



Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy Reference Group

Communique – Meeting 13 June 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 fourth time on 13 June 2023. This Communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

In March 2023 a Consortium led by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (the Consortium) was contracted by the Departments of Justice and Communities to assist with the development of a draft Strategy document and Consultation Plan and to facilitate the consultation process for the Strategy.

Sub-Reference Group

Following an expression of interest process a smaller sub-group of the Reference Group was convened to work more intensively with the Consortium and Project Team members to ensure the draft Strategy and Consultation Plan were informed by subject matter expertise and reflected the needs of diverse groups of victim-survivors.

Draft Strategy and Consultation Plan

Representatives from the Consortium presented the draft Strategy and Consultation Plan at the Reference Group meeting and sought feedback from Members. Main items of feedback on the Strategy were that it should:

- be specific to the WA context and service delivery landscape
- provide a foundation for the development of more detailed action plans in the future
- reflect impacts, barriers and needs as they relate to different groups of sexual violence victim-survivors.

Members also provided feedback on the draft Consultation Plan, noting that the document provided a solid approach to consultation and reinforcing the need for all consultation processes to be trauma informed.

Next steps

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

Public consultation will open in July 2023. More information about the consultation process is available on at [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au). The next Reference Group meeting will be held in the third quarter of 2023 and will consider initial findings from the consultation process.

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 \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au)