The Northern Territory’s

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework 2020-2028
Acknowledgements
The Northern Territory Government proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country and recognises their continuing connection to their lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

We acknowledge the people, organisations and government agencies across the Northern Territory who contributed to the development of this Framework.

For those who have advocated for action to prevent and improve responses to sexual violence for many years, this Framework would not have been possible without your sustained efforts.

We acknowledge the Territorians who have experienced sexual violence as children, young people or as adults, along with their friends, families, communities and supporters. Even if you have never told anyone about the sexual violence you experienced, we trust that this document reflects something of your story.

Content warning
This document contains information about sexual violence that may be distressing.

Support information
If you, or someone you know, is in immediate danger call 000 for emergency assistance.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Darwin) Available 24/7 (08) 8922 6472
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Katherine) Business hours (08) 8973 8524
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Tennant Creek) Business hours (08) 8962 4361
Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Alice Springs) Available 24/7 (08) 8952 6075
Ruby Gaea Darwin Centre Against Sexual Violence (08) 8945 0115

Information is available on the Northern Territory Government website about protecting children from sexual assault, the Sexual Assault Referral Centres, and crisis and support helplines.

National support hotline numbers are available on the Territory Families website.

If you have experienced sexual violence and require immediate or ongoing assistance, contact 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) to talk to a counsellor from the National Sexual Assault and Domestic and Family Violence hotline. https://www.1800respect.org.au/

Words we use in this Framework
We use the term ‘ Aboriginal’. Strategies, services and outcomes relating to ‘ Aboriginal’ people should be read to include both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To reflect feedback, we primarily use the terms ‘people who have experienced sexual violence’ and ‘people who commit sexual violence’ rather than terms such as victims, survivors, perpetrators and offenders to reflect feedback. The language in this framework will not apply to everyone and some people or professionals may identify with or use different terms.
This is the story of the Patupiri (swallow) who is clever, knowledgeable and skilful. Patupiri builds a safe, strong nest to protect its family against the rain and predators. It uses sticks and branches to build a strong and secure shelter, finding and gathering grass, feathers and mud to make the nest warm and comfortable so that its babies can grow and develop.” Iluwanti Ken and Mary Katajuku Pan

The swallows’ nests, like the artists’ work, expresses our vision and approach for a future where women and children are safe, and families are supported to thrive. This work, like the basket making art across central Australia and Arnhem Land represents what it takes to make this happen. Innovation, cleverness, local knowledge and relationships, ways of sharing information and skills, helping and working together. These are essential if we are to reduce violence so that our homes, communities, workplaces and schools across the Northern Territory are safe, respected and free from violence.

“Tjulpu Wiltja Tjuta” (bird’s nests) is an installation art work made by Yankunytjatjara and Pitjantjatjara artists Iluwanti Ken and Mary Katajuku Pan. The artwork was a finalist in the 2017 Telstra National Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Tjala Arts.
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I am proud to present and share with you the Northern Territory’s Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework 2020-2028, the Northern Territory’s first strategy to prevent and respond to sexual violence, reduce its incidence and support those who experience it to be safe and heal.

Sexual violence is unacceptable irrespective of circumstance, age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, ability, culture or religion. Sexual violence occurs in the home, as well as in public spaces such as online, in workplaces, at universities and schools, and anywhere else that people gather.

Preventing sexual violence requires united action across all parts of society. The combined efforts of governments, non-government organisations and the general public is needed.

We will work with our partners to deliver responses where adults and children who experience sexual violence are believed, know where to go for support, feel safe to report to police, and feel confident in the justice system.

People who commit sexual violence need to have clear consequences for sexually violent behaviour as well as support to change their behaviours.

Good work is already happening but we need to do better. We know that achieving long term social and cultural change will take time.

The input of non-government organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to the development of this Framework was essential and is acknowledged and appreciated.

With concerted, collaborative and long term efforts we can prevent and reduce sexual violence and give every Territorian the fundamental right to live a life where they are safe, respected and free from sexual violence.

Dale Wakefield
1. Introduction

Sexual violence can profoundly damage a person’s sense of privacy, safety and wellbeing and significantly impacts many children, young people, adults, families and communities in the Northern Territory.

