

Code of Practice Communiqué



CENTRE FOR
Women's Safety
and Wellbeing



Happy New Year Everyone

We hope you had an enjoyable festive season and that you managed to fit in some time for rest and recuperation.

2023 was a very busy year for the Centre with many activities including hosting the Family and Domestic Violence Biannual Conference, the Candlelight Vigil and another very successful 33rd March Against Domestic and Family Violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism.

The purpose of the West Australian Code of Practice is to articulate principles and standards to guide consistent quality service provision for services that are working towards reducing risk and creating safety for women and children experiencing violence.

The Code of Practice project kicked off in 2023 with the project team undertaking 24 community consultations across the state. Thank you to all who contributed to these consultations as you have really helped inform The Code's development. You might like to take the opportunity to learn more about the consultations at [Code of Practice - Centre For Women's Safety and Wellbeing \(csw.org.au\)](https://www.csw.org.au/code-of-practice).

The establishment of the Expert Reference Group and consultation with our Lived Experience Advisory Group have also provided valuable insights into necessary content for The Code.

Work continues on refining the draft principles and creating aligned standards and indicators. To accompany The Code, the project team has commenced development of an Audit Tool that will assist services to assess themselves against the standards and indicators. This self-assessment will allow services to identify current strengths as well as areas where development and support is needed. In the next few months, a pilot of the Audit Tool will commence with a small group of services. This pilot will test and evaluate the practical implementation of The Code.

There have been some changes to the Code of Practice team. We would like to acknowledge and thank Jess Corbyn for her work on The Code in 2023. Her relationship building with many in the sector throughout consultations and the development of The Code's principles was essential and valued.

We welcome Linda Jenkins to the team. Linda will support the remainder of The Code's development phase and the implementation of The Code from mid-2024 onwards.

Feel free to contact the Code of Practice team at codeofpractice@csw.org.au for updates or if you are interested in joining one of the following Communities of Practice.

- Refuge staff
- Children FDV counsellors
- FDV counsellors
- Advocates and Outreach workers.

Stay tuned for further news on The Code's development and we wish you a great start to 2024.