



Queensland Police Service Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2009 - 2013

Addressing Domestic and Family Violence is a strategic priority for the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Preventing and reducing domestic violence are shared responsibilities requiring the commitment and collaboration of a wide range of government and non-government agencies, businesses and individuals. This shared responsibility is reflected in the release of the *Australasian Policing Strategy on the Prevention and Reduction of Family Violence 2008* and the *For Our Sons and Daughters – A Queensland Government Strategy to reduce domestic and family violence 2009 - 2014*. The QPS Domestic and Family Violence Strategy provides a broad framework which can be adapted to fit the specific circumstances within regions, districts, commands and corporate areas.

Mission

To prevent and reduce domestic and family violence.

Objectives

To improve service delivery and client support through:

- Enhanced inter-agency collaboration, communication, information sharing and case management.
- Early intervention in the 'cycle of violence', victim support, preventing recidivism and repeat calls for service.

Core Focus Areas

1. Education and Training

Enhance police capacity to effectively investigate and manage domestic and family violence.

Actions:

- Provide education and training incorporating technical, conceptual and interpersonal skills including appropriate behaviours, cultural awareness and attitudes.
- Enhance understanding and awareness of inter-agency training needs.
- Provide training in conjunction with other organisations to facilitate shared understanding of roles and responsibilities.

2. Research and Knowledge Base

Improve policing response through regional/district sharing of successful evidence-based strategies.

Actions:

- Identify and share potential Australasian research topics (e.g. Domestic Related Homicide Risk Assessment).
- Conduct research and evaluation in conjunction with internal and external agencies (evidence-based practice).
- Review and disseminate research findings (what works).
- Participate in the development of an Australasian repository of information.

3. Policy and Legal Response

Enhanced policy and legal process regarding the investigation and management of domestic and family violence and prosecution of perpetrators.

Actions:

- Review and address Service policy to establish good practice in accordance with legislation and whole of government policy frameworks.
- Determine impact of Federal Family Law/Family Violence Strategy on police resources.
- Identify improvements to criminal justice processes with courts/prosecutors.

4. Incident Response

Consistency and quality demonstrated in pro-investigative responses to, and the management of, domestic and family violence.

Actions:

- Review police responses to ensure they are appropriate, professional, consistent and ethical.
- Make greater use of investigative skills and evidence gathering procedures to support victims and increase related criminal charges.
- Enhance effectiveness of risk assessment processes within QPS.

- Reinforce the responsibility of operational supervisors to overview responses and ensure incident management and reporting are accurate.
- Identify "recidivist offenders" and manage repeat calls for service.
- Initiate and promote inter-agency responses.

5. Early Intervention

Focus on prevention and early intervention approaches in partnership with all sectors of the community to break the cycle of violence.

Actions:

- Develop 'early intervention' models that are good practice through collaboration and information sharing, both internal and external.
- Promote consistent intervention messages across communities.
- Tailor early intervention strategies to reflect the differing needs of diverse target groups.

6. Communication and Information Sharing

Increase collaboration and information sharing between police and other agencies.

Actions:

- Develop consistent and effective inter-agency partnerships that share information via collective understanding of roles, responsibilities, practice and protocols.
- Develop communication strategies which provide consistent messages regarding police roles and responsibilities.

7. Diverse and Emerging Communities

Enhance confidence in the way police manage domestic and family violence in diverse and emerging communities.

Actions:

- Support inter-agency and community partnerships.
- Develop innovative, proactive and culturally relevant responses in conjunction with communities.

8. Indigenous Family Violence

Reduce the representation of Indigenous persons as victims and/or perpetrators.

Actions:

- Support inter-agency and community partnerships.
- Encourage community engagement and ownership of the issue.
- Develop innovative, proactive and culturally relevant responses in conjunction with Indigenous communities.

9. Children at Risk

Protection and support for children and young people affected by domestic and family violence.

Actions:

- In conjunction with other agencies, provide coordinated responses including early intervention and prevention strategies.
- Early and accurate identification and subsequent reporting in relation to at risk children and young people, including babies and unborn children.
- Engage and foster collaborative and coordinated case management practices.

10. People affected by Domestic and Family Violence

Protection and support for victims of domestic and family violence.

Actions:

- Enhance 'first response' to victims to increase community trust and confidence in the police.
- Using inter-agency strategies, provide victims with protection, safety, support and education.
- Referral of perpetrators to programs (addressing and changing their abusive behaviours).
- Develop specific strategies to identify and manage recidivism.
- In conjunction with other agencies, identify and respond to the specific needs of other vulnerable groups such as: Elders, people with disabilities, people in rural and remote communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

Indicators of Success

- Increased rate of reporting of incidents to police.
- Reduced police callouts to repeat victims/perpetrators.
- Rate of successful breach prosecutions.
- Rate of both police and private applications resulting in orders being made.