

DFSV Primary Prevention Community of Practice Communique June 2024

The Community of Practice

This is the fourth Communique for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Primary Prevention Community of Practice (CoP), an initiative of the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (TFHC), in partnership with Our Watch. This was the 12th CoP and the second face-to-face meeting, held on Tuesday 4 June 2024 in Alice Springs.

The CoP was established in 2023. It is an action of the [DFSV Reduction Framework](#) and the [DFSV Workforce and Sector Development Plan](#).

The purpose of the CoP is to facilitate peer learning and connection and enable participants to:

- reflect on current practice challenges, innovations and learnings;
- share successes and achievements - even minor ones;
- exchange skills, resources and knowledge and engage in skills development activities; and
- consolidate a shared understanding of good practice in primary prevention for the NT.

CoP members are organisations funded by TFHC for DFSV primary prevention projects delivered in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 financial years. Further details can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Participation

15 participants attended from 7 member organisations, with scheduling clashes, illness and travel to the meeting in-person in Alice Springs barriers to having all members attending.

Topics

The key topics:

- evaluation, monitoring and reviewing the [NT DFSV Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan](#);
- member sharing and discussion on knowledge translation tools and reporting templates; and
- Guest presenter: Toni Hawkins, Our Watch Practice Lead, Preventing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Member reflections

Evaluation and monitoring reflections included:

- Personal attributes of project workers and their skillsets are a key input into projects that can have positive or negative impacts on the process/progress of the work, particularly where cross-cultural engagement is part of the work.
- Past work and relationship history often pre-dates workers designing and implementing current projects and should be considered.

- Stages of readiness among target population groups, workers, organisations and partners can be difficult to ascertain and influenced by external events, however readiness is essential in setting work and planning achievable outcomes.
- Good processes and practice principles can be both inputs and outcomes, with organisational level changes both instigating and demonstrating elements of behaviour change.
- Data sovereignty is important to consider in evaluation. There is a need to balance demonstrating outcomes to funders while protecting the work, participants and/or change process from disruptive external factors. There is often a divide between western concepts and Indigenous concepts of evaluation and data collection. Collection of stories and case studies can be inappropriate and create mistrust amongst community.
- There are often differences in indicators of success between funding bodies and participants or communities involved in projects, which can impact on the quality and efficacy of the work and increase administrative burden. It is often difficult to accurately demonstrate how work leads to a certain outcome.
- Reporting on capable and effective workforce must acknowledge cultural knowledge and expertise, and not just formal training.

Member sharing and discussion included:

- Review of a member organisation knowledge translation tool demonstrating the relationship between the drivers of violence against women and essential actions. Participants provided feedback and advice on how the central analogy could generate recognisable situations to give life to the concepts.
- A member organisation shared a tool used in their work that draws from the socio-ecological model to create an understanding of the individual, societal, cultural and environmental factors relevant to the Aboriginal communities being engaged. This provides a way to identify sources of harm and support to find safe and appropriate resolution pathways for harmful situations or behaviours.
- Review of a member program theory of change to support workers to see their day-to-day work more readily and understand how this is aligned to the bigger picture change journey.
- Discussion around the reporting templates under the Safe, Respected and Free from Violence Prevention Grants, including qualitative data, case studies and process outcomes.

Workshop insights – challenges

Members shared challenges, including:

- Working to meet reporting requirements in an outcomes focussed funding environment is challenging. Where the work is highly sensitive and variable due to the holistic community-led nature of the work, members expressed the need to be skilful and creative to obtain funding that is often short-term and specific to certain issues.
- One member reflected that while there are broader societal changes in ending domestic, family and sexual violence and similar experiences of resistance and backlash, there is more intense scrutiny over this work in remote Aboriginal communities. Funding structures are often linked to deficit narratives, and there is a significant need for resourcing intersecting issues, and where this demand is not met, the readiness and capacity for social change is not always recognised.

For further information please contact TFHC Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Division dfv@nt.gov.au or 08 892 44170.