



Government of Western Australia
Department for **Child Protection**
and **Family Support**

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

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Family and Domestic Violence

Violence against women and their children takes a profound and long-term toll on women and children's health and wellbeing, on families and communities, and on society as a whole.

The combined health, administration and social welfare costs of violence against women have been estimated to be \$21.7 billion a year, with projections suggesting that if no further action is taken to prevent violence against women, costs will accumulate to \$323.4 billion over a thirty year period from 2014-15 to 2044-45.¹

Aboriginal women are 35 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults than non-Aboriginal women. This figure points to the difference in severity of violence.²

Last year (2015/16) WA Police responded to an average of 147 domestic violence incidents a day.

•1. Price Waterhouse Coopers (2015) '[A high price to pay: the economic case for preventing violence against women](#)', report prepared for Our Watch and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth).

•2. Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, May 2014, Fast Facts on Indigenous Family Violence.

Family and Domestic Violence

Department for Child Protection & Family Support

- Operates in seventeen Districts across the state, and provides after hours responses through Crisis Care and the Men's and Women's Domestic Violence Helplines.

Responsible for:

- Responding to referrals for concern where FDV is the presenting concern or is found to be present when investigating alleged neglect, sexual and/or physical abuse and emotional abuse.

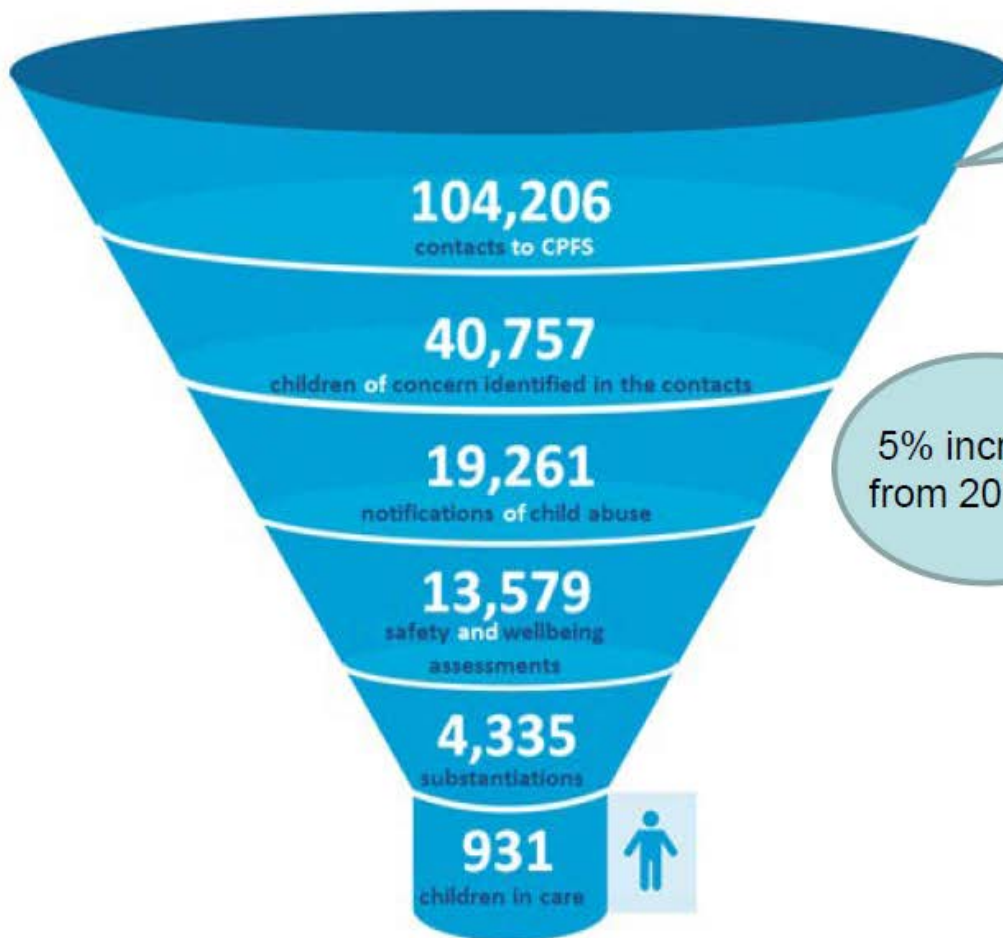
Family and Domestic Violence Unit:

