



DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2019–2022



Communities
& Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Ending domestic and family violence in NSW is one of the key goals of the NSW Government, and of the Department of Communities and Justice in particular.

In August 2016 the Government launched a whole-of-government strategy to reform the NSW domestic and family violence response. The aim is to deliver better outcomes for victim-survivors, their families, and perpetrators.

That strategy is known as the Blueprint. Or to give it its full name the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children*.

As a part of the Blueprint, NSW agencies are developing their own domestic and family violence strategies.

At the Department of Communities and Justice, we're actually developing three strategies.

This reflects the diverse nature of the work our department does. Three separate, but complementary, strategies will allow us to target and tailor our efforts to meet the needs of the people we support.

Our three strategies will cover the following areas:

- A strategy that focuses on improving outcomes for young people within the criminal justice system who are both victims and domestic and family violence offenders.
- A strategy that focuses on housing and homelessness supports, early intervention, child protection, and crisis supports in the domestic and family violence context.
- A strategy to focus on criminal justice responses and victim support, including supporting the Premier's Priority to reduce the number of domestic violence reoffenders by 25 per cent by 2023.

Together, these strategies - along with those from Department of Education and NSW Health - are a commitment to providing coordinated, client-centred, and high quality responses to those impacted by domestic and family violence.

Through this strategy, the NSW Government seeks to ensure that young people who are victims of domestic and family violence and/or use violence in the home receive the specialist support they need.

This strategy, and the interconnected strategies to come, all move us closer to a future where domestic and family violence is stopped.



Michael Coutts-Trotter
Secretary
NSW Department of Communities and Justice

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this Strategy was led by the Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Project Team in collaboration with the Domestic Violence (DV) Team from Justice Strategy and Policy (JSP). We thank the team from JSP for their participation in our workshop, in providing an understanding of the overarching DV policy context that this Strategy aligns with and contributes to, including the revision of the NSW Domestic Violence Justice Strategy (DVJS), as well as the ongoing work to support the implementation of the Premier's Priority to reduce domestic violence reoffending.

We would also like to thank the Communities (formerly FACS) DFV Project team and Working Group for their ongoing collaboration, as well as to Women NSW for their ongoing support

We would like to thank the Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Working Group, comprised of front-line staff, managers and psychologists from both custody and community settings across each of our regions. The experience and expertise of this working group was vital in ensuring that this Strategy reflects the needs of our workforce and the young people they work with. We would also like to thank our Area Managers who sit on the Premier's Priority Regional Strategy Groups (RSGs) and other DFV Taskforces across NSW for sharing regional insights, and for their contribution to increasing the level of attention being paid to juvenile domestic and family violence in this policy space.

We would also like to thank the committees, agencies, organisations and experts we consulted with, who provided valuable insights and feedback during the development of this Strategy. In particular, we thank the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), the Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Committee, the Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit, Legal Aid and Children's Legal Services, the Advocate for Children and Young People, Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program (WDVCAP), Women NSW, Women's Legal Service NSW, the Law Society of NSW, the Executive Officer of Parramatta Children's Court, DVNSW, Yourtown, YFoundations, Youth Action and Policy NSW, the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, and the Centre for Innovative Justice at RMIT.

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to the land, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the unique strengths, resources, and cultural knowledge that Aboriginal people will contribute to the delivery of this Strategy.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

In mid-2018 a project commenced to investigate juvenile domestic and family violence (**DFV**) as an emerging issue for Youth Justice following concerns raised by Area Managers that they seemed to be dealing with an increasing number of young people who were using violence in the home. At the same time, staff representing Youth Justice at domestic violence interagency forums asked for support and direction to enable them to encourage these groups to consider issues and responses for young people using and/or experiencing violence in the home.

WHAT WE DID

To explore this issue in detail a Youth Justice DFV project team was formed. Comprehensive research and data analysis was conducted by this team in collaboration with a working group of staff from all Regions, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (**BOCSAR**), and the Domestic Violence Team in Justice Strategy and Policy (**JSP**).

The project team completed an issues paper, a survey of our frontline staff, a literature review of adolescent DFV and extensive consultation with both internal and external stakeholders. The findings and insights from this analysis supported the development of a specialised DFV strategy specific to young people.

WHAT WE FOUND

Juvenile DFV assaults represent seven percent of all DFV assaults in NSW. BOCSAR analysis found that around 40 percent of all assaults committed by juveniles were DFV related. Approximately two thirds of young people refused bail by police for a DFV offence were granted bail at their first court appearance.

There are a number of key differences between DFV experienced and perpetrated by adults compared to young people including:

- juveniles DFV offenders are often victims of DFV themselves, and have experienced trauma
- juveniles reoffend at double the rate of adults
- there are substantially more juvenile females charged compared with adult females
- the majority of victims of adolescent violence in the home are the young person's mother and younger siblings; compared to female intimate partners for adult DFV
- young people exhibiting these behaviours are highly likely to be victims and witnesses of DFV, historically and currently.
- juveniles using violence in the home are likely to be experiencing mental health issues and trauma
- there is a lack of awareness about adolescent violence in the home which has an impact on the availability of services and the representation of children and young people in DFV strategies.

WHY ADDRESSING JUVENILE DFV IS IMPORTANT

Domestic and family violence is a significant societal problem which costs billions of dollars every year, including costs to government, society, and the wellbeing of young people and their families. It is estimated that over half a million children and young people have seen or heard violence against their mother or female carer, and this can cause significant lifelong impacts, including behavioural and mental health issues which leads to greater demands on community service organisations for counselling, accommodation and paid care. There is also a correlation between these early experiences of DFV for children and young people and higher levels of incarceration and intergenerational transmission of violence.

The outcomes of the Strategy will have broader benefits, including improved stakeholder engagement and interagency collaboration, enhanced workforce capability, and importantly: better outcomes for young people and their families.

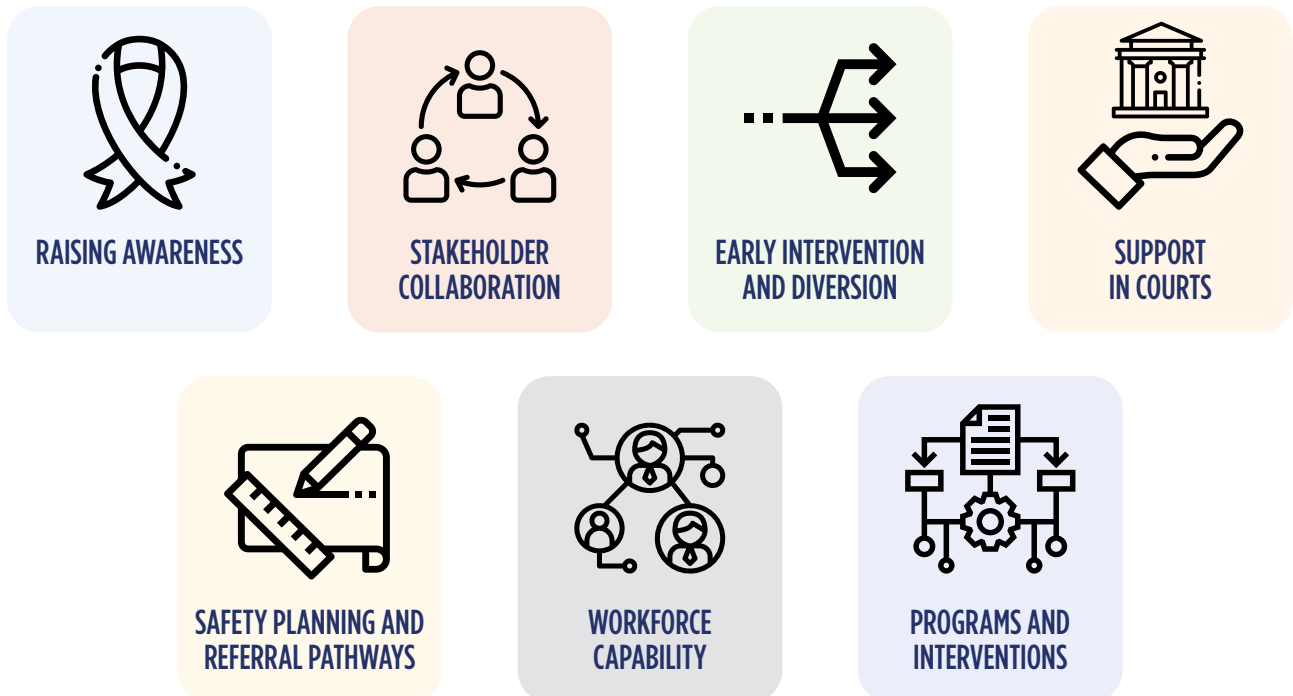
HOW WE CAN ADDRESS JUVENILE DFV

It is important to develop an approach specific to the needs of young people, as opposed to applying the same strategies applied to adult perpetrated DFV. Developing a strategy which caters to the unique needs of young people enables Youth Justice to contribute to the review of the NSW Domestic Violence Justice Strategy (DVJS), the development of the Communities DFV Strategy, the refresh of the Premier's Priority and the operations of the Regional Strategy Groups (RSGs), who monitor and contribute to the regional implementation of this priority. Work by the project team during the development of the Youth Justice DFV Strategy has led to an increased focus on the needs of young people in NSW, and has allowed Youth Justice to influence broader DFV strategies.

The Youth Justice DFV Strategy has an overarching objective that children and young people who are victims of DFV and/or use violence in the home receive the specialist support they need.

The Strategy has actions and projects aligned to the Youth Justice Business Plan, the commitments of the Aboriginal Strategic Plan, and will be delivered across four years (2019-2022).

The Strategy will meet its objective by completing actions and projects under seven key themes:



The Strategy details timeframes for deliverables, indicators to measure success, the Directorates responsible for delivering the actions, a list of internal and external stakeholders, and whether the actions can be delivered within existing resources.

