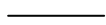


## Key to Map of the Domestic Violence Sector



Indicates that an agency or organisation is a member of a committee or body involved in implementing NSW Domestic and Family Violence Action Plan.



Indicates a relationship between two agencies or organisations that are involved in delivering services to victims of domestic violence.

### 1. **Human Services and Justice Cabinet Committee**

The Committee comprises of ministers whose portfolio responsibilities include Police, Community Services Health Housing, DJAG (including Corrective Services) Aboriginal Affairs, Disability, Ageing & Women.

### 2. **Justice and Human Services CEOs**

The forum of chief executives of Justice and Human Service agencies. Advises committee on key issues relevant to ministers' portfolios and makes decisions that impact relevant agencies.

### 3. **DFV Senior Officers Group (DVVSOG)**

- Chaired by VPCU in Office for Women's Policy within Dept of Premier and Cabinet.
- Members from Human Services, Police, Health, Education and Training, DJAG, Legal Aid NSW
- Develop key performance indicators to measure and monitor implementation of Action Plan.
- Oversee evaluation of Action Plan
- Monitor and resolve interagency issues on Domestic and Family Violence.
- Report and provide advice and recommendations to JHS CEOs.

### 4. **Regional Manager Network (RMN)**

Collective of regional managers of NSW government agencies. There are two regional manager clusters in the network (Justice and Human Services Cluster and Economic Development and Environment Cluster).

### 5. **Regional Domestic and Family Violence Committees**

- Responsible for overseeing development implementation and monitoring of Action Plan at regional level.
- Representation from all levels of government and non government agencies in regional areas.
- Police Force Regional Coordinators chair committees and report to JHS regional manager clusters.

### 6. **Local Domestic Violence Committees**

- 85 across NSW
- Knowledge of local services.
- Comprise of government agencies, non government organisations and community members.
- Develop local plans and respond to local issues.

### 7. **Local Councils' Community Safety Plan Committees**

Develop community safety plans for local areas (including strategies to prevent violence against women).

### 8. **AVLICC**

Apprehended Violence Orders Legal Issues Coordinating Committee (AVLICC) is chaired by the Criminal Law Division of DJAG. The terms of reference of the group are to examine and identify legal, policy and procedural barriers to the provision of adequate criminal justice system services and to ensure appropriate co-ordination of services to persons seeking protection from personal and domestic violence.

Membership includes representatives from DJAG, Police, Office for Women, Local Courts, Legal Aid NSW, Judicial Commission, Office of the Director of Public prosecutions, DVAS, WDVCAP.

### 9. **DVICM**

Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model is based at Campbelltown and Wagga Wagga Local Courts and has a number of components: the Domestic and Family Violence Intervention Service (DAFVIS); Domestic violence evidence collection kits to assist the police with improved evidence collection; and the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Program run by Probation and Parole that selected perpetrators are referred to as part of their sentencing. Domestic and Family Violence Intervention Service (DAFVIS) caseworkers assess safety and risk of harm for the client and any accompanying children, and develop a Case Plan with short-term goals based on the identified needs. DAFVIS only accepts referrals from the police for clients who are victims of a domestic violence criminal offence. Clients are both male and female.

### 10. **Courts and Tribunals – NSW Local Courts**

The chamber service can assist applicants to apply for a domestic violence order or apply for urgent apprehended violence orders. The chamber service may be available by appointment, depending on the nature of the inquiry and the availability of the senior registry officer. The chamber service does not provide legal advice and cannot represent people in court.

### 11. **LawAccess NSW**

LawAccess NSW is a statewide government telephone service. LawAccess NSW provides legal assistance over the telephone to both applicants and defendants in domestic violence situations as follows:

- Information and referral is provided to all callers in domestic violence situations.
- Legal advice is provided to victims of domestic or family violence, where appropriate.
- Family law advice is provided to women in domestic violence situations, where telephone legal advice is appropriate.
- LawAccess NSW Customer Service Officers and Legal Officers will 'warm transfer' callers to the Domestic Violence Line where they need referrals for counselling, urgent accommodation and other DV related issues. This involves putting the caller on hold, ringing the DV Line and explaining the situation and connecting the caller.

## 12. Victims of Crime Interagency

Interagency comprising representatives from a range of government and community agencies that provide services to, and/or referral and education about services to victims of crime. The primary objectives of the interagency committee are to provide a forum:

- to discuss and monitor implementation of the Charter of Victims Rights;
- to facilitate a 'whole of government' approach to the delivery of services to victims of crime;
- to exchange information about services relevant to victims of crime;
- for consultation about specific operational issues relating to services to victims of crime.

