

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Edgington to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence:

Barkly Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Hub

- 1. When will the Barkly Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Hub be delivered?**
- 2. The Domestic, Family & Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028 lists this project as a "Priority Action". Why has it not yet been delivered?**

ANSWER

The commitment for a hub model in Tennant Creek is outlined in the Northern Territory's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) Reduction Framework 2018-28 (the Framework) as one of the priority actions.

In May 2018, the Hon Dale Wakefield MLA, former Minister for Territory Families, released a media release around more funding to reduce DFSV, which stated: "As part of the Framework action plan, the Territory Government will also provide \$450,000 to develop an integrated and specialist domestic, family and sexual violence hub model for Tennant Creek to support women and their children in the Barkly region."

In 2019-20, Territory Families engaged consultants Drummond Street Services, trading as the Centre for Family Research and Evaluation, and Matrix on Board Training Pty Ltd to review the DFSV service system of the Barkly and Big Rivers regions (the Review).

The Review was undertaken following service reviews in 2018 of the Tennant Creek Women's Refuge and Katherine Women's Crisis Centre. The purpose of the Review was to assess the effectiveness, connectivity and sustainability of the DFSV service system in both regions, and to establish a comprehensive mapping of available services, including a service and gap analysis.

In response to the Review's recommendations, the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the Department) committed to establish a DFSV Regional Coordinator position in the Barkly region to provide expert advice and critical analysis on matters relating to DFSV, and to drive service implementation, improvement and coordination in line with the Northern Territory DFSV policy framework. A key focus of the role was to develop a coordinated response to DFSV prevention and response service delivery in the Barkly region. In September 2020, this role was filled.

On 19 March 2021, the DFSV Regional Coordinator facilitated a public forum (the Forum) to discuss the outcomes of previous consultations and workshops, and to seek community consensus for an appropriate model for the Barkly DFSV Hub. Attendees included community members, a DFSV specialist, universal service providers and people with lived DFSV experience.

Participants at the Forum noted that a hub does not necessarily have to involve a physical building. The essential role of a hub is to connect stakeholders and the community with different services and parts of the system, and those services and supports (the formal and informal) with each other. While there may be some community expectation that the DFSV Hub will involve establishing a physical space or service, participants at the Forum did not raise this concern and the scope of the Forum discussion focused on strategies and models to improve connections between services and work towards a more integrated service system.

Forum participants agreed to explore an alternative name for the DFSV Hub to avoid confusion with the existing Paterson Street Hub in Tennant Creek. On 18 May 2021, the Tennant Creek DFSV Local Reference Group agreed on Barkly Family Safety Network as the preferred name.

The \$450,000 committed to the development of integrated DFSV service responses in the Barkly region referred to by Minister Wakefield in 2018 was allocated as follows:

- \$150,000 per annum for DFSV Regional Coordinator – approved for 2020-21 and 2021-22 (ongoing funding being sourced as part of Action Plan 2).
- \$106,816 – Barkly Big Rivers DFSV service system review (2018-19).
- \$118,497 – Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge and Katherine Women’s Crisis Centre service reviews (2018-19).
- The \$74,687 balance was dispersed across other existing DFSV funding for the Barkly.

The Department has also provided the following funding for DFSV in the Barkly:

- \$741,892 per annum on a five year contract - Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge crisis accommodation.
- \$329,607 per annum on a five year contract - Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge Critical Intervention Outreach Service.
- \$151,154 per annum on a five year contract - Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge DFSV Counselling and Community Education.
- \$163,938 per annum - Barkly Regional Council, Ali Curung Safe House Crisis accommodation.
- \$217,816 per annum - Barkly Regional Council, Elliott Safe House Crisis accommodation.

- \$66,045 - Barkly Regional Council, DFSV Prevention Grant for Northern Territory Working Women's Centre Domestic Violence Workplace Project, developing workplace policies and delivering training across Ali Curung, Ampilatwatja, Arlparra, Alpurrulam, Epenarra, Elliott and Tennant Creek. The best-practice, evidence-based domestic and family violence policies and procedures will address primary and secondary prevention as well as supporting staff who are experiencing or responding to domestic and family violence where it intersects with the workplace.
- \$108,434 - Alice Springs Women's Shelter, DFSV Prevention Grant for Talking Pictures, Talking Respect project in Tennant Creek, producing resources addressing the influence of media on gender and sexual expectations, to support 12 to 16 year old people to develop the skills required for relationships and sexuality that are safe, respectful, mutual and consenting.
- \$139,349 - United Muslims of the Northern Territory Inc, DFSV Prevention Grant for Nissa project - a culturally appropriate workshops and a media campaign about gender equality and violence prevention within the multicultural community. The project is delivered in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, and Tennant Creek.
- \$150,000 - Tennant Creek Women's Refuge, DFSV Prevention Grant for Talking Respect Workforce Development Project – training teachers, youth workers, health workers and other professionals to operationalise the Talking Respect resource package on young people and respectful relationships.
- \$43,958 - Barkly Regional Council, COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement grant for DFSV community safety awareness education sessions across Ali Curung and Elliott communities, and Flexible Support Packages for DFSV victim survivors.
- \$40,000 - CatholicCare Northern Territory (Tennant Creek), COVID-19 National Partnership Agreement grant, to provide emergency accommodation and support for families.
- Agreement grant for Flexible Support Packages for DFSV victim survivors.
- \$48,600 - Tennant Creek Women's Refuge, Enhanced Specialist Services grants for practice management and staff supervision.
- \$20,000 - Provision of DFSV Risk Assessment and Management Training to staff in Tennant Creek – four workshops held in March and October 2021.

The Department has funded \$2,295,480 in specialist DFSV prevention and response in the Barkly. Noting core funding is recurrent, that some projects are delivered across regions and in remote Aboriginal communities in the Barkly.