YOUTH JUSTICE DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE (DFV) STRATEGY 2019-2022

Aim of the YJ DFV Strategy	Children and young people who are victims of domestic violence and/or use violence in the home receive the specialist support they need						
THEMES	1. RAISING AWARENESS	2. STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION	3. EARLY INTERVENTION & DIVERSION	4. SUPPORT IN COURTS	5. SAFETY PLANNING AND REFERRAL PATHWAYS	6. WORKFORCE CAPABILITY	7. PROGRAMS AND INTERVENTIONS
OUTCOMES	Greater awareness and inclusion of juvenile DFV issues to ensure appropriate responses to young people's needs	Enhanced stakeholder collaboration enabling more effective outcomes for young people	Increased early intervention and diversion options for young people who use violence in the home	Young people and their families involved in DFV matters feel supported through the court process	Families and young people in contact with Youth Justice feel safe and supported	An expert and well-supported workforce to ensure better outcomes for young people	Effective, evidence-based interventions and programs delivered to young people
OBJECTIVES	Youth Justice raises awareness of DFV issues for young people and advocates for their inclusion in relevant strategies, forums and service delivery	Youth Justice collaborates with stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes for young people including reduced avoidable remand	Youth Justice facilitates more early intervention options for eligible young people who use violence in the home	Appropriate supports are in place for young people involved in DFV matters in court	Youth Justice has best practice approaches to DFV safety planning for young people who use violence in the home, and their families, including referrals to appropriate services	Youth Justice staff have the training and support they need to work with young people who use violence in the home and/or are victims of DFV	Youth Justice has best practice programs and interventions in place to address DFV for young people and their families
ACTIONS AND PROJECTS	<p>1.1: Work with staff across the Department of Communities and Justice to contribute to the development and delivery of broader DFV strategies and reforms</p> <p>1.2: Bi-directional information sharing between the YJDFV Team and our staff representing YJ on Regional Strategy Groups and other DFV related forums, to enable them to advocate for young people</p> <p>1.3: Develop and deliver an e-learning package on juvenile DFV to raise awareness for all Youth Justice staff</p> <p>1.4: Examine avenues for raising awareness with young people, their families and the public</p>	<p>2.1: Develop information packages and training for stakeholders who interact with young people involved in DFV</p> <p>2.2: Identify referral pathways and eligibility issues for support services with our stakeholders</p> <p>2.3: Develop localised referral packs for young people and their families</p> <p>2.4: Identify and share, between stakeholders, information on funding sources, programs and services appropriate for use with young people</p>	<p>3.1: Promote to Police prosecutors, Education workers at courts and other relevant agencies the referral option of Youth on Track for eligible young people involved in DFV matters</p> <p>3.2: Investigate the risks and benefits of legislative changes required to allow for DFV matters to be diverted into Youth Justice Conferencing.</p> <p>3.3: Support and training for Youth Justice Conference Convenors to work with young people who have committed a DFV offence, as well as their families</p> <p>3.4: Raise awareness of and increase support for Police custody managers who are considering bail refusal of young people due to DFV related offences.</p>	<p>4.1: Identify which processes and support services are in place in courts for young people involved in DFV matters; identify best practice, service delivery gaps and issues where these exist</p> <p>4.2: Test young people's understanding of ADVOs, bail conditions and court processes and make recommendations for improvements</p> <p>4.3: Our staff work closely with A Place To Go staff and the Bail Assistance Line in courts, to increase opportunities to find accommodation and other bail support for young people with a DFV charge</p>	<p>5.1: Identify best practice in the safety planning measures that are currently in place for young people who use violence in the home, and/or are victims of DFV</p> <p>5.2: Introduce a safety planning tool which is suitable for use with young people</p> <p>5.3: Ensure YJ staff participate in interagency forums where appropriate, e.g.: Safety Action Meetings (SAMs)</p> <p>5.4: Ensure adequate access to psychologists or specialist family counsellors for referral of young people use violence in the home, and/or are victims of DFV</p>	<p>6.1: Develop clear directions for Youth Justice staff to provide clarity on expectations and appropriate actions when working with young people involved in DFV.</p> <p>6.2: Develop and deliver a comprehensive training package on juvenile DFV issues for our staff</p> <p>6.3: Revise YLS/CMI-AA training to ensure staff capture details about family, relationships and DFV in risk assessments of young people.</p>	<p>7.1: Review current program delivery to determine suitability and efficacy in addressing juvenile DFV, including adapting and strengthening these programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Journey My Life • CHART <p>7.2: Investigate a range of potential juvenile DFV interventions to implement for young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new behavioural intervention • an existing intervention which has been trialled and evaluated in another jurisdiction or internationally • specialised family work intervention

PURPOSE

The *Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2019-2022* (**the Strategy**) outlines our four year plan to help children and young people who are victims of domestic and family violence (**DFV**) and/or use violence in the home receive the specialist support they need. The Strategy also aims to raise awareness of adolescent violence in the home, and improve access to support services for young people and their families. The Strategy informs Youth Justice policy and practice, and provides staff with the skills and support they need to address juvenile DFV.

This document outlines the evidence-base regarding what makes juvenile DFV different from adult perpetration and the reasons that an approach specific to young people is necessary. The Strategy was originally developed to contribute to the NSW Domestic Violence Justice Strategy (**DVJS**), in order to embed outcomes and actions relevant to children and young people who are victims and/or use violent behaviours in the home. The Strategy also contributes to the delivery of the Premier's Priority to Reduce DV Reoffending by supporting our staff who represent Youth Justice on interagency Regional Strategy Groups that coordinate place-based initiatives across NSW.

SCOPE

The *Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2019-2022* aligns with a range of other NSW government strategies, which aim to reduce domestic violence offending and reoffending, including the Premier's Priority and the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform. Importantly, it also aligns with Youth Justice business planning, and will directly contribute to achieving our organisational priorities and targets. For further illustration of strategic alignment within the DFV reform context, refer to Appendix A.

The term "domestic violence" (**DV**) commonly refers to violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour in a family or intimate relationship intended to control, dominate or cause fear. The majority of domestic violence enacted by young people does not occur between intimate partners, but rather between family members and other people living in the home.¹ Due to this key difference between juvenile and adult DV offending, the term "domestic and family violence" (**DFV**) is used in the Strategy. Alternative terminology for this type of violence is "adolescent violence in the home". For further explanation of key terms, refer to Appendix B.

The Strategy focusses primarily on young people who have contact with Youth Justice, or may have contact in the future, and who use and/or are victims of violence in the home. The Strategy also considers appropriate supports and responses for members of their families who are impacted. It does not address responses to adult DFV perpetration, as this is comprehensively covered by the DVJS.

The Strategy includes a broad range of projects and actions under seven key themes which is intended to be delivered over four years (2019-2022). These actions will involve the YJ DFV Project Team, the YJ DFV Working Group, the Operational Training Unit, Policy and Practice Directorate, the Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit, and our staff who work directly with young people. Close collaboration with external stakeholders is also essential to ensure completion of a number of the actions in the Strategy.

PREVALENCE OF JUVENILE DFV AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM RESPONSES

The Royal Commission into Family Violence in Victoria found that due to lack of awareness and appropriate support services, and the shame and stigma associated with unfair assumptions about parenting skills, juvenile DFV is likely to be **highly under-reported**.² Victims often choose not to disclose, or to disclose only to a trusted friend, family member or health professional rather than through the criminal justice system.³ A survey of Youth Justice staff indicated that around a third of young people they work with were suspected of using violence in the home but had not been charged with this offence.⁴

In terms of criminal justice responses, in NSW, around seven percent of all DFV assaults are committed by young people. However, DFV assaults comprise around 40% of *all assaults* committed by young people. A cohort analysis by BOCSAR indicated that police commenced formal legal proceedings against 1,055 individual young people for a DFV assault in 2014.⁵ Of these:

- 21% were Aboriginal young people (n=220)
- over 90% received an ADVO (provisional, interim, or final)
- 190 young people who were charged with DFV assault were refused police bail at the time of the incident
- at the first court appearance, only 70 young people remained in custody on remand. This represents 120 potentially avoidable remand entries
- 678 proceeded to a hearing; of these, 535 were found guilty of at least one offence
- for those found guilty of an offence, 48 young people were given a control order and 108 were given a supervised community order.
- it was also found that nearly one quarter of these young people reoffended with a DFV assault within 12 months, and over half reoffended with any offence type in the same period.

NSW Recorded Crime Statistics from 2013-14 to 2017-18 indicate that every year on average, there has been a steady rate of around 1500 persons of interest who are under 18 recorded by police in connection with a DFV assault.* This rate has been statistically stable over the past five years.⁶ In terms of custodial entries for 2017-18, for nearly one third of all remand admissions the young person had at least one current DFV offence (n=868, 28%).⁷ In terms of diversion of young people from remand, the Bail Assistance Line reports that around 80% of referrals to the service and the vast majority of placements in alternative accommodation are due to DFV charges.

* Note that this is not a count of individuals (as the 2014 analysis above) but also includes multiple incidents for an individual who reoffends.

† These offences included breaches of an ADVO, abduction and kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, common and serious assaults, property damage, resisting or hindering police, threatening behaviour and stalking

COST OF DFV INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

DFV is a significant societal problem, with a recent report by KPMG estimating the cost to the NSW government at over \$6 billion annually.⁸

Specific to young people, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has estimated that over half a million children and young people have seen or heard violence against their mother or female carer.⁹ These young people can experience **significant lifelong impacts**, including behavioural issues, mental health issues, as well as other effects on wellbeing and development. Over the longer term this may contribute to **impacts on economic outcomes** including reduced productivity, medical costs, and unemployment. The second generational impacts from experiences of violence in the home by children and young people has been estimated to cost the Australian economy \$333 million annually. There are also substantial **costs to community services**, with increased demand for counselling, accommodation and paid care, which is estimated at \$596 million each year for women, children and young people.¹⁰

Statistical analysis has also shown a correlation between these early experiences of DFV for children and young people and higher levels of incarceration.¹¹ Research on the **intergenerational transmission of violence** indicated that witnessing or being a victim of violence as a child has a significant impact, in particular with boys, on later perpetration of intimate partner violence.¹² KPMG has estimated the cost to the Australian economy of the **future involvement in crime** for both adults and young people at \$222 million each year. According to the Report on Government Services, the cost of keeping a young person in custody in NSW is upwards of \$1,200 per day, and the cost of community supervision is around \$150 per day.¹³ Based on the above, DFV is a pervasive issue for Youth Justice with significant costs to government, society, as well as the wellbeing of young people, their families, and those with whom they have an intimate relationship.

