

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 / 2021



Supporting Partnerships that Make a Difference

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The SFV Board acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia’s First Peoples. We demonstrate our response to this acknowledgment by our commitment to listen and work respectfully together, to find culturally appropriate and effective ways to empower Aboriginal individuals, families and communities, in support of aspirations of self-determination and self-governance.

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About Us

Stopping Family Violence (SFV) is a peak body, non-for-profit organisation based in Western Australia with the mission of supporting all the sectors and services associated with responding to perpetrators of Family and Domestic Violence (FDV).

We differ from traditional peak bodies in the sense that we do not represent a specific sector, and instead focus on an area of practice. This enables us to maintain an independent and unbiased position in the work of perpetrator response.

Stopping Family Violence was formed on the belief that everyone deserves to live without fear of violence. SFV works to raise awareness of FDV and change perceptions. Through research, pilot programs, community engagement and advocacy, we do our best to drive the social change needed to end this epidemic. For us, it is vital that all responses to FDV aim to enhance safety and reduce risk for those experiencing it. It is only through changing men's behaviour that we can hope to end FDV.



Board Members

Wayne Stevenson - Chairman

Michael Hovane - Deputy Chairman

Angela Hartwig - Secretary (RIP)

Daniel Winters - Treasurer

Damian Green - CEO

Donna Chung - Board Member

Louisa Mitchell - Board Member

Chairpersons Address

Stopping Family Violence (SFV) has as its purpose “to drive the social change that we believe is necessary to put an end to family and domestic violence (FDV).”

During this past year, significant resources (personnel and financial) have been invested in not just strengthening the focus and direction by the SFV team but also to improve how the organisation evidences its capacity, capability and purpose in FDV prevention.

The wellbeing and recognition of our staff, and strengthening our relationships with our colleagues and funders remained paramount throughout this intention. We sought and directed resources to respond to the emerging needs of COVID-19 in FDV, relying on our principled senior leadership team to sharpen our decision making and focus in the emerging crisis context.

We increased our advocacy through collaborative conferencing, strengthened our reach in training not just with the workforce in DV but also with staff in government and corporate entities. New sectors of need were also identified and have grown into an important focus on prevention strategies for younger groups and communities. SFV was the “go to” organisation for state government, for supporting all the sectors and services involved in responding to perpetrators of FDV, in reviewing the efficacy of other programs, and for training within the sector.

Our purpose and commitment has not changed. Our purpose is to work creatively and cooperatively with other organisations (such as women’s and children’s services and perpetrator intervention programs), to put an end to FDV and create a better future for women and children experiencing FDV. This remains an even stronger priority.

We are as determined to help drive this social change by increasing the community’s awareness and understanding that ending FDV is everyone’s responsibility. Because our team has set good foundations for execution across the four organisational goals of training, research, policy and advocacy, and with responsible stewardship, June 30, 2021 marks our strongest year of activity, impact, and sustainability.

The SFV Board is committed to the highest standards of governance, in accordance with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Governance Standards. The Board will welcome new members during FY21/22, who will bring new perspectives and experiences to deepen the discussions and decisions of the Board.

I want to acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members for their commitment, and thank Angela Hartwig (RIP) and Louisa Mitchell who each concluded their Board terms over the last financial year.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I express deep gratitude to the SFV Team for their continued passion, and recognition for their extraordinary efforts through the year.

Wayne Stevenson
Chairperson

ACTIVITY REPORT

Family Court of Western Australia

Stopping Family Violence have continued to maintain strong working relationships with the Department of Justice and the Family Court of Western Australia. SFV provided additional presentations and consultations promoting awareness of the need to be FDV Informed across the system and with key partnering agencies. SFV placed particular emphasis on connecting the work to the safety of adult and children victim-survivors and the need of sharing perpetrator patterns to, and from intervention services.

