




Guiding Principles

The Framework is based upon the guiding principles below. The principles provide the foundation and direction to ensure all initiatives and implementation efforts align with the Framework’s intended outcomes.

	<p>Holds the safety and dignity of victim-survivors as central to all engagement</p> <p>The Framework supports engagement with victim-survivors that prioritises their safety, validates their strengths, and empowers them to make choices based on their own unique experience. This includes holding the lived experience of DFV as central to all engagements and the recognition of children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right.</p>
	<p>Holds persons who use violence to account</p> <p>The Framework supports staff and volunteers to receive training that equips them to engage with persons who use violence in a trauma-informed way that emphasises accountability and behaviour change.</p>
	<p>Adopts a system-wide approach</p> <p>The Framework recognises all organisations play a role in addressing DFV. It positions organisations to take action to assess and progress capability of their staff within the context of their specific roles and to understand their DFV related responsibilities within the broader service system.</p>
	<p>Recognises DFV is a pattern of abuse</p> <p>The Framework acknowledges DFV rarely involves isolated incidents of violence or abuse, particularly in high-risk cases. Rather it is underpinned by patterns of controlling and abusive behaviours aimed at establishing and maintaining power and control over the victim-survivor.</p>
	<p>Takes a strengths-based, culturally safe, and intersectional approach</p> <p>The Framework recognises the diverse experiences, perspectives and strengths of people who navigate multiple intersecting identities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ individuals, people from CALD backgrounds, and older people, among others. It recognises the resilience and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culture and communities.</p>
	<p>Reinforces and promotes improved cultural capability in responses</p> <p>The Framework emphasises the importance of culturally-safe services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Learning objectives and strategies within the Framework include development of cultural understanding, and the importance of organisations’ consideration of the needs of their workforce around cultural capability training within and beyond this Framework.</p>
	<p>Promotes and supports trauma-informed responses</p> <p>The Framework supports organisations, staff, and volunteers to identify and understand the various ways trauma may present, ensuring that support is appropriately tailored to meet the needs of victim-survivors and persons using violence. This includes preventing re-traumatisation for people engaging with the service system, as well as staff/volunteers who have experienced DFV and/or vicarious trauma.</p>
	<p>Drives reflective practice, ongoing behaviour change and service responsiveness</p> <p>The Framework promotes appropriate and consistent responses, as identified by victim-survivors. Application of the Framework is designed to meet individuals and organisations at their current level of capability and support an ongoing learning journey that respectfully challenges personal beliefs, values and attitudes towards gendered violence and DFV. This includes an understanding of the drivers of violence against women and supports reflective practice with a view to changing behaviour and strengthening service delivery.</p>

What you may need to do next... To understand what training and change management activities may be needed in your organisation, you should read the Framework and assess your needs using the supporting tools provided.