DEVELOPMENTAL RISK FACTORS AND THEORIES RELATED TO JUVENILE DFV

There are a number of theories that address the causes of DFV, most of which focus on the use of power and control by an abuser over a victim or victims. The most common are feminist conceptualisations, social learning theory, stress theory, and the socio-ecological model.¹⁴ From **the feminist perspective**, DFV is broadly understood as an effect of patriarchal social structures and gender roles placing men in unequal positions of power over women, and violence is therefore an outcome of gender inequality.¹⁵ The **social learning theory** assumes that aggression is learned behaviour that a young person adopts from witnessing DFV between other family members.¹⁶ The **stress theory** posits that a young person uses violence in the home when they are subject to high levels of stress and are not equipped to cope.¹⁷

The **socio-ecological model** is the primary approach taken in Australian and international DFV policy, which acknowledges that there is no single factor in explaining DFV. Rather it is seen to be determined by a range of complex interrelated factors.¹⁸ These factors include individual, family, peer and environmental factors. In terms of juvenile DFV, **individual factors** include age (peak onset 14-17 years),¹⁹ gender (males more likely to engage in DFV),²⁰ behavioural issues (poor affect regulation and impulse control, low frustration tolerance, oppositional and aggressive behaviours),²¹ alcohol and drug abuse,²² and previous contact with the juvenile justice system. **Family factors** include a higher risk of child-to-parent violence in single parent households,²³ households where a young person has been exposed to DFV,²⁴ overly permissive or inconsistent parenting styles, as well as aggressive parenting styles.²⁵ **Peer factors** include socialisation of aggressive behaviours,²⁶ with high rates of truancy, suspensions and teacher violence all related to the use of violence in the home.²⁷ **Environmental factors** include an increase in risk for lower socio-economic neighbourhoods, as well as rural and remote areas.²⁸

ABORIGINAL YOUNG PEOPLE AND DFV

While the factors and theories outlined above may contribute to incidence of violence for any young person, there are certain factors which are experienced specifically by Aboriginal communities. These factors include the long-term impacts of the colonisation and dispossession, the breakdown of community kinship systems and erosion of traditional lore and customs, the effects of institutionalisation and forced child removal policies, economic exclusion and racism.^{29,30} **DFV is not a part of traditional Aboriginal culture.**³¹ However, the intergenerational trauma resulting from these factors has had a catastrophic impact on Aboriginal communities. This has led to “complex and cumulative forms of traumatic stress that may be articulated as physical, emotional and spiritual distress; misuse of alcohol and other drugs; and violent behaviour arising from a rage that is directed towards the self and other close family members.”³²

DFV has become a serious issue affecting Aboriginal communities.^{33,34} In NSW, Aboriginal women are significantly overrepresented as victims of DFV assaults,³⁵ and are twelve times more likely to be hospitalised due to violence compared to non-Aboriginal people.³⁶ Aboriginal men are also more likely to experience DFV than non-Aboriginal men.³⁷ Aboriginal children and young people are also significantly overrepresented in the child protection system as well as in youth justice.³⁸

This over-representation is despite the evidence that the majority of DFV in Aboriginal communities goes unreported, for a range of complex and interplaying reasons.³⁹ Many of these reasons may be similar to those in the broader community (e.g., fear of reprisals by the perpetrator, not wanting others to know, fear of not being believed, lack of confidence in a justice system response).⁴⁰ Aboriginal communities, particularly in rural and remote areas, face additional barriers, including a lack of culturally appropriate services, distrust of law enforcement officials, fear of being held responsible for the over-incarceration of Aboriginal men or the removal of children, and fear of lateral violence experienced within broader kinship networks in small communities (e.g., bullying, family feuding, social isolation and threats).^{41,42}

Any work with Aboriginal young people who use violence in the home needs to consider and recognise inter-generational trauma and the need for whole of community safety that has arisen from this context. In addition, the unique strengths, resources, and cultural knowledge of Aboriginal peoples is acknowledged, and our Aboriginal staff and Aboriginal stakeholders should be involved in the consultation and delivery of a range of actions and projects.

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

As is the case with Aboriginal communities, there are other vulnerable groups with unique circumstances that can impact on their experiences of and responses to DFV, as well as access to appropriate services. These groups include **young people in out-of-home care**,⁴³ **people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disabilities, and those who identify as LGBTIQ+**.⁴⁴ Although these groups may not all be over-represented in the data available, the unique challenges they face should be considered in all actions of this strategy, particularly in the design of training, information sharing with stakeholders, and in consideration of the appropriateness and responsiveness of services and programs.



KEY FINDINGS AND INSIGHTS

Youth Justice conducted research and data analysis to inform the development of the Strategy, including:

1. in collaboration with BOCSAR, a deep dive analysis of data on juvenile DFV assault⁴⁵
2. an issues paper on juvenile DFV, including results from the BOCSAR analysis, data extracted from the Youth Justice Client Information Management System (CIMS), and a survey of Youth Justice frontline staff⁴⁶
3. a literature review on youth-perpetrated DFV⁴⁷
4. extensive consultation with both internal and external stakeholders (See Appendix C)

The findings and insights outlined below support the need for a specialised DFV strategy specific to young people, as there are many key differences to DFV experienced and perpetrated by adults.

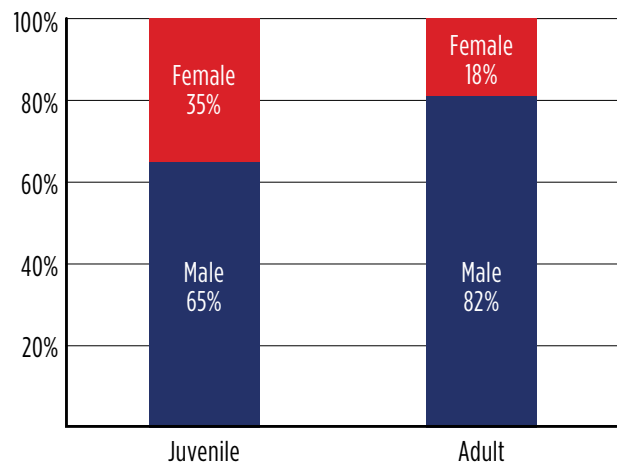
INSIGHT 1:

Juvenile DFV is different to DFV experienced by adults in a number of ways: DFV interventions, supports and programs suitable for young people need to be considered.

DIFFERENCES IN GENDER

Although adolescent violence in the home is considered less gendered than adult family violence, most young people who are charged with DFV offences are male (65%) and the majority of victims are female. There are a much higher proportion of young people charged with DFV offences who are females compared with the adult cohort (35% of all young people charged with DFV assault compared with 18% of all adults charged with DFV assault). As opposed to other strategies which focus largely or entirely on adult male perpetrators, the Strategy for young people will need to consider both young males and young females.

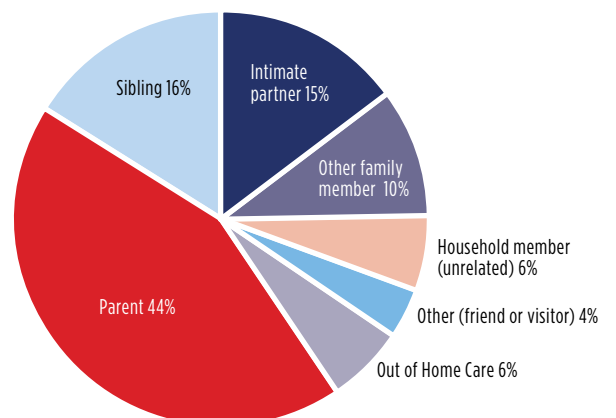
Chart 1: Sex of offender: Juvenile and adult DFV assaults 2014



DIFFERENCES IN VICTIMS

Another difference between young people and adult cohort is that victims of juvenile DFV are predominately parents, with the most common victim a female aged over 36, and likely to be the mother. This can lead to under-reporting and stigmatisation of parents who are experiencing this type of violence, which is further exacerbated by lack of awareness of the issue and lack of services to assist.⁴⁸ Intimate partner violence (more commonly referred to in this cohort as “adolescent dating violence”) only comprised 15 per cent of juvenile DFV assaults, with violence between siblings occurring at about the same proportion. BOCSAR data indicates that assaults in an Out of Home Care setting only comprised 5.7 per cent of juvenile DFV.

Chart 2: Victims of juvenile DV assaults



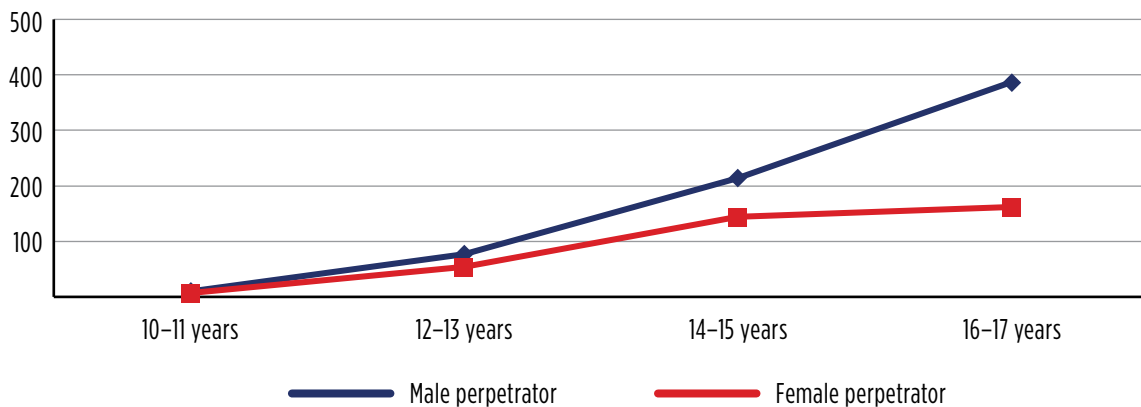
These differences have implications for policy responses where reconciliation and family preservation is likely to be more of a focus than separating from the violent person, as is the case with adult intimate partner violence.

INVOLVEMENT IN DFV BY AGE

BOCSAR data indicated that the numbers of young people who were reported to the Police for a DFV assault increased with age. Those aged 16-17 years comprised over half of all juvenile DFV assaults, and those who were 13-14 years comprised around one third. This may be because as young people move into adolescence, if they are starting to use violence at home they are more likely to cause injury or fear, as they are becoming physically larger.⁴⁹

What may be considered a normal part of development can become abusive once there is an obvious power imbalance in the relationship, for example in terms of adolescent development and size. This can be a contributing factor to unhealthy family environments, and often coincides with child to parent violence, as well as dating violence.^{50 51 52 53 54}

Chart 3: Number of domestic violence defendants by gender, 2014 (Source: BOCSAR)



The Strategy should consider emerging behaviours at different developmental stages, as well as the way that law applies differently to young people. Different considerations include the competing mandates of a range of service providers with the best interest of the young person, the difference in ideal outcomes for a young person using violence compared to an adult using violence (i.e. reconciliation and family preservation compared to separation of adult partners), and the difference in the way we approach young people in a therapeutic way which is appropriate to their developmental needs and limitations.

