

# Action Plan 1: Changing Attitudes, Intervening Earlier and Responding Better (2018-2021)

## Implementation Monitoring Framework

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## 2. Executive Summary

The Northern Territory's [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028: \*Safe, Respected and Free from Violence\*](#) (the Framework) outlines the Northern Territory Government's approach to domestic, family and sexual violence prevention and reduction, improved service delivery for those experiencing violence, and better mechanisms for perpetrator accountability. The Framework will be implemented by a series of three-year action plans.

This Implementation Monitoring Framework was commissioned by Territory Families has been developed to monitor the implementation of [Action Plan 1: \*Changing Attitudes, Intervening Earlier and Responding Better \(2018-2021\)\*](#). A separate document, titled *The Northern Territory's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028: Safe, Respected and Free from Violence Evaluation Plan*, has been developed to inform the measurement of longer-term, high level outcomes of the Framework.

The Framework and Action Plan 1 aim to contribute to the long-term vision that 'Territorians are safe, respected and free from violence wherever they choose to live, work, learn and play' through a set of five outcome areas:

- Domestic, family and sexual violence is prevented and not tolerated;
- Territorians at risk of experiencing violence are identified early and provided with effective interventions;
- People experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence are protected and helped to recover and thrive;
- Perpetrators are held accountable and connected early to responses that change their behaviours and reduce violence; and
- Legislation, policy and funding models enable a responsive, high quality and accountable domestic, family and sexual violence service system.

The purpose of the Implementation Monitoring Framework is to provide guidance on how to monitor implementation of actions in Action Plan 1. The Implementation Monitoring Framework was developed through consultation with government and non-government stakeholders in urban and regional areas of the Northern Territory.

This framework provides an overview of governance, implementation, data, annual progress measures, challenges, and risk across each of the five outcome areas.

The Implementation Monitoring Framework was drafted in consultation with the Cross Agency Working Group. The group oversees implementation of the Framework and action plans, and comprises membership from government agencies, non-government organisations and networks across the NT.

### 3. Background

In 2017, Charles Darwin University (CDU) and the Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) were commissioned by Territory Families (TF) to undertake:

1. Good practice review to identify and provide details on examples of good practice in the DFSV context, to inform TF's activities and initiatives for the Framework.
2. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan aligning with the NT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework: Safe, Respected and Free from Violence 2018 – 2028 (the Framework), including action plan scorecards and review process; mapping specific indicators, measurements and data sources against outcomes in Action Plan 1: Changing Attitudes, Intervening Earlier and Responding Better (2018-2021)

As the implementation of Action Plan 1 (AP1) was already underway at the time of this document's development, it was agreed that a document that focussed on monitoring the implementation of AP1 would be more useful. As a result, the document was renamed 'Implementation Monitoring Framework' (IMF) and an annual progress report template was developed in lieu of action plan scorecards. The Evaluation Plan (EP) is contained in a separate document titled *The Northern Territory's Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028: Safe, Respected and Free from Violence Evaluation Plan*. A more detailed document, with performance measures for both AP1 and the Framework has also been provided to TF. Together, these three documents deliver the second and final project objective.

### 4. Principles

The principles for the IMF are taken directly from the Framework. They have guided the process of consultation and development of AP1 and the IMF. As such, these principles should underpin the implementation of the IMF. In practical terms this means that monitoring the implementation of AP1 should adhere to the principles outlined below. They are:

- Women and children's safety and wellbeing is at the centre,
- Shared responsibility, partnerships and local responses,
- Evidence and needs-based and outcomes- focused,
- Accessibility, equity and responsiveness,
- Focus on long term social and cultural change,
- Challenging systemic racism and inequality,
- Shared awareness and understanding of DFSV.

### 5. Overview of the National Context

DFSV has a profound and negative impact on individuals, families, and communities, with the legacies of trauma radiating beyond those directly experiencing violence. Across Australia, considerable resources are invested to address the drivers of violence, respond better to victims experiencing violence, and hold perpetrators responsible and accountable for their actions. These resources are aiming to change the story enumerated by the statistics.

