New Tools, Roles and Training for DFV Workers

It Stops Here: Standing together to end Domestic and Family Violence in NSW

Skills Development Strategy
Outline

1. It Stops Here: Specific DVNSW members
2. Safer Pathway: Each element focused on a DFV service
3. TAFE’s Role: Skills Development Strategy

Questions: Department of Justice-Victims Services, NSW Police Force, Legal Aid, FACS, Women NSW
It Stops Here Reforms

Why do we need a DFV Framework:

• To be more strategic about preventing domestic and family violence
• To hold perpetrators to account
• To provide victims with the support they need
• To build the capacity of frontline workers
It Stops Here: Elements of Reform

Element One: Prevention and Early Intervention

Element Two: Streamlined referral pathways

Element Three: Accessible, flexible, person centred services

Element Four: A strong skilled and capable workforce

Element Five: A strengthened criminal justice response
Information Sharing
Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Act 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DVSAT</td>
<td>Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>Central Referral Point</td>
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<td>LCP</td>
<td>Local Coordination Point</td>
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<td>SAM</td>
<td>Safety Action Meeting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Information Sharing for DFV Services

Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 allows agencies and services to share relevant information about victims and perpetrators in clearly defined circumstances.

Safety of Women and Children is paramount and Information sharing must be secure, timely, accurate and relevant.
Information Sharing for DFV Services

Information sharing is important to:

• Ensure services have a complete picture
• Prevent DFV related deaths
• Manage threats collaboratively
• Hold perpetrators accountable

Information Sharing
Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Act 2007

www.SWSi.tafensw.edu.au/dfvstrategy
Information Sharing
Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Act 2007
Police Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT)

• The DVSAT and *It Stops Here: Safer Pathway* replaces the current Yellow Card system across NSW

• DVSAT has been specifically designed to assess a victim’s level of threat to reduce DFV Homicide

• DVSAT mandatory for use by Police when they have attended a DFV incident
## Police DVSAT Risk Identification card

### Part A: Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool

**Preamble:** I'm going to ask you a number of questions that relate to identifying risk of future harm of domestic violence. Your answers will help us to assess your safety needs and your details will be provided to a specialist domestic violence service who will contact you.

**Victim’s Name:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence towards the Victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Has your partner ever threatened to harm or kill you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Has your partner ever used physical violence against you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Has your partner ever choked, strangled, suffocated you or attempted to do any of these things?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Has your partner ever threatened or assaulted you with any weapons (including knives or any objects)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Has your partner ever harmed or killed a family pet or threatened to do so?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Has your partner ever been charged with breaching an apprehended domestic violence order?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Relationship with the Victim**

| 7. Is your partner jealous towards or controlling of you? | Y | N | U | R |
| 8. Is the violence or controlling behaviour becoming worse or more frequent? | Y | N | U | R |
| 9. Has your partner stalked or constantly harassed or textoicemailled you? | Y | N | U | R |
| 10. Does your partner control your access to money? | Y | N | U | R |
| 11. Has there been a recent separation (in the last 12 months) or is one imminent? | Y | N | U | R |

### Background of Offender

12. Does your partner or the relationship have financial difficulties? | Y | N | U | R |
13. Is your partner unemployed? | Y | N | U | R |
14. Does your partner have mental health problems (including undiagnosed conditions) and/or depression? | Y | N | U | R |
15. Does your partner have a problem with substance abuse such as alcohol or other drugs? | Y | N | U | R |
16. Has your partner ever threatened or attempted suicide? | Y | N | U | R |
17. Is/has your partner currently on bail, parole, served a time of imprisonment or has been released from custody in relation to offences of violence? | Y | N | U | R |
18. Does your partner have access to firearms or prohibited weapons? | Y | N | U | R |

### Children

Only ask questions 19 and 20 if the victim is female

19. Are you pregnant and/or do you have children who are less than 12 months apart in age? | Y | N | U | R |
20. Has your partner ever threatened or used physical violence towards you while you were pregnant? | Y | N | U | R |
21. Has your partner ever harmed or threatened to harm your children? | Y | N | U | R |
22. Is there any conflict between you and your partner regarding child contact, or residency issues and/or current Family Court proceedings? | Y | N | U | R |
23. Are there children from a previous relationship present in the household? | Y | N | U | R |

### Sexual Assault

24. Has your partner ever done things to you, of a sexual nature, that made you feel bad or physically hurt you? | Y | N | U | R |
25. Has your partner ever been arrested for sexual assault? | Y | N | U | R |
Threat Assessment Level