INSIGHT 2:

Victim-offender duality: Young people who have started using DFV are often victims themselves, and have experienced trauma. This behaviour in young people should be addressed in a trauma-informed way, with consideration of the family context.

Young people are likely to have witnessed and/or been victims of DFV before they start to exhibit these behaviours themselves. Violence experienced within this context may also be bi-directional, in that it can occur between family members in a reactionary or retaliatory way.^{55,56}

The literature suggests that that young people may start using violence as a learned behaviour, adopted as a result of witnessing these types of relationships in their family,⁵⁷ or they may be lashing out due to an intolerable level of complex stressors they do not have the capacity to cope with.⁵⁸ Regardless of the factors that influence how these behaviours develop, stakeholders agreed that most of the young people exhibiting these behaviours have a history of experiencing or witnessing violence within their families, with many frontline YJ staff reporting that these young people had experienced mental health issues and trauma as a result.⁵⁹

This is consistent with data from the 2015 Young People in Custody Health Survey where significant correlations were found between a young person ever having an ADVO taken out against them and experiences of traumatic events, childhood abuse or neglect, and a range of trauma responses.⁶⁰ There were also significant correlations with antisocial processes and callous and unemotional traits, which indicate a risk for developing antisocial behaviour.[‡] This victim-offending duality should inform approaches to programs and interventions with young people, as these will need to be trauma-informed, and consider the family context that the young person has experienced.

INSIGHT 3:

There are a number of **service gaps and issues for young people** involved in DFV which have previously been overlooked by strategies, programs and services

Consultation with stakeholders indicated that there were few, if any, programs and services which were designed specifically for young people using violence in the home. A small number of pilot projects were identified by the literature review, however many of these are either not DFV specific, or had not been evaluated to gauge their effectiveness.⁶¹

The three primary strategies aiming to address DFV offending and support for victims in NSW largely focus on adult perpetration and victimisation. The Premier's Priority to reduce DV reoffending, the NSW DFV Blueprint for Reform, and the DVJS are comprised almost exclusively of adult male perpetrator programs and support services for adult women "and their children". In practice, however, children do not receive the specialist support that they need as victims of DFV and/or if they are using violence in the home. Raising awareness with our stakeholders about DFV issues for young people will ideally lead to improved service provision and representation in strategies.

‡ The YPICHS is a survey of the custodial population and is not representative of all young people who are ADVO defendants.

§ It should be noted that juveniles have a higher rate of reoffending for all offences compared with adults (55% juveniles vs 33% adults)

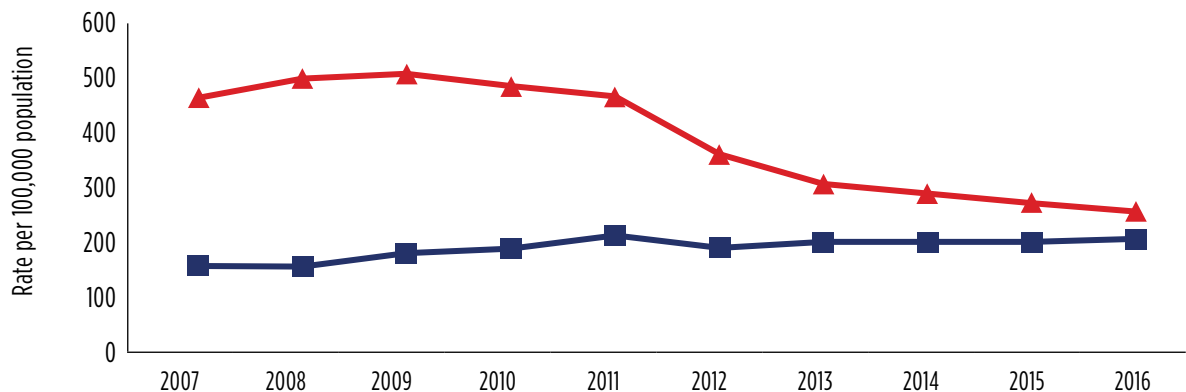
INSIGHT 4:

Juvenile DFV assaults have significantly increased, and they reoffend at twice the rate of adults.

As shown in Chart 4 below, there has been a significant decrease in non-DV assaults (red) over the past ten years. However, DV assaults (blue) have demonstrated a small but statistically significant increase over the same period, with DV assaults remaining stable from 2011 to 2016.⁶²

Looking at DV assault data from 2014 it is clear that although young people comprise a far smaller proportion of offences (7% compared to 93% for adults), they reoffend at nearly double the rate of adults (23% compared with 12% for adults).⁵

Chart 4: Juvenile domestic assault persons of interest, rate per 100,000 population, NSW, 2007 to 2016 (Source: BOCSAR)



DV assault	154.4	152.7	177.3	184.7	208.6	186.5	196.4	197.5	197.5	202.8
Non-DV assault	461.1	495.9	504.5	482.0	463.2	357.4	303.4	286.0	269.1	253.4

INSIGHT 5:

Aboriginal young people comprise one in five DFV assaults proceeded against, but there are no significant differences in reoffending rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people.

Non-Aboriginal young people comprise the majority of persons of interest in DFV proceedings (79%). However, Aboriginal young people are over-represented, as they comprise around 5 percent of the population of all young people in NSW, but 21 percent of all persons of interest in juvenile DFV proceedings.⁶³ This means that Aboriginal young people are proceeded against for DFV assault at more than four times the rate non-Aboriginal young people, based on their representation in the NSW population.**

There is also a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal young people (21%) compared to adult DFV offenders (17%). The 2016 Census revealed that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is younger than Australia's overall population, with a median age of 23 years compared with 38 years, so this difference in proportion between young Aboriginal people and adults may reflect this difference in population distribution.⁶⁴

Although, on average, young people have a higher DFV reoffending rate than adults (23% vs 12%), there were no significant differences in reoffending between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people. There were also found to be no differences for juveniles in DFV reoffending based on the gender of the person of interest or the victim, socio-economic disadvantage, or what kind of DFV offence they were initially proceeded against for.⁶⁵

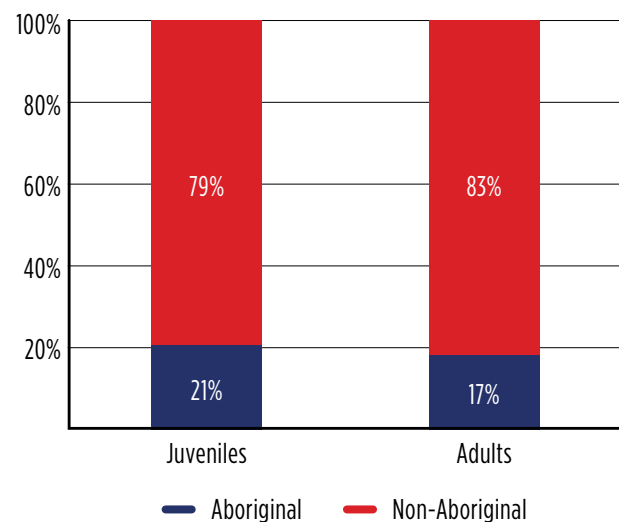
Based on the research, findings and insights outlined above, as well as consultation with a working group of Youth Justice staff and consultation with a range of Justice Cluster and external experts (see Appendix C), the YJ DFV Strategy was developed. The Strategy is detailed over the page.

The seven themes are:

- Raising awareness
- Stakeholder collaboration
- Early intervention and diversion
- Support in courts
- Safety planning and referral pathways
- Workforce capability
- Programs and interventions

The importance of each of the seven themes is outlined, as well outcomes and objectives, and how each of the intended actions will be achieved and success measured. The progress of the implementation of the Strategy will be regularly reported to the Youth Justice Advisory Committee, and shared in other forums such as the Regional Strategy Groups, as appropriate. The YJ Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit has nominated an Aboriginal staff member to join the YJ DFV project team to ensure that the implementation of the projects and actions of the Strategy are culturally appropriate and responsive, including collaboration with Aboriginal Practice Officers, services, communities, and ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Committee.

Chart 5: SDFV Assaults in NSW by Aboriginal status, 2014 (Source: BOSCAR)



** Based on rates per 100,000 population using NSW Census data.

THE STRATEGY

OVERALL AIM: CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS
OF AND/OR USE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RECEIVE THE SPECIALIST SUPPORT
THEY NEED



1. RAISING AWARENESS

OUTCOME: GREATER AWARENESS AND INCLUSION OF JUVENILE DFV ISSUES TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Objective: Youth Justice raises awareness of DFV issues for young people and advocates for their inclusion in relevant strategies, forums and service delivery

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

As stated in the final report of the Victorian Royal Commission into Domestic and Family Violence: “although there has been an increase in attention on adolescent family violence the policy and legal response has not yet accommodated the different considerations that arise in this context.”⁶⁶ The lack of inclusion, awareness and understanding of adolescent violence in the home occurs at a strategic level, in the justice system, in the community, as well as with service providers. The NSW DV Justice Strategy 2013-2017 (DVJS; currently under review) focussed on interventions and support services for adult defendants and victims. It is crucial that actions and projects from the YJ Strategy are embedded into the DVJS, as this strategy provides all NSW Justice agencies with a clear framework to improve the justice system’s response to DFV. These agencies include the NSW Police, Legal Aid and the Children’s Court. The DVJS requires Justice agencies to work together to implement actions and projects, to provide integrated responses and is supported by strong leadership. Working with Justice Strategy and Policy during the development of the revised DVJS has enabled Youth Justice to identify areas where reform is needed to reflect the unique issues of young people who use violence in the home, as the responses aimed at holding adult perpetrators to account may not be appropriate for use with children and young people.

Our Area Managers who sit on the Regional Strategy Groups (RSGs), supporting the delivery of the Premier’s Priority to Reduce DV Reoffending, have noted that the programs, interventions and monitoring delivered by the RSGs have historically had a focus on adult male offenders. However there has been an increased interest in youth focussed initiatives and projects, including research, data analysis, investigating localised availability of services for young people and their families, potential intervention and diversion pathways. Collaboration with and support for work of these RSGs will be integral to the delivery of a range of actions in The Strategy.

