

NSW Government Response to DVDRT 2017-2019 Report Recommendations

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
1	<p>Recommendation 1: therapeutic services for children</p> <p>That the NSW Government review available therapeutic services for children and young people who have experienced domestic and family violence, examining programs operating in government, community and in crisis services such as refuges.</p> <p>The review should identify gaps in service availability and funding and evaluate whether available programs use evidence-based approaches to respond to the spectrum of therapeutic needs (e.g. including individual therapy, rebuilding the relationship between the non-offending parent and children and responding to children and young people who engage in violent behaviour arising from a domestic violence context).</p> <p>The review should identify referral pathways and service needs.</p>	<p>Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) – Child and Family</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice is evaluating therapeutic programs for children at risk of entry into the out-of-home care system, which includes children who have experienced domestic and family violence, and using that information to inform the redesign of the family preservation service system.</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice is currently trialling several therapeutic family preservation treatment models that support vulnerable children, young people and families, including Multisystemic Therapy Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) and Functional Family Therapy through Child Welfare (FFT-CW).</p> <p>Continued development of the NSW evidence base for family preservation services is essential to help build a service system that prevents harm, intervenes early, and supports those with the greatest need.</p>

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2	<p>Recommendation 2: include young offender diversion responses in the review of the Young Offenders Act 1997</p> <p>That the review of the Young Offenders Act 1997 (NSW) by the NSW Government give consideration to removing the restrictions which prevent young people who have committed certain domestic violence offences from being diverted away from the criminal justice system. The review should also consider whether additional programs are needed to support diversion.</p>	DCJ – Policy, Reform and Legislation	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice and the NSW Police Force are undertaking a joint legislative review of the <i>Young Offenders Act 1997</i> (YOA) in line with the NSW Government response to the 2018 Legislative Assembly Law and Safety Committee Inquiry into the adequacy of youth diversionary programs in NSW (2018 Parliamentary Inquiry). The review aims to improve the legislative framework for youth diversion under the YOA and increase appropriate diversion of young people from the criminal justice system. The scope of the review is limited to the relevant legislative framework.</p>
3	<p>Recommendation 3: temporary/crisis accommodation needs of Youth Justice clients</p> <p>That the temporary/crisis accommodation needs of Youth Justice clients be considered as a priority by the Homelessness Interagency Project Group through the No Exits into Homelessness Framework, and further data analysis and research be conducted on the best approach to addressing the housing needs of young people who are excluded from mainstream services.</p>	DCJ – Housing and Homelessness	<p>Supported</p> <p>Youth Justice clients are a specific cohort identified in the No Exits Framework.</p> <p>Recent work has been undertaken in relation to children and young people in response to COVID-19, including development of a policy for unaccompanied children under 16 years presenting at specialist homelessness services.</p>

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4	<p>Recommendation 4: gendered attitudes of juvenile domestic and family violence offenders</p> <p>Approaches to delivering this education should be trauma-informed and culturally competent.</p>	DCJ – Youth Justice	<p>Supported</p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Strategy</i> addresses the needs of children and young people who use violence in the home, engage in adolescent dating violence, and who are often victims of domestic and family violence themselves. Two modules of the Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) program are also being reviewed and strengthened. Youth Justice is currently adapting the Aboriginal male program My Journey My Life to use with Aboriginal girls who experience and/or use violence in the home, called Her Journey Her Life.</p>
5	<p>Recommendation 5.1: support children who have a parent or sibling killed in a domestic violence homicide</p> <p><u>5.1:</u> That the NSW Government consider providing unlimited lifetime counselling to children who have a parent or sibling killed in a domestic violence homicide and extending the statutory restrictions on the ability of those children to lodge a claim under the Victims Support Scheme (currently up to the child's 20th birthday).</p>	DCJ – Policy, Reform and Legislation	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>Consideration of this recommendation could occur as part of the assessment of the Victims Support Scheme (VSS) required as part of the upcoming statutory review of the <i>Victims Rights and Support Act 2013</i> (VRSA), due to commence by June 2021. The statutory review will provide an opportunity to consider the recommendations in the context of both the broader policy settings of the VRSA and the financial sustainability of any expansion of the VSS.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 5.2: increase awareness of Victims Support Scheme.</p> <p><u>5.2:</u> That Victims Services work with NSW Government agencies and relevant stakeholders to disseminate information so that victims and their carers are aware of the supports available under the Victims Support Scheme.</p>	DCJ – Victims Services	<p>Supported</p> <p>The recommended action is already part of the statutory functions of the Commissioner of Victims Rights, under Section 10 (1) a of the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013. Victims Services will continue to work with relevant stakeholders to improve the awareness of the supports available under the VSS to victim-survivors and their carers.</p>