16 Days of Activism

Stopping Family Violence again played an active role in 16 Days of Activism this year by supporting the sector and raising awareness, motivating positive actions across Western Australia and advocating on behalf of organisations that oppose violence against women

Key activities this financial year included:

- Delivery of four days of FDV Training with Department of Communities
- Delivery of 2 days of FDV Informed training in Geraldton in partnership with Legal Aid
- Provided support to Department of Premier and Cabinet to increase awareness of FDV
- Support with OVIS Community Services with representation at their grand opening of Warlang Bidi Peel's Therapeutic Refuge
- Partnership with the Women's Council 30th Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March
- Presentation at the FDV Forum – Bunbury Council Chambers, Bunbury
- Various media interviews providing education to the public to raise awareness of FDV.

Continued Focus on Children and Young People

This year Stopping Family Violence continued its focus on the impact that FDV has on children and young people, and in particular the impact of their relationships with men, often fathers, who use violence. As SFV continued the development of this work it was important to support systems to recognise that children and young people are victim-survivors in their own right when FDV is perpetrated.



SFV's two training programs in particular, both Safe and Together and Caring Dads training continued to support this work throughout 2020/21. Due to the successful funding opportunities highlighted in the training section of this report, greater focus was able to be placed particularly on the Safe and Together 4 Day CORE and 2 Day Supervisors Training programs. In addition, however, SFV have worked hard to develop FDV Informed training packages which consistently focus on bringing children's voices into view.

Stopping Family Violence, continued the partnership with the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing (previously Women's Council for Domestic and Family Services WA) and progressed with the pilot program called Preventing Violence Together. This new program will focus on the Primary Prevention work in WA with an intention to connect the work across the continuum of FDV. The official launch of the Pilot is planned for early 2021/22.

Stopping Family Violence identified gaps across schools regarding the need for FDV early intervention work. SFV continued to build upon the early work within WA schools and developed a close partnership with Sevenoaks Senior College to pilot early intervention programs for year 11/12 students at the college. Following a further delivery of a 4-week FDV Early Intervention program at Sevenoaks Senior College in September 2020, SFV applied for and were successful in obtaining the COVID-19 Community Services Grant with the Department of Communities in order to enable SFV to continue to build upon the important early intervention work.

The successful grant (COVID-19 Family and Domestic Violence Grant- Family and Domestic Violence Informed Behaviour Support Program for Young People) enabled SFV to develop and pilot the delivery of three 10-week early intervention programs with year 11/12 students, across three different schools or colleges. SFV had commenced their first 10-week early intervention program towards the end of 2020/21 financial year.

We will be able to report on the progress through to completion of this grant in the 2021/22 Annual report.

Men's Behaviour Change Network WA and WA Family Law Pathways Network Steering Committee

This year SFV has continued to convene the WA Men's Behaviour Change Network to ensure that the sector is represented and that SFV is working to achieve the outcomes required. One of the key outcomes of the Network this year was the partnership with the WA Family Law Pathways Networking Steering Committee in the delivery of a post conference workshop on the importance of FDV Informed documentation and sharing of information to and from perpetrator intervention services. This was an important step for both the Network and Steering Committee to build a greater awareness and partnerships for stakeholders working within and around the Family Court system.

The MBCN WA have also continued to focus on shifting MBCP work and expectations from 'outputs' to 'outcomes' with a particular focus on exit reports, perpetrator accountability and the long-term impact on child and family functioning.

Respectful Relationships Program

The Respectful Relationships Program is a pilot project delivered in primary and secondary public schools across WA. The program supports school staff to implement a whole of school approach to violence prevention with a focus on the impacts of gender inequality and preventing FDV. SFV has partnered with Starick Services, Department of Education and the Department of Communities in the delivery of the program in 2020 and 2021.

As part of the program, participants complete foundation FDV eLearning modules and attend two workshops to explore best practice principles and tools, develop a plan for a whole of community approach, and explore future directions and support.

SFV continues to bring a key focus on the impacts of gender inequality, providing key presentations, consultancy and support on how to challenge the gender drivers on FDV. The expertise provided to the partnership has been a consistent with each of the rounds of the program with schools attending across both metropolitan and regional Australia.

