



**Western Australian  
Family and Domestic Violence  
Action Plan 2005-2006**



Department for  
Community Development  
Family and Domestic Violence Unit

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN 2005 – 2006

## Focus Area One

### Identify and Address Emerging Areas for Research

*Working directly with clients to identify needs (their safety needs being particularly vital) is both an informed and empowering approach. Researching new and emerging areas creates the foundation for an evidence-based approach and better practice.*

#### **Strategy** – Protection Prevention Provision

Monitor and disseminate local, national and international research on emerging family and domestic violence issues that respond to the needs of diverse groups.

#### **Action:**

The Fremantle Regional Domestic Violence Coordinating committee will undertake consultation and development of a service delivery model for Aboriginal people experiencing family and domestic violence in the Fremantle region. This project is a partnership between the Fremantle Regional Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee and Department for Community Development, Fremantle Office.

The Department of Housing and Works will undertake a literature review together with other research to obtain best practice advice to assist in developing housing policy related to family and domestic violence.

The Office for Children and Youth will conduct and facilitate research into areas identified as being of concern through consultation processes, literature reviews and other tools. This includes national research, commissioned through the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme. The Office will work collaboratively across government to implement policies and programs that will address issues of concern impacting on children and youth.

The Western Australia Police will establish and maintain partnerships with tertiary institutions, Child Protection Council and other inter-departmental committees to support collaborative responses to family and domestic violence and assist in the development and implementation of Action Plans.

The Department of Health is undertaking research assessing the frequency and severity of violence related behaviours in Western Australian against young people to inform policy and practice in intentional injury control. The Department has engaged with Edith Cowan University Child Health Research Unit with a grant of \$65,000 for 2004-2006.

The Disability Services Commission will integrate family and domestic violence data into the Serious Incident Reporting process of the Commission. This is an across disability sector process (funded and provided services). This will generate aggregated data related to service provision to people with disabilities.

The Department of Justice is negotiating a partnership arrangement with the University of South Australia to comprehensively evaluate the efficacy of existing family and domestic violence perpetrator programs.

The Department of Justice has negotiated a partnership with Edith Cowan University to evaluate the Family Violence Court, Joondalup in 2005/2006.

A collaborative partnership between Department of Justice, Western Australian Police, Family and Domestic Violence Unit and the Department for Community Development will continue to work on the Domestic Violence Homicide project. This inter-agency project examines Domestic Violence related homicides during 2001-2002. A range of recommendations will be developed.

The Department for Community Development will take up the ongoing recommendations of the Child Death Review Committee including the redevelopment of the Department's family and domestic violence policy and review of operational guidelines in regards to assessment, service provision and recording of family and domestic violence and through strengthened collaborative responses to family and domestic violence with the Police.

## **Focus Area Two**

### **Facilitate Community Education to Raise Public Awareness**

*Educating the community to respond to incidents of family and domestic violence raises awareness and allows for public debate on the issue. Raising awareness can also help to create an environment where it is safe to seek help and can impact positively on community attitudes.*

#### **Strategy - Prevention**

Create awareness among students of issues including family and domestic violence, bullying and sexual harassment.

#### **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit, in partnership with the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Service and the Department of Education and Training will develop a peer education program for high schools.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit, in partnership with the Office for Children and Youth will develop a range of resources for young people regarding family and domestic violence and dating violence.

All Department of Education and Training schools are required to have a behaviour management plan that specifically addresses issues of violence, bullying and harassment. The Behaviour Management in Schools Policy is currently being reviewed and will have an expanded component that addresses issues of bullying and harassment. Student Services staff will provide schools with support for issues related to domestic violence, bullying and sexual harassment.

Issues of domestic violence, bullying and sexual harassment are regularly highlighted within Department of Education and Training forums that address implementation of the revised Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

The Department of Education and Training has a specific focus on developing the health and well being of students and staff. This includes the ongoing roll out of the 'Pathways to Social and Emotional Development' resource across the system in 2005.

