



FAQs

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND COMMON RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

What is the Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF)?

The RAMF comprises evidence based information and resources to support services and workers to **identify** domestic and family violence (DFV), **assess** risk and **respond** to risk.

The purpose of the RAMF is to increase the safety of DFV victim survivors, and increase accountability of people who commit DFV.

The RAMF provides consistency in DFV risk assessment and management across the Northern Territory's diverse service system.

The RAMF enables all services to share a consistent understanding, language and approach to DFV risk. This will help identify DFV as early as possible, and enable services to work together more effectively so people get the help they need.

What is contained in the RAMF?

The RAMF covers identification, screening, risk assessment, risk management (including safety planning) mandatory reporting, referrals and worker safety.

The RAMF includes 9 practice tools, including the Common Risk Assessment Tool (CRAT). It also includes information about DFV risk, impact and prevalence in the Northern Territory.

What is the Common Risk Assessment Tool (CRAT)?

The CRAT is an evidence based tool which is used to assess the risk of harm for a DFV victim survivor.

The CRAT combines evidence based risk factors, with the victim survivor's self-assessment of their risk, and the worker's professional judgement. Once completed, the CRAT provides

an assessed level of risk and recommended actions to respond.

The CRAT is also used to refer serious risk cases to the Family Safety Framework where it operates.

Who are the RAMF and CRAT for?

Victim survivors of DFV may enter the service system at a number of different points.

Because of this, the RAMF and CRAT are for use by all services responding to DFV including universal, statutory and specialist services.

While different services have different roles in relation to DFV risk assessment and response, every worker in the service system has a shared responsibility to respond, even if DFV is not their core business.

How is the RAMF related to DFV Information Sharing?

The RAMF is a foundational part of the DFV Information Sharing Scheme. The Scheme allows Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) to share relevant information to prevent, assess and manage serious threats of DFV.

The RAMF provides the framework and tools for DFV risk assessment and management, to inform information sharing.

More information about the Scheme is available on the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities website.

How is the CRAT related to the Family Safety Framework (FSF)?

The FSF is an action-based, integrated service response to people experiencing DFV who are at high risk of serious injury or death.

The CRAT is the tool used to make a risk assessment and refer a client to the FSF. The CRAT replaces the current FSF Risk Assessment Tool.

What do ISEs need to do?

ISEs are legally required to align their policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools with the RAMF. This is an ongoing process and will take time.

ISEs may choose to use the RAMF tools as a whole or to align and use their current tools, provided they are consistent with the evidence base.

If your organisation provides a DFV service and wants to apply to become an ISE, a simple application process is available on the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities website.

What do non-ISEs need to do?

The RAMF provides a uniform approach to DFV identification, assessment and response across the Northern Territory based on the most recent evidence. It is intended to guide and support *all* services, whether or not they are ISEs, to better identify and respond to DFV.

What if we already have risk management tools?

For services who already have their own DFV risk management tools, policies and practices, the RAMF and CRAT are designed to support the work already done and to provide additional resources.

Does the RAMF and CRAT include sexual violence within a DFV relationship?

The RAMF and CRAT includes sexual violence that occurs within a DFV relationship. Sexual violence must be

specifically considered in all risk assessment and management, because it is a high risk factor for serious harm and death.

How were the RAMF and CRAT developed?

The RAMF and CRAT were developed following a comprehensive consultation process with stakeholders including Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations, non-government organisations, peak bodies, legal services, government agencies, DFV specialist services and universal

services across the Northern Territory.

The development of the RAMF and CRAT incorporated the latest evidence on DFV risk assessment and management, including from NT coronial inquests, the FSF review, and national risk assessment principles.

How do I find out more?

Resources and training are being developed to support workers in using the RAMF and CRAT, and to help services align. Resources are available on the Department of

Territory Families, Housing and Communities website and further resources will be made available over time.

<https://territoryfamilies.nt.gov.au/dfv/riskassessmentmanagementframework>

You can also contact the Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Policy on (08) 89357803 or email: dfv@nt.gov.au

