



For our sons and daughters

*Queensland Government strategy to reduce
domestic and family violence:
Program of Action 2009–2010*

Program of Action

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The Queensland Government’s strategy to reduce domestic and family violence 2009–2014 commits to the development of an annual Program of Action that will be monitored, reviewed and adjusted to ensure we deliver on what is needed to assist people to live lives free from domestic and family violence.

A new Program of Action will be released each year, following consultation with government and non-government partners. Each Program of Action will build on the successes and learnings of the previous year and acknowledge the work that still needs to be done.

This is our first Program of Action for 2009–2010.

What	When	Who
<p>Prevention — to support diverse communities to create environments where respectful relationships are promoted and messages against domestic and family violence are delivered. Reforms in this area will focus on building community ownership through community awareness raising.</p>		
<p>Launch the <i>Guide to Social and Emotional Learning in State Schools</i>: To ensure that teachers and school leaders are equipped to promote and deliver social and emotional learning programs that support children to develop positive behaviour and constructive social relationships.</p>	<p>Continuing throughout 2009–10</p>	<p>Department of Education and Training</p>
<p>Expand the <i>Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support program</i>: To support school staff to teach children positive relationship skills and support positive behaviour.</p>	<p>Continuing throughout 2009–10</p>	<p>Department of Education and Training</p>
<p>Develop a Queensland Government Strategic Communications Plan: To identify a multi-media approach to target a range of audiences (including diverse groups of adults, children and young people) to promote messages against domestic and family violence and build healthy relationships.</p>	<p>Developed March 2010</p>	<p>Implementation Team/Department of Communities</p>

What	When	Who
<p>Develop Indigenous domestic and family violence strategies: Undertake community awareness raising of family violence and workshopping of strategies in the four Cape York welfare reform communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge. Develop and implement a framework for addressing family violence in those communities.</p> <p>Ensure consideration of domestic and family violence in implementation of the National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for Indigenous Australians, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ identification of priority locations for place based service reform ■ mechanisms to improve integration and coordination of service delivery ■ ensuring cultural competence within domestic and family violence services ■ engagement with Indigenous communities. <p>A key resource document for these activities will be the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Task Force on Violence 1999 report.</p>	<p>Continuing throughout 2009–10</p>	<p>Department of Communities</p>
<p>Continue to deliver the Community Engagement grant program and the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month: To provide Queensland communities with an increased awareness of the social and personal impacts of domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Delivered 2009–10</p>	<p>Department of Communities</p>
<p>Early identification and intervention — to promote training and understanding across a variety of professions, including specialist workers, to recognise and respond appropriately to the safety, needs and diversity of victims, and to perpetrators. Reforms in this area will focus on building professional capacity through professional awareness raising.</p>		
<p>Expand domestic violence screening across the ante-natal and post-natal period in Queensland Health settings: To identify women who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing domestic and family violence and provide a referral service.</p>	<p>Continuing throughout 2009–10</p>	<p>Queensland Health</p>

What	When	Who
<p>Distribute the resource kit <i>Preventing and Responding to the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability</i>: To improve safeguards for people with a disability and increase the capacity of service providers to respond to incidents of abuse, neglect and exploitation.</p> <p>The resource kit will be provided to all Department of Communities (Disability Services) provided and funded service providers, and also includes specific information for people with a disability, their families and carers.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
<p>Support applicants to the One Social Housing Program: As part of the Client Intake and Assessment Process, facilitate a referral to a support service for clients who are homeless or need to leave their current housing due to domestic and family violence.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
<p>Introduce a referral program for paramedics: To support vulnerable clients, including victims of domestic and family violence by referring them to support services.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Community Safety
<p>Plan a research program — interventions for children: Progress planning to commence research in 2010–11 into best practice therapeutic interventions for children affected by domestic and family violence.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
<p>Connected victim support services — to provide effective, best practice services to adults, children and young people as early as possible, that meet their safety and wellbeing needs. Reforms in this area will focus on building service system capacity through delivering best practice services.</p>		
<p>Test an enhanced domestic and family violence integrated response in Rockhampton: Comprising case management services for individuals and families with multiple support needs, an integrated specialised court program and enhanced legal services, behavioural change programs for perpetrators of violence and community awareness raising and capacity building of the service sector. To improve the safety and wellbeing of people affected by domestic and family violence, achieve higher levels of accountability for perpetrators and reduce demand on the statutory, court and human service systems.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Queensland Police Service, Department of Communities and Department of Justice and Attorney-General

