



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 124

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Corrections, Hon Gerard Maley MLA:

Men's behaviour change programs

- 1. How are RAGE and other men's behaviour change programs in custody being evaluated by the NT Government DFV Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF)?**

In March 2025 the Department of Corrections (the Department) Offender Rehabilitation and Engagement directorate (ORE) engaged Allen and Clarke Consulting to evaluate two programs, "Recognising Anger Gaining Empowerment" (RAGE) and the "Family Violence Program" (FVP).

The purpose of the evaluation was to increase the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors of DFV. The Department requested the evaluators explore the capacity of the programs to align with or provide recommendations that strengthen their alignment with RAMF. The Department is currently reviewing those findings.

The Department recognises the principals and standards defined within RAMF, including Principal 7 which outlines the expectation that DFV programs engage in ongoing program review and evaluation.

It must be noted however, that programs delivered in prison remain exempt from the "Northern Territory Minimum Standards for declared Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Rehabilitation Programs" and as such any measures applied by the Department are in good faith and attest to positive practice principles.

The Department additionally advises that Men's Behaviour Change Programs are the remit of the Department of Children and Families who provide community-based program content regarding consent.

2. Please explain the program content in RAGE and other men's behaviour change programs in relation to consent in an intimate relationship?

The RAGE program defines intimate partner violence used by offenders to coerce victim-survivors, highlighting unconscious biases that intersect gender and identity. Criminal thinking patterns are also addressed, which include those linked to sexually coercive behaviour such as sexual jealousy. The impact of exposure to sexual violence on children is also discussed.

For DFV offenders who have sexual offending against their partner, the RAGE group program is supplemented with individual treatment based on content from the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP).

SOTP explores consent and sexual violence in detail. SOTP provides a nuanced and detailed understanding of sexual abuse and sexual knowledge. This content provides several opportunities to discuss consent. Offenders are referred to SOTP where Intimate Partner Sexual Violence is not the primary driver for offending.

The Department additionally advises that Men's Behaviour Change Programs are the remit of the Department of Children and Families who provide community-based program content regarding consent.