



Responsibility for the Annual Action Plan

The Department for Child Protection and the Western Australian Senior Officers' Group for Family and Domestic Violence are responsible for the implementation of the Strategic Plan and for the first Annual Action Plan. The Group will meet regularly in 2009–10 to monitor progress.

The members of this group include:

State Government

- Department of the Attorney General
- Department for Child Protection
- Department of Corrective Services
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Health
- Department for Housing
- Department of Indigenous Affairs
- Disability Services Commission
- WA Drug & Alcohol Authority
- Legal Aid WA
- Western Australian Police

Commonwealth Government

- Attorney General's Department
- Centrelink
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Community Sector

- Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services Inc.

Agency Specific Responsibilities

The Annual Action Plan for 2009-10 is focussed on those initiatives that are part of the integrated response, that require an across Government approach and for which there is a shared responsibility and commitment.

The Annual Action Plan will be implemented at the same time as individual agencies conduct their work in accordance with the principles and strategies contained in the Strategic Plan, on agency level Action Plans to maintain and enhance current initiatives, and on implementing new initiatives in the areas of family and domestic violence for which they have an agency specific mandate.

WA Strategic Plan for Family and Domestic Violence 2009—2013

Annual Action Plan 2009-10

Introduction

This is the first Annual Action Plan to support the implementation of the WA Strategic Plan for Family and Domestic Violence 2009–2013. The Strategic Plan recognises that family and domestic violence is a complex problem requiring a multi-agency response across both State and Commonwealth Government departments and community sector organisations, and that victim safety and perpetrator accountability is a shared responsibility. This Annual Action Plan, however, only formally binds WA State Government departments.

Outcome for 2009–10

The outcome sought from the Annual Action Plan for 2009–10 is that incremental progress will be made towards the establishment of an integrated, across government system. This will position Western Australia strongly in subsequent years to further develop the response, and implement other reforms foreshadowed in the Strategic Plan.

The planned actions for 2009–10 will significantly enhance capacity across government agencies to respond to family and domestic violence with tools, processes and

strategies that are evidence based, consistent, holistic and accountable, and that keep victims safe and perpetrators accountable regardless of where and how they enter the system.

The Integrated Response

A major focus of the Strategic Plan is the systemic reform of Western Australia's response to family and domestic violence over four years, through the:

- Implementation of an evidence based, integrated response across government;
- Enhancement of current services; and
- Introduction of new approaches.

The integrated response will operate across all agencies within a common framework of objectives, principles, definitions and strategies. The framework is established in the Strategic Plan, which seeks to achieve the safety of adult and child victims, and the accountability of perpetrators for their violent behaviour as two of its three outcomes.

The evidence is clear that across government, an integrated response depends on the provision and intersection of a range of strategies including:

- A mandated 24 hour emergency response by the WA Police to family and domestic violence incidences;
- Family violence and magistrate courts;
- Specialised legal support;
- Mandated and non-mandated programs for perpetrators of family and domestic violence;
- Women's refuges and related advocacy services;
- Priority housing;
- Emergency health and related support services for victims;
- Family and domestic violence civil and criminal laws that support safety and accountability; and
- A capacity to systematically review family and domestic violence deaths and improve the response system as a result.

Actions for 2009–10

The key actions to progress the development and implementation of the integrated response in 2009–10 are to:

1. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding for Information Sharing for the purpose of managing high risk cases involving family and domestic violence.
2. Consider existing risk assessment and referral processes with a view to standardising Family and Domestic Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management processes across the State.
3. Develop standards of practice for working with adult victims, children and perpetrators of family and domestic violence.
4. Design and implement case coordination and case management guidelines and procedures.
5. Review delivery of Regional Coordination Responses to Family and Domestic Violence with a view to strengthening arrangements and making them more consistent across the State.
6. Research models of operation for family and domestic violence fatality review committees to determine an appropriate model for Western Australia.
7. Commence the design of data collection standards and processes.
8. Commence the design of a longitudinal tracking process.
9. Research workforce development strategies for specialist and generalist agencies.
10. Commence the design of a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Future years

It is anticipated that some of the 2009–10 actions will be developed to implementation stage over the period, however, the design and implementation of the integrated response will continue incrementally through the Annual Action Plans for 2010–11 and 2011–12.

The major focus of the Annual Action Plan for 2012–13, the final year of the Strategic Plan, is likely to be on evaluation of the effectiveness of the reformed system in keeping victims safe and making perpetrators accountable.