Sexual violence affects people of all ages and in all communities. However, sexual violence is a gendered crime, which means that around the world, in Australia and in the Northern Territory, more women experience sexual violence than men do, and more men commit sexual violence than women do.¹

This is the first time the Northern Territory Government has set out a comprehensive, whole of government and whole of community approach to preventing and responding to sexual violence, including sexual violence in domestic and family violence relationships.

The development of a Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework (the Framework) is a key priority under the Northern Territory Government’s Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018–2028 Safe, respected and free from violence (the DFSV Reduction Framework).

We are committed to a safe and respectful community where children, young people and adults in the Northern Territory are free from sexual violence wherever they live, work, study and play – including online. This Framework overviews the areas where the Northern Territory Government will focus efforts over the next eight years to reduce and respond to sexual violence.

A whole of government approach, in partnership with non-government organisations including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, expertise and every Territorian is needed.

We will work with Aboriginal organisations and communities to develop and implement needed change. Implementation needs to address the ongoing impacts of colonisation including experiences of racial discrimination, impacts of shame and historical, intergenerational and lateral trauma.

The Framework has been developed in consultation with non-government organisations and networks specialising in domestic, family and sexual violence service provision, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, experts, and community members. While sexual violence is a complex and sensitive issue that can be difficult to talk about, there is a willingness in the Northern Territory community to talk about it.

A strong message from the consultations has been the importance of this Framework acknowledging the negative impacts for some Aboriginal Territorians of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.²

The consultations also sent strong messages about supporting healing from trauma and intergenerational trauma, including from sexual violence. Healing is understood as a holistic process which addresses mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs and involves connections to culture, family and land. Healing works best when solutions are culturally strong, developed and driven at the local level.

Another strong message, which is confirmed by evidence, was that sexual violence often occurs in tandem with other forms of violence, abuse and neglect and that collaborative, joined up responses need to improve. People often experience multiple forms of violence and abuse, either co-occurring, or over a lifetime. We heard about how sexual violence often occurs in contexts of domestic and family violence, and people who have been sexually abused as children or young people have often also experienced sexual violence as adults.
In 2018, girls in the Northern Territory aged 10-14 years were 1.5 times more likely than girls in Australia to experience sexual assault (878 victims per 100,000 people) compared with national rate (579 victims per 100,000 people).

In 2018, boys in the Northern Territory aged 0-9 years were 1.2 times more likely than boys in Australia to experience sexual assault (63 victims per 100,000 people) compared with national rate (54 victims per 100,000 people).

In 2018, women and girls in the Northern Territory were approximately 1.6 times more likely than women and girls in Australia to experience sexual assault (275 victims per 100,000 people) compared with national rate (176 victims per 100,000 people).

In 2018, girls in the Northern Territory aged 10-14 years were 1.5 times more likely than girls in Australia to experience sexual assault (878 victims per 100,000 people) compared with national rate (579 victims per 100,000 people).

In 2018, boys in the Northern Territory aged 0-9 years were 1.2 times more likely than boys in Australia to experience sexual assault (63 victims per 100,000 people) compared with national rate (54 victims per 100,000 people).
2. Northern Territory’s Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework 2020-2028

The Framework is structured around six key outcome areas to prevent and respond to sexual violence experienced by children, young people and adults, as well as sexual violence committed by adults. The outcome areas also respond to children and young people who engage in harmful sexual behaviours and the service system required to improve our response. The Framework will be delivered through a series of actions over eight years.

The Framework sits within the DFSV Reduction Framework. Implementation will be intrinsically linked to the Framework and guided by the same principles, listed below.

Principles

Women and children’s safety and wellbeing is at the centre
The safety and wellbeing of women and children is always the first consideration. Cultures, practices and beliefs that justify the use of domestic, family and sexual violence are not tolerated.

Shared responsibility, partnerships and local responses
Domestic and family violence is everyone’s concern, and responsibility for ending it is shared between the government, non-government and community sector. Efforts to prevent and respond to violence emphasise partnerships, local control and decision-making. Community leaders and groups champion and drive change.