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6	<p>Recommendation 6: provide information to victim-survivors who do not engage with domestic violence services</p> <p>That the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program work with the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services to develop a mechanism to provide victims who have a history of Central Referral Point referrals and who do not engage with domestic violence services, with information on how to access support.</p>	<p>Legal Aid</p> <p>With support from DCJ - Justice Strategy & Programs</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>Legal Aid NSW will liaise with the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS) to explore ways to provide women who have been the subject of repeat referrals through the Central Referral Point, but choose not to engage with services, with information about how to access support in future, if they choose.</p>
7	<p>Recommendation 7: engage with service providers in design, implementation, and evaluation of programs</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice consider actively engaging with service providers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to ensure new pilots or programs relevant to domestic and family violence are clearly communicated to NGOs in the areas in which they are operating, including through attending monthly Interagency meetings of local Domestic Violence Committees; Regional Strategy Groups; and through the use of HSNet; and 2. when developing, implementing and evaluating relevant programs to ensure that they are suitable and meaningful for the community and target population. 	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government will continue to engage with service providers to ensure that programs are suitable and meaningful for the community and target population, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploring options to regularly link in with local Domestic Violence Committees • strengthening partnerships through Regional Strategy Groups (RSGs) • exploring options for use of HSNet (the Human Services Network) • continuing to engage with non-government organisations (NGOs) through informal and formal mechanisms, such as the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council.

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8	<p>Recommendation 8: increase guidance and resources to support safety planning</p> <p>That the NSW Government develop increased guidance and resources to support safety planning, which may include consideration of standard resources or tools for use by responders and practitioners who work with victims of domestic and family violence.</p> <p>In developing standard resources or tools, the NSW Government may consider the work of DV Sightlines, and literature around safety planning and responding to risk. Roll out of standard resources or tools should be accompanied by comprehensive training and education.</p>	DCJ – Justice, Strategy & Programs	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government will explore the development of standard resources or tools relating to safety planning and risk. The recommendation is supported subject to available funding.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
9	<p>Recommendation 9: examine existing laws with respect to stalking or intimidation and coercive control</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice examine the extent to which existing NSW laws (criminal and civil protection orders) respond adequately to the range of non-physical forms of domestic and family violence and to patterns, rather than incidents, of violence. This examination should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a qualitative review conducted with NSW Police about what forms of behaviour are being targeted under the offence of ‘stalking or intimidation’, whether such charges are laid on their own or in combination with other offences, and the relationship context of such offences; and 2. monitoring the progress and implementation of offences of coercive control and domestic abuse in other jurisdictions. 	<p>DCJ – Justice, Strategy & Programs DCJ – BOCSAR</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice has commenced a review, as directed by the Attorney General and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which will examine reform options to better protect victim-survivors of domestic and family violence against coercive and controlling behaviours.</p> <p>The review will be informed by existing police and court data and will include consultation across jurisdictions with experts, government and non-government agencies, and the community.</p>
10	<p>Recommendation 10: address technology-facilitated abuse tailored towards children and young people</p> <p>That the NSW Government write to the eSafety Commissioner requesting that any curriculum development around eSafety for children and young people, include modules around technology-facilitated abuse tailored towards children and young people.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Government, through the Department of Communities and Justice, will write to the eSafety Commissioner in relation to addressing technology-facilitated abuse tailored towards children and young people.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