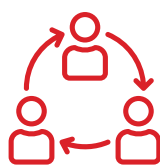
The Operational Training Unit has developed a draft e-Learning package, which can be made available to all YJ staff. It is important to note that this is for the purposes of raising awareness of the Strategy and the findings from the Issues Paper and Literature Review. Feedback from our DFV Working Group emphasised that frontline staff want a more comprehensive training package to better enable working with young people.

Raising awareness of the complexities linked to young people using violence in the home with service providers, young people, at-risk families and the general public will serve as a starting point to reduce stigma, remove obstacles to help seeking, and increase service availability.⁶⁷

The lack of awareness of adolescent violence in the home, coupled with a scarcity of research and program development, has resulted in systemic gaps for young people and families experiencing this kind of violence, and obstacles for those seeking support. The Issues Paper recommended that we take an active role in increasing community awareness and advocacy.⁶⁸ This could include staff events, such as the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the annual 16 Days of Activism.

HOW WILL WE RAISE AWARENESS AND ADVOCATE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

HEADLINE OUTCOME: Greater awareness of juvenile DFV				HEADLINE INDICATOR: Stakeholder survey – measure awareness of juvenile DFV issues, conducted annually			
Action	Timeframes	Deliverables	Primary Indicators	Directorate	Stakeholders	Resources	
1.1 Work with staff across the Department of Communities and Justice to contribute to the development and delivery of broader DFV strategies and reforms	Year 1 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YJ outcomes, actions and projects are included in the NSW DV Justice Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators relevant to young people included in the NSW DV Justice Strategy 	S&E (YJDFV Team)	Justice Strategy and Policy (JSP) DVJS Working Group	Within existing resources	
1.2 Bi-directional information sharing between the YJDFV Team and our staff representing YJ on Regional Strategy Groups and other DFV related forums, to enable them to advocate for young people	Ongoing (2019-2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefings provided to Area Managers prior to RSG meetings providing updated actions against the YJ DVF Strategy Regular updates provided by Area Managers to YJDFV project team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefings delivered on time (min. 2 days prior to meeting) Positive feedback from Area Managers Youth initiatives included in group work/plans 	S&E (YJDFV Team) SWO (Area Managers)	YJ Area Managers Regional Strategy Groups (RSGs)	Within existing resources	
1.3 Develop and deliver an e-Learning package on juvenile DFV to raise awareness for all Youth Justice staff	Year 1 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful development of an eLearning package for YJ staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion rate of eLearning package Correct responses on eLearning quiz Positive feedback from staff on eLearning package 	SWO (OTU) S&E (YJDFV Team; ASCU)	YJNSW Staff	Within existing resources	
1.4 Examine avenues for raising awareness with young people, their families and the public	Year 1 (2019) Ongoing (2019-2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A log maintained of ideas for raising public and stakeholder awareness Implement awareness initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of awareness raising initiatives developed and delivered 	S&E (YJDFV Team; ASCU)	Young people Families The NSW public	Within existing resources	



2. STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

OUTCOME: ENHANCED STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION ENABLING MORE EFFECTIVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Objective: Youth Justice collaborates with stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes for young people including reduced avoidable

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Youth Justice is not the only agency or organisation with responsibilities towards young people who use and/or experience violence in the home, and it is intended that this Strategy will be delivered in close collaboration with stakeholders. Our key stakeholders and delivery partners are identified in Appendix C who were identified and consulted in the development of this Strategy.

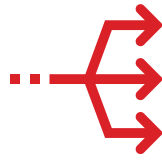
There were three main themes which emerged in the development of the Strategy relating to stakeholders. Firstly, we need to share what we know about adolescent violence in the home (including information about cultural considerations) with other stakeholders who work on the front line, in contact with these young people and their families. Information gathered from our DFV Working Group, Issues Paper and Literature Review, as well as actions and projects in this Strategy, should be communicated to NSW Police, Children's Legal Services and Legal Aid, Their Futures Matter (TFM), Justice Health and Education. This will assist us to develop a better understanding of how different agencies interact with young people and with each other, and highlight any differences in practice and policy which need to be addressed.

Secondly, we need to identify eligibility and access issues for young people with support services and other stakeholders. There are a range of services which may be available to young people who are victims of DFV and/or use violence in the home, including behaviour change programs, family therapies and accommodation options as an alternative to remand, all of which will vary by region. There are a number of projects looking at referral pathways to services for children and young people being undertaken by the Regional Strategy Groups (RSGs), so the Strategy can utilise and leverage the work done to date. Staff from the Bail Assistance Line and Area Managers will also be integral in delivery of this action. Localised referral packs can be developed based on this information, to be given to young people and their families to facilitate connection to appropriate local services. This includes identification of referral options that are culturally responsive and appropriate for Aboriginal young people and families, and the identification of gaps in service provision where these exist.

Thirdly, developing closer relationships with our stakeholders will enable better information sharing on funding opportunities, and which programs and services are being rolled out, in which locations, whether these are specifically for Aboriginal organisations and clients, and how we can refer our young people. Stakeholder collaboration with Aboriginal stakeholders will be informed by the YJ Good Practice Guide for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.⁶⁹

HOW WILL WE COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

HEADLINE OUTCOME: Enhanced stakeholder collaboration More effective outcomes for young people			HEADLINE INDICATORS: Stakeholder survey – measure of satisfaction with collaborations from our stakeholders. Effective outcomes for young people – reduction in avoidable remands on DFV offences, increased access to services			
Action	Timeframes	Deliverables	Primary Indicators	Directorate	Stakeholders	Resources
2.1	Develop information packages and training for stakeholders who interact with young people involved in DFV Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful development of a training package Successful development of an information package Conference presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of training sessions completed for stakeholder groups Positive feedback from stakeholders 	S&E (YJDFV Team) SWO (OTU & Area Managers) P&P (SPOs) ASCU	Police Legal Aid Their Futures Matter (TFM) Justice Health Education Children's Court	Printing costs for training materials
2.2	Identify referral pathways and eligibility issues for support services with our stakeholders Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report prepared for Operational Governance Group and stakeholder consideration outlining service availability, eligibility issues, and localised recommendations for reaching more effective outcomes for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report completed 	S&E (YJDFV Team; ASCU) SWO (Area Managers and BAL) RSGs	YJ OGG RSGs Children's Court FACS TFM Justice Health Health NGOs	Within existing resources
2.3	Develop localised referral packs for young people and their families Year 3 (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral packs developed for young people and their families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of young people connected with referral services 	SWO (Area Managers; DFV Working Group) S&E (YJ DFV Team; ASCU)	Young people & their families	Printing and distribution costs
2.4	Identify and share between stakeholders, information on funding sources, programs and services appropriate for use with young people Ongoing (2019-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A log including geographical data kept for all known programs suitable for young people involved in DFV A log of all potential funding sources is kept to identify where YJs or NGOs could apply for or secure funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of applications completed Number of grants won, dollar value of grants won 	S&E (YJDFV Team)	JSP TFM NSW DV Reforms Board Women NSW Police FACS Education Justice Health Health & NGOs	Within existing resources Potential funding sources



3. EARLY INTERVENTION & DIVERSION

OUTCOME: INCREASED EARLY INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION OPTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO USE VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

Objective: Youth Justice facilitates more early intervention options for eligible young people who use violence in the home

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Analysis by BOCSAR (2018) indicates that young people who are charged with DFV assaults have a high rate of reoffending, including non-DFV related offences. Forty per cent of Youth on Track participants disclosed they had been, or currently were, a victim of DFV. Early intervention and diversion initiatives aim to reduce a young person's contact with the criminal justice system, and reduce their change of reoffending by addressing criminogenic needs and providing supports. The two main diversionary initiatives used by Youth Justice are Youth on Track and Youth Justice Conferencing (YJC).

Police responding to incidents, and Police Prosecutors in Children's Courts, have the ability to refer young people who use violence in the home to Youth on Track, as do education staff in schools and Children's Courts. The literature review identified a range of risk factors that education workers should be aware of, such as adolescent dating violence occurring in schools, negative peer influences with other young people displaying similar patterns of aggression, teacher harassment, disruptive behaviour, truancy and school suspension. These young people should be referred to Youth on Track to be screened for eligibility in areas where this scheme is available.

The Parliamentary Inquiry into the Adequacy of Youth Diversionary Programs in NSW⁷⁰ recommended that the *Young Offenders Act 1997* be reviewed, in part to determine whether young people should be referred to YJC for additional offences. Currently offences in the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* are not able to be referred to YJC. There have been a range of stakeholders who support the proposal to consider further the benefits and risks to including DFV offences for referral to YJCs. However, adequate support and training must be provided in assessing whether a young person with a DFV offence is suitable for YJC, and to support Convenors to work with these young people and their families. This training will be developed in consultation with the Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit to ensure cultural appropriateness and responsiveness. Participants in the Youth Justice DFV Working Group felt that referrals to both Youth Justice Conferencing or Youth on Track could reduce the risk of a young person ending up in crisis accommodation or in avoidable remand, and would enable the young person access to support they need to manage and change their behaviour, while also supporting victims and families. Actions delivered in this part of the strategy will also contribute to the delivery of the YJ Aboriginal Strategic Plan, by increasing diversions of Aboriginal young people into Youth on Track, working towards greater eligibility for YJCs and use of Bail Assistance Line services.