The Department of Education and Training is working collaboratively with the Family and Domestic Violence Unit, DCD to undertake early intervention initiatives in six public schools. Each school has received funding to support school based initiatives and teacher relief payments to attend centrally convened project meetings. Schools are developing individual strategies that meet their needs in the context of their local communities. DET has also worked independently with an additional school.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit, in partnership with the Department of Education and Training will pilot early intervention and prevention programs in five primary and one secondary school.

Legal Aid will maintain and develop community legal education (CLE) work with tertiary students. The agency will also work with other agencies to seek to have university courses, especially law incorporate Family Violence training.

The Department of Justice through Community Justice Service staff will become involved in delivering education/training sessions to university social work students at the University of Western Australia and Curtin University.

The Pilbara Regional Domestic Violence Council will support the GTX Guy Talk Extreme Project in Tom Price/Paraburdoo.

The course has been designed to address life skills development and harm minimisation strategies and promote change in behaviours and perceptions of the local young males.

#### **Strategy - Prevention**

Increase the capacity of the community to identify and appropriately respond to incidents of family and domestic violence through an education and public awareness campaign.

## **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will undertake a review of the Freedom from Fear Campaign to report on the achievements to date, assess its ongoing relevance, the appropriateness of campaign strategies in the current environment and provide recommendations regarding future directions.

The Women and Children's Health Service will develop a public education program within the Women's and Children's Health Service on family & domestic violence, especially the impact on children.

The Drug and Alcohol Office will conduct a workshop that aims to assist workers in managing domestic violence issues with alcohol and other drug using clients.

The Drug and Alcohol Office will implement an *Enough is Enough* alcohol education project that aims to reduce the acceptability of the harms associated with drunkenness and create safer private and licensed drinking settings conducive to low risk drinking by:

- Increased awareness of the harms associated with drunkenness on the community
- Decreasing the community's acceptance of problematic behaviours associated with drunkenness including the severity of family and domestic violence
- Increasing awareness of uncontrolled access and consumption as a major facilitator of drunkenness in the community
- Increasing the community's ability to reduce public drunkenness and support for environmental change.

Department of Justice Victim Support Service Education Officer will work with Neighbourhood Watch groups and community radio stations to raise awareness of services for victims of crime, including family and domestic violence.

## **Focus Area Three**

### **Implementation of Standards, Competencies and Best Practice Guidelines**

*Attention to the area of standards, competencies and best practice will enable services, prevention programs and protection strategies to ensure the best possible outcome for the community with a focus on the safety of those experiencing family and domestic violence.*

#### **Strategy - Prevention**

Form working relationships with the Judiciary and related officers in respect to legislative reform and provide information on new legislative provisions and social aspects of family and domestic violence.

#### **Action**

The Western Australia Police will establish and maintain partnerships with the Judiciary and related officers to provide input and feedback to influence new legislation that affects family and domestic violence issues.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will work toward providing information and resources to members of the legal fraternity including judges and magistrates.

The Department for Community Development has input into review of family and domestic violence related legislation and will consider family and domestic violence issues in the implementation of the Children and Community Services Act 2004.

Legal Aid will develop with other stakeholders a family and domestic violence induction and training package for new magistrates and conduct research around the issue of emotional abuse to support a proper and broad interpretation.

#### **Strategy - Prevention**

Encourage the implementation of domestic violence training using the nationally endorsed competency standards.

#### **Action**

Department of Housing and Works staff training programs include an external consultant that presents discrete courses targeting family and domestic violence. This is a two day course and is mandatory for staff to attend.

The Department of Education and Training will continue to support initiatives emanating from the Department for Community Development that focus on domestic violence training and the national competency standards.

The Western Australia Police will provide appropriate training and education in Concept of Operations relating to family and domestic violence, specifically targeting new recruits, front line police officers, supervisors and managers.

The Women and Children's Health Service will expand the ongoing staff development program at to increase awareness and responses to family domestic violence.

The Disability Services Commission will increase employee awareness of domestic violence in the workplace by implementing a schedule of training for its line managers and staff. The Commission will provide bi-annual training for all Metropolitan Services staff through a "Partnerships in Protection" awareness exercise.