11	<p>Recommendation 11: develop judicial education promoting awareness of non-fatal strangulation</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice collaborate with the Judicial Commission of NSW to explore opportunities to develop judicial education promoting awareness of non-fatal strangulation, and its association with future violence, as well as serious or fatal harm.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs DCJ – Policy Reform & Legislation</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Government, through the Department of Communities and Justice, will write to the NSW Judicial Commission (JudCom) to explore options to further develop and enhance judicial education and awareness about non-fatal strangulation, the operation of each of the strangulation offences within s37 of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i>, and material that may assist with the prosecution of these offences, including the risks it poses for potential future violence.</p>
12	<p>Recommendation 12: provide information on the pathways into perpetrator programs</p> <p>That the NSW Government make publically available information on the pathways into perpetrator programs.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Government acknowledges the need for publicly accessible information about all its programs and services, including pathways into perpetrator programs to support a perpetrator’s journey for behaviour change.</p> <p>In support of the Premier’s Priority to Reduce Domestic Violence Reoffending by 25 per cent by 2023, content will be developed, and regularly updated, for the NSW Government and DCJ websites to inform and educate the public about the Reducing Domestic Violence Reoffending program and specific interventions, including intervention pathways information.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
13	<p>Recommendation 13: develop a framework to prevent and respond to violence in Aboriginal families and communities</p> <p>That the NSW Government, in partnership with Aboriginal communities and organisations, develop a framework to prevent and respond to violence in Aboriginal families and communities.</p> <p>The objectives of the framework, subject to consultation with communities and organisations, should be to improve the quality, availability and cultural competency of services across the broad DFV service system for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The framework must include a governance structure that draws together the diverse DFV service system and has strong connections to NSW Aboriginal communities.</p>	DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government will work with partner agencies, including Domestic Violence NSW and the NSW Health Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV), to develop a culturally safe framework for domestic and family violence services</p> <p>This recommendation is supported subject to available funding.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
14	<p>Recommendation 14.1: Aboriginal specialist workers in Safer Pathway response</p> <p><u>14.1:</u> That the NSW Government create a pool of independent Aboriginal specialist workers from a range of services to be involved in Safer Pathway for Aboriginal people experiencing domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Legal Aid (for female victim-survivors)</p> <p>DCJ – Victims Services (for male victim-survivors)</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>Legal Aid NSW recognises the higher rates of referral for Aboriginal people into Safer Pathway and supports efforts to improve Aboriginal engagement with the system, and to ensure that Safer Pathway service delivery is culturally appropriate.</p> <p>For female victim-survivors: From 1 July 2020, each WDVCS will have a full-time Aboriginal Specialist Worker. Given this, Legal Aid NSW does not support the creation of a ‘pool of independent Aboriginal specialist workers’, as it may lead to a duplication of roles.</p> <p>For male victim-survivors Victims Services will continue to work with Local Support Services to ensure culturally appropriate service delivery is available for Aboriginal male victim-survivors. It is noted this may be dependent on available resourcing.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 14.2: Aboriginal specialist workers in Safer Pathway response</p> <p><u>14.2:</u> That the NSW Government ensure that Safer Pathway includes input from independent Aboriginal specialist workers for Aboriginal people experiencing domestic and family violence (with their consent).</p>	<p>Legal Aid and DCJ – Victims Services</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>Legal Aid NSW and Victims Services will invite Aboriginal specialist workers to contribute to the Safer Pathway Steering Group in order to enhance Safer Pathway policies, operations and governance in relation to Aboriginal communities. Legal Aid NSW and Victims Services will also explore ways to enhance input into Safer Pathway development from Aboriginal communities and organisations.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
15	<p>Recommendation 15: domestic and family violence training for NSW Police Multicultural Community Liaison Officers</p> <p>That the NSW Police Force require Multicultural Community Liaison Officers to receive comprehensive commencement and regular training in domestic and family violence. This training should be modelled off the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer training, but should also include modules specific to violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and working with culturally and linguistically diverse people, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence.</p>	NSW Police Force	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Police Force is currently developing a Liaison Officer program that incorporates the general skills, knowledge, attributes and behaviours expected of all Liaison Officers across the organisation in a single course, including baseline domestic violence training. Specialist skills will be developed in online modules to be completed by officers who have completed the general Liaison Officer course.</p> <p>The NSW Police Force will review the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer training course to ascertain its relevance to Multicultural Community Liaison Officers' duties and role.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
