

## Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework – Frequently Asked Questions

On 15 July 2022, the Queensland Government released the revised domestic and family violence (DFV) Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF). The revised CRASF is a whole-of-system framework that offers clear guidance on undertaking risk assessments and safety planning for victim-survivors and their children.

The revised CRASF articulates a shared understanding, language, and common approach to recognising, assessing, and responding to DFV, and offers guidance on best practice approaches.

For further information on the revised CRASF, visit [www.justice.qld.gov.au/dfvcommonrisksafetyframework](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/dfvcommonrisksafetyframework).

### Why was the CRASF reviewed?

Version 1 of the CRASF was developed with the intention that it would be reviewed and amended over time to incorporate new learnings and reflect contemporary best practice.

The revised CRASF has incorporated findings from the integrated services response trial and evaluation and reflects contemporary understandings of DFV, including risks and guidance around coercive control.

It also aligns with recent reviews, such as the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT), which called for a whole-of-system framework and consistent approach to integrated service responses, including risk assessments and safety planning.

### What did this review process involve?

In 2021, the Office for Women and Violence Prevention (OWVP), Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG), engaged Ernst and Young (EY) to lead the review of the CRASF. This included a comprehensive research and evaluation process in consultation with leading academics in the field of DFV.

An extensive consultation process was undertaken with the DFV sector and integrated service response stakeholders, which included focus group sessions with practitioners, interviews with victim survivors, and a series of consults and drop-in sessions. In addition, a Virtual Reference Practice Group was established, consisting of a broad range of over 70 practitioners and managers from across the DFV system, to provide critical feedback on the proposed refinements to the CRASF tools, rooted in direct practice.

Following initial updates to the CRASF tools, validation testing was undertaken over a period of approximately six weeks. Data was gathered from practitioners using the tools against closed case files and assessing practitioners' views.

This thorough and extensive review process led to a number of enhancements to the revised CRASF, providing an evidence-based, best practice approach for DFV risk assessments and safety planning.

### What changes have been made?

The revised CRASF builds on the first version of the framework with a number of enhancements, including:

- a new child screening tool
- a greater focus on children and priority population groups
- improved cultural considerations
- a greater emphasis on the victim-survivor voice and playing a greater role in their own safety planning, with the support of a specialist practitioner
- an increased focus on the person using violence



- additional factors relating to different types of abuse, such as coercive control and technology-facilitated abuse
- a greater focus on the imminence of risk and harm
- guidance on responding to high risk cases through coordinated multi-agency responses.

### What is the purpose of each of the CRASF tools and who should use them?

While the first version of the CRASF was predominantly used in the context of High Risk Teams, the revised CRASF has a broader application across the entire integrated service system, including government and non-government service agencies, as well as community members, businesses and others who may come in contact with people experiencing, or at risk of, DFV. This strengthens the likelihood of consistent responses, bridges gaps in service provision, and improves outcomes for victim-survivors.

The CRASF is only for use in assessing the risks to victim-survivors, it is not suitable for assessing perpetrator risk.

Each of the CRASF tools are intended for use by people with different levels of knowledge about DFV and the integrated service system. The table below outlines this in further detail.

Tool	Purpose	User
<b>L1 Routine Screening - Adult</b>  <b>L1 Routine Screening – Child</b>	Screening tools designed to identify whether a person is at risk of, or experiencing DFV.	Can be used by any person who may come into contact with someone who may have experienced, or be experiencing, DFV. This includes mainstream service providers and some community members.
<b>L2 Risk Assessment</b>  <b>L2 Safety Planning and L3 referral</b>	To use when some form of DFV risk has been identified. Aims to identify risk factors, prompt areas for further investigation, and inform comprehensive risk assessment and safety planning.	For use by people with some understanding of DFV and DFV-informed practice, including DFV practitioners, government agency staff working in DFV roles, professionals with a role in responding to DFV (though this may not be their core business, e.g. health staff).
<b>L3A Initial multi-agency dynamic risk assessment</b>	Supports intake into the multi-agency response team, including a review of initial risk assessment and safety action planning, and updates based on multi-agency information sharing.	For use by people with experience working in DFV and a strong understanding of DFV-informed responses.  L3 tools are designed specifically for use by coordinated multi-agency response teams where there is high or imminent risk of serious injury or harm.
<b>L3B Ongoing multi-agency dynamic risk assessment</b>	Supports ongoing review of risk and the multi-agency strategy by supporting the multi-agency team to consider whether the severity of risk factors have changed.	
<b>L3C Multi-agency response case closure</b>	Records all relevant information demonstrating how risk was managed and documenting the rationale for case closure and long-term strategies to support the victim-survivor.	