What	When	Who
Introduce a safety upgrades program: To enable victims to stay in their homes where it is safe to do so and provide accommodation support for people on ouster conditions in the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Townsville.	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
Develop a rural and remote service delivery model: To assist victims and perpetrators to access services in rural and remote locations where services may be limited.	Developed March 2010	Implementation Team/Department of Communities
Coordinate forums with relevant community leaders: In partnership with the Australian Government under the <i>National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security</i> , coordinate forums with Queensland Muslim community leaders and Imams to raise awareness and understanding of a range of topics including domestic and family violence to develop community leadership that supports victims.	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
Continue support for the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit: Providing a 1300 helpline for people experiencing elder abuse, and their friends, carers and families.	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
Fund the Seniors Legal and Support Service: Offering free assistance for seniors who are at risk or experiencing elder abuse or financial exploitation.	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
Review the existing model for crisis accommodation: To ensure that accommodation and support needs of victims are being met, with a view to providing a more contemporary suite of options.	Delivered March 2010	Implementation Team/Department of Communities
Perpetrator accountability — to provide effective early responses that hold people who use domestic and family violence accountable and responsible for their actions. Reforms in this area will focus on strengthening justice system responses through justice and program interventions.		
Evaluate and examine the introduction of evidence kits to improve police responses: In parallel with the legislative review, evaluate and examine the introduction of evidence kits as a mechanism to strengthen evidence collection to better support vulnerable witnesses in the justice system and enhance perpetrator accountability.	Delivered December 2009	Queensland Police Service

What	When	Who
<p>Research risk assessment tools for police: Evaluating the efficacy of Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Tools in partnership with the Australian Institute of Criminology to assess whether such tools, when used by first response officers, have the ability to predict repeat incidents of or escalation in domestic violence.</p>	Delivered August 2009	Queensland Police Service
<p>Review police training: An internal review to ensure frontline officers and supervisors are equipped to effectively and appropriately respond to domestic and family violence incidents.</p>	Delivered December 2009	Queensland Police Service
<p>Conduct a Practice Skills Development Workshop: To supplement existing domestic and family violence training and resources for frontline child protection staff in Child Safety Services, Department of Communities. The workshop will focus on working with difficult, aggressive and challenging behaviours and include factors such as supporting non-violent parents who are in violent relationships and supporting non-violent parents in the process of leaving violent relationships to ensure the safety of children and young people.</p>	Delivered February 2010	Department of Communities
<p>Identify appropriate awareness raising programs for Magistrates: To ensure Magistrates are provided opportunities to better understand the complexities and nature of domestic and family violence.</p>	Identified June 2010	Implementation Team/ Department of Justice and Attorney-General
<p>Establish a Justice Working Group: To examine the links between domestic and family violence and broader justice systems and provide input into the legislative review on issues such as supporting victims in courts.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Implementation Team
<p>System planning and coordination — to develop relevant and consistent responses aimed at reducing the incidence and impact of domestic and family violence through government and non-government partnerships. Reforms in this area will focus on providing strategic leadership through aligning policies, programs and service delivery.</p>		
<p>Review the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989: To ensure the Act's effectiveness in protecting victims and that the legislation is in line with new policies arising from implementation of the strategy.</p>	Delivered mid 2010	Department of Communities/ Implementation Team

What	When	Who
<p>Establish an expert Death Review Panel to oversee a review of coronial processes and practices: To include a review of de-identified information from relevant closed coronial files, which will make practical recommendations and consider options for future reviews, with a view to preventing deaths in similar circumstances occurring in the future.</p>	Delivered March 2010	Implementation Team/ Department of Justice and Attorney-General
<p>Develop a Code of Practice: To provide direction for agencies to improve consistency and effectiveness of services for clients including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ consistent definition of domestic and family violence ■ model protocols and policies and provisions for responding to diverse groups ■ agency roles and responsibilities, including practice guidelines ■ description of service system and response options ■ identification of key relationships and intersections. 	Delivered March 2010	Implementation Team
<p>Release Indigenous research reports and implement findings: Review research conducted into the appropriateness of Domestic Violence Orders in Indigenous communities and the effect of domestic and family violence on Torres Strait Islander communities and implement findings as appropriate.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Department of Communities
<p>Develop a data collection improvement strategy: To examine current data collection, gaps and barriers to information sharing and agree improvements to strengthen our understanding of the prevalence and incidence of domestic and family violence in Queensland.</p>	Developed June 2010	Implementation Team/Department of Communities
<p>Develop a strategic research program: To improve our knowledge of the nature and incidence of domestic and family violence in Queensland and to help plan and develop best practice programs.</p>	Developed December 2009	Implementation Team/Department of Communities
<p>Collaborate on the Commonwealth Government's <i>National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children</i>: To seek opportunities to partner with the Commonwealth Government in reducing violence against women and children.</p>	Continuing throughout 2009–10	Implementation Team

