

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Cross Agency Working Group

COMMUNIQUE

The third meeting of the NT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on Wednesday 5 June 2019. At the meeting, CAWG members were updated on initiatives under the first Action Plan:

Information Sharing Scheme

The CAWG noted that further to consultations with the sector, the key components of the information sharing scheme are on track for commencement of the scheme in August 2019.

Workforce and Sector Development Strategy

The CAWG was advised that Territory Families has approved a planned approach to developing the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Workforce and Sector Development Strategy which includes.

- commissioning the services of a workforce capacity development auditor to undertake an audit of DFSV training needs across the Northern Territory;
- establishing a working group reporting to the CAWG and comprising representatives from across the DFSV services sector, to consider recommendations arising from the audit and advise on the development of an implementation plan for endorsement by the CAWG.

The CAWG approved the planned process and noted the importance of this strategy.

Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Conference

The CAWG acknowledged the success of the inaugural biennial Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Conference (the conference) and noted a post-conference report is nearing finalisation and will be available on the [Territory Families website](#).

Positive feedback provided by conference delegates and presenters included that they felt confident to be able to share their insights, concerns and successes in a safe space. The conference facilitated meaningful discussion for the domestic, family and sexual violence services sector on how to improve services and ensure people experiencing violence, families and communities are appropriately and effectively supported.

During one of the breaks in the conference, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants got together to draft a powerful statement which was presented to conference delegates.

CAWG members agreed this statement should be distributed broadly. The statement is attached.

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework

The CAWG noted progress in developing the draft Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework discussion paper, and noted that the discussion paper is expected to be released for public consultation in July 2019.

DFSV Framework Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The CAWG was provided an overview of progress by the consultants commissioned to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (MEP) for the [Northern Territory's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Framework 2018-2028: Safe, respected and free from violence](#).

Katherine Local Reference Group



Tennant Creek Local Reference Group



Consultations are being held with data custodians, policy experts and frontline workers in the domestic, family and sexual violence services sector across the Northern Territory to inform the MEP and ensure it provides a robust mechanism to measure the success of the Framework and the associated action plans over the next ten years.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report

The CAWG noted the release of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report: [Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia 2019](#).

For further information on the CAWG, please contact the Territory Families Gender Equality and Violence Reduction team by email at TF.DomesticViolenceDirectorate@nt.gov.au.

The next meeting of the CAWG is scheduled for 14 August 2019.

STATEMENT FROM ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Sharing and strengthening with us, for us

We, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants of the first 'Sharing and Strengthening our Practice Conference' 2019 would like to make a statement. This statement is on behalf of all the participants as leaders, experts, workers, community members, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers.

We have come from across the Northern Territory and Australia. We come from different countries, different mob, different cultures but with a same focus. A focus on making our families, our communities safer for our women and children and strengthening our family structures.

We want everyone to stop. Listen. Trust. Act.

Stop doing for us without us.

Listen to us. Practice deep listening. Listen with your heart.

We are the experts. We have the knowledge and lived experiences. Trust us to try new ways of doing things, our way. We will all learn together. Act with us not for us.

Understand healing and work with us to provide the space for it to happen. We can and will develop a practice to heal intergenerational trauma.

We have our own cultural family structures built on thousands of years of equality, respect and love. Learn from this and work with us to build programs and services to support it. We want our women and men to work together. This is how our families and communities operate.

Don't guide us. We will guide you. If we are not at the table with you, stop. Provide us with a genuine safe place to be involved then we can move forward.

Incorporate and practice cultural safety in our workplaces and communities.

Remember we are more than statistics. We are people. People that have heartache for our families and communities each time we hear these statistics.

This is our statement as participants of this conference. As leaders, experts, workers, community members, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. We've shared this with you. Now strengthen your practices with this knowledge.