16	<p>Recommendation 16: domestic and family violence training and compliance for interpreters</p> <p>That the Department of Premier and Cabinet work with other jurisdictions to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensure all new and existing interpreters working in NSW are required to undertake domestic and family violence education at commencement, as part of accreditation and at the revalidation stage; and 2. develop a strategy to ensure compliance amongst interpreters with the rules, regulation and ethical expectations of their profession. This compliance strategy should also specifically ensure that interpreters do not put pressure on victims of domestic and family violence not to disclose violence, and that interpreters accurately represent the testimony or information being provided by victims of domestic and family violence. 	DCJ – Multicultural NSW	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government notes that the appropriate lead agency in this context is Multicultural NSW, not the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) as nominated by the recommendation.</p> <p>Multicultural NSW will explore options for continuing and expanding domestic and family violence awareness training for interpreters, currently provided through the ECAV, noting that additional financial resources may be required.</p> <p>Multicultural NSW will liaise with appropriate interpreting organisations to explore ways to promote good practice across the sector, including working with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (to raise the importance of domestic and family violence education as an important component of professional development training for interpreters), and the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (to strengthen the industry code of ethics to ensure appropriate behaviour of interpreters in domestic and family violence assignments).</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
17	<p>Recommendation 17: develop framework for responding to domestic and family violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice develop a framework for responding to domestic and family violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities in contact with the criminal justice system. This framework should be developed in partnership with communities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. address the specific barriers facing culturally and linguistically diverse communities (including language barriers, barriers to reporting, acculturation stress, vulnerable immigration status and the impacts of torture and trauma); and 2. ensure the availability of culturally inclusive supports and responses to domestic violence. 	DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice is developing a framework to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities with their response to domestic and family violence. This framework will be co-designed with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
18	<p>Recommendation 18: reduce barriers to reporting and outreach for sex workers who experience violence and abuse</p> <p>That the NSW Government coordinate a roundtable with sex work organisations to examine how to reduce barriers to reporting and outreach for sex workers who experience violence and abuse from their current or former intimate partners, as well as violence and abuse in the context of their work. This roundtable should address the issue of stigma and discrimination against sex workers and how this interacts with victims' experiences of violence.</p>	DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government, through the Department of Communities and Justice, will explore the opportunity of coordinating a roundtable with representative sex worker organisations. Design of the roundtable would draw on advice from key stakeholders, including the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council, to develop content and identify suitable participants.</p> <p>This recommendation is supported subject to available funding.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
19	<p>Recommendation 19: interagency planning with respect to mental health consumers who present a serious risk to themselves or others</p> <p>That the NSW Government convene an interagency working group to consider mechanisms to rapidly share information between NSW Health and the Department of Communities and Justice to allow informed interagency planning with respect to mental health consumers (in the community or in custody) who are considered to present a serious risk to themselves or to another person. This working group should consider the role of Community Treatment Orders, courts, police, bail and parole conditions with particular regard to those people at risk of domestic and family violence reoffending and their families.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</p> <p><i>With support from NSW Health</i></p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government facilitates a number of boards and working groups that consider the issue of mental health and the criminal justice system. This includes interagency information sharing between the Health and Justice systems. Prior to establishing a new entity, the Department of Communities and Justice will explore if an existing governance body would be an appropriate body to effectively address this recommendation.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