More information about the interagency including a complete list of organisations that are members of the interagency can be found at:

[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/victimsservices/ll\\_vs.nsf/pages/VS\\_aboutusinteragency](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/victimsservices/ll_vs.nsf/pages/VS_aboutusinteragency)

## 13. Legal Aid NSW

Legal Aid NSW provides a range of legal services to people in domestic violence situations including:

- Advice and representation for defendants charged with domestic violence related offences (including breaches of ADVOs) through in-house and assigned practitioners.
- Representation for private ADVO applicants through assigned practitioners.
- Domestic Violence Practitioner Scheme (DVPS). Legal Aid NSW funds private solicitors to attend court on AVO list days in 28 metropolitan and regional courts – Albury, Bankstown, Belmont, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Cessnock, Dubbo, Fairfield, Gosford, Hornsby, Kogarah, Liverpool, Manly, Maitland, Newcastle, Nowra, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie, Port Kembla, Sutherland, Tamworth, Toronto, Waverley, Woy Woy, Wollongong, and Wyong. DVPS solicitors provide a range of legal services to ADVO applicants including advice about ADVOs to private and police applicants; legal representation to private applicants in ADVO mentions; legal representation to private applicants if the client is eligible for legal aid; and referral to related legal services. DVPS solicitors work closely with the local WDVCS.
- Advice, minor assistance and representation in family law matters. Clients may include victims of domestic violence or alleged perpetrators.
- Advice and representation (subject to the special disadvantage test) for applicants in victims compensation matters.

## 14. NSW Police

NSW Police provide a range of services to people in domestic violence situations.

- General Duties (GDs) Officers are often the first response officers to an incident of domestic and family violence. GDs receive the initial incident report and if required initiate AVOs and where necessary remove offenders from the home.
- *Domestic Violence Liaison Officers (DVLO)* are specialist police officers trained in the dynamics of domestic and family violence, child protection procedures, victim support and court AVO processes. The DVLO provides advice to police and victims; referral to appropriate support agencies; review and oversight of all domestic and family violence reports and cases; assistance to victims through the court process for Apprehended Violence Orders; and monitors repeat victims and perpetrators. Each of the 80 Local Area Commands in NSW has one or more DVLOs.
- Police Prosecutors represent ADVO applicants in the local court and prosecute on behalf of domestic violence assault victims and for breaches of ADVOs. Police Prosecutors work closely with DVLOs to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, including prior to attendance at court.
- *The Domestic and Family Violence Team* provides expertise, professional development and support to Local Area Commands and Domestic Violence Liaison Officers. They participate in interagency forums with government and non-government agencies. Representatives of the team actively participate in a number of interagency committees, forums and training to develop integrated, coordinated responses to victims and offenders, and to assist police in driving down repeat incidents of domestic and family violence.
- *Domestic Violence Pro-Active Support Service (DVPASS)* is a partnership between a Police Local Area Command and a local domestic violence support service with the intention of providing a referral pathway for consenting victims to be linked to appropriate support services. There are a number of these partnership programs operating at Local Area Commands across the state.
- DV Regional Coordinators are based in nine regions across NSW. The Coordinators chair the Regional Domestic and Family Violence Committees.

## 15. Staying Home Leaving Violence, NSW Department of Community Services

This program seeks to remove the violent partner from the home and ensure the safety of the woman and her children. An exclusion order is negotiated as part of an apprehended violence order. Project workers provide risk assessment and management, casework and advocacy to address housing issues, financial difficulties, legal issues and facilitate access to appropriate services. A safety plan is developed, including the provision of security equipment for the home. The service operates in south-east Sydney and Bega and was rolled out to Blacktown, Campbelltown, Wyong, Walgett, Newcastle and Moree in 2009/10. Ten additional projects will be funded in 2010/11, including a service based in South West Sydney CLC.

**16. Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services Program**

This is a multi-agency, coordinated response to prevent the escalation of domestic and family violence among high risk target groups and in targeted communities. Coordinated services are provided to clients through a multi-disciplinary team or are based on clear referral pathways between service agencies such as Police, Health, Housing, DoCS and non-government support agencies. There are three services sponsored by DoCS: Mt Druitt Family Violence Service, Canterbury Bankstown Domestic Violence Response Team; and Domestic Assault Response Teams (DARTs). There are also four other integrated services sponsored through government and community partnerships: Domestic Violence Intervention Response Team (DVIRT), Great Lakes Refuge Police Partnership, Nowra Domestic Violence Intervention Service, sponsored by YWCA; and Liverpool and Green Valley Domestic Violence Service, sponsored by NSW Health.

**17. NLAF and NLAF Domestic Violence Working Group**

Interagency forum that brings together key legal service providers across government and non government and private sectors. NLAF aims to facilitate access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people. NLAF convenes working groups to address specific issues relating to access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged groups. NLAF established a domestic violence working group to examine issues relating to coordination of domestic violence services.

**18. Law Society of NSW**

Provides assistance and representation to people seeking AVOs through the Pro Bono Referral Scheme.

