

AVERT Family Violence Facilitator's Manual

AVERT
FAMILY VIOLENCE



**Collaborative Responses in
the Family Law System**



An Australian Government Initiative

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How to use the AVERT Training Package

Introduction

The *AVERT Family Violence Training Package* is a multidisciplinary training package that has been designed for a range of professionals who work in the family law system. It has been developed through extensive consultation with representatives from these professional groups. The various training programs outlined in the package range from a number of 2-hour seminars up to a 5-day intensive workshop, aligned to nationally recognised competencies. These programs can be used in the classroom and the workplace; in group education or as self-paced learning activities; either face-to-face or within online learning frameworks. The scope of the materials allows the educator to address not only the diverse work contexts of family law professionals, but also a variety of different undergraduate training environments and needs. The package therefore provides a wide range of educational materials that can be 'mixed and matched' according to specific professional requirements.

The *Avert Family Violence Training Package* materials have been developed on the understanding that people delivering the program will have varied experience and expertise from different disciplines. And rather than providing instruction on how to become educators, these materials support professionals experienced in both the family law system and professional education to deliver training in relation to family violence. It is very important for the trainer to have a sound, general understanding of the issues involved in family violence before presenting professional education to others. These materials will support the professional educator develop the necessary understanding of family violence to effectively present quality professional education to colleagues.

Target Audience

The target professions are as follows:

- Legal practitioners
- Judicial officers
- Counsellors
- Psychologists
- Social workers
- Legal advisers
- Court staff, including family report writers
- Family consultants
- Family dispute resolution practitioners
- Child contact service workers



Aim

The aim of the *AVERT Family Violence* Training Package is to provide workers at all levels within the family law system with:

- A sound and practical understanding of family violence, its impact and appropriate responses to promote safety for everyone involved
- A stronger capacity for multidisciplinary collaboration through greater understanding and recognition of the different professional roles and their functions.

The AVERT Family Violence package promotes:

- Realistic and 'joined up' work practices
- The foundations to ensure staff have accurate knowledge and responsive attitudes in combination with specific skills, to conduct screening, risk assessment and triage/safety planning with their clients, or to collaborate for the achievement of this
- Awareness of the impact of violence on families, especially children
- Awareness of the importance of the positive influence quality service responses can have in interrupting the cycle of violence and support recovery for all involved.

The design of these materials has been premised on the belief that responses by individual practitioners and services must be underpinned by collaboration as a central tool and skill, in order to achieve consistency and enable holistic responses to families affected by violence. Multidisciplinary teamwork, which is necessary for an effective response to the complexity of family violence, requires inter-professional respect and shared understanding of the different professional roles and their influence.

The *AVERT Family Violence* Training Package therefore provides materials to support education that will create informed, practical and realistic professional responses to family violence, which facilitate sophisticated, multidisciplinary and interagency interventions. This training package provides an important opportunity to help remove 'roadblocks' between professional groups and create a culture of shared responsibility. It also offers resources to assist individual workers to develop the necessary skills to respond with optimum effect to family violence.

The suite of materials includes:

- 1) Purpose-written papers relating to specific content areas
- 2) Various interactive learning activities such as quizzes or exercises, suitable for the diverse range of targeted professionals, which can be implemented in small groups
- 3) Video resources including, personal testimonials, dramatised scenarios highlighting key issues of family violence and professional commentary from a wide range of Australian experts
- 4) A number of two-hour seminars up to a five-day intensive workshop which is aligned to



nationally recognised competencies.

Topics addressed within the AVERT Training Package:

- 1) Historical information in relation to Family Violence
- 2) Legal considerations, prevalence and analysis of Family Violence in Australia
- 3) Definitions, dynamics and effects of Family Violence
- 4) Common beliefs and myths and their impact on service responses
- 5) Strategies for engaging perpetrators of violence
- 6) Responding to diversity
- 7) Screening, risk assessment and safety planning
- 8) Collaboration and joined-up case management.