**Serious Threat**
-10 or more Yes answers by victims to risk/threat indicator questions; or
-Yes to professional judgement response (for Police this includes repeat victim)

**At Threat**
Everyone else (1 or more Yes answers or professional judgement in the context of DFV)
Automatic Referral to Central Referral Point (CRP)

- Automatically referred to the Central Referral Point (CRP) for referral through to Local Coordination Points (LCPs)

- Victims at ‘serious threat’ automatically referred through the CRP to the LCP for inclusion at a Safety Action Meeting (SAM)

- The Police DVSAT is tailored to the operational needs of NSW Police Force
Non-Police Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT)

- Evidence based tool for services to use, in conjunction with existing safety assessment
- Government and non-government service providers are strongly encouraged to complete the DVSAT
### Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT)

**Client's Name:**

**Client's Date of Birth:**

**Completed by:**

**Signature:**

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#### PART A: Risk Identification Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Indicator</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Difficult &amp; Unresolved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Violence toward client</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Has your partner verbally threatened to hit or kick you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Has your partner threatened to strangle you with a towel or weapon?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Has your partner threatened to use a weapon or weapon-like object on you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Has your partner threatened to use a weapon or weapon-like object on anyone else?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child?</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick another child in your household?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Relationship between client and partner</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick another person?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick her/his friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sexual assault</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick you?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>15. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick her/his friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<td>17. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<td>18. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<td>19. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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<td>20. Has your partner threatened to hit or kick your child's friends, relatives, neighbors, or co-workers?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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#### PART B: Professional Judgement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Indicators</th>
<th>1 or more Yes</th>
<th>At least 13 of 15 if difficult &amp; unresolved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**Background of partner**

- Has the family had a history of child contact?
- Is the child at risk of significant harm?
- What is the client's risk of self-harm or suicide?

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**Threat Level**

- Low
- Moderate
- High

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How to use a Non-Police DVSAT in your service?

• Service providers should complete the DVSAT
• Service providers must not get the victim to complete the DVSAT.
• It is important to complete the DVSAT with a victim through a skilled, empathetic conversation.
DVSAT Terminology and Approach

- Victim/Client
- Partner/Perpetrator
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Ask all of the questions in the DVSAT
- Be familiar with the DVSAT questions before you begin to talk to your client
What should I do once I have completed the DVSAT?

• **“at threat”** provide appropriate support to the client, either directly or through making relevant referrals and to the LCP if appropriate.

• **“at serious threat”** service providers should ensure that their immediate safety needs are addressed and make a referral to the LCP for representation of the client at a SAM.
**Information Sharing**

*Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Act 2007*
Central Referral Point (CRP)

The **Central Referral Point (CRP)** is a 24/7 electronic platform that will manage and monitor referrals, as well as capture real-time data on victims and their children.

The **CRP** will improve the current ad-hoc practices of existing referral systems throughout the state, making the referral process more streamlined and efficient from a systems perspective and making it easier for victims to receive support.
Information Sharing
Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Act 2007
Local Coordination Point (LCP)

A state-wide network of **Local Coordination Points (LCP)** will concentrate on the safety of the victim: providing case coordination, risk assessment and review, and referrals to support services.

The role of the LCP is to provide case coordination to victims of DFV where case coordination is not already occurring.

Victims with an existing relationship with a DFV or other specialist service can continue to be supported by that service.
Information Sharing
Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Act 2007
Safety Action Meeting (SAM)

- Safety Action Meeting’s (SAM) aim to prevent or reduce serious threats to the life.
- Where a victim is identified as at serious threat, SAMs will provide a multi-agency response.
- SAMs will be established in defined local areas and will involve representatives from Police, Corrective Services, Community Services and other (non-government) members decided locally.
Safety Action Meetings and DFV Services Process

- Threat assessment
- Referral of victims at serious threat to a SAM
- LCP circulates agenda
- Members gather information
Safety Action Meetings and DFV Services Process

- Confidentiality and disclosure of conflicts
- Members develop Safety Action Plans
- Communication with victims
- Members implement the Safety Action Plans
- Safety Action Plans are reviewed Case closure
Information Sharing
Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Act 2007
What is TAFE SWSi’s Role?

Focus on supporting workers to implement the DFV reforms, as well as to up-skill the sector to better support victims.

This will be done through:

• Information sessions on the DFV Framework for frontline workers in the launch sites of the new referral pathways
• Training for domestic and family violence frontline workers
• Improving awareness of training options available to frontline workers
• Electronically accessible information and tools to support frontline workers
Where to Next?

www.swsi.tafensw.edu.au/dfvstrategy

www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au

Sites will be updated with FAQs