For a detailed explanation on how the three levels of tools are used, refer to the CRASF fact sheets at [www.justice.qld.gov.au/dfvcommonrisksafetyframework](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/dfvcommonrisksafetyframework).

### What are the benefits of using the revised CRASF over other risk assessment tools?

The revised CRASF is an evidence-based tool, developed through a co-design process with stakeholders across Queensland's integrated service system.

Importantly, the CRASF offers a vehicle for delivering a best practice, whole-of-system approach to risk assessments and safety planning, underpinned by a shared understanding of DFV and consistent, DFV-informed responses. This strongly aligns with the recommendations of the WSJT report *Hear Her Voice – Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland* which validates and supports the need for a whole-of-system framework for use across all parts of the DFV and justice systems.

In multi-agency high risk response teams, the Level 3 tools have been designed specifically to facilitate structured multi-agency meetings and information sharing. The tools can be used in place of meeting notes and aim to streamline processes.

### How will service providers and others be supported to adopt the CRASF?

It is acknowledged that the transition to the CRASF as a whole-of-system framework will take some time.

The Integrated Service Systems Oversight Committee (the multi-agency governance group responsible for overseeing integrated service responses in Queensland) is working to implement the revised CRASF across service systems. This includes considering the application of the CRASF across portfolios; incorporating the CRASF into policies and processes where appropriate; and ensuring consistent messaging, language and principles where the CRASF tools cannot be directly adopted (e.g. the CRASF is not suitable for assessing perpetrator risk).

An Integrated Service Systems Training Strategy is being implemented to support users to understand and adopt the CRASF, and to build knowledge and capability about integrated service responses.

### What training is available?

A number of training resources and opportunities are being developed to meet the needs of different users and allow staff to access self-paced online training resources at a time and date that suits them. This will replace the former CRASF training process.

The Integrated Service Systems training hub at <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/iss-training-hub> contains resources relating to the CRASF and the integrated service system, including CRASF fact sheets, DFV information sharing guidelines, and an information sharing training video.

Additional resources will continue to be developed and added to the Training Hub as they become available, including:

- an introductory webinar on the revised CRASF;
- a series of CRASF introductory training videos; and
- a series of online, interactive, self-paced training modules on a range of topics, including each of the CRASF tools, information sharing, working with priority populations, High Risk Teams, and tailored workforce-specific modules.

Virtual and face to face information sessions will be held on a range of topics to build the capability across the integrated service system and promote a shared understanding and common approach to integrated service responses.



### Are the tools mandated?

The CRASF tools are not mandated, but their use is strongly encouraged as a best practice, validated, evidence-based approach to recognising, assessing, and responding to DFV.

The revised CRASF has been designed to be used across all elements of the integrated service system, from initial screening and identification through to management of high risk cases. As identified in the WSJT report, Queensland's integrated service response will be strengthened by the use of a consistent, whole-of-system risk assessment framework, with all parts of the DFV and justice system aligned with the framework.

There is an expectation that High Risk Teams will adopt the revised CRASF tools. The OWVP will continue to work with High Risk Teams through this phased transition. Currently, amendments are being made to the online portal to incorporate the revised tools. HRTs are not required to adopt the tools until all updates to the online portal are complete.

### How can I stay up to date on new content and be involved in virtual and face to face information sessions?

To stay informed, contact your local Integration Manager, your Integrated Service System Oversight Committee representative, or email the Integrated Service Response team in OWVP at [dfvintegratedservices@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:dfvintegratedservices@justice.qld.gov.au).

