

## **Family and Domestic Violence Strategic Plan**

### **Focus Area One: Identify and address emerging areas for research**

Review the implications of the findings of the personal safety survey being undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2005. In particular, review the level of abuse that is experienced by males to see whether more services should be developed for men who are victims and women who use violence.

### **Focus Area Two: Facilitate community education to raise public awareness**

Develop strategies for raising awareness in the community of the various forms of abuse, particularly emotional abuse.

### **Focus Area Three: Implementation of standards, competencies and best practice guidelines**

No Comment

### **Focus Area Four: Develop policy through planning and facilitation**

Review policies to ensure that they are gender neutral and review the practices of the Police and the courts to ensure that male victims of abuse are treated seriously.

### **Focus Area Five: Improve Inter-agency coordination, cooperation and collaboration**

No Comment

### **Focus Area Six: Enhance screening and risk management**

Review the screening processes used in hospital accident and emergency departments to ensure that male victims of family and domestic violence are identified. It needs to be realized that men may be reluctant to identify themselves as a victim of domestic violence.

### **Focus Area Seven: Improve service capacity to respond effectively to diversity**

Develop appropriate strategies for children of users of domestic violence to maintain contact with the offending parent.

Develop strategies for dealing with situations where there is mutual abuse by both partners towards each other.

### **Focus Area Eight: Build community capacity to respond to family and domestic violence**

No Comment

**Focus Area Nine: Monitor and enforce legal sanctions**

Review claims of domestic violence and child abuse that are made in the Family Court to ensure that the claims are valid and not falsely made as a tactic to gain advantage in the court proceedings, particularly when the intention is to deny access by the falsely accused parent to their children.

Evaluate the impact of the Acts Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2004 on:

- the effectiveness of the various provisions in reducing family and domestic violence
- the impact on the individuals who are subject to its provisions

**Focus Area Ten: Provision to scope, monitor and evaluate**

Evaluate the effectiveness of perpetrator programs.

Determine the number of male and female perpetrators accessing the programs.