the capacity and capability of the perpetrator intervention sector.</p> <p>Lead agency: Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Women's Safety, and Victims and Community Support)</p> <p>Supporting agency: Queensland Health, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Corrective Services, Department of Youth Justice and Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services</p>	<p>A consultation paper was publicly released in August 2023 seeking perspectives from the DFV sector, judicial and legal stakeholders, from Government and the broader community. It provided contextual information; outlined the purpose of the DFV perpetrator strategy; and included specific consultation questions. Submissions closed to the public on 22 September 2023 and a total of 70 responses were received (27 responses from individual community members and 43 responses from organisations). The responses alongside the extensive consultation undertaken by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce will be used to inform the whole-of-government strategy.</p> <p>The Queensland government is also committed to ensuring the responses to people using violence are informed by and specific to the needs of groups who are more likely to experience DFV and who face greater challenges in accessing appropriate support. This includes Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, people who identify as LGBTIQ+, young people and people who reside in rural, regional, and remote communities.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation is being undertaken in alignment with the Government Response to Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, Report One, <i>Hear her voice: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland</i>, in particular recommendations 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 37. These recommendations closely align with the intent of this recommendation.</p> <p>Informed by the responses received from the consultation paper and the building on the previous consultation work of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, the strategy for responding to persons using violence continue to be developed.</p>
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