



## Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory Board on Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

### Communiqué: Meeting #3, 19 and 20 February 2024

The Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory Board (the Board) on Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSVM) held its third meeting in Darwin on 19 and 20 February 2024. All members of the Board attended the meeting in person and the Hon Kate Worden MLA, Minister for Prevention of Domestic Family and Sexual Violence was an apology.

#### **Governance**

The Board acknowledged the resignation of former member Michael Torres and thanked him for all of his contributions to the Aboriginal Advisory Board. The Board agreed the need to fill Michael's position, and this would be done through an open process with a recommendation to the Minister. The Board agreed that Kim Mullholland would be the Deputy Chair, and that Ms Seranie Gamble Executive Director DFSVR Division would be the new Ex Officio member for the Department of Territory Families Housing and Communities. The Board discussed the type of ongoing support they needed to provide secretariat for the Board and project work to coordinate information and advice for their priorities, in particular the preventative funding mechanism under Action Plan 2.

#### **Overview of DFSVR**

Staff from the DFSVR Division provided an update on Action Plan 2 for the Board. This included an overview of the new DFSVR Division, summary of initiatives and key actions for input from the Board. There was also discussion about the upcoming *Sharing and Strengthening our Practice* conference for the DFSV sector to be held on 3-6 June 2024 in Alice Springs and a commitment from the Board to present at the Conference.

#### **Representation at the DFSV Cross Agency Working Group**

The Board heard from one of the members about their attendance at the recent CAWG meeting in December 2023 and the ongoing opportunity for the Board to be represented at that forum. The Board confirmed the importance of joining up their work and providing advice about cultural issues impacting Aboriginal people experiencing DFSV to CAWG and its members and will continue to be represented at CAWG meetings.

#### **External presentations: DSS, NT Health & NT Police**

Representatives from the Women's Safety Group in the Department of Social Services (DSS) attended the meeting via teams to hear feedback from the Board about the recent funding grants. There was strong interest by the Board and DSS to have a standing agenda item for updates and information sharing from the Commonwealth on funding and other initiatives.

There was a working session with NT Health about the DFSV Clinical Guidelines Key Practice Adaptations. The NT Health representative gave an overview of the guidelines and discussed in detail with the Board the different approaches and issues medical practitioners experience when providing medical assistance to people experiencing domestic violence. The Board confirmed their strong desire to continue working with

# Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory Board on Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence - Communique February 2024

NT Health on the implementation and evaluation of the Guidelines, as a key area of opportunity to provide advice about cultural issues impacting frontline services.

Two Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) and the A/Assistant Commissioner of Domestic Violence and Youth from NT Police attended the meeting. They provided an overview of the work of ALOs, the DV and Youth Portfolio and the new Co-Responder Pilot in Alice Springs. The Board were interested in providing advice and assistance on training, resources and support for ALOs and police more broadly as a key frontline service interacting with Aboriginal people experiencing DFSV.

Special international guest Kelly Kay Hallman, from the Cherokee Nation Founder and Executive Director of the Indigenous Justice Circle. Kelly provided overview of work, which is trauma-informed and honours Indigenous histories and lived experiences. Indigenous Justice Circle vision is that current and future generations of Indigenous girls/young women, boys/young men and LGBTQI tell their own stories, produce their own evidence, and access resources to create the alternative futures they envision. Indigenous Justice Circle focus on strengths, not deficits, of Indigenous communities while recognizing the myriad challenges they face.

The Board shared the similarities in issues and vision and will remain connected with Kelly and Indigenous Justice Circle.



## Community Led Prevention Initiatives Fund

The Board discussed their role and responsibility under Action Plan 2 to establish and implement an Aboriginal led DFSV prevention initiatives fund. The Board discussed what their role would be in managing funding to support the increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of healthy, safe and respectful relationships (including understanding non-physical forms of DFSV) in remote communities and contribute to longer term prevention of DFSV. The Board requested the DFSVR Division develop options based on their discussion to progress the funding opportunity this financial year.

## Confirmed priorities

The Board confirmed their ongoing priorities to focus on providing advice to the Minister about lived experiences, truth telling, grassroots initiatives, centring the voice of Aboriginal people and how DFSV services could be more culturally and healing informed. The Board agreed to convene a meeting following the release of findings and recommendations made by the Coroner in relation to the deaths of four Aboriginal women, acknowledging the importance of this inquest and the role the Board can play in providing advice to the Minister about the way forward with Aboriginal people. The Board are keen to keep receiving information from the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government about what funding is allocated to DFSV in the Northern Territory to enable them to provide more meaningful advice about how this is working on the ground for Aboriginal people.

## Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory Board on Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence - Communique February 2024

The Board noted the ongoing discussion occurring locally and at the national level about a peak DFSV body and the place of an Aboriginal peak body in this space. The Board confirmed they would like more information about this before taking a position. The Board were also interested in the Commonwealth commitment to develop the First Nations National Plan.



Figure 1 Laurin Peric discussing priorities of the Board



The Board requested the link to the video viewed at their first meeting in May 2023 be shared in this communique.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJIJXTVSdA>

Spoken in Roper Kriol, this animation talks about different kinds of violence such as physical, financial, cultural and ceremonial, social, sexual and verbal. This video was researched, written and produced by the Yugul Mangi Ngukurr Family Violence Prevention Working Group facilitated by Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation in collaboration with Ngukurr Story Project and Studio Gilay.

The video is championed by Rhoda Dhurrkay, Board Member and the Board Chair said that full credit goes those involved in the development of the video and Rhoda for all their hard working developing and sharing the video.