Responsible for:

- 'Internal' child protection family and domestic violence (FDV) policy, practice development and guidance; and
- Coordinating a central and regional across government approach to FDV strategic planning, policy development and implementation

A snapshot of 2015/16

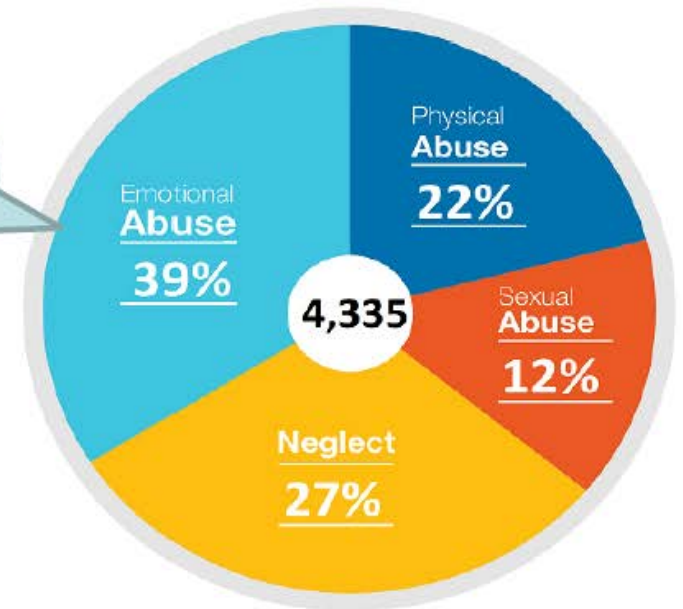
Child protection activity during 2015-16



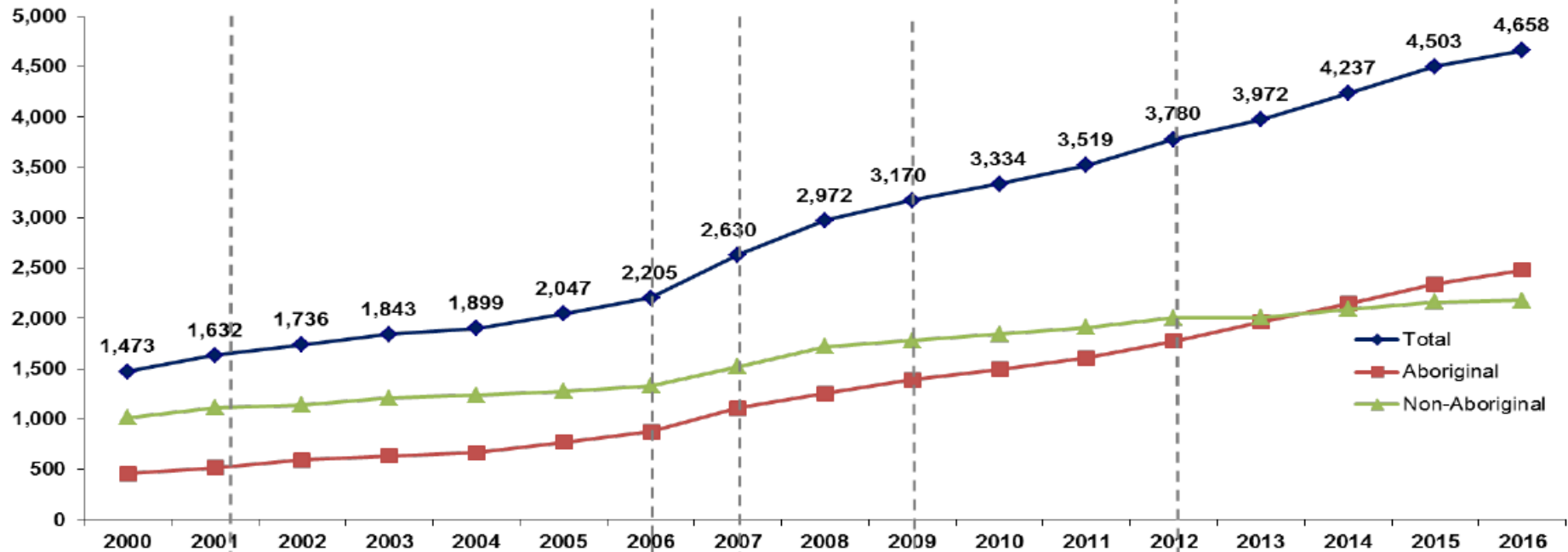
34,524 incidents of FDV, an increase of 27% compared to 2014-15

