

Submission to the Royal Commission into Family, Domestic, and Sexual Violence

I am a 'victim-survivor of family and domestic violence' as: a child, young person; adult and parent. It is important to highlight that each one of us has their own journey. I have seen the impacts (lived experience) on my family- my mother (refugee) my children and grandchildren. I come from a culturally diverse background and throughout my childhood my mother and myself received no support. I feel that my family and myself have experienced and still experience intergeneration trauma due to family and domestic violence

Prevention - How South Australia can facilitate widespread change in the underlying social drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence

I believe South Australia can facilitate a widespread change of the underlying drivers of family, domestic and sexual violence by:

- **Acknowledging the practices and abuses of power:** in society, government institutions and legislation which have developed a structural gender inequality of power, community attitudes and the social norms about age, gender sexual orientation, race and culture violence. The historic labelling, stereotyping and judging of individuals by society's tendency to view that their ways of believing, behaving and organising society is the accepted way of dealing with the inequality of power in 'intimate relationships.'
- Recognising how violence and the abuse of power throughout South Australian society is hidden and are supportive of violent and abusive behaviours in South Australian legislation and policies towards marginalised groups. (First Nations)
- Identifying the need for responsibility to be attributed to perpetrators of violence and abuse.
- Highlighting and accepting the failures of society to investigate the impact of family, domestic and sexual violence upon children (including out of home care). (laws/ Policies)
- Recognising how Alcohol/ drugs and gambling contributes to family and domestic violence and the failure of governments to implement meaningful programs to bring about change.
- Researching and providing supports for wide spread mental health issues caused by social drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence

- Investigating how economic stress, recent separation between partners and unhealthy family relationships and interactions- Education/ job loss/employment all attribute to social drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence

Early intervention: How South Australia can improve effective early intervention through identification and support of individuals who are at high risk of experiencing or perpetrating domestic, family and sexual violence.

- Need for **-Societal change** in attitudes and legislation to support ‘victim-survivor of family, domestic and sexual’- violence everybody’s problem
- **Easy access and availability** to: direct front line and outreach services for ‘victim-survivor of family, domestic and sexual violence’ that provide information about domestic violence, risk assessment tools, referral details for services and supports, safety planning and Intervention Order/protection orders. (service directory).
- **Access to E-counselling** to be considered and communicated by computer/phone, rather than face-to-face. This will increase access and safety to all services and including those in rural and remote areas where transport and distance is a barrier. Introduction of Counselling and Psychological Care over a life time.
- Ensuring that victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence’ **have trust and confidence** they will be able to access the supports and services they need now and into the future.
- **Easy access** to: front line DV and mental health services; legal assistance; housing- Services that are culturally-responsive and acknowledge individual difference that embed cultural and holistic perspective into their practice.
- **QUALIFIED** Medical professionals/ social workers/ peer support workers, teachers, Child care workers who are trained to identify need and risk; general shared care between providers and carers working as a team.
- **Greater DV training**
- **Develop service models that provide “wrap around” service delivery**
- **Technologies and inventions that are- person /family centred** approaches that including data collection, data-sharing in partnership with stakeholders to improve the quality and accuracy of the data and evidence (**Victim-survivors do not need to repeat themselves**) Highlight laws such as: **the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme**
- **Develop** risk and safety **systems which protect the identification of persons** who are considered at risk of experiencing or perpetrating domestic, family and sexual violence (**manage anonymity and confidentiality**)
- **Reintroduce Women’s Health centres**
- Greater DV training and powers for police officers
- **Customised programs, health promotional materials and resources to improve the literacy and the navigation of the system by individuals** who are at high risk of experiencing or perpetrating domestic, family and sexual violence
- **Greater power and training for Police-** surveillance of perpetrators /monitoring and a register of perpetrators of violence Australia wide. Programs that highlight safety

supports-protection of-physical and non-physical forms of abuse and control, such as: cyberstalking and cyber surveillance, which use digital information and communication technologies (ICTs)

- **Emphasise on Family violence education and support for young people. Specialised counselling for children**

Response: How South Australia can ensure best practice response to domestic, family and sexual violence through the provision of services and supports.