All new staff to the Disability Services Commission will be provided with an introduction to the Commission's Care and Protection Policy that includes family and domestic violence. The Commission will also update its on-line "People at Risk" training package to include family and domestic violence available for all staff in the Metropolitan Service Coordination, Country Service Coordination and Accommodation Services Directorates.

The Department of Justice, Community Justice Service will deliver 3 days of mandatory Family and Domestic Violence training to Community Correction and Juvenile Justice Officers. Justice, through the Family and Domestic Violence and Victims committee, is utilising the competency standards as part of its response to consistent training across the department.

Mandatory family and domestic violence training for all Legal Aid staff will occur.

The Department for Community Development, through Community Skills Training Centre, will provide a range of specific family and domestic violence courses which are aligned to national standards, research and best practice. This training will target staff from the department and agencies in the community services and Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program sector. This Training will address skills required to address cultural and geographic diversity and the needs of marginalised groups and consider a range of delivery styles appropriate to differing levels of understanding and promote multi-agency training at a local level.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will review and update best practice frameworks for working with victims and perpetrators of family and domestic violence.

## **Focus Area Four**

### **Develop Policy through Planning and Facilitation**

*Consistent across government policy and service delivery will ensure people experiencing family and domestic violence are responded to in a consistent and appropriate manner.*

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Support schools to improve their responses to local family and domestic violence issues especially targeting transient, mobile and truanting students.

#### **Action**

The Department of Education and Training has a cross-sectoral agreement to track students who have been reported as missing from Government and non Government schools. The list of children whose whereabouts are unknown is distributed to all Government and non Government schools with case management occurring between agencies to locate students and re-engage them in educational programs.

From 1 January 2006 The Department of Education and Training will engage in a national common transfer protocol for all students.

The Department of Education and Training is reviewing its Attendance Policy.

The Department of Education and Training provides financial support to the Catholic Churches Commission and the Smith Family to assist schools in supporting families for a range of issues, including family and domestic violence.

The Department of Education and Training produced information materials for students and parents promoting the value of school and the benefits obtained from regular attendance at school.

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Ensure current policy in respect to victims of crime is extended across Government.

#### **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will establish a group of survivors of family and domestic violence to provide feedback and advice on government policy and program initiatives.

The Department of Housing and Works rental policy will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the whole of government approach. Regional Managers are members of local crime prevention groups.

The Women and Children's Health Service will develop policies and guidelines beyond antenatal clinics to ensure consistent collaborative services within the service.

The Disabilities Services Commission will provide representation to the Senior Officers Victims of Crime Committee to ensure that the interests of people with disabilities are acknowledged and considered in developing policy for Victims of Crime.

The Department for Community Development will redevelop the Department's Family and Domestic Violence Policy to encapsulate the intent of the victims of crime policy.

The Department of Justice be represented on the Senior Officer's Group and develop victim's policy to be considered for implementation on a state wide basis.

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Encourage the involvement of private organisations in working toward enhancing the safety of those experiencing family and domestic violence.

#### **Action**

The Office of Senior's Interests and Volunteering is leading the development of a National Policy Framework on Elder Abuse Prevention. Working with the Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: WA to implement strategies developed in its strategic plan for 2005-08.

The Office will identify appropriate prevention strategies to address the issue of elder abuse with a particular focus on CALD and Indigenous communities.

These activities include OSIV working with Queensland and the ACT to develop a discussion paper on the topic of a National Policy Framework on Elder Abuse Prevention. OSIV has commenced a community consultation process to identify priorities for action to address elder abuse in the community. Alliance members will identify and prioritise action to meet the objectives of the strategic plan for 2005-2008. OSIV will work with the Office of the Public Advocate to examine the results of research conducted into elder abuse in CALD and Indigenous communities to identify appropriate preventative strategies.

The Department of Housing and Works rental policy will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the whole of government approach. Regional Managers are members of local crime prevention groups.

**Strategy - Protection**

Ensure local district teams within the Department of Education and Training are resourced to enhance interagency and community collaboration.

**Action**

The Department of Education and Training will provide representation on Regional Domestic Violence Committees, considered in the context of District planning.

**Strategy - Protection**

Provide advocacy and access support for children and families in supported care or accommodation.