RELATIONSHIPS

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing - CWSW

The Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing (CWSW) - previously The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WCDFVS) is a state-wide peak organisation committed to improving the status of women and children in society. The organisation seeks to ensure that all women and children live free of domestic and family violence. Since before SFV's inception, it has remained imperative by both peaks to work in close partnerships as much as possible across the work of FDV training and in particular advocacy, research and policy work.

SFV recognise and appreciated that CWSW endeavoured on a significant journey this financial year and successfully emerged as the CWSW. During this time, SFV continued to closely partner and provide resources and consultancy to help support the change process as much as possible.

Healthy Relationships Strategy Group South East Metropolitan

The Healthy Relationships Strategy Group is a group of multi-disciplinary agencies that work together to develop and deliver awareness in raising prevention and early intervention initiatives to end family and domestic violence in our community. SFV have remained a consistent and dedicated member of this group and are proud to be a part of the following activities so far:

- WA's first 'Purple Bench Bus Stop'. Located 269 Albany Hwy, Victoria Park the bench was launched during homelessness week and provides an opportunity for greater awareness and conversations to be had within the local community regarding the impacts of FDV.
- Development of primary prevention resources, such as the '25 ways to have a happier and healthier relationship'.
- Active participation and engagement at the Victoria Park Street party to increase awareness of FDV.
- The development and distribution of a template letter for members to send to media outlets to highlight opportunities to improve media reporting on FDV by reducing victim blaming and increasing perpetrator accountability.
- Partnerships with the West Coast Eagles to develop a social media clip for the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women in 2020.
- Continual partnerships with members which in many cases has transpired to important collaborative projects further promoting FDV awareness in the WA community.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Training, Events and Workforce Development

Training Overview

SFV is a highly sought after training and workforce development service. Our trainers have over 80 years combined specialist FDV knowledge, skills and experience. Our training is designed to support workforce development, building knowledge, skills and increase awareness of family and domestic violence. SFV was able to navigate Covid-19 and the many Border restrictions by diversifying the delivery of in person with some online/virtual training. However, SFV maintained the value of in person training and where possible rescheduled our training dates to deliver training face to face. We achieved a total of 99.4 days and 745.5 hours of direct training, presentations and events to specialist and non specialist professionals across Western Australia and the Northern Territory from 2020-21.

Training Packages

Safe and Together Training

SFV continues to partner with the Safe and Together Institute to deliver the Safe and Together CORE (4 Days) and Supervisors (2 Days) Training packages. The training was supported through Federal and State Covid grant funding, as well as Fee-For-Service.

The 4 Day CORE training explores the importance of:

- Identifying the impact of domestic violence on children and family functioning.
- Fact-based assessment of the perpetrators' behavior patterns.
- Partnering with adult survivors of domestic violence.
- Intervening with perpetrators.
- How domestic violence intersects with other issues like substance abuse and mental health.

The 2 Day Supervisors Training explores critical supervisory skills:

- Addressing the quality of their workers' practice.
- Addressing worker safety concerns.
- Decision making and case guidance.

Over 2020-2021 SFV delivered

- 19 CORE 4 Day Courses
- 76 Days
- 570 hours

Over 2020-2021 SFV delivered

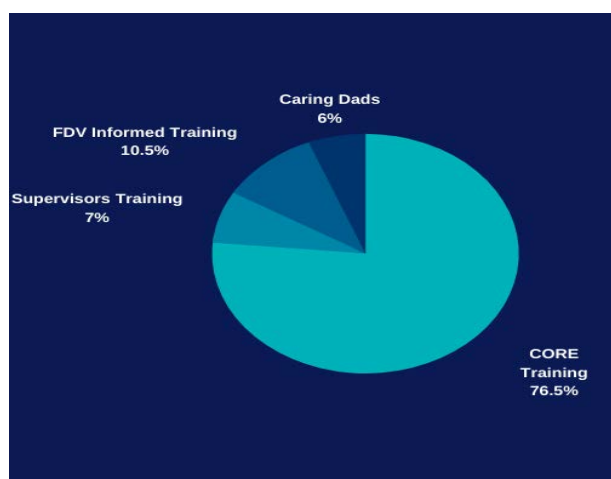
- 2 Supervisors 2 Day
- 1 Supervisors 3 Day
- 7 Days
- 52.5 hours