Evidence and needs-based and outcomes-focused
All efforts to prevent and respond to violence are based on the evidence of what works. Success and performance measures are used routinely to evaluate the outcomes for program participants and service users. Programs and services are responsive to emerging evidence, changing needs and improving practice.

Accessibility, equity and responsiveness
Services are accessible, equitable and responsive to intersectional need. Government and the non-government sector work together to meet the needs of victims and perpetrators in regional and remote communities, Aboriginal communities, culturally diverse communities, among people in same-sex relationships and people with disabilities.

Focus on long term social and cultural change
Changing attitudes, ending violence and challenging its causes is a long term endeavour that will require enduring effort. Commitment and accountability to the long-term vision of this strategy will be maintained through sustained leadership at the highest levels of government, non-government, local community and the private sector.

Challenging systemic racism and inequality
Domestic, family and sexual violence reforms acknowledge that the current challenges facing Aboriginal children and families result from a history of injustice and racism that remains embedded within the laws, policies and practices of our society, systems and institutions.

Shared awareness and understanding of domestic, family and sexual violence
There is a shared awareness and understanding of what creates domestic, family and sexual violence while also understanding and paying attention to the effect of other forms of discrimination and inequality.
## Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework 2020-2028

**Vision** - Territorians are safe, respected and free from sexual violence wherever they choose to live, work, learn and play.

### Principles

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<td>Women and children’s safety and wellbeing is at the centre</td>
<td><strong>Outcome 1</strong> Sexual violence is recognised, understood, prevented and not tolerated.</td>
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<td><strong>Outcome 2</strong> Children and young people who experience sexual violence are safe, and supported to heal.</td>
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<td>Challenging systemic racism and inequality</td>
<td><strong>Outcome 6</strong> Services and systems are strengthened to respond to the needs of people who have experienced sexual violence.</td>
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**Delivery** - A series of actions over eight years - building; evaluating and reviewing; sustaining effort.
In 2018, there were 360 reported sexual assaults in the Northern Territory.

- 145 victims were sexually assaulted in a residential location.
- 224 victims were sexually assaulted by someone they know.
- 158 victims were sexually assaulted by a family member.
- 71 victims were sexually assaulted by someone they don't know.
- 90 victims were Aboriginal children and young people aged 19 years and younger.
- 29 victims of sexual assault were men and boys.
- 327 victims of sexual assault were women and girls.
- 158 victims were Aboriginal men and boys.
- 90 victims were Aboriginal women and girls.
- 18 victims were Aboriginal men and boys.
- 18 victims were Aboriginal women and girls.
- 71 victims were Aboriginal women and girls.

Reported sexual assaults in the Northern Territory
3. Understanding sexual violence

Sexual violence is defined by the World Health Organisation “as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work”.

Sexual violence can occur in intimate partner and family contexts, in the home as well as in public spaces, communities, online, workplaces, schools and other settings. Sexual violence can overlap with, and be a part of, domestic and family violence. It can also be committed by strangers and within intimate and family relationships. Statistics show that sexual violence is mostly committed by someone known to the person experiencing it.

Under Northern Territory law, sexual offences are prosecuted under the Criminal Code including sexual offences against children and young people, within a domestic or intimate relationship, and those committed by strangers or people outside the family. Under the Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Act 1992, sexual harassment is unlawful.

Sexual violence experienced by adults includes that which happened recently, in the past or when they were children or young people. It includes sexual harassment, sexualised bullying, female genital mutilation/cutting, stalking, sexual exploitation (such as having sexual images sent, taken or distributed without consent), being exposed to pornography without consent, indecent assault, sexual pressure and coercion, molestation, and rape.

Child sexual abuse is any incident where an adult, young person or child engages a child or young person in a sexual act or exposes the child or young person to inappropriate sexual behaviour or material. This can include threats, manipulation and physical force. People who commit sexual violence against children or young people can come from inside the family or outside the family, from inside a community or from outside a community. Child sexual abuse includes sexually coercive behaviour without physical contact.

The causes of sexual violence are complex and stem from social and cultural attitudes and behaviours. While gender inequality is the main driver of sexual violence, other forms of inequality can intersect to increase the frequency or severity of sexual violence for some groups of people.