**Action**

Support and advocacy services for children in supported care and accommodation are funded and provided by the Department for Community Development.

The Western Australian Police Service will implement the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program protocols.

## Focus Area Five

### Improve Inter-agency Coordination, Co operation and Collaboration

*Working in a coordinated and collaborative way will reduce the overlap and increase the efficiency of programs. Working in partnership improves the level of support offered to those experiencing abuse and will ensure the safety of women and children is upheld at all times.*

#### **Strategy - Provision**

Ensure co-ordination structures are linked to the whole of government approach.

#### **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will review the regional domestic violence committee model to ensure a collaborative and coordinated approach which is linked to other whole of government strategies.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will establish a senior officer's group to provide direction and advice on progressing the State Strategic Plan, Legislative reform and other family and domestic violence policy initiatives.

Department of Housing and Works senior managers participate on various coordinative committees, including the Human Services Director General Group, Strong Families and the Supported Housing Assistance Program, State Advisory Council.

Drug and Alcohol Office will support alcohol and other drug treatment agencies to implement the *WA Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Quality Framework*, incorporating a holistic model of service provision, including partnerships and referral to domestic violence support services.

The Western Australia Police are represented on regional domestic violence committees. In that capacity they will work in a collaborative way to develop and implement the State Strategic Plan.

The Department of Education and Training will continue to be actively involved in a number of interdepartmental working parties and committees including:

- State Family and Domestic Violence Committee Senior Officers Group
- Interdepartmental Child Protection Committee
- Interagency Family and Domestic Violence Data Collection Steering Committee
- Shaken Baby Syndrome Committee
- Animal, Family and Community Violence Prevention Committee
- SAAP State Advisory Committee

Partnerships will continue to be developed to support collaborative responses to children in educational settings whose safety is at risk.

The Department for Community Development continues to have active participation on regional domestic violence committees. The Department has established designated officers, or roles, having key responsibilities for liaison and coordination of family and domestic violence responses with the Police. The Department has active participation in across government Senior Officer Groups to develop and promote coordinated agendas regarding family and domestic violence. The Department assigns portfolio responsibility to designated policy and program officers to ensure departmental policies and operations are aligned with across government change and coordination agendas and actively participates in developing and actioning annual Action Plans in accordance to the *Western Australian Family and Domestic Violence State Strategic Plan 2004-2006*.

Local Community Justice Service staff of the Department of Justice continue to be involved in the family and domestic violence regional committees. The Joondalup Family Violence Court case management process involves agencies across the government and non government sector in managing offenders on mandated programs.

#### **Strategy - Provision**

Promote the development of local community intervention through strengthening existing models of collaboration.

**Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will deliver a conference for Regional Domestic Violence Committees and other key stakeholders with national and international experts on models of coordinated responses.

The Fremantle Regional Domestic Violence Committee will work toward the full implementation of the DVAS model developed and endorsed by local agencies. The project was driven by agencies in the region working together to enhance the safety of victims and exploring ways of ensuring people do not fall through service gaps. DVAS Fremantle has the commitment of key agencies and local Government to provide a co-located service which will address the holistic needs of those affected by family and domestic violence. The service will also develop an educational role after implementation.

The Department of Housing and Works has senior managers who are members of Senior Officers Groups, represented at the Human Services Director General Group and through local participation.

The Women and Children's Health Service will maintain the involvement of staff on relevant interagency committees and programs.

The Western Australian Police will work to develop and strengthen existing models of collaboration.

Staff of the Disability Services Commission will participate on regional family and domestic violence committees where appropriate.

Legal Aid will maintain participation in the Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network and expand to include the Indigenous Family Violence Law Centres.

The Department for Community Development will contribute to coordination and collaboration through the continued development of the Strong Families program across the state, ongoing representation on local domestic violence regional committees, the development and promotion of local collaborative community initiated interventions to address family and domestic violence at the local level, and will continue development of protocols between the SAAP sector and key stakeholders to promote improved collaboration and service access.