According to the most recent Personal Safety Survey (PSS) published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), since the age of 15 approximately one in four women (23% or 2.2 million) experienced at least one incident of violence by an intimate partner, while one in six women (17% or 1.6 million) experienced at least one incident of violence by a partner. Approximately one in five women (18% or 1.7 million) experienced sexual violence. On average, one woman a week in Australia is killed by an intimate partner.<sup>i</sup>

Within the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, in the 12 months prior to the PSS in 2016, one in seven Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women had experienced physical assault. Intimate partner violence contributes an estimated 10.9% to the burden of disease in Indigenous women aged 18-44, which is more than any other risk factor. These statistics should be interpreted cautiously as there is significant evidence that the PSS does not adequately capture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's experiences; the actual rates of physical assault and intimate partner violence are likely to be much higher.<sup>ii</sup>

In February 2011 the [National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022](#) (the National Plan) was released and endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments. The National Plan is a long-term strategy for sustainably reducing violence against women and their children through rolling action plans agreed by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. The National Plan is currently rolling out the fourth and final Action Plan 2019 – 2022. The activities in AP1 and outcomes in the Framework are aligned with outcomes in the National Plan.

## 6. Overview of the Northern Territory Context

In 2017-18, the NT had the highest domestic and family violence (DFV) offender rate of all Australian jurisdictions (this figure does not include sexual violence outside of a DFV context)<sup>iii</sup>. Through the release of the Framework, the NTG has committed to addressing the drivers of violence against women and their children, strengthening services to help victims recover and thrive, and ensuring perpetrators are connected to services and held to account.

In the NT, Aboriginal women are disproportionately affected, with statistics showing that while 9% of the population were victims of DFSV between 2010 and 2014, that number increased to 75% when only considering Aboriginal women.<sup>iv</sup>

In 2016-17, Aboriginal people were more likely to be hospitalised for family violence compared with non-Indigenous people.<sup>v</sup> Compared to the rest of Australia, Aboriginal women and young girls in the NT are more likely than males to be victims of sexual assault, 8.3 times as likely as males in the NT (compared with 7.9 times as likely in South Australia, and 3.4 times as likely in New South Wales), with most victims knowing the perpetrator.<sup>vi</sup> Aboriginal women living in remote and very remote areas are more likely to be hospitalised for family violence, which makes DFSV services in these areas for these vulnerable populations a key priority.<sup>vii</sup>

AP1 is linked to a number of other government strategies and plans including the TF [Strategic Plan Refresh 2017-2020](#), the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services' (NTPFES) [Police, Fire and Emergency Services Strategic Plan Strategy 2023: Prevention. Integrity. Unity](#), the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development (DLGHCD) [Pathways Out of Homelessness: Northern Territory Homelessness Strategy 2018-23](#), and the Reform Management Office's [Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families](#).

Additionally, a number of papers and reviews have been developed collaboratively with NT organisations, or have utilised NT data to progress research on DFSV. This research contributes to the evidence base in the NT, the jurisdiction with the highest rates of DFSV in Australia. These include (but are not limited to):

- Schools-based research [Reducing the Impact of Bullying Victimisation on Children's Mental Health Outcomes](#) (Macquarie University, 2019),
- [Breaking the Silence](#), program evaluation, (University of Technology, Sydney 2018),
- [Young People as Agents of Change in Preventing Violence Against Women](#), Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), 2019,

- [Innovative Models in Addressing Violence Against Indigenous Women: Key Findings and Future Directions](#), ANROWS, 2018,
- [Exploring Aboriginal Women from the Northern Territory's Views and Perspectives of Family Violence Support Services Available Following a Family Violence Incident](#), ANROWS, 2019,
- [Evaluation of Innovative Models of Interagency Partnerships, Collaboration, Coordination and/or Integrated Responses to Family and/or Sexual Violence Against Women in Australian Indigenous Communities](#), ANROWS 2019,
- [Housing Outcomes after Domestic and Family Violence](#), Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, 2019,
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: A Focus on Housing and Homelessness](#), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, (AIHW) 2019,
- [Impact Evaluation of the Banned Drinker Register](#), (Menzies, 2019).

## 7. Guidelines

### Purpose

The purpose of the IMF is to provide a mechanism to monitor implementation across the three years of AP1. The IMF provides data sources which can be used to monitor implementation, noting that it can be difficult to directly measure and attribute outcomes to individual activities.

### Annual Progress Report

Annual implementation monitoring and reporting should be aggregated through Annual Progress Reports. The Annual Progress Report template is designed to provide a snapshot of progress, aid monitoring of implementation, and provide a report on annual progress at a high level by each outcome. The components of the Annual Progress Reports are outlined in the diagram below using a traffic light system.