Rates of violence can be high among groups experiencing other forms of discrimination and social inequality, including inequality based on race and ethnicity, sexuality and gender, age, ability and economic status, and geographical location. These factors also impact on people’s access to services working to prevent or respond to sexual violence.

The impacts of sexual violence

While the effects are not the same for all people, sexual violence can have immediate and lifelong effects on physical and mental health and wellbeing, as well as having social and economic impacts. Sexual violence can interrupt and damage a person’s sense of self, confidence, capability and in turn affecting their housing, employment, education, parenting, financial security, participation in their community.

There is a complex association between a person’s experiences of sexual violence in childhood, their reaction to the abuse, the response of others and the service system if disclosed or reported, and their wellbeing throughout their life. Intergenerational trauma, when survivors who have not healed pass on their trauma to further generations, is also an impact. This particularly affects Aboriginal people who experienced sexual violence in institutions, including the descendants of the Stolen Generations.

Sexual violence has financial costs for the community. Violence against women, including sexual violence, was estimated in 2015 to cost Australia $21.7 billion a year. This includes the cost of pain, suffering and premature death, and costs to governments to deliver health, criminal justice and social welfare services to people who have experienced sexual violence.
Co-occurrence of domestic and family and sexual violence

The Framework recognises both the significant co-occurrence of domestic and family violence with sexual violence, and the need to improve how the prevention and intervention systems and services respond.

Within intimate partner or domestic relationships sexual violence is considered a tactic of domestic and family violence, occurring in the context of other forms of violence and part of a pattern of coercive control.

Children and young people with harmful sexual behaviours

Sexual behaviours are part of normal and healthy childhood development. However, sometimes children and young people cause harm to other children or young people which may include sexual violence. Harmful sexual behaviour is any behaviour of a sexual nature by or between children and young people that is outside of normal developmental behaviour, is aggressive or violent or causes harm to the child or others, or where there is a substantial difference in age or developmental ability of the children or young people involved.

In 2017-2018, the Australian Bureau of Statistics recorded crime data suggests that children and young people aged 10-19 years were the alleged offenders in 14% of sexual offences committed in Australia.25

Children and young people who engage in harmful sexual behaviours have often experienced trauma, and are more likely to have been sexually abused. However this is not always the case. If these behaviours are not treated, they can lead to behavioural problems and disrupted cognitive and emotional patterns later in life. Children and young people with harmful sexual behaviours require assistance to be safe and supported to heal, provided with effective treatment options, and supported to reconnect with family and community.

Children and young people’s access to pornography

The accessibility of technology means it can be very difficult for children and young people to avoid exposure to pornography. Online pornography is increasing in its availability and extreme sexually violent content. Viewing pornography, especially for boys and young men, has become normalised. This can result in significant negative consequences particularly for boys and girls, and young women. Concerningly pornography is increasingly becoming the way most children and young people learn about sex; gender; negotiating free, prior and informed consent; and having respectful and equal intimate relationships.

How common is sexual violence?

National and international research shows that sexual offending against adults, young people and children is significantly under-reported, under-prosecuted and under-convicted. Existing data does not capture the true extent of sexual violence in the Northern Territory and Australia. However, we do know 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men have experienced sexual violence in Australia from the age of 1526 and that the Northern Territory has the highest rates of reported sexual assault in Australia.27

We also know that one in three workers in Australia have been sexually harassed at work over the past five years. Sexual harassment affects both men and women, with 39 percent of Australian women and 26 percent of Australian men reporting they have been sexually harassed at work in the past five years.41

When disclosing sexual violence, the first response to that disclosure can negatively impact the physical and mental health, justice, and life trajectory of the person who disclosed. It is common for people who have experienced sexual violence to delay telling someone what happened. Often the first person to hear about the sexual violence is a trusted friend or family member. Many factors affect the length of time it takes to tell someone about sexual violence, and some people never tell anyone due to a lack of privacy, or feelings of shame, trauma and stigma.

Shame is a major reason why children, young people and adults do not report sexual violence. Other reasons include fear of the offender, of not being believed, secrecy being part of the abuse itself, the social standing of the person who commits sexual violence, the fear of families being separated or children being removed as well as having no confidence or trust in the response systems.