Project background

In 2010 the Federal Attorney General's Department contracted Relationships Australia SA (RASA) to design this multi-disciplinary training package in family violence for professionals who are working in the family law system. The project was conducted through the RASA training division, the Australian Institute of Social Relations (AISR).

Relationships Australia has over 60 years practice experience in family services and counselling and over a decade of experience in family dispute resolution work. Through the training division, RASA has provided community education and group work as well as professional education including nationally recognised training for almost 20 years. Consequently the organisation has extensive experience in the design and provision of professional development in the human services field. This experience has been used to create training that emerges from informed, evidence-based, realistic professional responses to family violence.

The *AVERT Family Violence Training Package* has been developed after consultation with a number of key stakeholders, including the Family Court of Australia, legal practitioners, Indigenous leaders, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) leaders, family dispute resolution practitioners, Child Contact Services, psychologists, legal educators and social work educators. Shared themes and cross-sector issues have been used to structure the package and these relate to:

- 1) Knowledge of legal issues and history of social responses to family violence,
- 2) Social, professional and individual attitudes to family violence and



3) Skills in responding to family violence.

The creation of multidisciplinary partnerships

The creation of learning partnerships with other professionals and with clients supports optimum responses to family violence. This may include both informal and formal networks. Partnerships need to be based on an understanding that professionals who are working in the family law system are part of a community-wide response and contribute to a shared responsibility for addressing violence. Learning within a multidisciplinary context is a vitally important aspect of genuinely collaborative responses. Involvement in multidisciplinary partnerships, which are comprised of workers prepared to learn together, will ensure that a multiplicity of responses can be made to the complexities of family violence. In this way, partnerships also imply that it is not solely the work of specialists to prevent and respond to risk but that it is part of everyone's 'business'.

Clarification of professional roles and responsibilities

The focus on appropriate professional and public responses to family violence is a relatively recent phenomenon. Professional groups are therefore still developing clarity about their respective roles and responsibilities. This is critical for effective collaboration and joined-up responses. Understanding one's own and each other's roles involves consideration of some of the following issues:

- Workers' uncertainty about how to respond to family violence may result in strict adherence to their role and duty statements as an avoidance strategy
- Integrating practice standards for responding to families experiencing violence with profession-specific standards is important. In other words, there is a need to formally indicate that FV work is a core activity for all professions within the family law system
- Highlighting the importance of having sophisticated thinking about the dynamics of family violence alongside the ability to translate this into simple, quality responses.

The training provided in the *AVERT Family Violence Training Package* offers professional workers within the family law system opportunities to learn from the diverse experiences and skills of different professional groups. Even if the program is specifically designed for one professional group, reflection on the roles of other professional groups within the family law system is structured through a range of different training exercises. And some programs are specifically designed for multidisciplinary participation.

Training delivery strategies

Training, particularly classroom training, should not be seen as the sole professional guidance offered to professionals working within the family law system. Relevant policy, professional collaborations and ongoing professional reflections by individual and sector-



wide workers need to be viewed as crucial aspects of professional development. The complexity of the issues involved in working with family violence means that training alone cannot possibly provide the definitive contribution to the development of skills. A culture of learning and reflective practice will need to be encouraged and promoted.

As a consequence, materials to support ongoing learning have been considered within the development of the *AVERT Family Violence Package*. Detailed readings, dramatised scenarios, and further resources all support learners continue to explore the issues surrounding family violence beyond the specific training program. The assessments have also been designed to encourage continuous learning. In addition, the assessments provide a context for individual workers to receive detailed feedback and comments from more experienced workers, educators or supervisors. This will be more relevant for some workers than for others. However, the move towards self-paced learning and reduced time for classroom training, can, in part, be addressed through assessments or regular supervision sessions that are shaped by the assessment tasks and encourage reflective practice.