FDV Informed Training

SFV have focused on developing family and domestic violence informed training packages of various lengths from 1, 2, 4 and 5 Day training to be ready to deliver in 2021-22. Each training package provides a training manual and participant guide, ensuring SFV training has quality assurance measures in place for participant learning. FDV Informed training, keynote presentations and events were delivered to Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations, Family Court of Western Australia, Housing, Water Corporation, Legal Aid WA and other Legal Services, Family Law, Intensive Family Support Services, Women’s Specialist Services, Men’s Behaviour Change, Women’s Health Services, Alcohol and other Drug Services, Mental Health Services, and Family and Relationship Services.

Over 2020-2021 SFV Delivered

- 2 Keynote Presentations at Conferences
- 1 Day Conference workshop
- 5 Legal Aid WA partnership
- 16 FDV Informed - Presentations/Workshops
- 78 hours



FDV Conference 2021: Bring Children and Young People into View – Planning

SFV in partnership with the Centre for Women’s Safety and Wellbeing spent 2020-21 preparing for our bi annual conference with the theme: Bringing Children and Young People into View. We were supported by a Steering Group to oversee the conference planning and a Conference Committee supported by 10 organisations to support the detail planning.

Caring Dads

SFV continues its ongoing partnership with Caring Dads for the Australian community. Caring Dads exists to change current practice to better include fathers in efforts to enhance the safety and well-being of their children. The Caring Dads Facilitator training is appropriate for any professional interested in working with fathers (including biological, step, or common-law fathers) who have physically, emotionally abused or neglected their children, or exposed or are at high risk of exposing their children to domestic violence behaviours.

Over 2020-2021 SFV delivered

- 49 Total Events
- 99.4 Days
- 745.5 Hours

Over 2020-2021 SFV delivered

- 2 In Person 2 Day Courses
- 1 Virtual 2 Day Course
- 6 Days
- 45 Hours

Responses to Perpetrator Driven Risk during the Covid - 19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic presented many opportunities for perpetrators of family violence to remain invisible from justice and other system responses.

There has been a noted increase in perpetrator using tactics of coercive control using Covid-19 restrictions as a means of isolation and entrapment of victim-survivors. We know from research that during times of disaster, increased coercive control is related to more injuries and lethal consequences of family and domestic violence. This can be applied to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many organisations have introduced or continued proactive responses designed to keep perpetrators within view during Covid-19.

Funded through the Department of Communities, a Senior Principal Practitioner role was developed at Stopping Family Violence to support organisations across Western Australia keep a strong focus on perpetrators and reduce perpetrator-driven risk during this time and into the post Covid-19 economic recovery. The Senior Principal Practitioner was funded to:

- Provide capability building and support across all services that intersect with FDV;
- Deliver a range of activities and resources to respond to the challenges of the ever changing Covid-19 environment; and
- Support Organisations to respond appropriately to perpetrator-driven risk during Covid-19 and into our economic recovery.

Through providing a number of sustainable supports to organisations since July 2020, the project has reached across Western Australia, supporting organisations in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Peel, Southwest, Great Southern and the Wheatbelt. This year alone, the project has connected with over 47 organisations and provided capabilities training support to over 200 staff across the state.

Through the support of the Senior Principal Practitioner role, we have seen organisations build their FDV informed knowledge and practice, assisted with the development of a number of positive community initiatives and ensured women and children's safety and wellbeing during this time of uncertainty.