Victim-blaming still occurs, including attitudes that the violence could have been prevented by wearing different clothing, not going out at night or a woman not accepting her role in a marriage or intimate relationship.
Many adults who experienced sexual violence as children or young people may not report the abuse until they are adults, sometimes because the impact of the violence does not show until later in life. For some people who have experienced sexual violence, they may never tell anyone what happened to them.

When sexual violence occurs in the family, there are other reasons that people may not come forward for help or make a report to the police. Reasons for not making a report may include an ongoing relationship with the person who committed the sexual violence, financial dependence, risk of homelessness, and having children with the person who committed the sexual violence.

Who experiences sexual violence?

Sexual violence can happen to anyone in the community including children, young people, adults and older people of all gender and sexual identities and all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Statistical, the majority of people who experience sexual violence in the Northern Territory are women and male and female children and young people.

Children and young people are particularly at risk of sexual violence from young people and adults because of the significant emotional, social and physical power imbalance. Research tells us that boys who experience sexual violence are less likely to report than girls, which may be due to the fear of being labelled as perpetrators, as homosexual, or being treated as social outcasts.

Who commits sexual violence?

Adults who commit sexual violence come from all social, economic, education, racial, sexual identity, ability and ethnic and religious groups. They can be partnered or not partnered, employed or unemployed, have children or not.

Adults who commit sexual violence are usually male and are usually known to the person against whom they have committed sexual violence against.28

Data only paints some of the picture, as statistics on the number of people who commit sexual violence in the community only represent people who commit sexual violence that come to the attention of the police and the justice system.29

Sexual assault is under-reported

90% of sexual assaults in Australia were not reported to police.

82% of women who experienced physical &/or sexual violence from a current partner never contacted the police.

97% of men who experienced physical &/or sexual violence from a current partner never contacted the police.


Sexual assault in DFV is gendered

13x higher

The number of female victims (92 females) of domestic and family violence related sexual assault was more than 13 times higher than the number of male victims (7 males), in the Northern Territory in 2018.

4. Building on what we are doing

The Northern Territory Government provides and funds a range of services to prevent and respond to sexual violence. These include: police, legal, forensic, specialist medical and therapeutic responses for people who have experienced sexual violence; multi-agency responses to sexual violence experienced by children and young people, and people who are at high risk of domestic and family violence especially women; responses for children and young people who engage in problematic sexualised behaviours; and programs and monitoring for adults convicted of sexual offences.

These services and structures, including the Sexual Assault Referral Centres, the Child Abuse Taskforce and the Family Safety Framework, will continue to be central to the Northern Territory response to sexual violence.

There are promising results because of these efforts. However, to deliver the long term social and cultural change needed, we need to consolidate and understand better what we are doing now, how that can be improved and to understand what makes the most difference to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

Initial priority actions for the first two years are overviewed in the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework Priority Actions 2020-2021.

Preventing sexual violence

The most effective way to prevent sexual violence is to stop it from happening in the first place. Research tells us that we can reduce sexual violence by addressing it across the whole community. Through adopting a public health approach, prevention can address attitudes, beliefs and actions in relation to sexual violence and gender inequality, including addressing the normalisation of sexual violence and beliefs which stigmatise people who have experienced sexual violence.30

These attitudes, influences and behaviours related to sexual violence include norms about the value placed on masculine power, tolerance of violence, views about gender roles and stereotypes, and pressures to maintain family privacy.31

It is important that prevention efforts target individuals and their environments. That’s because our families, communities and cultures all affect how we act. As we change the environment around us, so too can people’s behaviour change. This means the more people who do not tolerate sexual assault, the less likely sexual assault is to occur.

We will have a strong focus on equipping young people with the right understanding and skills to keep themselves safe.

Through the Framework we will work in partnership with communities, government and non-government sectors including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to increase awareness and understanding of sexual violence as well as the capacity to respond.
Improving our responses

Children, young people and adults who have experienced sexual violence need access to the right services at the right time. People need tailored services that respond to their age, gender, background and ability – keeping them safe, supporting recovery and achieving justice.