20	<p>Recommendation 20: responses to victim-survivors and perpetrators accessing mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) use services</p> <p>That NSW Health through Phase 2 of its Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence Abuse and Neglect, prioritise initiatives aimed at improving NSW Health responses to victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence accessing mental health and alcohol and other drug use (AOD) services. Action and initiatives should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. facilitate increased integration between NSW Health AOD, Mental Health and VAN services to support risk assessment, safety planning and pathways to further support for clients and their families and carers, including Safer Pathway; 2. promote increased engagement of NSW Health AOD, Mental Health and VAN workforces, with learning and development initiatives that promote trauma-informed responses; and 3. facilitate collaboration with government partners, relevant peak bodies and NSW Health funded services to promote trauma-informed integrated responses and family inclusive practice between AOD and DFV NGO service providers. 	NSW Health	<p>Supported</p> <p>NSW Health is planning for Phase 2 implementation of its Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence, Abuse and Neglect, Which will address this recommendation.</p> <p>A Phase 2 project plan is in development and will include consultation with internal and external stakeholders, including government partners, relevant peak bodies and NSW Health funded services.</p>

<p>21</p>	<p>Recommendation 21: training for service providers working in both AOD, domestic and family violence services and NSW Police Force</p> <p>That the NSW Government ensure service providers working in both alcohol and other drug, domestic and family violence services and NSW Police Force, receive evidence-based training around working with clients who are experiencing alcohol and other drug use (AOD) issues and using or experiencing domestic and family violence. This training should challenge attitudes and practices that can promote victim blaming, foster stigma and discrimination against victims of violence with AOD issues, and minimise and excuse perpetrators' use of violence and abusive behaviours against victims with AOD issues.</p>	<p>NSW Health</p> <p><i>With support from NSW Police Force, DCJ – Corrective Services NSW, DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</i></p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government supports this recommendation in principle, noting that challenging attitudes and stigma, and improving practice in work with both victim-survivors and perpetrators, will require ongoing and sustained efforts by NSW Health, the NSW Police Force, the Department of Communities and Justice and relevant funded NGOs.</p> <p>Long term training and other workforce development strategies will need to be implemented to build knowledge and capacity across the sizable and diverse workforces targeted by this recommendation. This will require significant investment over time by the agencies involved and is subject to available funding..</p> <p>As lead agency for this recommendation, NSW Health will seek to address the issues underpinning this recommendation within existing resources by leveraging off current initiatives and sharing knowledge and resources with partner agencies. Partner agencies will be responsible for implementation of training for their workforces, including the NSW Police Force and Department of Communities and Justice-funded NGOs.</p> <p>As a priority area of work, NSW Health has been progressing actions and initiatives to challenge stigma and discrimination experienced by consumers of alcohol and other drug (AOD) services provided by NSW Health and the non-government sector. In addition, ECAV currently delivers a range of training that promotes perpetrator accountability and seeks to address attitudes and behaviours that minimise and condone perpetrator behaviour and reinforce victim blaming. In the immediate term, the Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Prevention and Response to Violence Abuse and Neglect (PARVAN) Unit within the Ministry of Health will work collaboratively to identify and develop targeted workforce development initiatives and resources that specifically challenge the additional discrimination, stigma and victim blaming</p>
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			<p>practices experienced by victims of domestic and family violence with AOD issues.</p> <p>NSW Health will work collaboratively with the Department of Communities and Justice and the NSW Police Force to support the development and implementation of workforce development initiatives within those agencies and funded partner organisations.</p>
22	<p>Recommendation 22: strengthen pathways between general practitioners, mental health and/or AOD services</p> <p>That NSW Health work with relevant stakeholders, including the Commonwealth, to continue to strengthen the pathways between GPs, mental health and/or alcohol and other drug services. This should include work to promote a range of resources to support GPs to identify and respond to victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence.</p>	NSW Health	<p>Supported</p> <p>NSW Health will seek to build upon a number of current initiatives to support implementation of this recommendation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying opportunities to enhance the provision of information, guidance, resources and referral pathways for victim-survivors and perpetrators of domestic and family violence through the NSW HealthPathway portals. NSW Health, in partnership with Primary Health Networks, is also exploring the feasibility of a state-wide central reference site HealthPathways for NSW project, which may further support progression of this recommendation • promoting awareness and engagement with the Commonwealth Government’s Recognise, Respond and Refer Pilot and National Training for the Primary Care Workforce initiative under the Fourth Action Plan for the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children • utilise existing partnership arrangements with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to progress the development and promotion of guidance and resources for general practitioners that address intersections of DFV.

