



Government  
of South Australia

Office for Women

# **Domestic Violence Roundtable**

## **12 October 2018**

### **Port Lincoln**

Report prepared by the Office for Women for the Minister for Human Services and the Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention



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## Introduction

On 12 October 2018 the South Australian Government held a roundtable for those working in the domestic, family and sexual violence sector in the Port Lincoln area, to specifically discuss the 2018 election commitments made by the State Government.

This report provides an overview of:

- Points raised in relation to the Government's election commitments discussed under the groupings of Protection, Infrastructure and Support, and Service Responses; and
- Feedback received from a follow up survey sent to all those stakeholders who were invited.

The roundtable attendees were provided with a copy of the Government's commitments, as well as a summary document prepared by the Office for Women (OFW) providing a more detailed overview of the commitments.

Unlike the metropolitan roundtable, the Port Lincoln roundtable had a more focused, targeted approach in engaging attendees specifically on the ramifications of, and issues related to, election commitments in their specific locale.

## Election Commitments Feedback

This section discusses specific issues raised under each of the election commitments based on the groupings of Protection, Infrastructure and Support, and Service Responses.

This feedback will be integral to the upcoming new Violence Against Women Policy Framework.

### Protection

#### *Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme*

There was support for the scheme, and a request for information as to whether there would – or could be – a streamlined process for women who had withdrawn an application but then decided to proceed. The need for there to be awareness raising for the community about the scheme was raised.

#### *Reviewing Police guidelines re responding to Intervention Order (IO) breaches & Tougher penalties for IO breaches/ Keeping Victims Informed*

The ability for services to be informed of changes to bail conditions/parole/release dates, as well as victims, would provide an important intervention point and allow for increased monitoring and support in terms of risk.

Attendees also noted that it is important to address 'minor' breaches of IOs as a means of preventing more serious breaches. In addition, variations to IOs should be streamlined. There

were also questions as to how/whether agencies are informed of variations to or revocations of IOs.

IOs which allow the perpetrator to remain in, or attend, the 'family' home are problematic. In addition, there was support for reviewing police guidelines, as some attendees noted that there could be inconsistent responses from SAPOL, particularly in relation to breaches of IOs

### **Infrastructure and Support**

#### *A funded peak body for DV services*

There was support for this commitment.

#### *No interest loans for women's shelters*

Concerns were raised regarding this election commitment, particularly relating to how loans would be paid back.

There was also interest in whether the loans could be used for environmental upgrades (ie solar panels).

#### *Improving communications (data sharing)*

Feedback indicated that there was a need to improve data collection and information sharing, with a focus on improving understanding of what can be shared and by whom (particularly with reference to the Information Sharing Guidelines).

Databases are maintained by various organisations but they do not talk to one another, which needs to be addressed.

H2H is problematic and was not developed for DV. Ideally systems would be task-focused and follow a client throughout their journey, no matter which service/s they engage with.

#### *Personal Protection App*

The app was supported, with attendees noting that use of the app needs to be part of safety/risk planning and not be visible to perpetrators. In addition, it was noted that it would be useful to have a version of the app which is largely visual, rather than primarily English based.

### **Service Responses**

#### *Safety hubs*

There was extensive discussion on the Hubs, as well as valuable notes provided by attendees.

There are issues related to the stigma attached to a DV identified hub in a small community and there is sometimes a reluctance to engage with services. A co-location of services would assist smaller organisations and non-DV associated frontage would help to address issues associated with DV services (a generic frontage, perhaps a health service, was suggested). There is a need to ensure there's involvement from SAPOL, youth organisations, financial and

legal services, as well as DV and other relevant agencies to ensure fulsome case management.

A hub could triage cases via Case Manager/s, who would be a known and knowledgeable community member. Case Manager would link clients with the relevant services. Spokes would involve outreach into communities by relevant services, particularly for clients without transport or where distance is an issue.

This hub model could also utilise community locations like libraries, council, TAFE, post office, as kiosks to provide information on available services.

This model would not necessarily require a new physical space but could utilise an existing service/site.

### *Crisis Accommodation*

The commitment provides an opportunity to consider utilising some funding for perpetrator support attached to perpetrator accommodation (as well as whole of family support should it be needed). As accommodation of this nature tends to be high visibility, it might be better for use as perpetrator accommodation in regional areas, but must have onsite workers/support (accommodation for perpetrators would be useful for bail as well as ensuring women and children can stay in their own homes). This accommodation would also provide a safe place for access visits with children.

### *24/7 Crisis hotline*

There was support for this commitment.

### *More targeted rehabilitation for DV perpetrators*

There was an identified need for greater resources to be targeted towards perpetrator intervention programs in regional areas, including pathways to education and employment. Earlier intervention is needed, as are multiple entry points into support systems, and a focus on primary prevention is crucial.

Holistic (and culturally appropriate) wrap around responses to perpetrators are needed, with work occurring with the partners/families of perpetrators to enable them to stay in the home while the perpetrator is accommodated elsewhere. Additionally, work with families on re-unification is required.

Additional training and evaluation is needed in the perpetrator space, using NOSPI standards.

### **Other**

Outside the above election commitments were a few remaining points raised by attendees.

These included:

Primary prevention initiatives need to focus on young (primary school) aged children; there needs to be a focus on awareness, cultural and generational change, and schools, workplaces and sports are key sites of change and making violence against women a mainstream issue.

Imperative that a focus on sexual violence is maintained.

Community fund raising efforts need to be supported by investment from all levels of Government.

There is a lack of services for men, including gay men, experiencing violence.

Increased options for access to emergency financial payments for women experiencing violence are needed.

Greater engagement between non-government services and Child Protection is needed, to enable services to provide support at earlier points (before statutory responses occur).

## Survey

A follow-up survey was conducted after the Roundtable to provide the opportunity to reaffirm that the key themes noted above were reflective of the discussions on the day.

Five responses were received. The responses indicated that the key themes were captured correctly.

In addition, the need for funded primary prevention initiatives aimed at young men was strongly suggested by one respondent in particular. Another noted the need for additional programs for men, as both victims and perpetrators, in the Eyre region.