

# FACTSHEET: Establishment of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Interagency Coordination and Reform Office (DFSV-ICRO)

The Northern Territory (NT) has the highest rates of domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) in Australia, particularly for Aboriginal women and children. These rates are unacceptable.

The [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028 Safe, respected and free from violence](#) (the DFSV Framework) articulates a shared vision and commitment for a future where women and children are safe, respected and free from violence.

There is a critical need to strengthen coordination across all government agencies to ensure we are sharing responsibility, maximising investment, and giving this critical issue the attention it deserves.

## New Minister for DFSV Prevention

In April 2022, the Hon Kate Worden MLA was appointed as the inaugural Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. The Minister will be working across all agencies, and with our non-government partners, to coordinate our efforts to prevent and respond to DFSV.

## New DFSV-ICRO

Preventing and responding to DFSV is a responsibility that is shared across all government agencies, non-government organisations, and the community, and requires cross agency and cross community responses.

On 1 July 2022, the Government is establishing a DFSV Inter-Agency Coordination and Reform Office (DFSV-ICRO) under the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence so that the Departments of Health, Territory Families, Housing and Communities, Education and the Attorney-General and Justice,

and the NT Police, can all work together as one on DFSV.

The DFSV-ICRO will co-locate one senior officer from each of these agencies in the whole-of-government Reform Management Office for a period of 12 months.

The DFSV-ICRO will lay out a whole-of-government reform agenda for DFSV. It will include putting a DFSV lens on all our work, and collaborating to maximise resources, improve responses, increase victim survivor safety and hold perpetrators to account. The work will include alignment of the NT's efforts with Territory and national strategies, and ensuring that the work is evaluated and evidence based.

*Safe, Respected and Free from Violence* will continue to guide the work of preventing, responding to and reforming DFSV systems and initiatives. The DFSV-ICRO will be informed by the work delivered to date in developing Action Plan 2. The DFSV-ICRO will:

- Assess and map existing DFSV governance, investment and efforts;
- Develop a clear logical framework to guide efforts to address DFSV;
- Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework;
- Align efforts to address DFSV with complementary national and Northern Territory strategies
- Develop a whole-of-government budget submission for DFSV prevention and response for the 2022-23 budget.
- Develop options for ongoing governance and coordination of DFSV reform post 30 June 2023.

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### Collaboration and co-design

The DFSV Cross Agency Working Group (CAWG) will continue to fulfil its critical role in bringing together government, service peaks, Aboriginal peaks and DFSV specialist networks, to advise on the implementation of the DFSV Framework. The ICRO will provide regular updates to the CAWG.

The Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction will continue to provide policy advice and program implementation, as well as overseeing the implementation of the Framework and its action plans.

The Government has heard the strong call for a greater role for Aboriginal people, communities and organisations in DFSV governance mechanisms, policy planning and program design and implementation. The establishment of an Aboriginal advisory mechanism on DFSV is a priority action for the DFSV-ICRO for delivery in 2022-23.

### DFSV investment in the 2022-23 Budget

The Northern Territory Government has made significant investments in preventing and responding to DFSV growing from \$26.6 million in 2020-21 to \$31.9 million in 2021-22. There is more than \$54 million allocated for 2022-23, including \$18.6 million in programs funded under the National Partnerships for Remote Aboriginal Investment, and Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses.

In addition to the \$1.2 million for the establishment of the DFSV-ICRO, \$10 million over four years was announced for:

- expanding the Enhanced Specialist Services Grants program to continue delivery of wraparound services (such as counselling and outreach) for crisis accommodation services (\$1 million);
- developing a new secondary prevention (early intervention) grants program (\$1 million);
- expanding the Safe, Respected and Free from Violence Primary Prevention grants program (\$0.5 million).

### Linkages with the Aboriginal Justice Agreement

One of the commitments under the Northern Territory Aboriginal Justice Agreement is to reduce domestic and family violence (DFV) offending. The actions under this commitment include:

- developing a non-custodial facility in Central Australia to address DFV;
- developing a specialised approach to men's behaviour change programs;
- improving access to programs for DFV victims and offenders, including individuals on remand, in custody or supervised by community corrections.

These actions are aligned with Outcome 4 of the DFSV Framework (Perpetrator accountability and behaviour change), and will be considered by the ICRO under this outcome.

For more information

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