

## Response to Safer Pathway Evaluation – Lead agencies

Number	Recommendation	Lead	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Lead agency response
1	In collaboration with Safer Pathway partner government agencies Women NSW will lead the refinement of the Safer Pathway scope and theory of change.	Women NSW	Safer Pathway government partner agencies	Supported.
2	In collaboration with Safer Pathway partner government agencies Women NSW will lead the development and implementation of a Safer Pathway monitoring and evaluation framework, to enable ongoing monitoring, measurement and reporting by agencies for learning and accountability purposes. The monitoring and evaluation framework implementation plan should specify reporting requirements to the Domestic Violence Reforms Delivery Board, and address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Data development for improved monitoring and evaluation against identified outcomes.</li> <li>2.2 Monitoring of the proportion of victims assessed ‘at serious threat’ to ensure victims most at threat receive a prioritised, coordinated response.</li> <li>2.3 Monitoring of the rate of DVSAT completion by Police across population groups.</li> <li>2.4 Monitoring of the number, proportion and profile of victims whose matters are referred to the SAMs.</li> <li>2.5 Monitoring of SAM participation to ensure appropriate local service participation, including case management service providers when their clients are listed on the agenda.</li> <li>2.6 Development of measures and tools to describe and quantify outcomes for victims from SAMs.</li> <li>2.7 development and monitoring of outcomes measures that reflect ongoing engagement of re-referred victims at all stages of Safer</li> </ul>	Women NSW	Safer Pathway government partner agencies	Supported.

<sup>1</sup> ‘Safer Pathway government partner agencies’ refers to government agencies involved in Safer Pathway implementation including NSW Police Force, Legal Aid NSW, Victim Services, FACS, Ministry of Health, Corrective Services NSW, Department of Education. Safer Pathway government and non-government partner agencies includes

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	Pathway, including measures pertaining to victim engagement with LCPs, support, safety and links to the service system. 2.8 Outcome and economic evaluation.			
<b>3</b>	Legal Aid NSW and Victim Services clarify the respective roles of the CRP and WDVCAP database for LCPs.	Victims Services and Legal Aid NSW		Supported.
<b>4</b>	Continue to expand referral pathways to facilitate referrals to Safer Pathway from other agencies, funded services and community and self-referral.	Victims Services	Safer Pathway government and non-government partner agencies	Supported.
<b>5</b>	Continue to provide annual training for LCPs/LSSs and SAM members, accessible to staff across the state.	Legal Aid NSW	Safer Pathway government and non-government partner agencies	Supported in principle.
<b>6</b>	Legal Aid NSW and NSW Police consider providing joint local training for LCP/LSS staff, Police and DVLOs to build local relationships and shared understandings of DFV and the roles of program components.	Legal Aid NSW and NSWPF		Supported in principle.
<b>7</b>	Strengthen the adequacy and availability of training in DFV, Safer Pathway and the DVSAT for police as part of on-going training. The training should cover DFV dynamics and coercive control, provide support in developing skills and approaches to ask difficult questions, and make clear the role of the safety assessment in prioritising a multi-agency service response to victims of DFV.	NSWPF	Legal Aid NSW	Supported.
<b>8</b>	Explore additional opportunities and mechanisms for information sharing and cross-learning for LCP/LSS staff, including reviewing and promoting participation in local DFV interagency meetings in the areas in which their clients live.	Legal Aid NSW	Victims Services	Supported in principle.
<b>9</b>	NSWPF review the monthly rotation of SAM Chairs, and consider moving to a six-monthly rotation, to support SAM group dynamics.	NSWPF		Supported.
<b>10</b>	As part of the next review of the SAM manual, include better practice information on working remotely with meeting participants, such as over	Legal Aid NSW	Safety Action Meeting member agencies	Supported.