**19. NSW Bar Association**

The NSW Bar Association provides a duty scheme at the Downing Centre. Two barristers are rostered on Level 5 every day to provide duty services in a range of matters including ADVOs. Applications for assistance with defended ADVOs (only) may be made under the NSW Bar Association's Legal Assistance Referral Scheme if gross household income does not exceed \$1000 per week. If the barrister's assessment is there are no reasonable prospects of success, the barrister and the Association are not obliged to be further involved. However, the Association always has a discretion which can be exercised if the circumstances warrant. This part of the procedure is on a no fee basis. If the barrister comes to a view there are reasonable prospects of success, the longer term handling of the matter is then worked out. This could include the client making a financial contribution on a reduced fee basis, depending on the client's overall financial circumstances.

**20. Aboriginal Legal Service**

ALS also provides representation for defendants in domestic violence assault cases, subject to a Conflict of Interest (Black on Black) Policy which precludes representation in any case in which providing representation would cause a serious community disruption.

**21. Family Violence Prevention Legal Services**

This Australia-wide network of community-based services provides legal assistance, casework, counselling, referral and court support to male and female Indigenous victims of family violence including victims of sexual abuse. The main areas of legal service provision are family violence restraining orders; assisting victims-survivors of family violence and/or sexual assault; child protection; victim's compensation; and family law (where it relates to family violence). Legal casework includes court representation, negotiation of settlements and ongoing case management for any matter relating to family violence. There are PVPLS units in Bourke, Broken Hill, Forbes, Kmpsey, Moree and Walgett.

**22. Women's Family Law Support Service, NSW Women's Refuge Movement**

This court support service provides non-legal support, information and referrals for women attending the Sydney Family Law Registry in relation to separation, with a particular focus on women and children who are separating from a partner who is violent and abusive. The service can provide free and confidential support; information about the court process and the role of court staff; make referrals, including to lawyers; accompany clients to court appointments/hearings; and assist in arranging appropriate security measures for clients with safety concerns while attending court.

**23. Community Legal Centres**

Provide information and referral, community legal education, legal advice representation and advocacy to victims of domestic violence. Some CLCs auspice WDVCS's.

#### *Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre*

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre is a NSW state-wide community legal centre for Aboriginal women, children and youth who have been victims of violence. They provide advice on a range of issues in relation to domestic violence, including: ADVOs, domestic violence offences, family law, police response to reporting domestic violence, and victims compensation. Depending on case load, further assistance may include assisting clients making complaints to the Ombudsman about inappropriate police responses, assisting clients make applications for legal aid for representation in an ADVO matter, referrals to pro bono services where legal aid is not available, and applications for victims compensation. Wirringa Baiya workers are rostered as WDVCS support workers at the Downing Centre and Waverley Court. Wirringa Baiya provides workshops to Aboriginal community members and community workers about domestic violence law and victims compensation law, as well as cultural awareness training to DV workers.

#### *Women's Legal Services*

This service provides casework, legal advice and advocacy to women experiencing domestic violence. WLS operates a telephone advice service and provides duty solicitors in Mount Druitt and Blacktown on a weekly basis, at Penrith and Sutherland Local Court once a month, Campbelltown Local Court every two months and other Local Courts on a case by case basis. The service can also represent some women at a hearing and in District Court appeals from police or private applications depending on capacity. If women are eligible for legal aid the service will assist them to find an appropriate solicitor. The service also provides community legal education and professional development training on domestic violence and legal process.

*Safe Relationships Project, Inner City Legal Centre* is a court assistance scheme for people in same sex relationships, transgender and transsexual people, and intersex people who are experiencing domestic violence. The aim of the SRP is to assist clients in accessing legal representation and applying for Apprehended Violence Orders as well as providing support, advocacy, referrals and information. The SRP works with a network of volunteer solicitors who can represent clients through the ADVO court process and also provide legal advice about associated issues such as family law and property issues. The SRP can provide face to face support in Sydney and phone support outside of Sydney.

#### **24. Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS), Legal Aid NSW**

WDVCAS assists women and children who are experiencing domestic violence to obtain effective legal protection through applications for Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs). They provide information including brochures, court advocacy and assistance, and referral with legal and non-legal issues such as counselling, housing and financial assistance. 'Warm referrals', where the referrer introduces the client to the referee, are made if possible. Advocacy involves assisting women to effectively negotiate the systems and services available to assist women and children experiencing domestic violence. Examples of court advocacy include working with the DVLO or police prosecutor to ensure ADVO conditions are appropriate to the client's needs, ensuring women receive the support and assistance they need to address breaches and when they disclose offences against them and prevent secondary victimisation of women by the system. WDVCAS services do not provide legal advice. There are 28 schemes across NSW that service 108 courts across NSW.

#### **25. Same Sex Domestic Violence Working Group**

The Working Group is made up of representatives from a wide variety of organisations including ACON, NSW Police, The NSW Attorney General's Department, South East Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service, St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst Community Health Centre, The Inner City Legal Centre, Delores Women's Refuge, St George Domestic Violence Counselling Service. The role of the Working Group is to advise on the development, implementation and evaluation of an action plan that addresses SSDV issues.

#### **26. Immigrant Women's Speakout**

Convenes the NESB DV Network.