The development of reflective practice

Reflective practice, like adult learning principles is fundamental to professional development in any context. It involves consideration of the impact of one's own experience and personal frame of reference on our responses to any given issue. In this context it includes recognising that professionals, as well as children and their families, bring individual and professional values, beliefs and cultures to their analysis of family violence situations. It involves being mindful of the reality and importance of individual 'micro' differences as well as the significant 'macro' social factors at play. Responding appropriately and working effectively in diverse contexts necessarily means addressing one's own attitudes, knowledge, skills and actions as an ongoing learning process. It may sometimes mean confronting difficult issues arising from assumptions, power and privilege.

Being thoughtful about the circumstances of others as well as self-reflective about where and how we come to hold our own values, is an extremely positive and open way of approaching professional practice. It enables the practitioner to move beyond paralysis when faced with challenges such as unfamiliar cultural or socioeconomic situations. It also supports sensitive and sophisticated responses to the diversity of children and families involved. At best, adopting reflective practice assists in connecting with people – both with their needs and strengths – to enable effective action.

The difficulties for the family law system in responding to family violence provide ample material for collaborative as well as individual reflective practice. The *AVERT Family Violence Training Package* includes a multitude of case examples, discussion papers, and examples of professional response to family violence, to facilitate quality reflection and build sophisticated reflective and ultimately respectful practice.

The development of appropriate and effective skills

The *AVERT Family Violence Training Package* also provides extensive opportunities for



professionals to learn practical skills in how to work with families who live with family violence.

The skills include:

- Observing and noticing the dynamics of family violence
- Communicating effectively about family violence
- Communicating respectfully with perpetrators, victims and children
- Screening for the need for specialist help and safety planning
- Being aware of the impact of cultural and religious differences and responding appropriately
- Working collaboratively to interrupt family violence

Who will deliver this training?

The *AVERT Family Violence Training Package* has been constructed with an assumption that an experienced trainer from within relevant professional groups will deliver the training designed. If the trainer is inexperienced in relation to family violence the assistance of a trainer who has experience in working with family violence is encouraged. It is the project team's belief that this combination of a) specific professional group knowledge and b) experience with family violence is the best and most appropriate way to offer quality professional education in relation to this complex topic.

The training programs and training materials are all based on adult learning principles and create education that will promote participation and interaction among the learners. Trainers are therefore assumed to be familiar with facilitating group discussions, interactive exercises and small group activities.

Continuous learning and development for the trainer to ensure they keep abreast of emerging practice is also recommended. Each paper has a comprehensive range of referenced sources that should be noted for follow up. Also within many programs, key texts are indicated as essential background reading for the trainer. These provide extensive information to support preparation for delivery and ongoing development of trainer's knowledge.

The Structure of the *AVERT Family Violence Training Package*

The skills required for responding well to those who live with family violence and the issues surrounding such circumstances are complex. However, consultations reveal that most of the professionals working within the family law system do not have extensive time available for training. In fact, one and two-day programs were identified as the longest possible training options for most workers. Therefore, training programs have been constructed to fit within these constraints. However, to ensure that these complex issues are not overly



reduced or simplified, experienced and knowledgeable trainers will be crucial for high quality delivery.

The *AVERT Family Violence Training Package* has been designed to cover a wide range of material for workers in the family law system. The package is organised into the following sections and a full contents list is provided at the end of this paper.

- **How to use the AVERT Training Package (Facilitator's Manual)**
- **Training Programs** including **Formal Assessments** (Assessment Instruction Booklet)
- **Training Exercises**
- **Learning Materials** (Fact Sheets, PowerPoints, AVERT Discussion Papers, Course Evaluation Forms)
- **Useful Links** (National and State and Territory Services)
- **Video Resources** (Dramatised Scenarios, Professional Commentaries, Opinion Pieces, Expert Discussions, Testimonials)

Training Programs

A series of sample training programs has been developed. These are intended to provide suggestions on how to use the specific materials and exercises within the *AVERT Family Violence Training Package*. Training programs are listed either By Topic, By Profession or By Type under Resources on the For Trainers site. It should be noted that these programs are only suggestions and that the materials have been developed with the knowledge that trainers in their professional contexts will shape their specific programs according to the needs of their audiences and available time. It is recommended that trainers look carefully at the materials available to enable them to 'mix and match' topics and exercises appropriate to their context.

