



MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

Friday, 1 September 2017
Brisbane

On Friday, **1 September 2017**, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council (the Council) held its thirteenth meeting, in Brisbane. Held on the eve of **Child Protection Week**, the meeting focused on the intersection between child protection and domestic and family violence issues and responses.

Representatives from the **Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS)** presented to the Council on work under the child protection reform program, *Supporting Families Changing Futures*, and the domestic and family violence reform program to address the intersection and overlap between the two sectors.

The Council heard that Child Safety Services has undertaken a variety of activities to support its engagement with domestic and family violence issues including:

- training staff in the **Safe and Together mode**
- running eight **Engaging Dads forums**
- trialling the 17 week **Caring Dads** and **Walking With Dads programs**
- locating domestic and family violence workers in **Family and Child Connect** services
- participating in the **Partnership Response At Domestic Violence Occurrences (PRADO) initiative**, and
- participating in **integrated response trials**.

Professor Cathy Humphreys, Professor of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, spoke to Council about **the ANROWS PATRICIA project** (PATHways in Research In Collaborative Inter-Agency working), a research project focused on the collaborative relationships between domestic and family violence and child protection sectors.

Professor Humphreys discussed findings from the project relevant for improved collaboration between the sectors, including the challenges that child protection services have historically experienced in working with parents who are involved in violence as either victims or perpetrators and the productive framework the **Safe and Together model** provides for cross-sector collaboration. **Professor Humphreys** observed that the reforms that are being implemented in Queensland place it in a strong position to address these issues.

Dr Gerald Featherstone and Council member, **Natalie Lewis** presented to the Council on the work of **Family Matters Queensland**, and *Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037* and its first action plan, *Changing Tracks 2017-2019*.

Our Way seeks to **close the gap in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families** and eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system. The strategy **targets disproportionate disadvantage**, with initial priority areas including supporting families in the **first 1000 days of pregnancy and life**, supporting **quality early years education pathways** for children, and supporting children **transitioning out of care**. The importance of ensuring alignment between the work of the domestic and family violence reform program and the objectives of *Our Way* was noted.

The Council also discussed its **work program** for 2017, noting planned activities in the areas of health, education, local engagement and justice and service integration. The Council also noted events and activities in which Council members had participated since its last meeting, including:

- a **music workshop at Forest Lake State High School** on 24 July as part of the *Stop the Hurting* music competition
- the **ANROWS WITH study exhibition launch** at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital on 1 August 2017
- the **Domestic and Family Violence Social Forum** at the **Princess Alexandra Hospital Health Symposium** on 4 August 2017, and
- the **Lady Musgrave Trust 2017 Annual Forum on Women and Homelessness** on 30 August 2017.

The Council also considered progress of implementation activities under the domestic and family violence reform program. Updates were provided in relation to the progress of the **integrated response trials**, the review of **perpetrator program practice standards** and the **Community Justice Group domestic and family violence enhancement program**.

In addition, the Council received a briefing on the development of the **bystander campaign** under the **engagement and communication strategy** from representatives of **Khemistry** and the **Department of the Premier and Cabinet**. The campaign will be delivered as a long-term strategy with a phased approach, informed by extensive research.

Members of the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group** provided an update on its meeting of 30 August 2017 at which it considered issues including the **prevalence of domestic and family violence in child safety cases** and the roll-out of **integrated response trials**. It was also noted that three new members, **Heron Loban**, **Kieran Chilcott** and **Paula Neal**, have joined the group.

Following the meeting, the Council hosted a **reception in support of Queensland Child Protection Week**, attended by representatives of the child protection and domestic and family violence service sectors, at which Professor Humphreys provided an overview of findings of the PATRICIA Project and child protection initiatives were showcased.