

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Cross Agency Working Group – Communique 6

The sixth meeting of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on Wednesday 4 December 2019.

At the meeting, CAWG members were updated on progress implementing priority initiatives under Action Plan1: Changing Attitudes, Intervening Earlier and Responding Better (2018-2021). Members agreed to focus discussion on implementation of the Information Sharing Scheme and Family Safety Framework Review recommendations at upcoming CAWG meetings in early 2020.

Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum

The Department of Education CAWG representative presented an overview of the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum which integrates the South Australian resource *Responding to problem sexual behaviour in children and young people* and the Queensland *Family Planning Traffic Light Guide* for adults to identify, assess and respond to sexual behaviours which cause concern.

The Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum provides a common language and strategies for teachers, parents, carers and the community to help protect children. The curriculum is predicated on two main themes which are presented through topics and age-appropriate activities of increasing complexity: ***We all have the right to be safe***; and ***We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust***. As well as teaching children and young people strategies to help keep themselves safe, the curriculum also helps them recognise and understand what abuse looks like so they are able to determine if they or others are being abused.

Focus Discussion: Justice response to domestic, family and sexual violence

The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice representative facilitated a discussion on areas for reform in the justice system response to DFSV. The discussion built on a report provided to the second meeting of the CAWG in April 2019 titled *Journey Mapping Workshop Report*, which explored the voices and experiences of victim-survivors of DFSV in the Northern Territory justice system and identified potential reforms to strengthen the system and improve support. CAWG members discussed a number of issues arising from the Report, including that a legislative response is not necessarily the only solution and that training and a cultural shift are also important.

The CAWG noted that for sexual assault complainants and DFV complainants, the quality and compassion of the first response are critically important and discussed how the [Charter of Victims' Rights](#) could drive cultural change in how the justice system treats victims.

CAWG members noted the Justice Legislation Amendment (Domestic and Family Violence) Bill 2019 has been referred to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for review. Territorians can make a submission on this Bill to LSC@nt.gov.au by close of business Wednesday 29 January 2020.

The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice will present possible actions arising from the focus discussion at a CAWG meeting in early 2020.

GROW Model of family violence primary prevention

The Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network representative advised of the recently-released [GROW Model of family violence primary prevention](#), which was developed by Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program through the Mums Can Dads Can campaign.

Katherine Local Reference Group

Tennant Creek Local Reference Group



Story of Our Children and Young People

The Department of the Chief Minister CAWG representative informed members of the recently-released [Story of our Children and Young People](#), which provides an overview of the wellbeing of Territory children and young people.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the CAWG is scheduled for Tuesday 11 February 2020.