Substantiations

5% increase from 2014-15



Growth – Children and young people in the CEO's care



2001:
Gordon Inquiry and implementation of recommendations - Strong Families, remote child protection workers

2006:
New legislation: *Children and Community Services Act* - increased Court oversight, legislated relative care, child participation etc Extended services up to 25 years of age for children previously in care

2007 to 2014: Reform of residential care facilities (Ford recommendation)

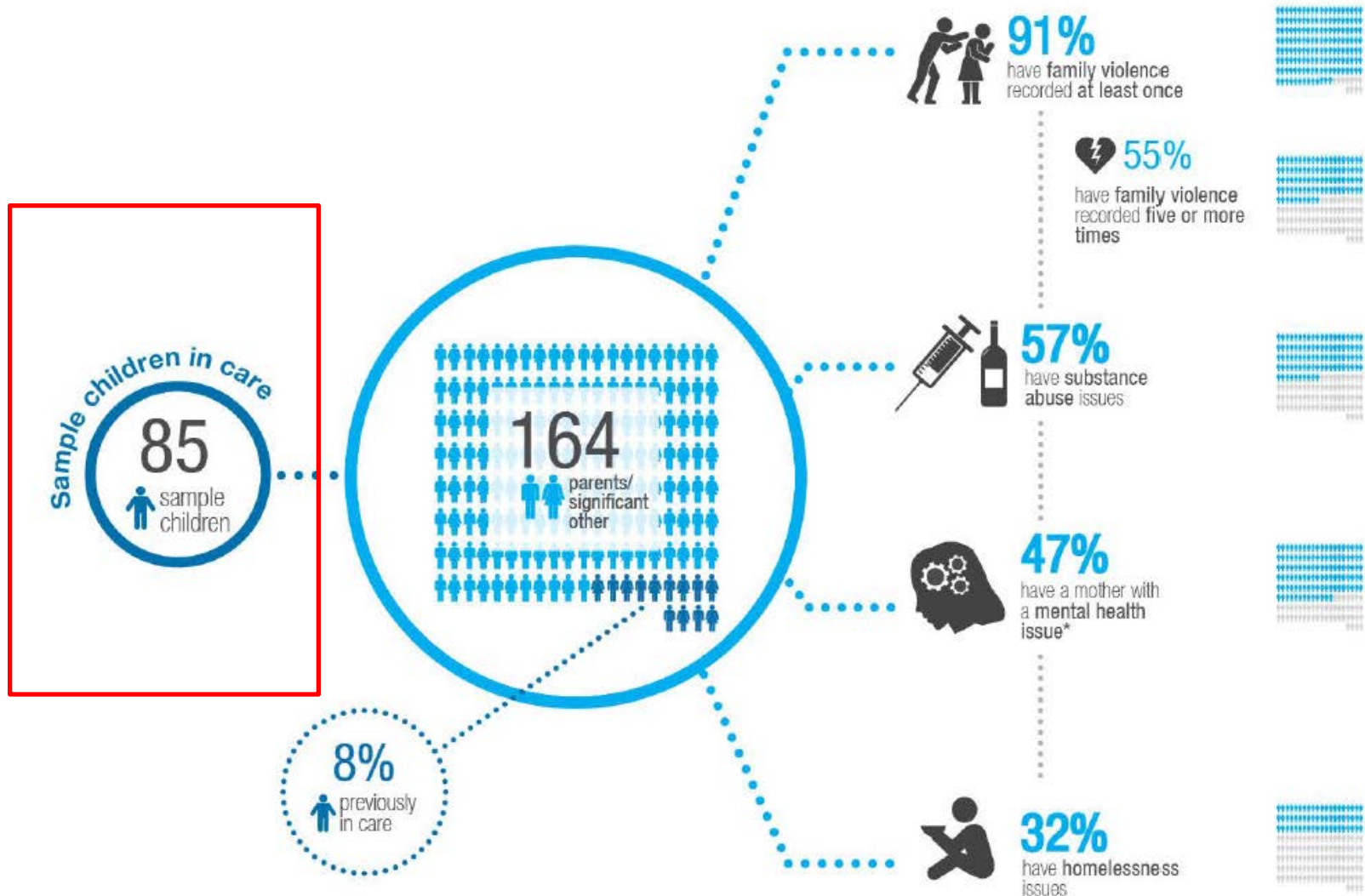
2007:
Review of the Department for Community Development (Ford review) 69 recommendations endorsed by Government