On the Line - Change for Good

Since its initiation, Change for Good has provided individual, phone-based interventions for men who cause family and domestic violence (FDV) harm. The program was initially designed to work with men who had completed a men's behaviour change program (MBCP), to provide post-program assistance for men to continue and extend their behaviour change journey. The program was directly marketed as such, and for the first period of its operation, included a partner contact component to strengthen On the Line's capacity to deliver men's behaviour change work safely and in accordance with minimum standards of practice.

On the Line has identified a major drift in the service model for the program over the past few years which has caused significant program integrity issues, driven in part by the lack of an identified and consistently agreed-upon purpose, objectives, target audience and operational features for the program. On the Line commissioned Stopping Family Violence (SFV) to assist with a two phased project to review and potentially developing a revamped service model for the program. Phase 1: review and recommendations took place. Change for Good did not pursue phase 2.

Impact of COVID-19 on access to family and domestic violence services in the Kimberley

During 2020 and 2021, restrictions on the movement and gathering of people to stop the spread of COVID-19 were stricter and longer in the Kimberley than elsewhere in WA. Many Kimberley Aboriginal people changed their residence, preferring to return to their own communities away from the larger towns. Most community services and organisations needed to change their business or service model to accommodate the movements and various restrictions.

In 2020, some community services raised concerns that keeping people in their homes, keeping people in communities and stopping or changing community support services might be leading to increased FDV in some families. For these same reasons, it was difficult for some victim-survivors to report the family violence or to get help. Some families accessed alternative services which helped them and their children to be safe, and keep the perpetrator accountable, but for others, this wasn't possible.

Lotterywest has funded SFV to undertake some key work to respond to these new circumstances, specifically:

- Document how organisations responded to FDV during the restrictions for COVID-19 in the Kimberley region and determine what made it easier or harder for adult and child victim-survivors and perpetrators to access the services they needed to keep people safe; and
- Develop and build upon strategies and resources to support perpetrator responses during any future impacts of COVID-19.

To date, SFV has undertaken some initial consultations with Kimberley stakeholders and developed a directory of services that support a family and domestic violence response. Going forward, we will undertake further consultations in partnership with our colleague Kyalie Moore from No To Violence, a Wadjarri Yamatji woman with extensive experience and expertise in the field. The consultations will be guided by Kimberley community leaders for advice on cultural issues, understanding any local community concerns and making sure the output is relevant to the Kimberley communities.

Consolidated Accountability Data Project

SFV has commenced a project to develop and implement an appropriate mechanism for the regular and secure collation, storage, analysis and distribution of data relating to the delivery of Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) which address FDV in WA.

SFV has recognised the inability to assess or report on the range and scope of engagement in MBCPs occurring across WA at any point in time. While individual agencies collect and retain statistics and data relating to various aspects of their MBCPs, these are not reported centrally. This limits the ability of the sector as a whole to clearly identify need for services and seek necessary funding, and also reduces the accountability of the sector to funding bodies and the wider public.

The development of a centralised repository for data relating to MBCPs in WA would potentially have significant immediate benefits for services across the sector, including: improved referrals by community services agencies; enhanced waitlist management by MBCP providers; more informed decision-making by Magistrates and corrections officers; better capacity of the sector to seek funding; improved accountability for program providers and the wider sector; improved opportunities to conduct research to predict future needs of the sector; and improved capacity for program evaluation.

Process Evaluation of the ACT's Family Violence Safety Action Plan

This year SFV undertook an evaluation of the first six months of the Family Violence Safety Action Pilot, operated by Victim Support, Human Rights Commission of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The aim of the Pilot (ongoing) is to trial a common approach, across government and non-government agencies and community sector services, towards integrated service delivery for FDV in the ACT. As an expansion of the ACT's Case-Tracking program, the Pilot also aims to introduce an element of coordinated, across-agency perpetrator accountability, which is absent from the Case Tracking program. SFV's expertise in perpetrator visibility and accountability made it an excellent fit for this work, and in addition to the evaluation the ACT Government commissioned SFV to develop a program logic and evaluation framework incorporating best practice perpetrator focussed outputs, indicators and outcomes, against which the Pilot was assessed.