Trainers are also encouraged to read the discussion papers as these resources provide a sound overview of all the issues reflected in the training content. In this way trainers can feel confident that they have a comprehensive understanding that will support them to address learner concerns and questions.

Formal Assessments

A formal Assessment Booklet has been developed for the *Multidisciplinary Family Violence Intensive Skills Five Day Training Program*. It can be found under Resources/ By Topic under the Five Day Intensive Program on the For Trainers site.

This training program is aligned to the following two competencies within the Australian Qualifications Framework:



- CHCDFV811B – Respond to domestic and family domestic violence in family work
- CHCDISP804B – Create an environment that supports the safety of vulnerable parties in dispute resolution.

Those who successfully complete all assessment tasks will be awarded a Statement of Attainment for the above-named competency units, aligned to one of the following qualifications:

- CHC51108 Diploma of Children’s Contact Services Work
- CHC80208 Vocational Graduate Diploma of Relationship Counselling
- CHC80308 Vocational Graduate Diploma of Family Dispute Resolution

In order for a trainer to offer this formal assessment, participants must be enrolled with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that is officially scoped to deliver and assess any of the above-named qualifications.

Training Exercises

The training exercises provide suggested learning activities with detailed facilitator notes and an outline of the resources required. The exercises often utilise the video resources. The training programs provide suggestions for how to sequence the exercises; however experienced educators may wish to mix and match these activities and thereby create training programs which suit their particular needs. An alphabetical list of all training exercises is provided at the end of this paper.

Learning Materials

Learning Materials include Fact Sheets, PowerPoints, Discussion Papers and Course Evaluation Forms to facilitate easy training preparation.

1. Fact Sheets

Fact Sheets compliment the Training Exercises and Training Programs. Trainers will find instructions of when to use a Fact Sheet as a handout within a particular session. A Fact Sheet template has been provided to enable trainers to create additional Fact Sheets should they require to do so.

2. PowerPoints

A wide range of PowerPoints have been provided for use in the Training Programs, which suggest when to use them. Trainers have also been provided with a template to make their own PowerPoints when necessary.

3. Discussion Papers

Discussion Papers are designed to provide important background information and stimulate thought and discussion. They represent a range of different disciplinary approaches, emphases and opinions from the AVERT project team and commissioned writers with



specific expertise. As with the video resources, the papers should not be viewed as definitive or 'the last word' on family violence but as a means of offering well researched, up to date information and key issues from the field, for consideration.

The AVERT Discussion Papers are:

- Dimensions, Dynamics and Impact of Family Violence
- Legal Frameworks
- Responding to Diversity
- Screening, Risk Assessment and Safety Planning
- Prevention Strategies: Involving and Engaging Perpetrators
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Integrated Responses to Family Violence

The Discussion Papers can be used as a reference for the trainer or as a handout for participants. It is understood that some professional groups will have participants who do not have the time or commitment to read extensive material. The trainer for the specific program therefore, will need to make decisions about appropriate use of materials and handouts depending on the context.

Similarly, people who do not have access to face-to-face training programs can be provided with the relevant papers that guide and support the completion of some of the exercises.

However, the papers are essential reading for the trainers as they provide a background to support competent presentation of PowerPoints for each topic and facilitation of all of the exercises.

4. Course Evaluation Forms

Pre and Post Evaluation forms are available for trainers to assist in collecting feedback for revision and improvements to their training.

Useful Links

A series of phone numbers and web links of services and supports have been collected. There is a listing of National services as well as supports and services for each State and Territory. All web links are current at time of going to press. However, please note that web sites do change often and we cannot guarantee any link.

Video Resources

The Video Resources are produced to stimulate thought and discussion. They represent a range of different approaches, thoughts and opinions from people in different fields around Australia. Presenting this diversity of opinion is quite intentional in order to recognise that knowledge of family violence is still developing and whilst there is a strong evidence base to



all information in the package, this field is not an 'exact science'. The Video Resources should not be viewed as definitive or 'the last word' on the topic. As with most other areas of human behaviour, there is a complex array of social and cultural factors shaping family violence and a range of professional, community and legal responses to it. Inevitably, discussion of these involves many shades of grey. The Video Resources in this training package should be viewed with this in mind.