HOW WILL WE IMPROVE EARLY INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DFV MATTERS, AND HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

HEADLINE OUTCOME: Increased early intervention and diversion options for young people who use violence in the home			HEADLINE INDICATORS: Completion rates for eligible young people in Youth on Track with a DFV offence; Percentage of Youth Justice Conferences completed for eligible young people with a DFV offence; % YP diverted from custody by BAL				
Action	Timeframes	Deliverables	Primary Indicators	Directorate	Stakeholders	Resources	
3.1	Promote to Police prosecutors, Education workers at courts and other relevant agencies the referral option of Youth on Track for eligible young people involved in DFV matters	Year 1 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications strategy to advise referral agencies that they are able to refer eligible young people to Youth on Track. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in referrals to Youth on Track for YP with DV offences from Police Prosecutor and Education pathways. Increase referrals of Aboriginal YP 	S&E (Youth on Track Unit)	Youth on Track providers Police Education RSGs ASCU Young people	Within existing resources
3.2	Investigate the risks and benefits of legislative changes required to allow for ADVO matters to be diverted into Youth Justice Conferencing	Year 1 & Year 2 (2019-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a submission for Ministerial approval investigating the risks and benefits of legislative change to the Young Offenders Act through the Miscellaneous Bill process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission completed 	S&E (YJDFV Team) P&P (YJC team)	JSP YJC Convenors YJC referrers (Police & Courts) Young people	Within existing resources
3.3	Support and training for Youth Justice Conference Convenors to work with young people who have committed a DFV offence, as well as their families	Ongoing from Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training package for Youth Justice Convenors Tool developed to assist in assessment of the eligibility of young people with a DFV offence for a YJC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. convenors trained No. young people (total/Aboriginal) with DFV offences referred to YJC 	OTU & SPOs P&P (YJC team) S&E ASCU	YJC Convenors Young people	Within existing resources
3.4	Raise awareness of and increase support for Police custody managers who are considering bail refusal of young people due to DFV related offences.	Year 1 (2019) and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection to confirm the number of young people arrested/ bail refused for DFV matters Contracts with NGOs providing bail services to BAL – specify bail support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. young people (total/Aboriginal) with DFV offences diverted from custody 	SWO (BAL) S&E (ASCU)	Police Young people NGOs	Within existing resources



4. SUPPORT IN COURTS

OUTCOME: YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES INVOLVED IN DFV MATTERS FEEL SUPPORTED THROUGH THE COURT PROCESS

Objective: Appropriate supports are in place for young people involved in DFV matters in court

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Members of the YJ DFV project team have been participating in the court user experience sub-working group for the DVJS review. The work of this group, as well as other stakeholder consultations, has indicated that there is a lack of appropriate support services for young people who are at court for DFV matters. For example, Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service (WDVCAS) provide information, assistance and court advocacy services to "women and their children" experiencing DFV. However, WDVCAS does not provide support tailored to the needs of young people in Children's Courts. Support is limited to children as secondary victims while providing support to their mother (e.g. child care while the parent is seeking legal advice). There are support services for young people available in the Children's Courts and Koori Courts, but these can vary across different locations and are not DFV specific. Additionally, young people who come to court for a civil proceeding relating to an ADVO, without a charge, are not eligible for a range of services. Investigations into the issues, gaps, and what works well for young people in courts has commenced through a number of working parties.

Another potential issue for young people attending court for a DFV matter is their understanding of their ADVO. The 2015 Young People in Custody Health Survey found that the speech and language skills of our custodial population are poor. The majority of this group have below average core language skills and literacy, with around half having severe difficulties. This means that they are likely to have difficulty in what is being said to them, and experience significant difficulties understanding written language, even at a basic functional literacy level. Positive work has been progressed to introduce plain language ADVOs, to reduce the reading level required and improve comprehension. The revised ADVO has a Fleischer reading score of six years of education (early high school level) and was designed with extensive consultation with the Children's Court. However, the social norms section of the revised ADVO was written with adult defendants in mind. A project should be undertaken to assess young people's understanding of the revised ADVOs, based on their literacy skills, potential disabilities, their understanding of the information provided on social norms, and duality of victimisation.

Additional feedback during stakeholder consultations indicated that staff from Youth Justice can also assist in providing support for young people in court, through providing opportunities to connect with bail support services and accommodation. As young people with a DFV charge may be unable to return home as a condition of their ADVO, assistance offered through A Place To Go in Parramatta Children's Court and the Bail Assistance Line can link young people with alternative accommodation, and decrease avoidable remand entries.

HOW WILL WE IMPROVE SUPPORT IN COURTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DFV MATTERS, AND HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

HEADLINE OUTCOME: Improved satisfaction with court support by young people involved in DFV matters			HEADLINE INDICATOR: Decrease in avoidable remand entries for young people with DFV offences				
Action	Timeframes	Deliverables	Primary Indicators	Directorate	Stakeholders	Resources	
4.1	Identify which processes and support services are in place in courts for young people involved in DFV matters; identify best practice, service delivery gaps and issues where these exist	Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report prepared for ELT and stakeholder discussion outlining support services and eligibility issues in a court setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations prepared regarding how to reach more effective outcomes for young people 	S&E (YJDFV Team) SWO (Regional staff)	Youth on Track providers Police Education RSGs ASCU Young people	Within existing resources
4.2	Test young people's understanding of ADVOs, bail conditions and court processes and make recommendations for improvements	Year 1 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion paper prepared for stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations to improve forms and processes to enable young people to understand what is happening in court, and what is expected of them Number of revocations due to technical violations 	S&E (YJDFV Team) SWO (Caseworkers)	JSP YJC Convenors YJC referrers (Police & Courts) Young people	Within existing resources
4.3	Our staff work closely with A Place To Go staff and the Bail Assistance Line in courts, to increase opportunities to find accommodation and other bail support for young people with a DFV charge	Ongoing (2019-2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YJ data and feedback provided to TFM & Nous when requested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in accommodation placements for YP with DFV offences (total/ Aboriginal) Decrease in avoidable remand entries for YP with DFV offences (total/ Aboriginal) Increase in number of YP receiving bail support for DFV offences (total/ Aboriginal) 	Regions where A Place To Go is run (Caseworkers) SWO (BAL) Reform Unit	YJC Convenors Young people	Within existing resources



5. SAFETY PLANNING AND REFERRAL PATHWAYS

OUTCOME: FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONTACT WITH YOUTH JUSTICE FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED

Objective: Youth Justice has best practice approaches to DFV safety planning for young people who use violence in the home, and their families, including referrals to appropriate services

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The YJ DFV Working Group identified the lack of safety planning tools as a gap for working with young people and their families, as well as the lack of clarity of whether implementing such a plan was within the remit of our caseworkers, given that the client is the young person who may not want to engage in a plan with their family. An investigation of best practice safety planning measures will be undertaken, including whether any tools are culturally appropriate for use with Aboriginal young people.

What's Your Plan is a tool which helps defendants to understand their conditions, make a plan to avoid breaching their ADVO, and help them stay on track, may be useful in the youth context. This tool has been trialled with adult Aboriginal males and is delivered by the Aboriginal Services Unit. Work is currently underway with Justice and the Behavioural Insights Unit (BIU) to explore the potential for adapting this tool for use with young people. One consideration for implementation is deciding whether our caseworkers will deliver this with young people, as this may incur some cost. Additional costs for this project include the involvement of the BIU and printing costs for the toolkit materials.

During stakeholder consultations, the participation of Youth Justice staff in Safety Action Meetings (SAMs) was discussed. The purpose of the meeting is for service providers to commit to actions to support victims and prevent or lessen serious threats to the life, health or safety of domestic violence victims and their children. Generally, SAMs are chaired by a local police officer and regularly attended by representative from a number of government agencies, including NSW Health, FACS, Education and Corrective Services. Youth Justice seeks the inclusion of our staff in these meetings, and referrals of victims of adolescent violence in the home to these meetings to prioritise the safety of family members in these meetings, and to put in place safety action plans for families through existing mechanisms.

The Working Group also emphasised the importance of their recommendation that all of our community offices have access to a psychologist or specialist family counsellor for referral of young people who are using violence in the home. The working group raised that even when a community office has access to a YJ psychologist, many are not qualified family therapists. YJ psychologists can make referrals to a qualified therapist with experience in DFV, however there were significant waiting lists for our young people due to high demand. There were difficulties in attracting psychologists to the roles, and vast distances to be covered for visiting young people in neighbouring towns in regional areas.

HOW WILL WE IMPROVE SAFETY PLANNING AND REFERRAL PATHWAYS, AND HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

HEADLINE OUTCOME: Improved family safety and support				HEADLINE INDICATOR: More of our young people and their families have safety plans in place year on year			
Action	Timeframes	Deliverables	Primary Indicators	Directorate	Stakeholders	Resources	
5.1	Identify best practice in safety planning measures are currently in place for young people who use violence in the home, and/or are victims of DFV	Year 1 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to YJ Executive and stakeholder discussion on current safety planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations prepared regarding how to improve safety and support for young people and their families 	P&P (Policy & Practice teams; Psychologists) ASCU	Police Children's Courts Out of Home Care Providers NGOs	Within existing resources
5.2	Introduce a safety planning tool which is suitable for use with young people, based on the What's Your Plan (WYP) project	Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out of adapted <i>What's Your Plan</i> to young people in Children's Courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of young people participating in WYP (total/Aboriginal) Reduction in ADVO breaches for young people using WYP (total/Aboriginal) 	S&E (YJDV Team) Regions (Caseworkers)	JSP DV Team RSGs DPC Behavioural Insights Unit Aboriginal Services Unit	Some additional resources may be required by Behavioural Insights Unit, considerable commitment of caseworker time if they are the delivery workforce
5.3	Ensure YJ staff participate in interagency forums where appropriate, e.g.: Safety Action Meetings (SAMs)	Year 1 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance by YJ staff at SAMs meetings Prioritisation of family members impacted by adolescent violence for SAMs referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of SAMs meetings attended by YJ staff Number of family members of young people referred to SAMs (total/Aboriginal) 	SWO (Area Managers or delegates – including Aboriginal staff where appropriate)	SAMS stakeholders (NSW Health, FACS, Education) RSGs YJNSW Area Managers or other delegates	Within existing resources
5.4	Ensure adequate access to psychologists or specialist family counsellors for referral of young people use violence in the home, and/or are victims of DFV	Ongoing (2019-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire or up-skill psychologists, or source more local specialists to refer to Victims counselling in all Centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of referrals made Reduction in waiting lists/time from referral to first meeting 	P&P (Psychs)	YJNSW Psychologists YJNSW Caseworkers Young people Victims Services	Considerable additional resources to support hiring or up-skilling additional psychologists



6. WORKFORCE CAPABILITY

OUTCOME: AN EXPERT AND WELL-SUPPORTED WORKFORCE TO ENSURE BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Objective: Youth Justice staff have the training and support they need to work with young people who use violence in the home and/or are victims of DFV

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A survey of front line Youth Justice staff identified that it is difficult to engage young people and their families in behaviour change. Staff acknowledged a number of reasons for this, one of which was that they feel that caseworkers lack the appropriate skills to address offending in a DFV context. Staff proposed the development of a DFV Framework and a comprehensive training package. Most staff in the YJ DFV Strategy Working Group agreed that there needs to be clear expectations of caseworkers.

DFV guidelines could provide clarity to caseworkers and other front line staff on how to respond when working with a young person with DFV offences, and young people who have disclosed to them that DFV is occurring at home. It is acknowledged that YJ caseworkers have an established responsive, trauma informed approach that can be applied to any type of offending. However, expectations should be clearly articulated around topics such as role clarification, dealing with disclosures, when to refer to a psychologist or other specialist service, how to ensure the victim is safe, and whether to engage in work with the family.

