



COVID-19 Family and Domestic Violence Communique

Summary update 24 June 2020

The below update is provided in lieu of the next meeting of the Family and Domestic Violence Communique, rescheduled for Thursday 2 July 2020.

On 27 May 2020, the Premier announced how the government is engaging with stakeholders and the community to support the State's recovery efforts. This includes:

- the establishment of the State Recovery Advisory Group
- a series of ministerial roundtable discussions
- use of iThink and public sentiment tracking to canvass the community more broadly.

The Taskforce and workstreams are contributing to the State's recovery planning efforts. This work involves planning for anticipated demand across sectors and support services to assist women and children transition to independent living.

Commonwealth Government National Partnership Agreement

\$130 million Commonwealth funding under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses will be provided to states and territories in four phases.

In phase one, Western Australia received an upfront payment of \$3.1 million which was distributed to 45 Department of Communities' (Communities) specialist family and domestic violence organisations delivering a range of FDV services. Under the NPA, services can utilise funding across the four priority areas endorsed by the Commonwealth Women's Safety Council:

1. Increase Safe at Home capacity, including a Safe at Home program specifically designed for Aboriginal women and children in the metropolitan area
2. Perpetrator case management and coordination
3. Brokerage and accommodation
4. Child advocacy and support

Priority areas for funding for phases two to four under the NPA will be considered by the Women's Safety Council at its June meeting. Western Australia received \$545,000 of the \$4.7 million contingency fund in June 2020 in phase two and will receive \$3.391 million in phase three. This represents WA's share of the 30 per cent demand driven fund, however it is unknown at this point in time the amount of funding to be allocated in phase four.

Workstreams are contributing to Commonwealth funding project plans to identify areas of future service demand and sector need. This ensures Commonwealth investment is distributed to where it is most needed and that the sector is resourced to respond effectively.



WA Family and Domestic Violence Data Dashboard

A data dashboard is under development and input from stakeholders is ongoing to determine the parameters of how data may be used to inform the work of the Taskforce. Different data sources require different approvals and work is continuing to reach a consensus on how this can be best achieved.

It is proposed for data to be collected from traditional and non-traditional sectors across metropolitan and regional and remote areas.

Noting the complexities and sensitivities of data, the dashboard will only be used by the Taskforce and Women's Safety Council to inform planning purposes.

Communications

Communities' [Community video campaign](#) went live on Wednesday 17 June 2020. The campaign supports victims and survivors of family and domestic violence. The Premier, Minister McGurk and Police Commissioner were among community members to voice their support for victims and survivors of abuse. Taskforce members from the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services, Starick, Zonta, and Stopping Family Violence assisted with the conceptualisation/development of the video. The support messages emphasised:

- Violence is not ok
- You have a right to feel safe
- Support is available 24/7
- Reach out and get the support you need

Family and Domestic Violence Workstream Outcomes

Below is a summary of work progressed by workstream's supporting the Taskforce:

Victims and Families' Response System

- Input into the first project plan for phase one funding totalling \$3.09 million completed.
- Regular surveying of refuges and collection of data coordinated through the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services.
- Investigating innovative service delivery models that support practice changes and service adaptations, so women and children can continue to access services during heightened times of risk.



Family and Domestic Violence Response Team System

- A family and domestic violence central triage model implemented in the Kimberley to support local police prioritise family and domestic violence incident reports.
- Stopping Family Violence engaged to support the central assessment team and Kimberley response team. Teams are incorporating perpetrator case management into service delivery planning and delivery.
- Joint response teams established across 17 districts are facilitating opportunities to share technology and connect with other government agencies and services

Perpetrator Visibility and Accountability System

- Input into the first project plan for phase one funding totalling \$3.09 million completed.
- Identifying the impact of COVID-19 on men's behaviour change programs when face to face services recommence.
- Developing training and professional development to support front line services identify multiple harms caused by perpetrators against victims and children. These practices will build pathways to support victims/survivors and hold perpetrators to account.

Justice

- Planning for the implementation of Rules and Regulations for the *Family Violence Legislation Reform (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020*.
- Implemented rules and regulations for online violence restraining orders procedures and provision of training for legal services on the new system.
- Monitoring and planning for anticipated demand for community legal services arising from economic and social impact of COVID-19.

Rapid Training and Development

- Communities' Learning and Development Centre has finalised learning materials and practitioner tools to train and upskill staff in the sector. Online resources include:
 1. FDV Fundamentals in Child Protection' workbook and learner guide.
 2. FDV Essentials' e-learning resource uploaded to Moodle. Suitable for Communities staff and external agencies.
 3. Gendered Violence in the Workplace' e-learning resource.

Integrated Service System and Information Sharing

- COVID-19 has demonstrated positive learnings and collaborative approaches for sharing information across agencies and sectors. These learnings will inform an integrated approach for future information exchange and sharing between government agencies and services.



Family and Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan

- Finalising the Minister for Family and Domestic Violence endorsement of the Strategy and Action Plan.
- Communities' Corporate Communications team are finalising the design.
- The Minister will confirm a launch date for the strategy and action plan in the coming weeks. Communities will send a link to the strategy and action plan to all Taskforce, workstream and Communique members.

Further information

To find out more about the how the Department of Communities and its partners are supporting women and children impacted by family and domestic violence during this pandemic please access the following:

- **Web:** <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19/family-and-domestic-violence-covid-19/>
- **Email:** COVID19FDVTaskforce@communities.wa.gov.au