Much of the reporting information for the progress reports can be drawn from the DFSV CAWG agency action update reports. In addition to the traffic lights, the Annual Progress Report will collect numerical output measures as appropriate. For example, number of TF prevention grants awarded per annum.

### **Annual Progress Report – Action Plan 1**

Outcome	On track	At risk	Overdue	Not commenced	Complete	Commentary
Outcome	Activity is progressing as planned	Problems have been identified and remedial action undertaken	Activity is overdue with no planned commencement/ completion date	Not relevant in this reporting year	Activity has been completed	Narrative status update (if applicable)

### Governance

Implementation of AP1 is overseen by the CAWG. Agencies with responsibilities under AP1 contribute to agency action updates collated by TF for CAWG consideration.

## Implementation

AP1 is a whole of NTG initiative with various agencies implementing activities. The IMF has been developed to reflect this multi-agency approach, with relevant agencies nominated for data collection and monitoring implementation of outcomes.

### Existing Data

Data sources identified for the IMF include CAWG and government agency reporting, NGO reports, recently completed evaluations and reviews, Family Safety Framework (FSF) data, and police operational data.

Under the new five-year contracts for DFSV service providers funded by government, organisations are required to report on a range of performance measures, as per their specific activities. These reports provide a useful data source for both the IMF and EP.

### Aspirational Data

Identifying aspirational data sources that may become available within the next two years assumes additional resources would be allocated to agencies for data collection, collation and analysis. It is not anticipated significant evidence of outcomes will be apparent in the short timeframe to the end of AP1. As such, any aspirational data sources identified in the IMF are designed to enhance implementation monitoring, rather than measure outcomes. It is expected that data sources, measures and indicators will evolve over time as the government's ability to design and collect relevant DFSV data improves.

Qualitative aspirational data sources to enhance outcomes measurement have been identified in the EP; these could be resourced and developed in future years.

### Challenges and Risks

Several challenges and risks associated with the implementation of the IMF are outlined below:

- As discussed above, the IMF is primarily to monitor performance at the implementation and output level as it is premature to anticipate significant evidence of outcomes in such a short timeframe.
- The IMF relies on existing data sources.
- There is an assumption that data sources and data continue to be developed and shared between agencies.

## 8. Implementation Monitoring Framework for Action Plan 1: Changing Attitudes, Intervening Earlier and Responding Better (2018-2028)

### Outcome 1: Domestic, family and sexual violence is prevented and not tolerated

Activity	Status update	Data sources	Responsibility for collecting	Method of collection	Reporting format	Reporting dates	Narrative
1.1. Educate the community about DFSV and protective behaviours	In progress	FSF MOU CAWG agency action updates	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	
1.2. Develop and implement policies that challenge rigid gender roles, gender inequality, sexism and discrimination	In progress	CAWG agency action updates	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	
1.3. Partner with community, business, sporting and religious leaders to grow the number of organisations that actively reject DFSV and challenge gender inequality	In progress: NO MORE funding continued	CAWG agency action updates	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC DTSC Annual Report Chamber of Commerce NT Annual Report	2020 2021	
1.4. Ensure government policies support the reduction of violence and address reinforcing factors such as harmful use of alcohol and other drugs	In progress	CAWG agency action updates	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	TF reconvened the CAWG and expanded membership to include NGO sector representatives. Senior management from DoH mental health and alcohol and other drugs branches are active participants in the NT Health DFSV Advisory Group.



Activity	Status update	Data sources	Responsibility for collecting	Method of collection	Reporting format	Reporting dates	Narrative
							<p>DLGHCD DFV Policy provides guidance for staff on how to support clients and their children affected by DFV.</p> <p>NTPFES completed an organisational realignment to support increased collaboration between agencies when developing and renewing policies.</p> <p>DOE implements professional learning to embed drug education in schools.</p>

## Outcome 2: Territorians at risk of experiencing violence are identified early and provide with effective interventions

