

Perpetrator Intervention Services Requirements

Service Delivery and Risk Management Plan

Requirement Category 6: Role, qualifications, experience, frequency and duration of a Victim Advocate



Requirement Category 6: Role, qualifications, experience, frequency and duration of a Victim Advocate

Requirement overview	
Requirements within this category being partially met or not met <delete any requirements that are being met in full>	Self-assessment rating
6.1 Services must engage a Victim Advocate (either internal or external to the service) to enable risk assessment and safety planning, information sharing and referrals.	Choose an item.
6.2 If an external advocacy service is engaged, a formal agreement must be in place detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – roles and responsibilities – information sharing protocols between the perpetrator intervention program staff and the victim advocacy service – strategies for monitoring and reviewing the arrangement and outcomes. 	Choose an item.
6.3 The Victim Advocate must be a female-identifying practitioner when most of the clients identify as female.	Choose an item.
6.4 The Victim Advocate must not be the perpetrator intervention program facilitator for that group.	Choose an item.
6.5 A Victim Advocate must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a demonstrated nuanced and intersectional understanding of the drivers, dynamics and impacts of domestic and family violence and the dynamics of gender, power and control – a demonstrated recognition of the significance of patterns of perpetrator behaviour beyond individual incidents of violence and are able to meaningfully assess these patterns to develop appropriate responses for the victim – a demonstrated gendered analysis of violence in their practice acknowledging that gender inequality is a predominant cause and consequence of domestic and family violence – a demonstrated recognition of the complex ways in which children are harmed through experiencing violence, and the tactics of control and abuse of power that they experience – a demonstrated understanding of the behavioural change process in relation to domestic and family violence, including knowledge of the structure and content discussed in perpetrator intervention group programs – a demonstrated understanding of the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> and <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> and <i>Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017</i> 	Choose an item.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a demonstrated understanding of the domestic and family violence definitions and provisions in the <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> – a demonstrated understanding of the <i>Domestic and family violence services practice principles, standards and guidance</i> – a demonstrated understanding of the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines 2017</i> and <i>Information Sharing Guidelines 2018</i> – observed a minimum of six perpetrator intervention group sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a minimum of three group sessions must be observed prior to commencement as the Victim Advocate ▪ the remaining observation of group sessions must be completed within six months of commencement in the role – relevant professional experience in one or more of the following fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ domestic, family, or sexual violence ▪ criminal justice, including corrections ▪ child protection ▪ human services, including mental health, alcohol and other drug services and gambling support ▪ counselling ▪ or related field. 	
<p>6.6 The Victim Advocate must contact and offer ongoing support including risk assessment and safety planning, information sharing and referrals to perpetrator intervention program participants' partners/ex-partners who have been identified as being impacted by their violence. If multiple partners/ex-partners are identified, services may undertake an assessment of risk and desire for contact and support to enable prioritisation of victim advocacy support. Prioritisation must be given to partners/ex-partners who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – are assessed as high risk – remain in a relationship with the perpetrator – live with the perpetrator – has recently separated from the perpetrator – has ongoing parenting arrangements or orders in place with the perpetrator – is in regular contact with the perpetrator. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>

6.7 If the partner/ex-partner has children, staff must wherever possible, consider the needs of the children when offering ongoing support to the partner/ex-partner.	Choose an item.
6.8 The Victim Advocate may offer support to children and family members that have been identified as being impacted by the perpetrator's violence, including warm referrals to other specialist domestic and family violence services, government service providers and other support services etc. if the service is unable to provide this support.	Choose an item.
6.9 All reasonable attempts must be made to contact victims and all contact and attempts at contact must be documented.	Choose an item.
6.10 The Victim Advocate must respect the right of the victim to accept limited or no contact and support.	Choose an item.
6.11 Contact with a victim must be based on an assessment of the victim's level of risk, need, and desire for contact and support.	Choose an item.
6.12 The Victim Advocate must contact the victim prior to commencement of the perpetrator intervention program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – inform them their ex/partner is commencing a perpetrator intervention program – outline what is involved in a perpetrator intervention program – outline what support is available to them including risk assessment and safety planning, information sharing and referrals – negotiate ongoing support and contact. 	Choose an item.
6.13 The Victim Advocate must contact the victim after commencement of the perpetrator intervention program, at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – after the second perpetrator intervention program session – throughout the program as guided by the victim's level of risk, need, and desire for contact and support – after the perpetrator leaves or completes the program to assess the victim's level of risk, need, and ongoing desire for contact and support. 	Choose an item.
6.14 The Victim Advocate must work with the victim around the timing of their exit from the service to ensure they are safe and supported.	Choose an item.
6.15 The Victim Advocate must make warm referrals to other specialist domestic and family violence services, government service providers, other support services etc. if the victim requires ongoing support once they exit the service, if the service is unable to provide this support.	Choose an item.

Outline how the requirements are being partially met, or if the requirements are not being met explain what practice is in place		
<Include information about what practice/policy/procedures etc. are currently in place to partially meet the requirements (if applicable) or if the requirements are not being met explain what practice/policy/procedures etc. are in place>		
Outline the reasons why the requirements are not being met		
<Outline the reasons as to why the requirements are not being met in full>		
Risk identification and risk mitigation		
Potential risk	What is the impact and who will it impact	Risk mitigation measures/strategies
<What potential risks are present due to the requirements not being met in full. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decreased ability to conduct adequate risk assessment and safety planning activities • inability to hear the victim's voice • inability to keep the victim updated regarding her ex/partner's attendance at the program • decreased ability to provide risk assessment information to facilitators 	<What is the impact of this risk and who will it impact. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased safety risk to the victim and children • inability to hold the perpetrator to account or take responsibility for their behaviour etc.> 	<What measures/strategies are in place to reduce the risk resulting from non-compliance with the requirements. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased training and supervision • increased contact with the victim through the Victim Advocate • increased engagement with relevant stakeholders such as Police, QCS, other domestic and family violence services etc.>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inadequate skills or experience to effectively support the victim and provide information to facilitators etc.> 		
<Delete or insert additional rows as required>		
Actions required to achieve compliance in the future		
Actions to be undertaken by the service	Expected timeframe (if known)	Responsible officer
<What actions need to be undertaken to be compliant with the requirements in the future. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide access to training and development undertake a recruitment process transition to a new model etc.> 		
<Delete or insert additional rows as required>		
General comments		