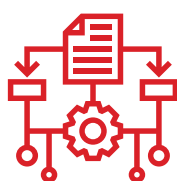
Staff who participated in the YJ DFV Strategy Working Group indicated that training needed to be in-depth and delivered over multiple days, as an e-learning package was not adequate for up-skilling. An e-learning package was considered suitable for raising staff awareness of juvenile DFV issues, and conveying the findings of the Issues Paper and Literature Review. The survey of front line staff indicated that young people they work with who use violence in the home face a number of complex issues, the most common of which was mental health issues and trauma. Training would ideally include the topics of: challenging ideas about domestic violence offending, risk assessments, dealing with disclosures, identifying trauma, the duality of engaging in violence in the home and past or current victimisation, engagement strategies and case management, and DFV in the context of Aboriginal communities. This may be a separate training program or incorporated in to the current YJ suite of training.

About half of front-line staff who were surveyed agreed that the YLS-CMI-AA is an effective tool to capture the needs and risks of young people using violence at home. However, a number of respondents noted that the efficacy of the tool is dependent on all sections being thoroughly completed by staff. The tool is also limited by not including any DFV specific questions on exposure, victimisation or offending behaviours. Even if the young person is not being supervised for a DFV offence this does not mean that DFV is not present, as staff who were surveyed identified that many of the young people they work with have historic DFV charges, many are suspected of DFV offending but have not yet been charged, and the majority have been victims or have witnessed DFV.⁷² It is important that staff are able to identify whether DFV is present in the young person's home, as it allows for more comprehensive background reporting and understanding of the young person's needs.

It was recommended that orientation training and refresher training is revised to better capture details about family, relationships and DFV in our risk assessments of young people. Specific suggestions included expanding responses to existing sections, such as the Family and Living Circumstances and Verbal/Physical Abuse.

HOW WILL WE ENHANCE OUR EXPERT WORKFORCE SO THAT THEY HAVE THE TRAINING AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DFV, AND HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

HEADLINE OUTCOME: An expert and well-supported workforce			HEADLINE INDICATOR: % of staff reporting that they feel supported, working with young people experiencing DFV			
Action	Timeframes	Deliverables	Primary Indicators	Directorate	Stakeholders	Resources
6.1 Develop clear directions for Youth Justice staff to provide clarity on expectations and appropriate actions when working with young people involved in DFV	Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of DFV guidelines, (may be embedded in existing policies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of staff agreeing that expectations around working with DFV are clear 	S&E (YJDFV Team) P&P (Practice)	Caseworkers YJ Psychologists Young people	Within existing resources
6.2 Develop and deliver a comprehensive training package on juvenile DFV issues for our staff	Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFV training provided to all front line staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of staff who have completed DFV training % staff satisfied with training 	S&E (YJDFV Team; ASCU) SWO (OTU)	External training providers OTU Frontline staff	Considerable additional resources required
6.3 Revise YLS/CMI-AA training to ensure staff capture details about family, relationships and DFV in risk assessments of young people	Year 2 (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revised YLS/CMI-AA training package 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % staff satisfied with training % YLS/CMI-AA assessments completed with DFV information 	P&P (Practice team and SPOs) SWO (OTU)	OTU Caseworkers Young people	Within existing resources



7. PROGRAMS AND INTERVENTIONS

OUTCOME: EFFECTIVE, EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAMS DELIVERED TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Objective: Youth Justice has best practice programs and interventions in place to address DFV for young people and their families

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Based on a survey of our frontline staff, around 60 percent of staff agreed that the current tools are generally adequate in addressing the needs and risks of young people. The main strength in the case management policy was identified as the adaptability allowing for personalisation of case plans to meet the needs of each young person. The remaining 40 percent thought that the existing approach was not adequate for addressing DFV issues for our young people. The feedback received was that there was not enough family involvement in case planning, and that there were no specific programs or strategies for young people who use violence in the home and/or are victims of DFV. Of the services, programs and interventions offered by Youth Justice for young people, the most common interventions for victims and perpetrators of DFV are *My Journey My Life* and CHART (Changing Habits and Reaching Targets).

My Journey My Life is a culturally specific program that is used with young Aboriginal males. While it may be an effective program, it is not available to young people who are non-Aboriginal or are female. This was identified as a gap, and it was recommended that this program be adapted into a similar program for these other groups. The Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit has agreed to develop a program for non-Aboriginal young people based on *My Journey My Life*, but is prioritising the development of programs for young Aboriginal females first.

Staff have recommended that the *Healthy Relationships* module of CHART could be expanded to differentiate between different types of relationships, particularly in regards to the family unit, and should address how power can be used in relationships. The *Understanding Anger* module could be expanded to take account of different types of violence, such as emotional, physical, verbal and economic. Alternatively, the inclusion of a CHART module specific to DFV that captures and addresses these ideas was identified as a possible solution to fill this gap.

Stakeholders agreed that more services are needed to help to change the behaviour of young people using violence in the home.⁷³ To date, research and program development has largely focussed on adult-perpetrated DFV. As such, there are few programs which run, and have been evaluated, in the context of young people. The literature does, however, identify what needs to be considered in terms of design and implementation of effective juvenile DFV initiatives. These include program length, approaches, individual factors, family factors and environmental factors. Due to the time frames involved in the completion of evaluations of current programs, investigation of any potential interventions which could potentially be used with our young people will occur in Year 3 of the Strategy.

HOW WILL WE IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS DV BEHAVIOUR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

HEADLINE OUTCOME: Effective, evidence based interventions and programs delivered to our young people			HEADLINE INDICATOR: Number of young people receiving an intervention that addresses the use DFV			
Action	Timeframes	Deliverables	Primary Indicators	Directorate	Stakeholders	Resources
7.1 Review current program delivery to determine suitability and efficacy in addressing juvenile DFV, including adapting and strengthening these programs: • CHART • <i>My Journey My Life</i>	Year 1 (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on which modules of CHART which could be strengthened • Implementation of changes to CHART (Year 2, 2020) 	• Delivery of CHART report	P&P (Policy & Practice)	Caseworkers Young people	Some additional resources for design and printing of revised CHART materials
	Year 2 and 3 (2020-2021)	• An alternative program developed which is suitable for other groups of young people	• Number of young people completing <i>the program</i> by gender and Aboriginal status	S&E (ACSU)	Facilitators of MJML Young people	Within existing resources
7.2 Investigate a range of potential juvenile DFV interventions to implement for our young people: • New behavioural intervention • Existing interventions trialled and evaluated in another jurisdiction or internationally • Specialised family work intervention	By Year 3 (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report for YJ Executive discussion on DV interventions for our young people • Implementation of an intervention for young people specific to DV offending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations delivered to Executive regarding possible interventions • Number of young people participating in intervention, completing, % of eligible (By 2022) 	P&P (Policy & Practice)	External training providers OTU Frontline staff	Investigation within existing resources Implementing may require considerable additional resources

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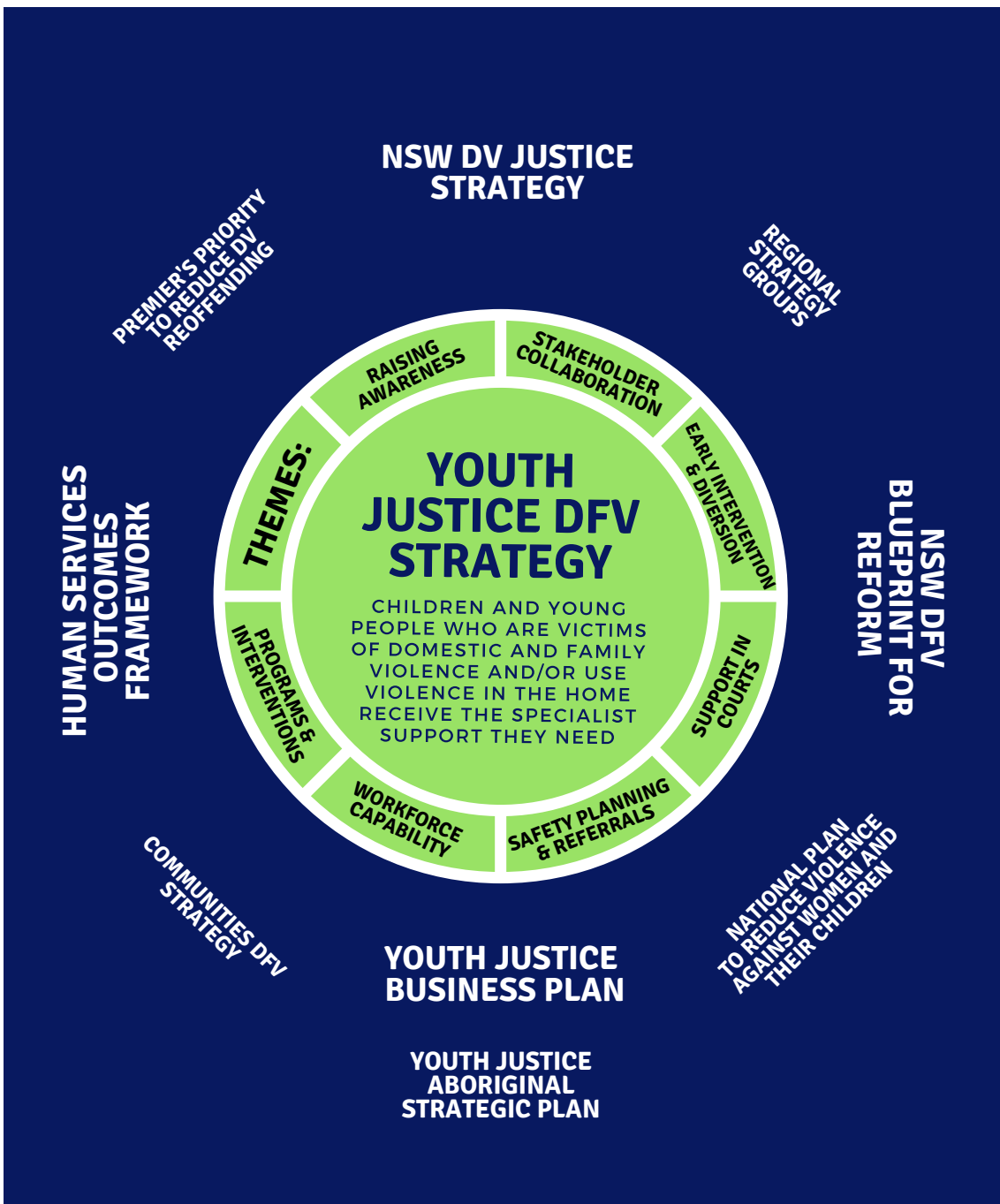
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APPENDIX A

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT TO DFV REFORM CONTEXT AND YJ ABORIGINAL STRATEGIC PLAN



YOUTH JUSTICE DFV STRATEGY

POINTS OF ALIGNMENT

NATIONAL PLAN TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

The [National Plan](#) sets the policy agenda for both federal and state governments through a series of action plans informed by extensive stakeholder consultation with state and territory governments, experts and the community. In NSW there are a number of key policies and strategies to address DFV which align with the National agenda.