Activity	Status update	Data source	Responsibility for collecting	Method of collection	Reporting format	Reporting dates	Narrative
2.1. Focus prevention programs on protective behaviours and healthy, consensual and respectful relationships in public and private	In progress and ongoing	Grant recipient acquittals CAWG agency action updates	TF	Grants NT CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	
2.2. Conduct research and collate data regarding vulnerable groups	In progress and ongoing	CAWG agency action updates	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	<p>DAGJ pilot program with ANU/Menzies/Amity report due late 2019</p> <p>TF commissioned reviews of KWCC, TCWR and Barkly / Big Rivers regions are complete, and implementation of priority actions has commenced</p>
2.3. Develop tailored responses for communities at risk of experiencing DFSV	In progress and ongoing	Grant recipient acquittals	TF	Grants NT CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	

Activity	Status update	Data source	Responsibility for collecting	Method of collection	Reporting format	Reporting dates	Narrative
2.4 Build the capacity of universal services and the community to identify and respond to DFSV	In progress and ongoing	CAWG agency action updates FSF MOU	TF	CAWG agency action updates FSF MOU	NTPFES FSF six-monthly report to TF CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	

### Outcome 3: People experiencing DFSV are protected and helped to recover and thrive

Activity	Status update	Data source	Responsibility for collecting	Method of collection	Reporting format	Reporting dates	Narrative
3.1 Strengthen the systemic response to high risk DFSV cases including the Family Safety Framework	In progress and ongoing	FSF MOU CAWG agency action update	TF	FSF MOU CAWG agency action update	NTPFES FSF six-monthly report to TF CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	
3.2 Enable a connected, coordinated and collaborative response that puts the client at the centre	Complete						FSF Review complete; implementation of recommendations ongoing
3.3 Improve the criminal justice system so that the safety and wellbeing of victims is the first priority and they are not re-traumatised	In progress	CAWG agency action update	DAGJ	CAWG agency action update	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status update</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Responsibility for collecting</b>	<b>Method of collection</b>	<b>Reporting format</b>	<b>Reporting dates</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
3.4 Build a capable and responsive system and workforce	In progress and ongoing	CAWG agency action update	TF	CAWG agency action update	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	DOE Mandatory Reporting on Harm and Exploitation of Children Policy mandates training for all school staff, including volunteers. Mandatory training includes reporting of DFV in line with legislation
3.5 Ensure when children are exposed to DFSV the response does not further harm the child	In progress	CAWG agency action updates	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	CORE Safe and Together training includes TF and external DFSV specialist sector participants and is due to commence in 2019-20 NTPFES has embedded training on prioritising the wellbeing of children present at incidents of DFSV in Recruit training and promotional exams
3.6 Develop an integrated and specialist DFSV hub in Tennant Creek which will support women and children of the Barkly region to be safe, recover and thrive	To commence in 2020						TF commissioned reviews of KWCC, TCWR and Barkly / Big Rivers regions are complete, and implementation of priority actions has commenced

#### Outcome 4: Perpetrators are held accountable and connected early to responses that change their behaviours and reduce violence

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status update</b>	<b>Data source</b>	<b>Responsibility for collecting</b>	<b>Method of collection</b>	<b>Reporting format</b>	<b>Reporting dates</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
4.1 Connect perpetrators to timely, effective and evidence-based behaviour change interventions	In progress and ongoing	TF funded perpetrator program service	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	Perpetrator program established for Greater Darwin Region

Activity	Status update	Data source	Responsibility for collecting	Method of collection	Reporting format	Reporting dates	Narrative
		provider grant funding acquittals CAWG agency action updates					Men's Behaviour Change Programs now operating in Alice Springs and Darwin All offenders convicted of a DFSV related offence are assessed in accordance with the DAGJ Offender Management Framework All inmates are assessed within six weeks and a treatment pathway determined post the Program Eligibility Screen All offenders whose offence is DFV specific are referred to an appropriate DFV targeted program in accordance with their criminogenic risks and needs
4.2 Implement perpetrator interventions that are effective and reduce reoffending	In progress and ongoing	CAWG agency action updates	NTCS	CAWG agency action update	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	
4.3 Refocus the justice system on the rehabilitation and restoration of perpetrators to violence-free families	In progress and ongoing	CAWG agency action updates	NTCS	CAWG agency action update	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	
4.4 Empower the community to support perpetrators to end the use of violence	In progress and ongoing	CAWG agency action updates	NTCS	CAWG agency action update	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	

## Outcome 5: Legislation, policy and funding models enable a responsive, high quality and accountable DFSV service system

