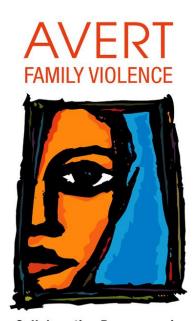
Exercise

Private or Public



Collaborative Responses in the Family Law System



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Private or Public Exercise

Pur	pose:
	To promote discussion about what is considered private and what is considered public in relation to families
	To promote an awareness of the changing notions of what is public and private, influenced by social norms
	To consider how a public or private approach influences the experience of family violence for those concerned.
Mat	erials required:
	Set of cards for each small group

Process:

Ask participants to work in small groups of 4 – 7 members. Give each group a set of private or public cards and an A3 sheet. Ask them to debate each card and place it, as agreed, on either the private or public side of the sheet. Give groups about 15 – 20 minutes to do this.

A3 sheet for each small group, divided into two columns: Private and Public.

- 2. When every group has completed this, ask a representative from each group to identify what they think is public and what is private. Ask each group to report back.
- 3. Notice what cards are placed differently for each group. For instance, some people may say suicide is a public issue, whereas others may say it is private. Ask people to explain their reasons for classifying things as private or public. If by some chance all the groups come up with the same division of public and private, ask them if this division would have been the same 50 years ago, or 100 years ago. What if this exercise was being done with more diverse cultural groups in the room? In what ways would the change in time or culture impact on our distinction between private and public?
- 4. Ask:
 - What difference does it make if something is considered public or private?
 - How does this influence our response to family violence?
 - How does this influence the experience for the victim, perpetrator and children involved?





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Key things to draw out of the discussion:

Public and private issues are socially constructed/are informed by social norms
Community values shape what is considered public or private
Public issues imply public responsibility and public acknowledgement
Private issues imply individual responsibility and secrecy
A public gaze and public opinion has an impact on the experience of family violence for those concerned.



Private or Public Cards

Birth	Death
Family success	Divorce
Family debt	Mental health



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Illegitimacy	Suicide
Unemployment	Sexual behaviour
Child abuse	Domestic violence



Religious beliefs	Political affiliation
Conflict between family members	Punishment practices
Health status such as HIV	Hygiene



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Nudity Disability Cultural heritage Assets and money