

THE FUTURE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE TRAINING

Full project name: Male Family Violence TAFE training

Lead organisation: No to Violence

Collaborators: Swinburne University of Technology, Federation University Australia, Wodonga Institute of TAFE, Chisholm Institute, Thorne Harbour Health, Mental Health Victoria, Victorian Legal Aid, inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Council to Homeless Persons, Seniors Rights Victoria

AN EMERGING NEED – THE CONTEXT

This is a time of unprecedented growth and reform in the family violence sector, and this project has a broad and ambitious scope to match. One of its main goals is to grow and develop the specialist workforce that responds to and intervenes with men using family violence. It will also develop and grow the understanding of gendered family violence in the wider community sector, offer professional development for the current specialist workforce, and enable the VET sector to deliver essential training.

A STRONG FOUNDATION – THE FIRST STEP

Although the project is in its early stages, a draft practice framework on working with men who use family violence has already been completed.

This ground-breaking work is fundamental to the entire project. It is based on extensive research into the models of practice in use around the world today.

The framework will inform the development of a practice handbook – which will in turn form the basis of training products across the project.

Michelle Perry, practice development manager at No to Violence, says this will provide much-needed clarity for the sector.



"The practice of working with men who use family violence has been growing for decades," she says.

"With all this information, it's understandable that practitioners may have a difficult time understanding what effective practice is about."

"Through our research process, we will be able to develop a book rooted in both evidence-informed theory and practice," she says.

The manual will assist practitioners in identifying and initiating mechanisms of change when working with men who use family violence.

"Our theoretical framework builds on current understandings of male family violence. It produces a synthesised perspective of those understandings that also includes new ideas informed by current research," Ms Perry says.

"As the book progresses, a practical component will be expanded upon. It's important our handbook appeals to practitioners and their desire for practical guidance. Therefore, the handbook will include an easy-to-understand and highly relevant practical component."

GOALS TO ACHIEVE - THE APPROACH

No to Violence is working with a wide consortium of organisations to make the training products evidence-informed and engaging, and it will employ a design cycle process of regular evaluation and improvement. As the project continues to progress, it will:

- Review the current Graduate Certificate in Client and Case Assessment (Male Family Violence) and implement improvements
- Increase the number of specialist family violence trainers
- Deliver training for working with men who use violence in Koori communities. This will be collaboratively tailored to each community
- Develop clearer, more attractive pathways for students looking to work in the sector
- Work with TAFEs across Victoria
- Provide family violence training to workers in allied sectors such as aged care and social housing
- Add new units to existing community sector courses on gendered family violence
- Create two manuals: one practice framework on working with men who use family violence, for use in the graduate certificate, and the other on industry and TAFE collaboration
- Expand and improve No to Violence's current suite of training
- Establish collaborative practitioner networks.

ADAPT AND THRIVE – LESSONS LEARNED

"One lesson at this early stage is the need to be flexible and responsive," says Amelia Ditcham, workforce development project manager at No to Violence. "This project is being delivered into a sector experiencing a significant reform period."

"That means the methods used to meet the goals of the project have to be adapted or updated, ensuring the best value for money as well as the best outcomes," Ms Ditcham says.



Founded in 2017, the Workforce Training Innovation Fund (WTIF) is a targeted *Skills First* funding stream. WTIF creates opportunities for partnerships between industry and the TAFE and training system and encourages them to explore bold, innovative approaches that challenge existing practices in skills development and training methods.

Ultimately, these new ideas and solutions aim to enhance workplace productivity, particularly in Victorian Government priority sectors. More than \$90 million of funding has been committed to date.

The next round of WTIF funding is now open for applications.

To find out more visit www.education.vic.gov.au/training/providers/funding/Pages/wtif.aspx or email the WTIF team at wtif@edumail.vic.gov.au