PREMIER'S PRIORITY TO REDUCE DV REOFFENDING

The NSW Premier has set a Priority to [Reduce the proportion of DV perpetrators reoffending by 25% by 2023](#). This Priority is delivered across a number of government departments. Some of the interventions and tools delivered to adults under this Priority may be able to be adapted for use with young people.

NSW DFV BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM

At the NSW government level, Women NSW sets the state direction for DFV reforms. [Women NSW manages the funding of investment in specialist DFV initiatives](#). Although the focus is predominately on adults, recently there were a number of projects funded under their Innovation Fund which will support young people who are victims of DFV.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND JUSTICE

NSW DV JUSTICE STRATEGY (DVJS)

The DVJS is the Justice Cluster Strategy, which provides NSW justice agencies with a clear framework to improve the response of the [CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM](#) to domestic violence. YJ has been working with Justice Strategy and Policy to embed the needs of young people into the revised Justice Strategy, due for endorsement in 2019.

COMMUNITIES DFV STRATEGY

YJ has recently joined the Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services Division. YJ is actively collaborating with the Communities DFV Project team and working group on the development of their DFV Strategy to improve the [COMMUNITY SERVICES & SUPPORT SYSTEM](#) for young people. This Strategy is expected to be completed in mid-2020.

HUMAN SERVICES FRAMEWORK

This Framework sets out the population outcomes that the NSW Government is seeking to achieve in the delivery of human services and promotes consistency of structure and evaluation of outcomes. [The Youth Justice DFV Strategy aligns with all seven Outcome Domains, and will contribute to a number of key outcomes.](#)

REGIONAL STRATEGY GROUPS

Youth Justice's involvement in the [delivery of the Premier's Priority](#) is through participation in four Regional Strategy Groups. YJ Area Managers provide subject matter expertise and regional coordination, and advocate for the inclusion of our young people in future strategies and projects. DFV involving young people is currently of interest to the RSGs.

OTHER RELEVANT STRATEGIES

There are a number of other agencies in the NSW government providing interventions and services to young people. There are a [range of pilot projects either planned or currently running](#) which YJ could refer our young people to and/or learn from evaluation outcomes, e.g. Functional Family Therapy trials funded by Women NSW, NSW Health PARVAN, and TFM.

YOUTH JUSTICE DFV STRATEGY ALIGNMENT TO YOUTH JUSTICE ABORIGINAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022

1

Fewer Aboriginal young people in custody or on community orders

1.2: Increasing opportunities to access accommodation and other bail support services for Aboriginal young people with a DFV charge through the Bail Assistance Line and A Place to Go staff in courts, and decreasing avoidable remand entries.

2

More Aboriginal young people participating in early intervention and diversion programs

2.1: Increasing Aboriginal participation in Youth on Track by promoting referrals from Police prosecutors and Education workers in courts
2.3: Investigating the risks and benefits of legislative changes to allow DFV matters to be diverted into Youth Justice Conferencing

3

More Aboriginal staff, particularly in senior and leadership roles

3.2: Development opportunities for Aboriginal staff working with young people who use violence in the home and/or are victims of DFV through comprehensive and culturally appropriate training packages.
3.2: Opportunities to participate in inter agency forums, working groups, and project teams to deliver the actions of the YJ DFV Strategy, including in leadership roles.

4

Aboriginal issues, needs and culture systematically addressed through policy and practice

4.1: The delivery of actions in the YJ DFV Strategy will be inclusive and responsive to the cultural issues and needs of Aboriginal young people, their families and communities, and completed in collaboration with Aboriginal staff, particularly:

- development and delivery of training
- awareness raising and information sharing with stakeholders
- identification of appropriate referral pathways
- analysis of court processes and support services
- safety planning tools and measures
- referrals to psychologists and family counselors
- program delivery and interventions.

5

Embedded cultural practice across the Division

5: All front line staff to complete a training package on juvenile DFV which includes specific content on working with Aboriginal young people & their families
5: Adaptation of the My Journey My Life program for all young people, sharing the rehabilitative effects of teaching and learning through Aboriginal culture.

APPENDIX B

KEY TERMINOLOGY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Terminology used to describe domestic and family violence can vary. Below are the key terms used throughout this Strategy, as they apply to young people.

Children and young people: For the purposes of this Strategy children and young people are people who are 18 years and under, and are considered as individuals in their own right, rather than secondary victims in domestic violence matters, i.e. “women and their children.” The Strategy uses the terms ‘juvenile’ ‘children and young people’ and ‘adolescent’ interchangeably for this group.

Domestic Violence (DV): The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 defines domestic violence as “acts of violence that occur between people who have, or have had, an intimate relationship.” DV involves an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear, generally as part of a range of tactics to exercise power and control. The abuse can be physical, emotional, psychological, financial, or sexual, and may be criminal or non-criminal. DV is considered a gendered crime, with the majority of perpetrators being males who use violence against female victims.

Domestic and Family Violence (DFV): A broader term which refers to violence between family members as well as intimate partners. The patterns of behaviour are the same as those described above under domestic violence. The terms family violence (FV) or domestic and family violence (DFV) are more commonly used in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context as it recognises the broad range of extended family and kinship networks. It is also more appropriate for use when describing domestic violence involving young people, as the majority of victims are family members rather than intimate partners, and there can be more than one perpetrator in the family.

Adolescent Violence in the Home: A term used frequently in relevant literature to describe young people using violence in the home against other family members, noting that not all violence occurs exclusively in the family home. Although the “adolescent” is used in this term, it refers to the violent behaviour of people under 18 years, the majority of whom are adolescents. This can include child-to-parent violence, violence against siblings, as well as other family and household members, and other residents in an out of home care (OOHC) setting, including foster families and kinship care. The abuse involves the use of power and control including physical violence as well as behaviour intended to harm, threaten or coerce.

Adolescent Dating Violence: Any physically, sexually, or psychologically violent behaviour, including stalking, directed towards a current or former dating partner in adolescence including in LGBTI relationships.

Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO): An order to protect victims of DFV when they are fearful of future violence or threats to their safety. An ADVO is made where the people involved are related or have had a domestic or intimate relationship. An ADVO sets out restrictions on the behaviour of a “person of interest” (POI) or “defendant” to protect the safety of a “person in need of protection” (PINOP). The ADVO generally also lists other members living in the same household as the PINOP. The ADVO specifies what the defendant is prohibited from doing such as assaulting, stalking, threatening, or approaching the protected person/s.

An ADVO can be applied for privately through a lawyer or Local Court, or the police can make applications on behalf of a PINOP. While an ADVO is not a criminal charge, breaching or contravening an ADVO is an offence. The maximum penalty for breaching an ADVO in NSW is imprisonment for two years, 50 penalty units (\$5,500), or both.

Defendant: is a person who must defend their actions in court. Defendants may have been charged with a criminal offence (i.e. DFV assault) in which case they may also be referred to as “the accused” or an “alleged offender”. In NSW common law provides that a child between the ages of 10 and 14 does not possess the necessary knowledge to have criminal intention (*doli incapax*), unless this presumption rebutted by the prosecution, demonstrating that the young person knew that what they were doing was seriously and criminally wrong. Children and young people may also be a defendant of a civil charge (i.e. being a POI in an ADVO).

Domestic Violence Offences: The *NSW Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* defines a domestic violence offence as a personal violence offence committed by a person against another person with whom the person who commits the offence has or has had a domestic relationship. A domestic relationship includes a person who is or has been married, defacto, in an intimate relationship (whether or not the relationship was of a sexual nature), living in the same household, a long-term resident in the same residential facility (not including correctional centres), in a relationship involving dependence on ongoing paid or unpaid care, is a relative, or in the case of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – is part of an extended family or kinship system.

APPENDIX C

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

During the development of the YJ DFV Strategy we have spoken to a range of stakeholders. They have supported us to look at issues for young people from a range of perspectives, as well as sharing knowledge, identifying issues and opportunities, and offering support. Some have provided a great deal of their time and have provided formal feedback on early drafts, and others have made themselves available for meetings, offered ideas, discussed workforce development needs, and allowed observation of day-to-day practice.

JUSTICE CLUSTER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- Premier's Priority to Reduce Domestic Violence Reoffending Program Implementation Committee
- Domestic Violence Reforms Consultation Group
- Domestic Violence Strategy Review Working Group
- Domestic Violence Strategy Review sub-Working Group: Court Experience

ABORIGINAL STRATEGIC ADVICE

- Aboriginal Strategic Coordination Unit
- Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Committee

THE CHILDREN'S COURT

- Executive Officer
- A Place to Go: TFM multidisciplinary court team
- Justice Health Adolescent Community and Court psychologist
- Court Assistance team
- YJ's Court Logistics team
- YJ's court intake assistance and community office staff (Parramatta)

LEGAL PROFESSION

- Children's Legal Services solicitors, including the senior solicitor, AVO list solicitor, and High Service User solicitor
- Law Society of NSW
- Children's Legal Issues Committee
- Women's Legal Service NSW

OTHER NSW JUSTICE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

- Corrective Services NSW – offender management and programs
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program (WDVCAP)
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

OTHER NSW GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Department of Premier and Cabinet: Behavioural Insights Unit
- Advocate for Children and Young People
- Women NSW (FaCS)
- NSW Health: Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV)

DFV PEAKS AND EXPERTS

- DVNSW
- RMIT's Centre for Innovative Justice: Coordinator of the Positive interventions for perpetrators of adolescent violence in the home (PIPA) project, which examines current responses to juvenile DV in Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia.
- University of Newcastle: Dr Tamara Blakemore

YOUTH PEAKS

- Yourtown (services include Kids Helpline and Parentline)
- YFoundations
- Youth Action and Policy NSW
- Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA)



Communities
& Justice