Activity	Status update	Data source	Responsibility for collecting	Method of collection	Reporting format	Reporting dates	Narrative
5.1. Ensure policy and legislation works toward reducing DFSV	In progress	CAWG agency action updates	DAGJ	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	
5.2. Ensure legislative and policy changes are embedded in agency, organisational policies and practices	Complete						Suit of policies developed or in development.
5.3. Better integrate DFSV services and child protection	Complete						Restructure within TF undertaken to better integrate child protection and DFSV practitioners; based on evidenced based practice 'Safe and Together' model.
5.4. Enhance sharing of data, information and intelligence	In progress	Information Commissioner Review of Information Sharing Scheme TF ISE applications	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	New Chapter 5A of the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007</i> commenced in August 2019 CAWG membership expanded to include NGO sector representation TF and NTPFES strengthening data sharing through MOU TICC shares and disseminates its strategic data products to partner agencies where appropriate
5.5. Prioritise government and non-government sector investment to the greatest needs and return	To commence in 2020	CAWG agency action update	TF	CAWG agency action updates	CAWG annual report to CFSC	2020 2021	

## 9. Future Considerations

Through consultation undertaken during the development of this IMF, a number of potential priority areas for future investment and attention emerged. These are divided into the following areas.

### Data

It is broadly agreed that there is a lack of relevant, regularly reported NT-specific data on DFSV. The NT is not the only jurisdiction to face this challenge, yet it remains an important issue when considering the implementation of the Framework and associated action plans.

The generation of a baseline will be possible for some outcomes in the Framework through regularly reported data. At the time the IMF and EP were delivered, there were a number of reviews and research projects commissioned by government (including the NT Council of Social Services' Building the Capacity of the Non-Government DFSV Sector, DoH implementation of Clinical Guidelines for preventing and responding to DFSV, and a review of DFSV services and systems in the Barkly and Big Rivers region). These may provide qualitative baseline data across selected outcomes.

The launch of the NTG's Open Data Portal may also assist in monitoring implementation of the IMF. As at 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the Open Portal had 633 datasets from 21 organisations and 12 groups. Current relevant datasets include:

- Average Weekly Juveniles in Detention
- School List
- Enrolment and Attendance by Validation 2013
- Enrolment and Attendance by School 2013
- NT Crime Statistics
- Australian Burden of Disease Study (Statistical Report)
- Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services in the NT
- School Suspensions
- Awarded Government Contracts
- Alcohol Attributable Emergency Presentations by Hospital
- Youth Justice in Australia (Statistical Report)
- Youth Detention Australia
- Child Protection Australia
- NT Population Projections
- Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations in Australia (Statistical Report)
- Emergency Department Care Hospital Statistics
- Number of Alcohol Related Assaults in NT by area
- Police Services (Statistical Report, Australia wide)
- Child Protection Services
- Youth Justice Services

As the number of data sets within this portal increases, it may become a useful source of data for future action plans.

### Research

Strategic research could be undertaken to assist with service and evidence gaps. For example, Commonwealth investments in improved data collection underpinning the Fourth National Action Plan could be targeted as a way of improving Territory-level data, especially in flagship data areas such as the PSS and National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS). Equally, a research strategy outlining key research and evidence gaps in DFSV in the NT could be developed based on gaps identified through annual progress reports and presented to ANROWS for consideration.

## Building Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity

Although there are many national-level organisations and evaluators with expertise in the field of DFSV, very few of these have the Territory-specific contextual information required to undertake relevant and effective evaluations.

The NTG program evaluation framework and toolkit, currently under development by the Program Evaluation Unit, are important resources as the Framework and action plans are implemented.

Through consultation it was highlighted that many NGOs and DFSV specialist service providers seek further tools and capacity to undertake their own evaluations. Some of the services consulted for the IMF had already undertaken significant work on program logic models and theory of change development, with a view to evaluating their programs.<sup>viii</sup> These services routinely collect narrative and quantitative data for reporting to funders and for their own reporting purposes. These resources provide a good source of qualitative and quantitative data for both the IMF and the organisations themselves.