In some cases various sections of the Video Resources have been broken up into chapters (e.g. Scenarios; Overview of Family Law system). The appropriate chapters for specific exercises within the training programs are indicated as required. To access these chapters go to Resources By Type on the Trainers site. All chapters are listed individually.

The Video Resources include:

1. Dramatised Scenarios

The Scenarios utilise storyline, character outlines and points of professional engagement to create a scene in which the protagonists (usually a wife, husband and child) interact with the various professionals to reveal the storyline information.

The storyline comes out through the interactions of the protagonists with the respective professionals. Elements of drama will be used to give depth to the storyline and the characters involved. The examples of professional interaction depicted will be focused on key skills and approaches that the package is attempting to emphasise. All stories are closely drawn from a combined range of real life circumstances and therefore reflect realistic situations without being depictions of any specific individuals.

2. Professional Commentary on Scenarios

The Professional Commentaries for each scenario offer analysis and reflections by senior professionals within Australia about what they consider to be important issues in relation to the storyline, the characters and the approaches taken by the professionals. Embellishments and "what ifs" will also be commented upon in these discussions.

3. Expert Discussions on Themes

These are discussions of small groups of experts commenting on broad themes, research and multidisciplinary issues.

4. Testimonials

The testimonials are short interviews with people who have experienced family violence and have had to navigate the family law system and relevant services.



Training Package Table of Contents

Training Programs

- a) CCS Service Providers – One day program
- b) Court Report Writers – Two day program
- c) Dimensions, Dynamics and Impacts – Two day program
- d) Engaging People who use Violence – One day program
- e) Judicial Officers Professional Development in Family Violence – Series of Exercises
- f) Legal Frameworks – One day program
- g) Legal Practitioners – Two day program
- h) Multidisciplinary Family Violence Intensive Skills – Five Day Program
- i) Psychology – Two day program
- j) Responding to Cultural Diversity – One day program
- k) Risk Assessment – Two day program
- l) Social Work – Two day program

Assessments

- a) Assessment Booklet: Five Day Intensive Training Program

Training Exercises

- a) Circle of Safety
- b) Collaboration and Referral
- c) Culture and Respect
- d) Defining Violence
- e) Dimensions and Dynamics of Family Violence Quiz - With Answers
- f) Dimensions and Dynamics of Family Violence Quiz - Without Answers
- g) Evidentiary Challenges of Proving Allegations of Family Violence
- h) Expert Evidence and Evidentiary Challenges
- i) History Timeline
- j) Intersectionality
- k) Language and Meaning
- l) Legal Frameworks Quiz - With Answers
- m) Legal Frameworks Quiz - Without Answers
- n) Parenting Orders
- o) Personal Profile
- p) Power Relations
- q) Private or Public
- r) Responding to Disclosures of Family Violence
- s) Risk Assessment
- t) Safety
- u) Sam's Story – Case Study
- v) Triads



Learning Materials

Fact Sheets

- a) AVERT Fact Sheet Template
- b) Case Law Example: Evidence and Family Violence – Amador & Amador
- c) Cultural Competence Checklist
- d) Cultural Diversity Terminology
- e) Culture and Respect in Indigenous Communities
- f) Duluth Wheel of Violence
- g) Emotional and Psychological Abuse and its Impact
- h) Intersectionality
- i) Migration and Settlement
- j) Myths and Facts about Family Violence
- k) Parental Alienation Syndrome vs the Alienated Child