## **Focus Area Six**

### **Enhance Screening and Risk Management**

*Incorporating consistent screening practice into existing services such as hospitals and child protection agencies, allows family violence to be identified and responded to appropriately and in a timely manner.*

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Develop and implement consistent screening tools for identifying family and domestic violence among clients who attend mainstream government services and hospital accident and emergency departments. Ensure screening meets the needs of Indigenous and CALD communities.

#### **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit in partnership with the Women and Children's Health Service will implement a project to develop policy, guidelines and training for screening in health and other government settings.

Women and Children's Health Services will evaluate the antenatal screening program to inform expansion of the screening strategies in other relevant services.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will partner with Divisions of General Practice (Osborne, Canning, Perth and Hills) and Regional Domestic Violence Committees (Central Metropolitan, Armadale Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Mirrabooka, Perth West) to provide family and domestic violence training and resources to General Practitioners and their practice staff.

The Western Australian Police will develop trust and collaborative partnership with Indigenous and CALD community group leaders.

The Department of Justice Community Justice Service will continue to train and use the internationally researched Spousal Abuse Risk Assessment tool.

Legal Aid will develop and implement Domestic Violence best practice guidelines including consistent screening tools across all services.

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Develop and monitor screening for family and domestic violence where a child protection intervention is underway.

#### **Action**

District Child Protection and Family Violence officers will work collaboratively with local DCD Offices to identify and case manage families and children at risk.

The Department for Community Development will strengthen established protocols between the Department and Western Australia Police in regard to notification and referrals of families affected by family and domestic violence, strengthen collaborative case management between the Department and Western Australian Police in regard to families where serious family and domestic matters exist and develop and implement screening processes for family and domestic violence in departmental case practice, in particular where child protection issues are identified and statutory intervention may be required.

The Department of Education and Training will continue to implement agreed protocols with the Department for Community Development to support this strategy.

## Focus Area Seven

### Improve Service Capacity to Respond Effectively to Diversity

*The extent to which a diverse population can access services is important in ensuring the needs of the community are met. Through collaborative planning, advocacy and brokerage the equitable access to existing services is facilitated.*

#### **Strategy - Provision**

Explore co-location options for services to support a coordinated response and encourage the development of multi-purpose services in remote areas.

#### **Action**

The Department of Housing and Works assists in co-location options for services through various committees and programs such as the Gordon Enquiry, Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate, Aboriginal Tenant Support Services – Place Management, Supported Housing Assistance Program, GEHA accommodation – Multi Function Police Facilities.

The Department of Education and Training will continue to establish shared service provision of school sites. In 2004, a site was established at Midvale. The Sevenoaks College and Kwinana schools are exploring the concept.

The Western Australia Police, as a member of tri-state working party developing and improving policing and justice services to the combined Aboriginal lands bordering WA, NT and SA.

The Western Australia Police will design, build and resource remote multi-jurisdictional facilities, as well as advertise, select and appropriately train those staff for the remote location.

Department of Justice, Victim Support Service will provide visiting services to Multi Function Police Facilities in remote areas.

The Department for Community Development will continue to promote opportunities for co-located and coordinated service responses.

#### **Strategy – Provision**

Enhance the provision of support offered to women experiencing family and domestic violence who are unable or do not access supported accommodation in crisis situations.

#### **Action**

The Department of Housing and Works will provide support through the Homeless Helpline, support programs, bond assistance, rental housing, priority assistance, collaboration and the provision of women's centres and refuges for larger communities.

The Women and Children's Health Service will develop strategies to increase access to family domestic violence services within WCHS, especially for indigenous families, the elderly, same sex couples and CALD families.

The Western Australia Police, in partnership with relevant support agencies and/or community groups develop and implement responses to provide the correct level of support and access to services.

The Department for Community Development will support the partnership with DVAS Central to ensure support is available for those affected by family and domestic violence on an outreach or community basis. The Department will participate in the development of other integrated community services for families affected by family and domestic violence. The Department will continue to provide assistance through the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline and Crisis Care.

Community Justice Service staff contact victims of family and domestic violence in the course of preparing thorough Pre-Sentence Reports. This is an opportunity to refer victims to support services.

