

WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS OF DFV

ABOUT NO TO VIOLENCE

In 2017 Women NSW funded NTV, as a peak body specialising in men's domestic and family violence intervention and prevention, to provide sector development in NSW.

No To Violence Service (NTV) is the Victorian and NSW peak body for organisations and individuals working with men to end their violence and abuse against family members. NTV oversees the practice for men's behaviour change programs delivered by more than 100 members, and undertakes practice and policy development work to ensure men who use violence are held accountable for their abuse.

The Men's Referral Service has had over 170,000 conversations with men about their use of violence over the last 23 years. MRS currently engages with more than 10,000 perpetrators per year in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and across Australia. MRS provides the follow up to all weekend police incidents in Victoria – more than 17,000 per year. In total, MRS provides support for more than 70,000 men affected by family violence each year.

ABOUT THE MEN'S BEHAVIOUR CHANGE NETWORK NSW

The Men's Behaviour Change Network (MBCN) NSW was formed in 2013 in response to the introduction of NSW Minimum Standards for Men's Domestic Violence Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP) in 2012 by the NSW Department of Justice.

The Network comprises the nine NSW Accredited MBCP providers and their practitioners. There are approximately eighteen programs being delivered by the current providers across NSW metropolitan, regional and rural settings (2017). The Network proactively engages in sector development and provides feedback to government agencies through their own organisational membership and through the MBCN NSW.

The MBCN NSW acts as an advisory body to government and non-government organisations, providing practice and professional development for current and emerging MBCP workers and a central referral point for all stakeholders.

The Network has about fifty members (2017) and is supported by NTV NSW Sector Development Coordinator and Project and Policy Assistant. The group consists of managers, team leaders and practitioners and meets bi-monthly to undertake professional development opportunities and contribute to ongoing development of the sector.

Workers within organisations may

- Deliver group programs
- Provide 1:1 counselling sessions
- Conduct structured Intake assessments
- Undertake case collaboration with a range of services for clients
- Provide partner contact and advocacy work (with current and/or former partners of men attending the program)
- Engage with clients and the broader community in early intervention strategies
 - Attend court days
 - Participate in Safer Pathways Safety Action Meetings (SAMS)
 - Participate in local Domestic and Family Violence Liaison Committees
 - Attend local community events

MEN'S BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAMS

While men's behaviour change programs vary in length and approach, there are consistencies in all programs. The Dept. of Justice Practice Standards and guidelines set out clearly the requirements regarding safety of women and children and accountability of perpetrators.

Partner contact is a required and integral part of all MBCP's. It ensures that current and/or former partners are contacted and provided with risk assessment, safety planning and referral opportunities if they agree to receiving support.

If a woman agrees to ongoing support she will be informed about

- The content of the program
- Information regarding her and her children's safety ("just because he is in the program it doesn't mean he will stop using violence – there are no guarantees")
- Ongoing support and advocacy throughout the program
- Informed if he ceases to attend the program, and
- Provided an opportunity to let the worker know if his behaviour is changing or not – dynamic risk assessment and accountability

Length of programs vary, in NSW group programs delivered range from 12 weeks to 32 weeks. All group programs include at least two Intake sessions of approximately 1.5 hrs. Men are assessed by experienced practitioners regarding suitability and readiness.

Factors that may influence his acceptance into a program include

- Ability to recognise his use of controlling, coercive and violent behaviours
- Willingness to take responsibility for his use of family violence
- Willingness to provide current and/or former partners name and contact details
- Ability to attend one to one and group sessions
- Factors that may interfere with a man's capacity to attend and understand the content include alcohol and other drug (AOD) misuse, unattended mental health issues, homelessness and refusal to accept responsibility (blames others for his use of violence)

There are a number of pathways into MBCP's for men who use family violence, they include

- Self-referrals
 - Some men respond local information and call of their own volition, saying “I am losing the respect and love of my partner and children, I don't want to do this anymore”, “I'm just like my dad, I grew up with domestic violence and now I see myself doing the same to my wife and kids”
 - Many men are referred by their partner – “if you don't get help I'm leaving”, “this is your last chance to fix our relationship”, “The kids and I can't take this anymore”
 - Some men are encouraged to attend by solicitors representing them in Criminal or Family Law proceedings
- Service referrals come from a range of government and non-government human service organisations (Men's Referral Service, Drug and Alcohol, Housing, Family Support, Brighter Futures, FACS)
- Mandated clients are men who are required to attend a program as part of a criminal justice order. These include men who are clients of Probation and Parole and are case managed by Community Corrections Officers. This does not refer to men who have an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO). Mandated clients can attend Dept. of Justice, Community Corrections Domestic Abuse Programs (DAP) either in a custodial or community setting or a program delivered by an Accredited MBCP provider.

MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE (MRS)

MRS 1300 766 491, offers a 24 hour service to NSW as a secondary consultation to workers and a direct service to men. Workers in the course of their work can call to gain support on how to engage with and/or refer a client where DFV has been flagged or identified. Clients can call directly to speak to a specialist men's behaviour change telephone worker.

<https://www.ntv.org.au/about-us/contact-us/>

PROVIDER	PROGRAM	NUMBER	LOCATION
Anglicare	STOP (18 week) https://www.anglicare.org.au/directory-category/family-services	(02) 9895 8144	Parramatta
		(02) 4424 7100	Nowra
BaptistCare	Facing Up (16 week) https://baptistcare.org.au/our-services/community-services/domestic-and-family-violence/changing-mens-behaviour/	02 8713 4333	Bankstown
		02 8713 4333	Campbelltown
		02 8713 4333	Tuggerah
CatholicCare	Choosing Change (16 week) https://www.catholiccare.org/family-and-individual-services/domestic-and-family-violence-services/mens-behaviour-change-program/	02 8723 2265	Fairfield
Men and Family Centre	Men Exploring New Directions - MEND 32 week (4 x 8 week modules) http://www.menandfamily.org.au/	02 6622 6116	Lismore
		07 5536 8868	Tweed Heads
Corrective Services/Mission Australia	EQUIPS – DAP	0437 962 615	Dubbo
Port Macquarie Hastings DFV Specialist Service	Insight (2x12 week programs per year) http://www.pmhastingsdfv.com.au/	02 6583 2155	Port Macquarie
Relationships Australia (Canberra and regions)	Taking Responsibility for Relationships (12 week) http://www.racr.relationships.org.au/courses/Men-s-behavioural-change-group	02 6923 9100	Wagga Wagga
Relationships Australia NSW	Taking Responsibility (18 week) http://www.relationshipsnsw.org.au/support-services/taking-responsibility-a-course-for-men/	1300 364 277	Penrith Macquarie Park Parramatta Wollongong Sydney City Hunter
Kempsey Family Support	Step up Mate (12 week) http://stepupmate.com.au/	02 6568 7657	Coffs Harbour

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