PowerPoints

- a) AVERT PowerPoint Template
- b) Categories of Evidence
- c) Children's Contact Services Staff Learning Outcomes
- d) Court Report Writers Learning Outcomes
- e) Definitions of Family Violence
- f) Demeanour Case Scenarios
- g) Dimensions, Dynamics and Impacts of Family Violence Learning Outcomes
- h) Engaging People who use Violence Learning Outcomes
- i) Impact of Family Violence on Adult Victims
- j) Impact of Family Violence on Children
- k) Intersectionality
- l) Legal Frameworks Learning Outcomes
- m) Legal Practitioners Learning Outcomes
- n) Multidisciplinary Collaboration
- o) Multidisciplinary FV Intensive Skills Learning Outcomes
- p) Psychology Students Learning Outcomes
- q) Responding to Cultural Diversity Learning Outcomes
- r) Risk Assessment Learning Outcomes
- s) Risk Factors and Family Violence
- t) Role of Legal Practitioners in Relation to Family Violence
- u) Social Context Framework Evidence and its Implications for Judicial Officers
- v) Social Work Learning Outcomes
- w) Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Restorative Justice and Collaborative Law



Discussion Papers

- a) Dimension, Dynamics and Impact of Family Violence
- b) Legal Frameworks
- c) Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Integrated Responses to Family Violence
- d) Prevention Strategies: Involving and Engaging Perpetrators
- e) Responding to Diversity
- f) Screening, Risk Assessment and Safety Planning

Course Evaluation Forms

- a) Pre-Course Evaluation
- b) Post-Course Evaluation

Useful Links

- b) National Family Violence Services and Supports
- c) State and Territory Family Violence Services and Supports



Video Resources

Dramatised Scenario 1

Topic	Title	Synopsis	Duration (min)
Risk Assessment	Gary and Bronwyn's Story	<p>Gary and Bronwyn own a real estate business in a rural regional centre. They have two children; Luke aged 13 and Sally aged 11 who has Down syndrome.</p> <p>Bronwyn began seeing a Counsellor a year ago and disclosed that in the early years of their marriage, Gary had badly beaten her. Bronwyn has lived in constant fear that he would one day repeat this.</p> <p>Bronwyn is seen at a Counselling session. Gary is at an intake session with a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.</p>	20:00
Professional Commentary			
Pamela Lewis Director of Clinical Services, Relationships Australia (NSW)			08:30
Mailin Suchting Manager Child Protection & Violence Prevention Team, Primary Health & Community Partnerships Branch, NSW Department of Health			10:00
Dr. Peter Furze Senior Visiting Psychiatrist, Veterans Counselling Service, Adelaide, SA			06:00
Total Duration			
Professional Commentary			24:30
Gary and Bronwyn's Story and Professional Commentary			44:30



Dramatised Scenario 2

Topic	Title	Synopsis	Duration (min)
Diversity Issues	Jaber and Zahra's Story	<p>Zahra Shoukry and Jaber Abdul Rahman are a married couple from different African countries.</p> <p>Jaber was a lawyer, and for political reasons he fled his country in fear of his life.</p> <p>They came to Australia to join other family members 8 years ago with their 2 children Leila and Jamal, who are now 8 and 10.</p>	17:00
Professional Commentary			
Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch NSW Police Force, Corporate Sponsor Domestic and Family Violence			04:40
Judy Saba Cross Cultural Psychologist			07:19
Dina Lioumis Solicitor, Legal Aid, NSW			04:10
Total Duration			
Professional Commentary			16:00
Jaber and Zahra's Story and Professional Commentary			33:00



Dramatised Scenario 3

Topic	Title	Synopsis	Duration (min)
Risk Assessment and Safety Planning	Tony and Jessica's Story	<p>Tony was 19 and Jessica was 16 when their relationship begun. They were soon married and had 2 children. Jessica left Tony when she was 23 years old.</p> <p>She had become involved with another man. Max was 4 and Sarah was 6 years old.</p> <p>Tony and Jessica have had 4 years of legal proceedings. Currently the children reside with Jessica and every second weekend Tony picks them up from Jessica's mother's home.</p> <p>Tony is seeking to reduce his child support payments and have greater parenting time with the children because his plumbing business has become less viable over the past 12 months.</p> <p>Tony is now 30 years old and Jessica is 27 years old. The children are 8 and 10 years old.</p>	42:00
Professional Commentary			
Alice Bailey Roundtable Dispute Management, Victoria Legal Aid			12:00
Dr. Peter Furze Senior Visiting Psychiatrist, Veterans Counselling Service, Adelaide, SA			06:00
Total Duration			
Professional Commentary			18:00
Tony and Jessica's Story and Professional Commentary			60:00