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23	<p>Recommendation 23: improve coordination between Safer Pathway and the child protection system</p> <p>That the NSW Government examine ways to improve coordination between Safer Pathway and the child protection system, including to consider ways to promote cross-referral within the systems and improve supports for parents and families who are experiencing concurrent child protection and domestic and family violence issues.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs DCJ – Child and Family Legal Aid</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to improving systems that support families experiencing domestic family violence and in protecting children and young people from risk of significant harm.</p> <p>Lead agencies will work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to identify key intersections, barriers, and enablers of coordination between Safer Pathway and the child protection system.</p> <p>Implementation may be contingent on available resources.</p>

24	<p>Recommendation 24: response to students who are using or experiencing domestic and family violence at home</p> <p>That the NSW Department of Education develop a specific strategy aimed at strengthening the Department of Education’s overall response to students who are using or experiencing domestic and family violence at home.</p> <p>This strategy should focus on increasing the competency of Departmental staff to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify where domestic and family violence is occurring in families or for students in the NSW public education system. This may include understanding risk and vulnerability indicators for domestic and family violence, as well as coexisting indicators such as non-attendance or educational neglect; 2. respond effectively and promptly to concerns around domestic and family violence where these are identified; and 3. support students where their families or parents are using or experiencing domestic and family violence. <p>This strategy should take into account legislative mandates around child protection matters, but should focus on providing additional practical support and training for staff and students involved in the NSW public education system, tailored to the specific issue of domestic and family violence.</p>	Department of Education	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department of Education is currently developing a <i>Domestic and Family Violence Strategy</i>, which includes a review of Child Wellbeing Unit data to analyse patterns of reporting and create an evidence base to improve understanding of the domestic and family violence indicators, including non-attendance. This is in addition to related initiatives underway, such as mandatory training in child protection, domestic violence and support for students and a review of the child protection guidelines.</p>
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25	<p>Recommendation 25: enhance engagement with victims of domestic violence using the Link2Home system</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice (Housing) in consultation with specialist domestic violence service providers and victims with lived experience of domestic violence, examine opportunities and strategies to enhance engagement with victims of domestic violence using the Link2Home system.</p>	DCJ – Housing and Homelessness	<p>Supported</p> <p>Link2home currently links callers who identify as experiencing or being at risk of violence with specialist domestic and family violence services, as well as Specialist Homelessness Services, at the initial point of contact.</p> <p>Link2home has introduced a call back service to follow up with those clients the next day to ensure they have been able to make the contact with the domestic and family violence service.</p> <p>Link2home continues to regularly meet with service providers to identify service improvements.</p>
26	<p>Recommendation 26: protect victims of domestic violence from eviction or the strikes notice process</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice (Housing) amend its Antisocial Behaviour Management Policy to build in safeguards to protect victims of domestic violence from eviction or the strikes notice process for minor, moderate, or serious breaches where those breaches are caused by domestic violence.</p>	DCJ – Housing and Homelessness	<p>Supported</p> <p>In January 2020, the Department of Communities and Justice amended its Antisocial Behaviour Management Policy to make it explicit that the policy will not be invoked in cases where the antisocial behaviour is caused by a perpetrator of domestic violence and where the tenancy consequences fall on the victim of the antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/policies/antisocial-behaviour-management-policy</p>

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27	<p>Recommendation 27.1: enhanced support to victim-survivors who approach police stations</p> <p><u>27.1:</u> That the NSW Police Force consider opportunities to provide enhanced support to domestic violence victims who approach police stations, and other actions to improve responses to initial approaches for assistance, including to consider the co-location of specialist domestic violence services at police stations. Any co-location initiatives should be developed in partnership with local domestic violence specialist services, including Aboriginal services.</p>	<p>NSW Police Force</p> <p><i>With support from DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</i></p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Police Force will explore opportunities for enhanced support to domestic violence victim-survivors through Safer Pathway and ascertain if there is an opportunity for co-location of services that are already in partnership with Police. Subject to obtaining agreement, establishing memoranda of understanding and agreed work practices, the NSW Police Force will aim for a pilot launch in 2021. The pilot and any longer term implementation will need to be completed within existing resources.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 27.2: review the Victorian Orange Door (Support and Safety Hubs) model</p> <p><u>27.2:</u> That the NSW Government examine and review the Orange Door (Support and Safety Hubs) model being used to deliver services to victims of domestic and family violence in Victoria and consider whether this (or a similar) model should be adopted in NSW.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The NSW Government will consider all effective models of domestic and family violence service provision, such as the Orange Door model, as part of the development of the next whole-of -government domestic and family violence strategy, which will replace the <i>NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform</i> when it expires in 2021.</p>