2009:
Mandatory reporting legislation introduced (Ford recommendation)

2012:
Legislative review: *Children and Community Services Act* - emotional child abuse to include exposure to family and domestic violence.

Ongoing: Responding to the findings of various Child Death Review Committee reports and Coroner's inquests - Susan Taylor, Wade Scale and 38 Aboriginal youth suicides in remote areas up to 2014.

A snapshot of 2015/16



Department reforms

Building a Better
Future:
Out of Home Care
Reform in WA

Aboriginal Services and
Practice Framework 2016 -
2018

Earlier Intervention
and Family
Support

Review of
Community Sector
Expenditure

Improving outcomes for
Aboriginal children, families
and communities

Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy

1. **Delivering shared outcomes through collective effort** – A system that is aligned and accountable to achieving shared outcomes for vulnerable families, with a focus on Aboriginal children and families.
2. **A culturally competent service system** – A system that is safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal families.
3. **Diverting families from the child protection system** – A system that identifies families that are vulnerable to involvement with the statutory child protection system, and provides early and intensive support.
4. **Preventing children entering out-of-home care** – A system that prioritises and aligns the Department's workforce and resources to prevent the most vulnerable children from entering out-of-home care.

The spectrum of early intervention



Families with low-moderate needs

- Families who require access to primary/universal services, with occasional and one off access to secondary/specialist services



Families with complex needs

- Families who live in poverty or are jobless
- Family members who are at risk of poor mental health outcomes
- Families that frequently use secondary/specialist services



Families with significant protection concerns

- Families with children who are reported to be at risk of significant harm, but are not currently in out-of-home care
- Families that frequently or continuously use multiple secondary/specialist services



Families with children at imminent risk of entering out-of-home care

- Families with children in serious circumstances, including those at risk of severe abuse
- Children are currently not in out of home care



Families with children in out-of-home care

- Children are in out-of-home care
- Children were in severe circumstances including those at risk of severe abuse and potentially death

Focus of the Strategy

Child Protection FDV Policy, Practice Development and Guidance

The Department for Child Protection and Family Support adopted *Signs of Safety* as its child protection practice framework in mid-2008.

The implementation of strengthened FDV policy and practice guidance to promote safer processes and outcomes for child and adult victims continues to be a priority for the Department.

Policy is guided by legislation and evidence based, best practice for responding to family and domestic violence.

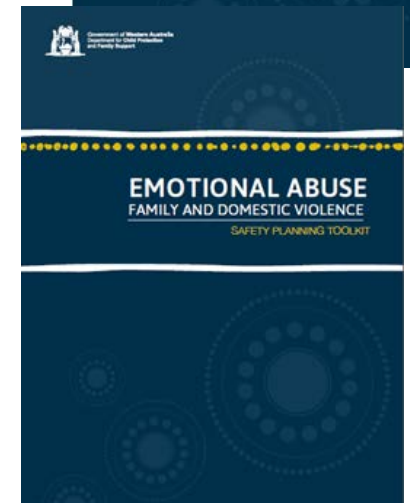
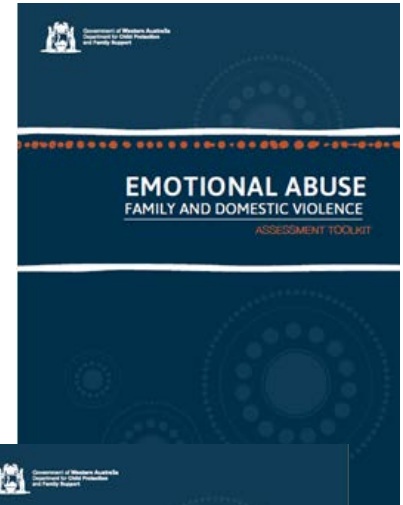
Since the age of 15:



Over
half a million
women reported their children
had seen or heard partner violence.