The Victim Support Services through a network of 13 regional counsellors and the metropolitan based family violence services provide priority assistance to victims of family violence.

**Strategy - Provision**

Enhance the provision of support to children living with the effects of family and domestic violence.

**Action**

The Western Australia Police, in partnership with relevant support agencies and/or community groups will develop and implement responses to provide the correct level of support and access to services. This will aim for a reduction in repeat incidents involving victims who have accessed services.

Programs provided by the Department of Housing and Works include, Supported Housing Assistance Program, Community Housing Branch-Crisis Accommodation Program, Aboriginal Tenant Support Services & Homeless Helpline.

Programs with departmental representation include Gordon Enquiry, Strong Families, Senior Officers Groups & the Human Services Director General Group.

The Department for Community Development will provide and participate in training programs for departmental staff and other service providers in regards to the effects of family and domestic violence on children.

The Department for Community Development will continue the development of Gordon Inquiry initiative Safe People Safe Places for children and young people in metropolitan and rural areas.

The Department for Community Development will provide funding and support for services to children experiencing family and domestic violence.

The Department for Community Development will participate, in partnership with other key stakeholders, in information and community forums aimed at raising awareness of the impact of family and domestic violence on children.

The Department of Justice - Victim Support Service, Child Witness Service provides a specialist service to child witnesses who are required to give evidence in trials.

The Department of Education and Training will conduct mandatory training of all school staff in the implementation of the revised Child Protection Policy and Procedures. Training includes how to support children who have been exposed to maltreatment.

**Strategy - Provision**

Monitor the level of support and counseling offered to partners of men who access services.

**Action**

The Department of Justice -Community Justice Service via its contracts with service providers for the provision of perpetrator programs and services ensures that routine, adequate & safe contact of victims is adhered to.

**Strategy - Provision**

Extend the provision of support to Aboriginal women in remote areas living with family and domestic violence.

**Action**

The Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate of the Department of Housing and Works delivers support through multi function police facilities and community based refuges.

The Western Australia Police, in partnership with relevant support agencies and/or community groups will develop and implement responses to provide the correct level of support and access to services.

The Western Australia Police will establish remote multi-jurisdictional facilities.

The Department of Justice - Victim Support Services through a network of 13 regional counsellors will provide priority assistance to victims of family violence.

The Department for Community Development will fund the implementation of a family and domestic violence service in Meekatharra and the provision of a family and domestic violence service the Ngaanyatjarra lands.

Legal Aid will develop specific strategies in conjunction with regional offices, Aboriginal Legal Service, Indigenous Family Violence Legal Centres and local regional communities to increase services and support for Aboriginal women in Family Violence.

**Strategy - Provision**

Establish a model to determine the needs of individual communities to develop effective programs for Aboriginal men who use violence.

**Action**

The Western Australian Police will establish remote multi-jurisdictional facilities.

The Department of Justice - Community Justice Service has initiated an innovative project to establish an Indigenous Family and Domestic Violence perpetrator program to be piloted in Broome. This has involved an extensive process of community input via several community consultation meetings.

The Department for Community Development will support local community initiatives within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to provide effective responses for men who use violence.

## **Focus Area Eight**

### **Build Community Capacity to Respond to Family and Domestic Violence**

*Better results are reached when government and communities work together to develop and arrive at solutions. Approaches to family and domestic violence should have safety as a priority and should then build on and support the existing strengths and resources of groups and individuals within the community. Coordination should occur with the special interests and needs of our diverse communities in mind.*

#### **Strategy - Prevention**

Commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal organisations and representative bodies and the Department for Community Development to assist in the development of local initiatives and plans.

#### **Action**

The Department of Housing and Works will continue to work with the Gordon Inquiry, participation in Senior Officers Groups, Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate – Place Management and the Indigenous Co-ordination Centres.

The Western Australia Police will establish and maintain partnerships with local Regional Councils to support collaborative responses to family and domestic violence and assist in the development and implementation of Action Plans.

The Department of Education and Training will do ongoing work in Districts involving Managers of Aboriginal Education and school support staff when appropriate to establish links with the local community

#### **Strategy - Prevention**

Identify and develop appropriate working relationships with the CALD communities to address family and domestic violence issues.