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	tele-links, to support the effectiveness of SAMs in rural and remote areas.			
11	Strengthen reference in SAM member training to the possible need for psychological support and its availability through, e.g. Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs)	Legal Aid NSW		Supported.
12	<p>Government agencies that are standing members on SAMs:</p> <p>12.1 Prioritise SAM participation by reviewing SAM-related workload and resourcing.</p> <p>12.2 Seek to reduce rotation of staff representatives on SAMs.</p> <p>12.3 Provide adequate introduction, orientation and handover to incoming staff on SAM membership roles and responsibilities and available psychological supports, such as EAPs.</p>	Safety Action Meeting member agencies		Supported.
13	<p>Revise the Police DVSAT to enhance its predictive ability to assess the likelihood of further aggression by a perpetrator across intimate and non-intimate cases, ensuring its coherence with the LCP/LSS DVSAT. It is recommended the revised DVSAT include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes to the layout to include parts A, B and C, where Part A involves an actuarial or itemised checklist, part B involves victim of DFV self-assessment, and Part C involves professional judgment;</li> <li>• guidance on the discretionary ability of police to increase, but not decrease, threat assessment, in line with other jurisdictions;</li> <li>• Reliability testing.</li> </ul>	NSWPF	Justice, Legal Aid NSW, Women NSW, relevant sector specialists.	Supported in principle.
14	<p>Revise the LCP/LSS component of the DVSAT, ensuring it's coherence with the police DVSAT. It is recommended the revised DVSAT include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes to the layout of the DVSAT to include parts A, B and C, where Part A involves an itemised checklist, part B involves victim self-assessment, and Part C involves professional judgment in line with best practice protocols for DFV risk assessment;</li> <li>• modified wording of questions to ensure a positive response by the victim of DFV means the presence of the evidence-based risk factor that the question seeks to assess is clear in each case;</li> </ul>	Legal Aid NSW	Justice, NSWPF, Women NSW, relevant sector specialists.	Supported in principle.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>weighting of questions that the evidence base shows as most indicative of further risk of harm;</li> <li>Reliability testing.</li> </ul>			
15	Legal Aid NSW and Victims Services develop explicit protocols and ensure that LCP/LSS staff are sufficiently trained in the administration of sexual assault items in the LCP/LSS DVSAT.	Legal Aid NSW	Victims Services	Supported in principle.
16	<p>NSWPF ensure that training for Police includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of the safety assessment in investigation of an incident, and in referral into and prioritisation of victims within Safer Pathway.</li> <li>DFV dynamics and coercive control, identifying victims and perpetrators of DFV in complex situations, and identifying and assessing male victims of DFV.</li> </ul>	NSWPF		Supported.
17	<p>NSWPF and Victims Services work together to support effective engagement with victims by LCPs/LSSs by:</p> <p>17.1 Investigating strategies to address high rates of non-contact with some groups.</p> <p>17.2 Improving the accuracy of contact data for DFV victims in the CRP, and investigating reliable pre-population/ updating of contact numbers in Web COPS and the CRP.</p> <p>17.3 Improving the availability of incident and DFV victim demographic data in Web COPS and the CRP.</p>	NSWPF and Victim Services	Legal Aid NSW	Supported in principle.
18	NSWPF continue to reinforce to police the importance of providing information about LCP/LSS contact through DVSAT and Safer Pathway training.	NSWPF		Supported.
19	Legal Aid NSW and Victims Services review the availability of Aboriginal Specialist Worker positions and identify how to address availability gaps in areas with high Aboriginal populations to facilitate greater contact and engagement with Aboriginal victims of DFV.	Legal Aid NSW and Victims Services		Supported in principle.
20	Legal Aid NSW and Victims Services explore options to increase LCP/LSS DVSAT re-administration rates for vulnerable groups.	Legal Aid NSW and Victims Services		Supported.

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21	Women NSW and Safer Pathway agencies identify any service gaps in availability of longer-term supports for victims, in particular services for Aboriginal victims, male victims and victims of non-intimate DFV.	Women NSW	Safer Pathway government and non-government partner agencies.	Supported.
22	<p>Victims Services ensure that planned or future developments of the CRP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide more information to SAM members about DFV victims who are re-referred to Safer Pathway;</li> <li>• include systematic data capture about LCP/LSS DVSAT re-administration, including reasons for non-administration, and outcomes for victims;</li> <li>• include a mechanism for identifying and reporting on the completion of actions in safety action plans;</li> <li>• Enable accurate monitoring of the number, proportion and profile of victims whose matters are referred to SAMs, and provide training and direction to LCP and LSS staff to ensure SAM referral data is entered into the CRP.</li> </ul>	Victims Services		Supported in principle.
23	Safer Pathway partner agencies ensure all existing and incoming SAM members are supported to attend SAM training as soon as possible in order that they understand SAM purpose and process, and appropriate use of the information provisions.	Safety Action Meeting member agencies		Supported.