Internal FDV Policy, Practice Development and Guidance for Child Protection

1. The use of violent and abusive tactics in an intimate or family relationship is deliberate and sustained to intimidate, create fear and cause harm to both the intimate partner and children. .
2. Exposing a child to family and domestic violence is child abuse. The person responsible for 'exposure' is the perpetrator of violence.
3. The Department is concerned about the safety and wellbeing of the child and the non-abusive adult victim.
4. The only way to create meaningful and sustained safety is to reduce or manage the risks posed by the perpetrator.
5. The best way to reduce or manage perpetrator risk is to:
 - partner with the adult victim and their safety network;
 - work collaboratively with partner agencies; and
 - engage and case/safety plan with the perpetrator of violence and their safety network.



Strategic Planning

- *The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*
- *Western Australia's Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Strategy to 2022*
- *Freedom from Fear Action Plan 2015: Working towards the elimination of family and domestic violence in Western Australia*



Recent Initiatives

A number of frameworks and initiatives have been developed and implemented to support *Western Australia's Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Strategy to 2022* including:

- Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams;
- the *Western Australian Family and Domestic Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (second edition)*; and
- *Safer Families, Safer Communities: Kimberley Family Violence Regional Plan 2015 – 2020*.



Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams

The Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT) is a partnership between the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Western Australia Police and community sector family and domestic violence services.

The FDVRT aims to improve the safety of child and adult victims of family and domestic violence through a collaborative approach that focuses on timely and early intervention following a police call out to a domestic violence incident.

A shared database (Triage) has been developed to support the operations of the FDVRT including recording outcomes.

There is a FDVRT in every child protection district and in most regions the team is co-located.

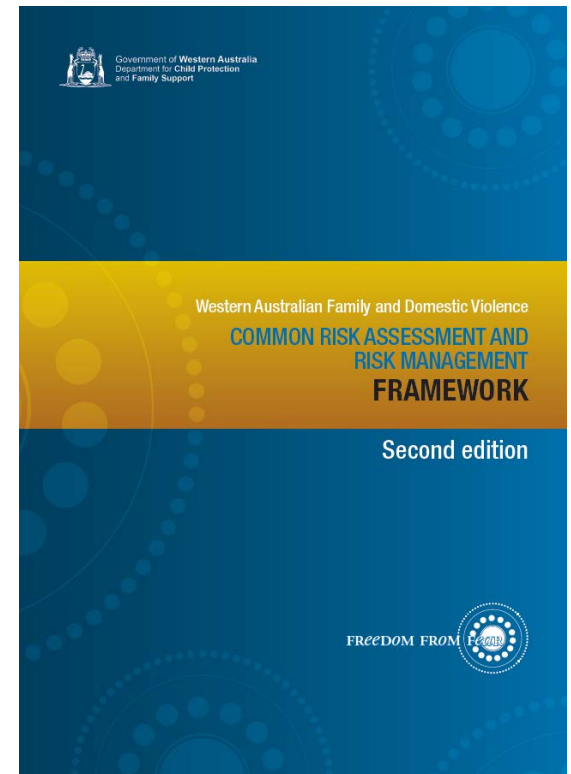
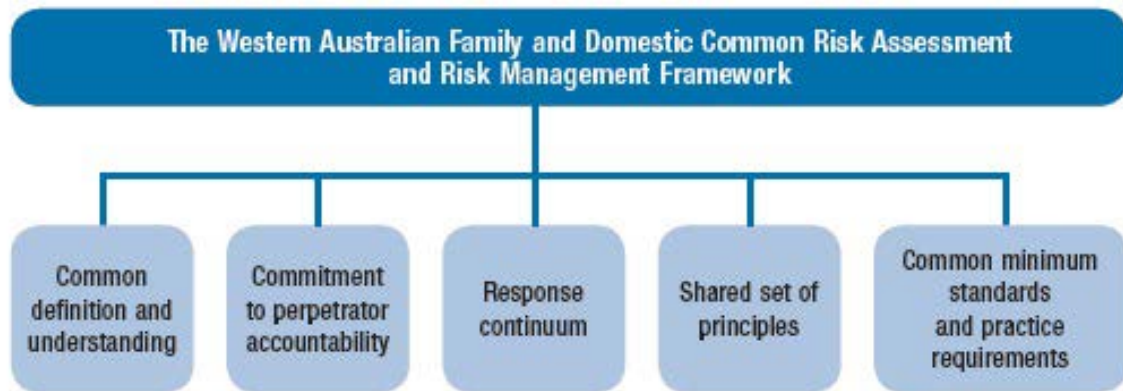
Expansion of FDVRT in the Kimberley Region includes the Department of Corrective Services and dedicated men's and women's family violence workers (Family Safety Teams).