## 10. Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANROWS	Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety
ANU	Australian National University
AP1	First Action Plan
CAWG	Cross Agency Working Group (Territory Families)
CDU	Charles Darwin University
CFSC	Children and Families Standing Committee
DAGJ	Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
DFSV	Domestic, family and sexual violence
DFV	Domestic and family violence
DLGHCD	Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
DTSC	Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture
EP	Evaluation Plan
FSF	Family Safety Framework
IMF	Implementation Monitoring Framework
ISE	Information Sharing Entity
KWCC	Katherine Women’s Crisis Centre
Menzies	Menzies School of Health Research
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
National Plan	National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022
NCAS	National Community Attitudes Survey
NGO	Non-government organisation
NT	Northern Territory
NTCS	Northern Territory Crime Statistics
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTPFES	Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
PSS	Personal Safety Survey
TCWR	Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge
TF	Territory Families
The Framework	The Northern Territory’s Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework (2018 – 2028) Safe, respected and free from violence
TICC	Northern Territory Intelligence and Coordination Centre



## 11. Definitions

The following definitions have been used throughout this document.

### ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/Indigenous people***

This document uses the term Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to include Aboriginal peoples, Torres Strait Islander peoples and people with both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. On a few occasions it refers only to one group, for example when referring to local organisations that use only Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to reflect the local population in that part of the country. On occasion, in keeping with international human rights language, this document uses the term Indigenous to include both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, or to distinguish from the non-Indigenous Australian population.

### ***Clients***

This document uses the term clients to refer to women, men and children who are engaged with DFSV services. The term also includes those people engaged with associated services such as drug and alcohol services, legal services, or health services, as these often overlap with the DFSV sector.

### ***Intimate partner***

A current partner (living with), previous partners (has lived with), boyfriend/girlfriend/date and ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend (never lived with).<sup>ix</sup>

### ***Partner***

A subset of intimate partner that refers to a person the respondent lives with, or lived with at some point, in a married or de facto relationship.<sup>x</sup>

### ***Physical assault***

Physical assault takes place when an individual or a group provokes and attacks a person physically, with or without the use of a weapon. It may also include the threat of physical harm if the threat is coupled with an apparent ability to cause harm. Types of physical assault can include provocation (insults, death threats), intimidation (making a fist, pushing, throwing objects, stalking), brutality (attacks, fights), punches and injuries (bites, bruises, dislocations), assault with a weapon, armed robbery (with firearm or using force or threat of force).<sup>xi</sup>

### ***Sexual violence***

Sexual violence refers to behaviours of a sexual nature and covers a wide range of criminal and other behaviours committed against children and adults. This includes child sexual abuse; problem sexual behaviours; sexual harassment; sexualised bullying; unwanted kissing and sexual touching; sexual pressure and coercion; and sexual assault including rape.<sup>xii</sup>

### ***Violence***

The Framework refers to violence associated with DFSV as a pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner or family member through fear, such as using behaviour which is violent and threatening, and to place at risk their immediate and longer-term safety and wellbeing. Forms of violence can include physical, sexual, stalking, emotional or psychological, technology facilitated and financial abuse and it can include criminal and non-criminal behaviour'.<sup>xiii</sup> The definition of violence includes violence against children, acknowledging their experiences of violence can also include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse as well as neglect and deprivation. Children being made witness to or exposed in any form to DFSV is also considered as abuse towards the child.<sup>xiv</sup>

### ***Youth***

In Australia, youth is generally considered to refer to a person aged between 12 – 24 years.<sup>xv</sup>

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- <sup>i</sup> Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, [Violence against Women: Accurate use of Key Statistics](#), ANROWS Insights 05/2018, Sydney, 2018
- <sup>ii</sup> [National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children: Fourth Action Plan \(2019-22\): Background and Evidence Summary](#), Department of Social Services, September 2018, p. 12.
- <sup>iii</sup> [Offence Statistics](#), Northern Territory Crime Statistics, NTPFES. This figure does not include sexual assault.
- <sup>iv</sup> Sorenson, H, ['NT's domestic violence epidemic laid bare'](#), *NT News*, 2 September 2017.
- <sup>v</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. [Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story 2019](#). Cat. no. FDV 3. Canberra: AIHW, p. 106
- <sup>vi</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. [Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019](#). Cat. no. FDV 3. Canberra: AIHW, p. 110
- <sup>vii</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. [Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019](#). Cat. no. FDV 3. Canberra: AIHW, p. 114.
- <sup>ix</sup> Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, [Violence against women: Accurate use of key statistics](#), ANROWS Insights 05/2018, ANROWS, Sydney, 2018.
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