- A Strategic Framework, Road Map and Action Plan (Funding)
- **Provide a collaborative centred responsive approach by the Federal and the state government to work together** to delivering a better future outcome to ensure a best practice response to domestic, family and sexual violence through the provision of services and supports addressing the social determinants of health (DV) in partnership with stakeholders in education, housing, employment, justice and social services.
- **A comprehensive review of all Australian legislation concerning domestic violence** so that South Australian laws are in line with all other state legislation to be undertaken.
- **Commitment to a whole-of-system and governance response** which will enhance existing relationships across multiple sectors and organisations, and create new partnerships.
- Provide easy access to DV services/ mental services and housing **Do not house victims of domestic, family and sexual violence in hotels and motels. Make sure there is specialize housing for women with a disability.**
- The South Australian Government needs to ensure its **departments and agencies act in accordance with Access and Equity Policies**, so that its programs and services are accessible to all South Australians and responsive to their needs to deliver equitable outcomes for all, regardless of their cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- **Develop a family friendly trained workforce. Work in partnership with** the education, welfare and medical sectors so that it delivers Integrating and embedding technologies to achieve practical goals, especially in a reproducible way. Emphasise on Family violence and young people (Updated service directory)
- **Do not fund non-faith organisations**-due to the links with childhood sexual abuse
- **Fund, specialized services**- sexual orientation, cultural need (first nations; disability) Services that are culturally-responsive embed a cultural and holistic perspective into their practice.
- **Improve access to referrals to health /Mental health services -Counselling and Psychological Care over your life time.**
- **Enable E-counselling** to be communicate by computer/phone, rather than face-to-face this increases safe access to counselling services for those in rural and remote areas where transport and distance is a barrier.

- **Embed technologies to support the person /family- centred** approach, including data collection, data-sharing in partnership with stakeholders to improve the quality and accuracy of the data and evidence so Victim-survivors do not need to repeat themselves. Other advantages may include offering **anonymity and confidentiality**.
- Introduce legislation to combat and enable fast Police response surveillance of perpetrators /monitoring. register **perpetrators of violence Australia** Intervention Order Programs that highlight safety supports-protection which include non-physical and physical forms of abuse and control, such as cyberstalking and cyber surveillance, which use digital information and communication technologies (ICTs)

Recovery and healing: How South Australia can embed an approach that supports recovery and healing through reducing the risk of re-traumatisation and supporting victim-survivors to be safe and healthy

- **Develop service models that provide “wrap around” service delivery**-Empowering all, elevating their rights and voices, maximising autonomy, recognising diversity and intersectionality
- **Relationships that do not restrict one or more of the Victim-survivors life:** freedom of movement and freedom of action.
- Provide easy access to DV services/legal; mental services and housing- Funding, specialized services- sexual orientation, cultural need (first nations; disability) Services that are culturally-responsive and acknowledge individual difference that embed cultural and holistic perspective into their practice.
- Develop a family friendly trained workforce. Work in partnership with the education, welfare and medical sectors so that it delivers integrating and embedding technologies to achieve practical goals, especially in a reproducible way. Emphasise on Family violence and young people (Updated service directory)
- Access to E-counselling to considered and communicate by computer/phone, rather than face-to-face this increases safety and access to counselling services for those in rural and remote areas where transport and distance is a barrier. Introduction of Counselling and Psychological Care over a life time. Access to legal/health services
- Improve access to **referrals to health /Mental health services -Counselling and Psychological Care over your life time.**
- **No faith-based organisations**- many people have problems with faith-based organisation due to sexual abuse
- **Look at how current services (fail and lack of coordination and availability**

Coordination - How can better integrate and coordinate efforts across the spectrum of prevention, intervention, response and recovery.

- **Government agencies, non-government organisations and communities** will take the time to listen, learn and reflect on all they have heard. This should include updates on key timeframes as they are agreed upon
- **Government agencies, non-government organisations and communities** will partner to develop strategies that promote agency, self-determination and transformational change
- Increased Funding for community well-being initiatives that are realistic, with a vision for sustainability.
- coordinate develop and deliver evidence-based prevention and community management programs that are co-designed and delivered with a strengths-based approach to service. (Lived experience individuals)
- Embrace innovative ideas and ways to develop services
- Community structure and governance that allow for integrated, uniform and sustainable capacity building, implementation and evaluation.

Please note many of my comments and responses can fit into more than 1 key areas. These are my ideas about stopping DFS violence.

I have never had good experiences with DV services and I feel that they do not often meet the need of victim survivors.

It is strange but as I get older and my disabilities increase. I realise I have not escape being that victim survivor who use to hide under the bed as a child. Your, fear lives with you forever and continue. I wonder now at times now if I am going to be that little old lady (child) still trying to hid under my bed from the accepted perpetrators