Opinion Pieces

Topic	Title	Duration (min)	Participants
Introduction	Working Collaboratively	01:15	The Honourable Diana Bryant Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia
Introduction	Time for Action - National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children	03:00	Libby Lloyd AM Chair (Commonwealth's) Violence Against Women Advisory Group (VAWAG) Chair (former) National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, Board Member White Ribbon Foundation.
Introduction	Family Services System Response to Family Violence	08:00	Samantha Page Executive Director, Family Relationship Services Australia
Introduction	Family Court of Australia and Dealing with Family Violence	18:30	The Honourable Diana Bryant Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia
Legal Frameworks	Victorian Specialist Courts	24:00	Magistrate Anne Goldsbrough Magistrates' Court of Victoria Part-Time Law Reform Commissioner, Australian Law Commission
Family Violence: Dimensions, Dynamics and Impact	Family Violence: Dimensions, Dynamics and Impact and Safety Planning	17:00	Alice Bailey Roundtable Dispute Management, Victoria Legal Aid
Prevention Strategies	Working with men who use violence	14:00	Danny Blay Executive Officer No To Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association (NTV) Inc.
Screening, risk assessment and safety planning	The purpose of screening and risk assessment	12:00	Jennifer McIntosh, Ph.D. Family Transitions/La Trobe University
Responding to diversity	Indigenous Service Provider Perspective	06:00	Antoinette Braybrook CEO, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria
	Indigenous People and the Family Court	08:00	Stephen Ralph Indigenous Psychologist



Expert Discussions

Topic	Title	Duration (min)	Participants
Legal Frameworks	Joint Family Violence Committee (Family Court and the Federal Magistrates Court)	24:00	<p>Kristen Murray Senior Legal Research Adviser Chief Justice's Chambers, Family Law Courts Melbourne</p> <p>The Hon. Federal Magistrate Kate Hughes Federal Magistrates Court of Australia</p> <p>The Hon. Justice Janine Patricia Stevenson Family Court of Australia</p> <p>Di Lojszczyk Senior Family Consultant, Family Court of Australia</p> <p>The Hon. Justice Judy Ryan Chair, Family Violence Committee, Family Court of Australia and Federal Magistrates Court</p>
Legal Frameworks	Legal Frameworks	24:00	<p>The Hon. Magistrate Anne Goldsbrough Magistrates' Court of Victoria Part-time Law Reform Commissioner, Australian Law Commission</p> <p>Clive Price Director, Unifam</p> <p>Judy Small Director, Family Youth & Children's Law, Victoria Legal Aid, Accredited Family Law Specialist</p> <p>Tim Mulvany Independent Children's Lawyer</p> <p>Joanna Fletcher Acting Chief Executive Officer Women's Legal Service Victoria</p>



Expert discussions cont.

Topic	Title	Duration (min)	Participants
Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact	Impact on Children	21:00	Jennifer McIntosh, Ph.D. Family Transitions / La Trobe University Professor Lawrence Moloney Australian Institute of Family Studies
Diversity	Responding to Indigenous Community Needs	13:00	M. Abbott Family Law/Mediator/Convener background, Central Australia Deborah Noll Senior Family Lawyer, Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service Inc., Northern Territory
Screening, risk assessment and safety planning	Screening, risk assessment and safety planning	14:00	Alice Bailey Roundtable Dispute Management, Victoria Legal Aid Danny Blay Executive Officer, No To Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association (NTV) Inc. Wendy Steendam Assistant Commissioner, Eastern Region, Victoria Police (Violence Against Women and Children, Business Sponsor)