People who experience and commit sexual violence are more likely to receive a service that meets their needs when specialist services collaborate and coordinate with other services and agencies, including the universal service system.

We will work with specialist and universal services such as child protection, health, justice and police, to build their capacity and capability so that they are equipped with the expertise, knowledge, skills and resources to prevent and respond to sexual violence. This includes working to clear practice and clinical guidelines and professional standards, responding to vicarious trauma within the workforce, and understanding the local and cultural contexts of the families and communities with whom they work.

Accountability in the system in identifying and responding to child sexual abuse needs to be supported through effective reporting, referrals, and case management.

Finding the right balance between holding people who commit sexual violence to account, validating the experiences of people who experience sexual violence, protecting the community, and providing supports and services for people who have both experienced and committed sexual violence, is a complex task.

Under the Framework we will look at how the justice system can better meet the needs of people who have experienced sexual violence.

A sustainable system

We are already increasing and better targeting our investment in domestic, family and sexual violence prevention and response services, through the DFSV Reduction Framework.

To support this work, we will review the current service response to child and adult sexual violence so that we better understand where change and investment is needed. Data and research gaps will be identified so that we prioritise what works best in the Northern Territory. Partnering with services and communities will also ensure that responses are informed, sustainable and meet the needs of communities.
5. Implementing and measuring our progress

The Northern Territory Government understands that delivering change requires long-term vision, sustained focus and effort. The Framework will be implemented through a series of actions that will complement existing government investment and efforts.

This flexible approach allows us to be responsive to outcomes achieved, new challenges or priorities during the journey, emerging evidence, innovation and opportunities. The first set of priority actions for the next two years are overviewed in the Sexual Violence and Prevention Response Framework Priority Actions 2020-2021.

Implementation of actions under the Framework will require consultation, partnerships and collaboration across Northern Territory Government agencies, non-government organisations including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and communities to identify readiness and to develop responses that work.

We will continue to work with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to support and complement investments and reforms. The Framework aligns with the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 and the Fourth Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022, in particular the priority to prevent sexual violence.

The National Plan links Australian violence against women and children prevention activities with Australia’s international human rights commitments. As a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Australia commits to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women, provide services to victims and survivors of abuse, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.33

Implementation of the Framework will be overseen by the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Cross Agency Working Group, which is chaired by Territory Families and reports to the Northern Territory Government Children and Families Standing Committee. Progress and outcome measures for the Framework will be developed as part of the broader DFSV Reduction Framework Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and take into account success indicators from the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022. These will be important accountability tools so we can focus our efforts on what works.

Actions under the Framework will deliver on a number of recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, including engaging with communities and relevant organisations on how to address sexual violence issues relating to children and young people; and implementing education programs for children and young people aimed at responding to harmful sexualised behaviours.
and other family members. The violence can take the form of physical, sexual, stalking, emotional or psychological, technology facilitated and financial abuse and it can include criminal and non-criminal behaviour.  

Rape

The offence known as rape in many jurisdictions is known in the Northern Territory as sexual intercourse without consent [CCA s.192].

Sexual assault

An act of a sexual nature carried out against a person’s will through the use of physical force, intimidation or coercion, including any attempts to do this. This includes rape, attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault (assault with a weapon), indecent assault, penetration by objects, forced sexual activity that did not end in penetration and attempts to force a person into sexual activity. Incidents so defined would be an offence under State and Territory criminal law.

Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours or unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that offends, humiliates or intimidates. The Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 (NT) details the legal definition of sexual harassment.

Trauma

A psychological wound that has occurred due to a person’s perception of a stressful event. In relation to DFSV, particular types of trauma that are relevant include intergenerational and childhood trauma. Intergenerational trauma is a form of historical trauma transmitted across generations. Survivors of the initial experience who have not healed from it may pass on their trauma to further generations. In Australia intergenerational trauma particularly affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, especially the children, grandchildren and future generations of the Stolen Generations. Childhood trauma is the result of an event or a series of events which cause a child to feel helpless and pushed beyond their ability to cope. Trauma affects children differently depending on their age, personality and past experiences. When a child is traumatised it affects the whole child: their mind, body, spirit and relationships with others.
References


17 Ibid


22 Ibid


24 Ibid


