

Update on the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce

The Hon. Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence convened a Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce to consider and provide advice about reforms, and identify actions to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence in Western Australia.

Establishment of a Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce was a key measure requested by the family and domestic violence sector and lived experience advocates at Crisis Talks with Premier Roger Cook on August 31st, 2023.

The taskforce is time-limited, planned for six months. The first meeting was held on 19 September 2023. For more information, please see the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce – [Terms of Reference](#)

Taskforce members

For information Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce members please see [here](#)

Overview of progress to date

The first two meetings of the Taskforce mapped current investment and identified key areas where there is under investment. The focus was on the core service areas identified in the National Plan to end Violence against Women and Children and Path to Safety and the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy – prevention, early intervention, crisis response, recovery/healing. It would be no surprise for you to know that the Taskforce saw very clearly the serious under investment in prevention, early intervention, and recovery/healing.

Meeting two also focused on the significant over-representation of Aboriginal women and children as victim-survivors of family and domestic violence, the challenges in accessing existing mainstream responses to family and domestic violence and the proportionally lower investment in family violence services led by Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations.

Meeting three focused on Aboriginal family safety and was informed by targeted engagement prior to the meeting with Aboriginal people with lived experience, leaders of ACCOs and Aboriginal people who are leaders within Government. The Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap were the key policy frameworks grounding the discussions, with participants invited to talk about the priority actions for implementation.

New funding to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence.

On Tuesday 28 November, Premier Roger Cook announced \$72.6 million in new funding to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence.

This investment comprises a range of initiatives including primary prevention, crisis response, perpetrator intervention, recovery and healing, and workforce development. Largely funding is for a two-year period. The family and domestic violence sector has asked for sustainable funding across these areas. It is vital that primary prevention and recovery and healing services receive sustainable funding in recognition that they are as essential as crisis response work and are core to ending violence against women and children in one generation.

Further information regarding this funding announcement is available in the following [media statement](#).

Lived Experience Advisory Group

One of the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce's priorities is to establish a Lived Experience Advisory Group, that will place the experience and voices of victim-survivors at the centre of policy and service design.

The Department of Communities has led the procurement of a consultant to assist in the design of the Lived Experience Advisory Group.

On 1 December 2023, the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Hon Sabine Winton MLA attended the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing 16 Days in WA morning tea with victim-survivors. At that event Minister Winton announced the award of the contract to Kwobap Consultancy.

Kwobap Consultancy is operated by Ms Alison Scott who is a proud Noongar woman and has worked in the family and domestic violence area for over 20 years. Ms Scott has engaged Ms Karine Hamilton to assist in delivering the project.

Kwobap Consultancy will be supported by the Department of Communities and a Working Group, comprising representatives nominated by Taskforce members, to design the model for the Lived Experience Advisory Group. This model will define the Advisory Group's purpose, role, membership criteria and operational processes.

Consulting with people who have lived experience, as well as sector stakeholders, are essential to the delivery of this project. Through to February 2024 Kwobap Consultancy will be undertaking engagement and collecting qualitative and quantitative information through consultations across the State. This information will assist in achieving the following deliverables by March 2024:

- A report describing options for a proposed operating model for the Advisory Group
- A draft Terms of Reference for the Lived Experience Advisory Group
- A consultation summary report
- Findings from a jurisdictional scan and analysis

These deliverables will inform consideration by the Taskforce, and ultimately the Government, of the operating model for the Lived Experience Advisory Group.

For further information about the project please contact: Alison Scott, Project Manager, Kwobap Consultancy at kwobap-goodplace@outlook.com

Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce meetings 4-6

Taskforce meetings four to six, which are scheduled to occur in February and March 2024, are proposed to focus on system reform and the key mechanisms required to drive system reform. A key focus will be strengthening system integration through significantly enhanced:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Information sharing
- Workforce development/capability

There will be targeted engagement of people with lived experience, sector and stakeholders; and working group discussions with a small group of key informants to focus on solutions and next steps. The first full-day systems reform (in person) workshop was held on January 18th. A half-day (online) regional workshop was held on January 19th.