#### **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will undertake a CaLD Literature Review and Mapping Exercise including the development of a key stakeholder group to inform the development of a CaLD Strategy for the Unit.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will develop two publications for CaLD communities, a brochure to target family, friends and neighbours of people experiencing domestic violence and a second brochure for new and recent arrivals to Western Australia providing general information about domestic violence - what it is, who it affects, legal information and how to seek help.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will fund the Multicultural Women's Consortium to extend the pilot project working with new and emerging migrant communities.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will continue to work with the African Communities Family Support and Domestic Violence Planning Group, and report on the forum held with the communities.

The Department for Community Development will finalise the Department's Cultural Diversity Strategic Framework 2005 – 2007. CALD diversity is reflected in the Department's Family and Domestic Violence Policy framework.

The Department of Housing and Works will remain actively involved in the Ethnic Children and Youth at Risk working group and an Interdepartmental CaLD group.

The Department of Education and Training provides significant support including advocacy and provision for English Second Language learners and their families in the education and training settings. (Domestic Violence issues addressed through mainstream processes).

The Western Australia Police will establish and maintain partnerships with CALD communities to support collaborative responses to family and domestic violence.

**Legal Aid** will undertake Community Legal Education with CALD communities focusing on newly arrived migrant groups such as African and Middle Eastern and other partnerships aimed at raising awareness of issues.

**Strategy - Protection**

Engage with regional coordination structures, such as Regional Domestic Violence Committees and Aboriginal representative bodies to meet the diverse needs of the community.

**Action**

The Western Australia Police will establish and maintain partnerships with Regional Domestic Violence Committees to support collaborative responses to family and domestic violence.

Disability Services Commission staff attend Regional Domestic Violence Committees where appropriate.

Department of Justice Local Community Justice Service staff continue to be involved in the family and domestic violence regional committees.

Local and regional Victim Support Service staffs are involved with Regional Domestic Violence groups to support people seeking court assistance.

The Victim Support Service will continue to coordinate Family Violence Court at Joondalup and a specialist VRO assistance service in the Central law courts.

Legal Aid will continue to participate in Regional Domestic Violence Committee meetings.

Department of Education Training district representation will continue on Regional Domestic Violence Committees in the context of District planning.

Department for Community Development to provide active participation in regional coordination structures, such as Regional Domestic Violence Committees, to address family and domestic violence at the local level.

**Strategy - Protection**

Engage with the community, with a focus on specific communities of interest, to address family and domestic violence issues.

**Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will provide funding to support initiatives in addressing family and domestic violence in same sex community in Western Australia.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will work with People with Disabilities (WA) Inc and Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (EDAC) to develop a report in relation to domestic violence and disability.

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will undertake a project to examine needs and responses to men who are victims or perpetrators of family and domestic violence.

The Women and Children's Health Service will develop collaborative partnerships with metropolitan indigenous communities to build their capacity to respond to sexual & family violence.

The Office for Children and Youth has employed Regional Development Officers to enhance the capacity of children and young people to participate in decision-making that affects them.

The key functions of a Regional Development Officer are to:

- create opportunities for children and young people to participate in local decision making & facilitate their engagement in events and activities;
- provide support to programs and services for children and youth;
- assist with the promotion of, and support the development of, local plans for children and youth; and
- provide information and assistance on funding and grant opportunities to the children's and youth sectors.

The Office for Children and Youth, through its Regional Development Officers (RDOs), provides support to Youth Coordinating Networks (YCNs) across the State.

Metropolitan and country YCNs have been established to support existing service providers through access to a state-wide coordination and information network. Members of YCNs, which include local service providers and government agencies, meet on a regular basis to share information, exchange ideas and identify gaps and duplication in youth services.

The Office for Children and Youth also provides funding under the Community Service Grants (CSG) program to 23 non-government community-based organisations to provide services for children and young people. The services include opportunities for the development of leadership, life skills and teamwork abilities through a range of activities, events and experiences. Two of the organisations, Kids Help Line and Youth Focus, specifically provide counselling services for children and young people and would deal with family and domestic violence issues as part of their work.

