

COMMUNIQUE

The fourth meeting of the NT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) was held in Darwin on Wednesday 14 August 2019.

At the meeting, CAWG members were updated on progress implementing priority initiatives under the first Action Plan. Only action items behind schedule or at risk are discussed in detail at CAWG meetings.

Reporting

The CAWG reports biannually to the Northern Territory Government's Children and Families Standing Committee, which comprises the Chief Executive Officers of all relevant Government agencies. The CAWG's first report to the Standing Committee outlines key activities of the CAWG and seeks the Committee's agreement for two key projects to commence under the direction of the Standing Committee.

These projects are to facilitate the collection and collation of baseline domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) data from across the Northern Territory; and obtain information from relevant Northern Territory Government agencies to inform the development of a map of existing sexual violence prevention and response initiatives, resources and investment across the Northern Territory. The service map will form a key component of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework currently under development.

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework

The CAWG noted that consultations on the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Framework (SVPRF) have been conducted with more than 50 specialist domestic and family violence services and networks, specialist sexual violence service providers and representatives from Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Over 30 responses from the public were received through the online 'Have your say' survey and Territory Families is currently analysing all feedback to determine key priorities for the SVPRF. The key priorities will be discussed at a series of targeted meetings with government and non-government partners over the coming weeks.

The CAWG noted the SVPRF is on track to be delivered by the end of 2019.

Implementation of the Domestic and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme

The CAWG were provided an update on progress implementing the new Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Information Sharing scheme. Northern Territory Government agencies prescribed by the new laws as Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) are working through internal processes to align with the 30 August 2019 commencement of the scheme.

Non-government organisations choosing to participate in the scheme can apply to become an ISE, with information, online training and associated forms available on the Territory Families website.

The CAWG noted the development of a Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF) is on track to be completed by the end of the year. The RAMF and a common risk assessment tool will be available for all interested organisations to facilitate a shared understanding and consistent approach to recognising and responding to risk.



Katherine Local Reference Group



Tennant Creek Local Reference Group



Katherine Women's Crisis Centre and Tennant Creek Women's Refuge Service Reviews

The CAWG was provided an update of the review report recommendations, which have been accepted by government and both services. The two services are working with Territory Families to implement the recommendations, including consideration of expanding governance structures to bring in outside expertise and to strengthen collaboration between all involved organisations.

Northern Territory Government Social Outcomes Framework

The CAWG noted the whole-of-government Social Outcomes Framework will be developed over a two-year period in order to incorporate the aspirational desires of the Territory community. The Social Outcomes Framework will articulate how government and our non-government partners will measure how social and human services and programs are contributing to a lasting and positive difference to the lives of Territorians.

Next meeting

The CAWG is scheduled to meet in Darwin on Wednesday 9 October 2019.