

Taskforce - Family and domestic violence

Terms of Reference

The Hon. Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, has established a time-limited Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce to consider and provide advice about reforms to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence. The Taskforce will be Co-Chaired by a Government representative and an independent person, and will comprise membership from Government agencies, non-government organisations and academia. The terms of reference for this group, including their role and focus, are set out in this document.

Chair

The Taskforce will be co-chaired by:

- Professor Colleen Hayward AM, Edith Cowan University; and
- Ms Emily Roper, Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Membership

The membership of the Taskforce comprises Directors General of relevant Government agencies, the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent of non-Government organisations and subject matter experts from academia, refer Table below. As appropriate, the Taskforce will engage with other relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts.

Government	Non-Government
Mr Mike Rowe, Director General, Communities	Professor Donna Chung, Curtin University
Mr Col Blanch, Commissioner, Western Australia Police Force	Dr Alison Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing
Dr Adam Tomison, Director General, Department of Justice	Mr Damian Green, Chief Executive Officer, Stopping Family Violence
Ms Lisa Rodgers, Director General, Department of Education	Ms Vicki O'Donnell, Chairperson Aboriginal Health Council WA and Council of Aboriginal Services WA

Government	Non-Government
Dr David Russell-Weisz Director General, Department of Health	Ms Barbara Henry, Chief Executive Officer, Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council
Ms Maureen Lewis, Commissioner, Mental Health Commission	Ms Louise Giolitto, Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Council of Social Service
Mr Michael Barnes, Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury	

Purpose

The Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce (the Taskforce) has been convened to consider and provide advice to the Western Australian Government about reforms that will strengthen responses to family and domestic violence in Western Australia.

Timeframe

The Taskforce will operate for a period of six months, until 31 March 2024, with an option to extend for a further three months at the request of the Hon. Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence.

Objectives

The time-limited Taskforce will consider and provide advice about reforms to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence, through four related functions:

1. Identify additional strategic areas for system reforms, including minimising barriers that prevent results, like victim-survivor safety and perpetrator accountability, as well improving cross system coordination and collaboration.
2. Consider, prioritise and advise on responses to key sector priorities as outlined at the August summit. Refer Attachment 1.
3. Identify options to strengthen case coordination across Government through improved information and data sharing.
4. Advise on and oversee the consultation process to establish the lived experience advisory group.

Deliverables

1. Advice to Government on ways to address systemic barriers to victim-survivor safety and perpetrator accountability.
2. Advice to Government on an approach to enhance case coordination and collaboration through improved information and data sharing.
3. Establishment of a lived experience advisory group, including
 - a) Oversight of the consultation and design process; and

- b) Establishment of processes for the lived experience advisory group to provide appropriate advice to the Taskforce, to Government agencies and sector services.

4. Advice to Government to inform service prioritisation and investment decisions.

5. Advice to the service sector about how to optimise current service delivery.

Role of the Chairpersons

The Chairpersons are responsible for:

- Providing leadership and guidance to the Taskforce, ensuring it remains focused on its objectives.
- Leading and facilitating productive Taskforce meetings, maintaining adherence to the established agenda.
- Collaborating with Taskforce members to establish meeting agendas, prioritise discussion topics and allocate time effectively.
- Guiding the Taskforce in making informed decisions, encouraging consensus where possible and ensuring decisions align with the Taskforce's overarching purpose and objectives.
- Reporting progress, at least monthly, to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence.

Roles and responsibilities of Taskforce members

Members of the Taskforce will:

- Provide oversight and strategic direction to support delivery of the agreed scope of work and deliverables, that is consistent and aligned with the policy directions of [Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy for Reducing Family and Domestic Violence 2020-2030](#) and the [Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy 2022-2032](#).
- Agree a communique for distribution to the sector.
- Support communication and reporting to relevant Ministers and stakeholders across Government and in the community services and Aboriginal Community Controlled sectors.

Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

Members may have access to information that is confidential and/or relates to confidential Cabinet deliberations. Members must treat this material as strictly confidential and will be required to sign a declaration to this effect. During their tenure, members will also be required to declare conflicts of interest.

Connection to the lived experience advisory group

The Taskforce will oversight establishment of the lived experience advisory group. Until such time as this group is established, the Taskforce will elicit the views of victim-survivors through targeted consultation.

Role of the secretariat

The Taskforce will be led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet with secretariat support provided by the Department of Communities. The secretariat will be responsible for providing administrative support to the Chairpersons and the Taskforce members, including:

- Coordinating and scheduling meetings.
- Preparing meeting documents.
- Distributing the meeting agenda and relevant material in advance.
- Recording and disseminating meeting minutes.

Meeting Frequency

The Taskforce will meet monthly for six months until 31 March 2024. This will include an initiating meeting to agree the Terms of Reference and a proposed timeline of activities.

Quorum

A quorum for Taskforce meetings will be met if the chairpersons and the majority (50% or more) of the Taskforce's members are present.

If Government members cannot attend, they must nominate a proxy at Tier 2.

If the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent) from non-government members cannot attend, they must nominate an appropriate senior-level proxy.

Authorising Minister

The Hon. Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence is the authorising Minister for the Taskforce.

Sector communication

During the term of the Taskforce, periodic public updates will be provided through appropriate channels.