

## Discussion paper SVPRF

Feedback received from TC community women age 24 – 46 yrs old in the week 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019 interpreted and summarised by Janine Andrews, CIOS manager TCWR:

1. What are the problems related to sexual violence in your community and in the NT that the Framework should consider?

Our main concerns are around alcohol and other drugs. We notice that most of this trouble is when men and women alike are abusing substances.

We have also noticed a few 'stalkers' around who seem to be individuals with obsessive qualities. These stalkers follow women around, spy on them, send them messages, hang around places where they are, provoking feelings of fear and insecurity.

2. What can be done to prevent sexual violence in your community and across the NT?

Encourage women and community members to call police when there is suspicious behaviour around or when they notice someone might be in trouble.

Don't choose to ignore these signs, even if you aren't sure. Talk to someone if there is suspicion of unhealthy behaviours.

3. What are the key elements of a successful sexual violence prevention program?

Very early intervention, the earlier the better.

Use interactive program material, rather than lots of words and only one person talking. Use pictures.

Get other peoples' perspectives, everyone needs a chance to share their knowledge so we all learn from each other.

One program cannot be used across all communities. Every area has their own way of understanding their own issues.

Programs need to be workable and changeable to suit the needs of its recipients.

**4. Where should sexual violence prevention program be delivered e.g. youth detention centres, schools,**

Yes detention centres, schools, BRADAAG, through Women's health programs, SARC, Men's centres. Sometimes men don't understand how their behaviour is impacting on women.

**5. Who should deliver sexual violence prevention program?**

Teachers, counsellors, elders should be invited to join these groups and encouraged to have their say. They might not be comfortable to facilitate the group themselves but the group would appreciate them being there and having a say. This is important for cultural reasons.

**6. What words should be used when we talk about people who have experienced sexual violence and people who commit sexual violence?**

Most people understand the term perpetrator. He may be referred to as a predator as well.

**7. What can be done to support and respond to children who have experienced sexual violence in your community and across the NT?**

We worry about children in kinship care and children in the care of people who are not family. Children need to feel safe. More checks can be done on children in care, whether family or not.

If they feel safe, they will talk up but if there is no one they feel comfortable with, they will not speak up and we only find out when it's too late.

Kids need more opportunities to talk up. Adults can be reminded to talk to the children, spend time with them, build trusting relationships with them, let them know they can talk up and not get into any trouble.

**8. What can be done to support and respond to young people who have experienced sexual violence in your community and across the NT?**

Be accepting of them, not shamed of them. Don't make them feel like they are pushed out because everyone is uncomfortable because of what's happened which is often with other family members. It's not the kids' fault.

They need to feel part of the family and see that adults are responding in a good way to protect them.

**9. What can be done to support and respond to children with problem and harmful sexual behaviours in your community and across the NT?**

Education around what to look out for so community members know the signs of problem behaviours.

What to do when we notice something unusual in a kids' behaviour. Some people might think these actions are normal for kids because they are children.

- 10. What can be done to support and respond to young people with problem and harmful sexual behaviours in your community and across the NT?**

Talk to them. If you are noticing unusual behaviour in a young person, sit privately with them and have a yarn. Are you okay?

Tell them you've noticed something and want to check in if everything's okay.

Reassure them that they can talk up and there are people to help them.

- 11. What can be done to support and respond to adults who have experienced sexual violence in your community and across the NT?**

As family, you are their best support. Step up and be there. Don't be shame to talk with them about their trauma and give them the time to express their feelings.

Sit with them, visit them, call them. Healing happens through relationships.

- 12. How can we strengthen the systems that respond to sexual violence in your community and across the NT?**

Sometimes it is easier to talk to someone from your own country, you might feel they will understand better.

**13. What kind of changes does the justice system need to make to respond better to sexual violence justice?**

Our legal services are really good here (agreed by women from TC, Alice Springs and Darwin)

Sometimes there is a lack of communication around perpetrator release dates. It is very important for women to know when that perpetrator is back in community, for her safety and for her family.