The evaluation was conducted remotely (due to COVID), which involved some challenges, the most novel of

which was the use of WebEx Conference technology to perform remote observations. The mix of qualitative data collection methods used included:

- 26 interviews with Pilot collaborating partners and Pilot staff, as well as experienced practitioners in coordination roles in high-risk response teams in Victoria, NSW and the Gold Coast;
- Eight intensive case analyses of cases considered by the Pilot;
- Remote observations of six fortnightly FVSAP meetings between March and May 2021;
- Document analysis of de-identified Pilot meeting agendas and minutes, and a spreadsheet; and,
- A desk review of best practice manuals and guidelines for high-risk FDV response teams operating in NSW, Queensland, SA, Victoria, WA, New Zealand and the UK.

The resulting evaluation report and recommendations were well received and will inform a review of the existing Case Tracking process along with the design of the ACT's long-term approach to identifying, assessing, and responding to high-risk FDV matters.

With Thanks

Department of Communities

Stopping Family Violence is funded, by the Department of Communities to provide perpetrator intervention sector support in Western Australia. In this role, we seek to be a voice to the sector providing advocacy, training and professional development services, and working with organisations to pilot new programs and change community perceptions about Family and Domestic Violence. The Department has continued to support SFV across a number of key grants that have helped SFV to build the capacity, connections and capabilities of the sector and beyond.

Lotterywest

Thanks to a further funding opportunity from Lotterywest, Stopping Family Violence was able to progress with the project mentioned earlier in this report to document how organisations responded to FDV during the restrictions for COVID-19 in the Kimberley region and determine what made it easier or harder for services to maintain a 'spot light' on perpetrators whilst still enabling adult and child victim-survivors to access the services they needed to keep as safe as possible.

Steering Committee for FDV Conference

We thank the steering committee for their planning, dedication and commitment to the 2021 conference in Brining Children and Young People Into View. A significant amount of planning and decision making was done in the financial year of 2020/2021.

Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing

We thank the Centre for their ongoing work as the peak body for women's specialist domestic and family violence community-based women's health and sexual assault services in Western Australia. We value the continued partnership and work the Centre does in moving the sector forward and creating reform, safety and justice for women.

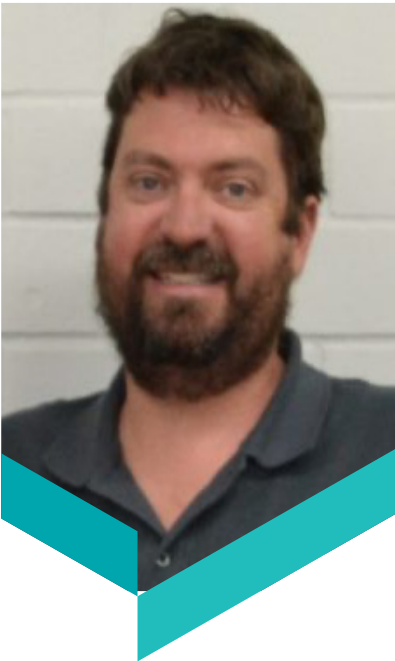
WACOSS and Partnering WA PEAKS

Thanks to continued support from WACOSS, and the collaborative work from partnering Peak Bodies in WA. FDV intersects in numerous ways across all sectors in WA and it is only when we come together that we can truly have a chance to stop family and domestic violence.

Angela Hartwig

We would like to finish this Annual Report with a special thank you and a heartfelt acknowledgment to Angela Hartwig, a founding board member of SFV and a true inspiration. You are, and forever will be, greatly missed...

Professional Team



Damian Green
CEO



Mark O'Hare
Operations Manager



Kate Jeffries
Sector Development
Manager



Colleen West
Business Manager



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Dr Monica Cass
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Coordinator



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