Testimonials

Topics	Title	Duration	Synopsis
Legal Frameworks Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact	Alice	14:00	<p>Alice and her partner were married when she was 19 years old and they had three boys. They made their home in a regional town in Victoria.</p> <p>After 19 years of living in fear, Alice left her husband in 1996. She did not experience physical violence, but control through fear, isolation, financial deprivation, verbal abuse, emotional and psychological abuse.</p> <p>She discusses the difficulties of disclosing violence in a small regional town. One of her greatest difficulties was obtaining a Protection Order to keep her husband away from her. At the same time she was pursuing residency of the children through the Family Courts.</p> <p>Alice felt a chasm between the reality of daily life fighting for her life and the safety of her children and what she had to go through as a victim of family violence in the legal system.</p>
Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact Screening, risk assessment and safety planning	Anj	10:00	<p>Anj was a 16 year old, with no physical disability, finishing high school and working part-time. She was dating a 20 year old man who was violent with her throughout the relationship. One final night she was kicked and trampled into a near-vegetative state. The attack left Anj lying in a pool of blood, bleeding from her right ear and mouth and convulsing.</p> <p>Anj has become a domestic violence advocate across Australia. In 2009 she spoke to five thousand students and adults.</p>



Testimonials cont.

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Legal Frameworks Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact Screening, risk assessment and safety planning	Kate	13:00	<p>Kate was married to her ex-husband for 15 years. They have two children and the children were severely impacted by her ex-husband's abusive behaviours.</p> <p>Kate's husband had numerous and varied professional reviews in response to his mental health problems and violent behaviours. During these reviews no one thought to ask about Kate's personal safety until the final months before she left. There was inadequate safety planning for Kate and the family.</p>
Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact Screening, risk assessment and safety planning	Vanessa	11:00	<p>Vanessa and her ex-partner were in a de facto relationship for four years. They had two children. They separated in July 2009, when their daughter was 3 years old and their son was 18 months old.</p> <p>Vanessa's ex-partner has care of the children on alternate weekends, and also cares them one night per week at Vanessa's home, so she is able to go to work. Vanessa negotiated this plan as she felt it was important for her young children to have more regular visit with their father. This plan was negotiated in a Family Relationship Centre.</p> <p>Vanessa's ex-partner threatens violence through his behaviour and name calling. There is a growing fear though a escalation of violence that became more apparent after they separated</p> <p>Vanessa plans to revisit dispute resolution to update parenting plan as a way of protecting herself and thus ensuring her children are safe.</p>



Testimonials cont.

Topic	Title	Duration (min)	Synopsis
Legal Frameworks Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact	Lucy	08:00	<p>With a 13 year age difference, Lucy met her partner when she was 23 and they had two children together.</p> <p>There were several years of ongoing daily violence, and including violence against the children. One night her partner severely physically assaulted her. She consequently took out an Intervention Order and prepared to separate.</p> <p>Lucy describes how difficult it was to go through the court system telling her story again and again, especially when coming out of an extremely violent relationship.</p>
Legal Frameworks Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact	Rose	10:00	<p>Rose was 18 years old when she met her partner. When she was 22 years old, they married. After 5 years of marriage their daughter was born, followed by their son 2 years later.</p> <p>Rose's ex-partner was very controlling about everything, including where she went, what she did and who she saw.</p> <p>When their son was 3 months old, Rose decided to get a divorce. After that things started to go badly, especially when Rose started a new relationship. Her ex-partner became obsessed with controlling Rose and the children.</p> <p>They began a protracted legal battle for residence of children and property settlement. The Family Court of Australia process started in 1999 and ended in 2009.</p>



Testimonials cont.

Topic	Title	Duration (min)	Synopsis
Family Violence: dimensions, dynamics and impact	Jacob	12:00	<p>Jacob is 33 years old and grew up with a physically violent father. He has an older brother and younger sister. Violent incidents against the siblings and the mother are remembered in this</p> <p>The father denies the violence, believing that he was a good father.</p> <p>Talks about what it is like living with violence. Jacob has made it a point to have an adult life free of abuse.</p>