The Office for Children and Youth will work to provide appropriate tools and support networks that enable children and young people to develop particular functional skills (eg, communication and social skills), in order to enhance their capacity to interact effectively with those around them.

The Office will also focus on other priority areas for action - such as mental health, alcohol consumption and leadership - with a view to improving the protective factors, and minimising the risk factors, affecting children and young people.

The Department of Education and Training, through local schools will continue to engage with the community to address issues related to Family and Domestic Violence that impact on a child's learning within the school environment.

The Western Australia Police establish and maintain partnerships with the specific communities of interest, to support collaborative responses to family and domestic violence.

The Western Australian Police will establish remote multi-jurisdictional facilities.

The Department of Justice Community Justice Service has initiated an innovative project to establish an Indigenous Family and Domestic Violence perpetrator program to be piloted in Broome. This has involved an extensive process of community input via several community consultation meetings.

The Department for Community Development is actively engaged with specific communities of interest to support effective initiatives and services addressing local family and domestic violence needs.

## **Focus Area Nine**

### **Monitor and Enforce Legal Sanctions**

*Monitoring and enforcing legal sanctions will ensure consistent and appropriate criminal justice response that recognises the safety of women and children as paramount.*

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Monitor Family Court proceedings to ensure the protection of victim's of family and domestic violence is paramount within any process.

#### **Action**

Department of Justice Victim Support Service has established ties with the Family Court, which feeds back domestic violence information and concerns which impact across jurisdictions. The VSS Coordinates the Joondalup Family Violence Court Reference group which meets as an interagency group to examine, review and progress matters of common concern and to develop interagency protocols and practices.

The Western Australian Police will establish and maintain partnerships with the Judiciary and related officers to provide input and feedback to new legislation that affects family and domestic violence issues.

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Monitor current domestic violence legislation to ensure it protects the victim of family and domestic violence within any process.

#### **Action**

The Department of Justice will consult and plan for review of the Acts Amendment (Family and Domestic Violence) Act 2004.

The Department for Community Development will participate in inter-agency review processes regarding legislation reform and review impacting of responses to family and domestic violence. The Department will incorporate legislative changes regarding family and domestic violence into its policy and operational guidelines.

Legal Aid will participate in Restraining Order review committee and re-establish Restraining Order legislative network chaired by Justice

## **Focus Area Ten**

### **Provision to Scope, Monitor and Evaluate**

*Scoping, monitoring and evaluation will provide information to ensure strategies around protection, prevention and provision are effective.*

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Pilot Safety and Accountability Audits in key locations over the period of the Plan, to measure the extent to which service provision meets best practice.

#### **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit in partnership with the Armadale Domestic Violence Intervention Project will undertake a safety and accountability audit and produce a report with recommendations for good practice.

The Department of Justice, the Department for Community Development and the Western Australia Police will work together in undertaking the pilot audit.

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Create a data collection and measurement process to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the State Plan.

#### **Action**

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit will undertake Stage Two of the Across Government Data Collection Project to establish baselines for the incidence, nature and trends in family and domestic violence and measure change over time in Western Australia.

Legal Aid will adopt a Domestic Violence data field at Legal Aid WA and train staff in its use.

Western Australia Police gather and properly disseminate relevant data using the new Incident Management System (IMS) and the sub-system, Victim and Offenders Management (VOMS).

The Department for Community Development will participate in across government data collection and evaluation processes and projects, including Supported Accommodation Assistance Program data.

The Department for Community Development will maintain relevant data collection and evaluation structures relating to its work with family and domestic violence.

#### **Strategy - Protection**

Monitor perpetrator programs to continually improve the linkages between victim support services and perpetrator services.

#### **Action**

Department of Justice Community Justice Service via its contracts with service providers for the provision of perpetrator programs and services ensures that such programs and services involve ongoing contact with victim services are adhered to.

The Department for Community Development will ensure best practice principles underpin funded perpetrator programs, including effective linkage with funded victim programs. The Department has appropriate monitoring and evaluation processes of funded perpetrator programs.