CRARMF

The WA Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRARMF) is:

“A standardised response to identifying, assessing, and responding to family and domestic violence”

It is intended to provide a common practice framework for screening, risk assessment, risk management, referral and information sharing for all service providers in WA (mainstream, statutory and specialist).



Website

All this information is available on the Department for Child Protection and Family Support website at: www.cpfs.wa.gov.au

The screenshot displays the website for the Department for Child Protection and Family Support. The header includes the department's name and logo, along with navigation links for 'Site Map', 'Accessibility', and 'Contact Us'. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled 'Family and domestic violence' and features a prominent emergency notice: 'In an emergency - if someone is in immediate danger - call 000 now.' Below this, there are several informational sections with links for 'What is family and domestic violence?', 'Help and advice', 'Operational responses', 'Prevention, safety and accountability', 'Strategic planning', and 'Resources'. A 'News' section on the right lists several recent updates, including amendments to the Children and Community Services Act 2004, practice standards for perpetrator intervention, and the launch of the Youth Say No awareness campaign website.

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Site Map | Accessibility | Contact Us

Search

DCP home > Crisis and Emergency > Family and Domestic Violence

Family and domestic violence

In an emergency - if someone is in immediate danger - call 000 now.

What is family and domestic violence?
Family and domestic violence is pattern of behaviours intended to coerce, control and create fear within an intimate or familial relationship. [more information>>](#)

Help and advice
Support is available if you have concerns about your own or someone else's safety, or you are worried about your own use of violence and abusive behaviour. [more information>>](#)

Operational responses
For family and domestic violence service system responses and tools for workers and professionals, including the Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRARMF) and Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT). [more information>>](#)

Prevention, safety and accountability
For the most recent prevention and early intervention, perpetrator accountability, and victim safety strategies. [more information>>](#)

Strategic planning
For the latest information about state and national strategic planning, governance, monitoring and evaluation. [more information>>](#)

Resources
For publications, practice tools, useful links and other resources. [more information>>](#)

STAND UP on White Ribbon day
The Department for Child Protection and Family Support coordinated this photographic project to raise awareness about the global male-led White Ribbon campaign to end violence against women. [more information>>](#)

News

*****NEW***** 1/01/16 Amendments to the Children and Community Services Act 2004 came into operation from 1 January 2016. A number of changes relate to family and domestic violence. A comprehensive summary of the amendments, information sharing fact sheet and other resources are provided [here](#).

*****NEW***** 7/12/15 [Practice Standards for Perpetrator Intervention: Engaging and Responding to Men who are Perpetrators of Family and Domestic Violence](#)

27/11/15 [Western Australian Family and Domestic Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework \(second edition\)](#)

25/11/15 The new [Youth Say No](#) awareness campaign website was launched on White Ribbon Day, 25 November 2015.

01/10/15 [Safer Families, Safer Communities: Kimberley Family Violence Regional Plan 2015-2020](#) outlines a whole of community response to Aboriginal family violence in the Kimberley region.

01/10/15 [Family Violence in the Kimberley: Project Report](#)

07/09/15 [The Freedom from Fear Action Plan](#)