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28	<p>Recommendation 28: understand the circumstances in which an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order application or domestic violence-related criminal prosecution has been dismissed and improve the functionality of Justicelink</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice identify opportunities to better understand the circumstances in which an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order application or domestic violence-related criminal prosecution has been dismissed. Consideration should be given to improving the functionality of Justicelink to improve recording of the reasons as to why an application has been dismissed.</p>	DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice will use existing information sources to explore opportunities to better understand why Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) applications and domestic and family violence related prosecutions are withdrawn or dismissed. This will include considering potential enhancements to relevant systems such as Courts and Police IT systems (JusticeLink and COPS).</p>
29	<p>Recommendation 29: increase use of audio-visual link or remote witness facilities in ADVO and criminal domestic violence matters</p> <p>That the Department of Communities and Justice review the use of AVL /remote witness facilities in ADVO and criminal domestic violence matters with a view to increasing the proportion of matters in which these options are used.</p>	DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs DCJ – Courts Tribunals and Service Delivery	<p>Supported</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to continuing to improve victim-survivors' experiences of the criminal justice system and is currently exploring options to expand the entitlement of a complainant in a domestic violence matter to appear remotely when giving evidence.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
30	<p>Recommendation 30: link the process of notifying victim-survivors of the release of a defendant on bail by Police or a court to Safer Pathway</p> <p>That the NSW Police Force and the Department of Communities and Justice review the process for notifying domestic violence victims of the release of a defendant on bail by Police or a court, without the victim being present or if the defendant is released from custody at short notice. The process should link to Safer Pathway and provide for timely notification of victims and ensure they are linked to support services.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</p> <p><i>With support from NSW Police Force</i></p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice will explore strategies to address this recommendation, including convening a working group, comprising representatives from relevant government agencies, to refine elements of a staged consultation process.</p> <p>Subject to the outcome of the consultations, work on implementation of the preferred option is estimated to commence in 2021.</p>
31	<p>Recommendation 31: national primary prevention campaigns</p> <p>That Women NSW work with the Department of Social Services on the national primary prevention campaigns as part of the Fourth Action Plan to support the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their children.</p>	<p>DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Department of Social Services (Commonwealth) leads the development of national primary prevention campaigns as part of the Fourth Action Plan to support the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. Where invited, Women NSW will continue to work with the Department of Social Services on the development of the campaigns.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
32	<p>Recommendation 32: coronial cases involving murder-suicides are remitted to the State Coroner’s Court</p> <p>That the NSW State Coroner issue a Case Management Note to ensure that all coronial cases involving murder-suicides are remitted to the State Coroner’s Court at first instance to enable suitable allocation.</p>	Chief Magistrate’s Office	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The Chief Magistrate will discuss this recommendation with the State Coroner to determine an appropriate course of action. However, it is noted that the Coroner’s Court forms part of the Local Court. While the State Coroner has statutory functions in relation to coronial matters under the <i>Coroners Act 2009</i>, those functions are subject to the direction and control of the Chief Magistrate. Both the State Coroner and Chief Magistrate exercise these functions as independent judicial officers.</p> <p>Recent changes in reporting of deaths, which have centralised matters throughout the state to the Coronial Case Management Unit at Lidcombe during the COVID-19 pandemic, will also provide a further level of consistency of approach to these types of matters if they are to continue.</p>
33	<p>Recommendation 33: amend the definition of a ‘domestic violence death’ as defined in s101B of the Coroners Act 2009 (NSW)</p> <p>That the NSW Government in conjunction with the current review of the <i>Coroners Act 2009</i> (NSW) amend the definition of a ‘domestic violence death’ as defined in s101B of the Act to ‘a death which occurs in the context of domestic violence’. The reference to relationship should be omitted.</p>	DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The Department of Communities and Justice will consult with stakeholders on changing the definition of a ‘domestic violence death’ as defined under s101B of the <i>Coroners Act 2009</i>, and, if agreed by Cabinet, will introduce amendments to Parliament.</p>

#	Recommendation	Lead agency	Response
34	<p>Recommendation 34: review non-government parity in DVDRT membership</p> <p>That the Attorney-General, in conjunction with the current review of the <i>Coroners Act 2009</i> (NSW) amend the Act to create greater parity in the non-government and government membership of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team.</p>	DCJ – Justice Strategy & Programs	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Attorney General, will consider options for greater parity in non-government and government membership of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team.</p>