



## **Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy Reference Group**

### **Communique – Meeting 10 March 2023**

The Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime in the Department of Justice and the Office for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence in the Department of Communities are jointly leading a project to develop Western Australia's (WA) first Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy (the Strategy).

An independent Reference Group comprising experts and advocates working in the sexual violence field, has been established to guide the development of the Strategy. The Reference Group met for the third time on 10 March 2023. This Communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

### **Consultation with the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia – Project 113**

The Law Reform Commission of WA (LRC) is undertaking [Project 113: Sexual Offences](#), to examine issues including the definition of consent, the defence of mistaken belief in consent, the directions given to juries in sexual offence trials, our substantive sexual offences and their maximum penalties.

Commissioners from the LRC project team attended this Reference Group meeting as part of their formal consultation process for Project 113. Members provided feedback on a range of issues relevant to the review.

The discussion with the LRC was the main item of business for this meeting.

### **Consultation approach**

Members discussed and agreed changes to project approach and timeframes including contracting a suitably qualified consultant to assist with development of the strategy and facilitation of public consultation informed by a draft strategy document.

It was confirmed that a sub-group of the Reference Group will be established to work closely with the consultant and Project Team on the development of the draft strategy document and supporting consultation materials to ensure that communication, engagement, and consultation about the strategy, is informed by the principles of trauma-informed practice.

Six Reference Group members nominated to be part of the Reference Group sub-group. The first meeting is expected to take place in April 2023.

### **Next steps**

A Steering Committee meeting will be held in April 2023 and will consider an update from the Chair of the Reference Group.

The next Reference Group meeting will be held in the second quarter of 2023.

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks. Communiques and other relevant documents for the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy are also available on the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime website at: [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au).