



Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy Reference Group

Communique – Meeting 17 November 2023

The Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime in the Department of Justice (Justice) and the Department of Communities (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, established in 2022, is guiding development of the Strategy and met for the fifth time on 17 November 2023. This Communique has been developed to provide all stakeholders with information and outcomes from this meeting.

This meeting focused on a presentation by the consortium led by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (the Consortium) 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 throughout 2023.

Consultation findings

The Consortium provided Members with an outline of key findings from the public consultation process for the Strategy that was undertaken between August – November 2023. The Consortium, along with the Communities and Justice Project Team, consulted with stakeholders from across the State, including specialist sexual violence service providers, organisations, community legal services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, WA Government agencies, schools and universities, industry/workplace bodies and people with lived experience.

Key findings from consultation on the draft Strategy included that:

- the language and subject matter should be refined to make it accessible to the widest possible audience
- it should clarify actions, roles and responsibilities
- it should reinforce the importance of taking an intersectional approach to addressing sexual violence
- it should better identify systemic barriers to the delivery of sexual violence prevention and response initiatives.

Feedback on draft Strategy

Members provided feedback to the Consortium that the draft Strategy should:

- reflect the demand pressures on the existing specialist sexual violence service system
- articulate the underlying community attitudes and beliefs that drive sexual violence and how these attitudes link with the media, social media and pornography
- more strongly acknowledge the gendered nature of sexual violence and describe the need for perpetrator visibility

- further consider the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- clearly define what is meant by Relationships and Sexuality Education and consider how it can best be implemented.

Next steps

The next Reference Group meeting will be held in early 2024.

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/government/communique/sexual-violence-prevention-and-response-strategy)