

## COMMUNIQUE

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The second meeting of the NT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on Monday 8 April 2019. Outcomes from the meeting included:

### Updates on initiatives under the first Action Plan:

#### Information Sharing

Territory Families is undertaking targeted stakeholder engagement activities on the draft Domestic and Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines to support the introduction of the new information sharing scheme in August 2019. Briefings are being held across the Territory with stakeholders, and the draft guidelines are available on the Territory Families internet site for feedback.

A risk assessment and management framework is being developed in parallel to the guidelines being finalised. Territory Families is also developing workforce tools and templates to assist organisations participating in the information sharing scheme to meet their obligations.

Further information is available at <https://territoryfamilies.nt.gov.au/domestic-violence/domestic-and-family-violence-information-sharing-guidelines>.

#### Gender Equality Framework

The Gender Equality Framework is being developed to challenge, address and reduce the gendered drivers of violence against women; and create safe, supportive and inclusive communities with equal opportunities for all Territorians.

Territory Families is commencing community consultation, structured around four key focus areas: safety; health and wellbeing; economic security; and leadership and participation.

The Cross Agency Working Group provided advice and recommendations to Territory Families on additional community groups to actively engage with during the consultation process. A public online survey is being developed to enable all Territorians to have their say. Further information will be provided on the Territory Families website.

#### Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework

Territory Families presented the CAWG with its draft plan for developing the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework.

To date, more than 30 targeted consultations have occurred with Aboriginal women and men within government, Aboriginal community controlled organisations and specialist sexual assault government and non-government service providers to gain insights into the approaching community engagement activities, and to test the proposed priority areas for action in the Framework.

A number of key themes have emerged from these consultations and further stakeholder and community engagement will ensure the views of Territorians are taken into account to the extent possible in the development of the Framework.



Katherine Local Reference Group



Tennant Creek Local Reference Group



While still a work in progress, it is proposed the Framework will focus on:

- system reform;
- prevention and community awareness;
- child sexual abuse and exploitation;
- adults who have experienced sexual violence;
- adults who commit sexual violence
- support for children and young people with problem and harmful sexual behaviours.

A holistic approach is being taken to an issue that is the responsibility of the whole community to address, with a strong focus on healing and recovery for people who have experienced sexual violence and those who have committed sexual violence.

The CAWG agreed to take on the role of governing body for development of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework, thereby providing a multi-agency and multi-service advisory and decision-making governance arrangement.

#### Presentation from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services

Ms Chantelle Stratford presented an outline of the \$328m [Commonwealth Government investment](#) to underpin the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. Initiatives across a range of portfolio areas are being funded with a focus on improving frontline services, creating safe places, prevention strategies and support and prevention strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Opportunities for investment in NT services were identified and CAWG discussed the implications of this process on non-government organisations (NGOs). The limited availability of accurate and accessible Northern Territory data, particularly regional and remote datasets was identified as disadvantaging Territory NGOs in tender applications to the Commonwealth Government.

The CAWG agreed that Territory Families would lead a project to streamline collection and collation of available data for Territory NGOs to access.

#### Domestic Violence Justice Network (DVJRN) Journey Mapping Workshop Report

The CAWG noted the DVJRN Journey Mapping Workshop Report documenting the workshop held in November 2018. The workshop was important due to its emphasis on the experiences of victim/survivors of the justice system and found that better coordination across agencies is critical. The DVJRN is examining the findings and looking at priorities in the context of existing initiatives.

It was agreed it is important to link this work to the CAWG as the cross agency governance committee on domestic and family violence. Territory Families agreed to examine the intersection between the findings and existing initiatives in the first action plan.

The next CAWG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5 June 2019.