



DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE  
**Implementation Council**

## MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

**10 to 11 October 2019**  
**Gold Coast**

---

On **10 and 11 October 2019**, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council (the Council) travelled to **the Gold Coast** to observe local initiatives to address domestic and family violence.

The Honourable Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence addressed the Council at the start of the visit on the **liquidation of White Ribbon**; the tabling of the **Third Action Plan** in Parliament; closure of **Not Now, Not Ever Recommendations**; and **GPS monitoring of domestic and family violence offenders (Recommendation 123)**.

During the visit to the Gold Coast, Council members met with a range of local representatives, including:

- **Queensland Police Service (QPS) Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce** – Council members met with representatives from the QPS Taskforce focused on case managing high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators and victims in partnership with other service providers.
- **Domestic Violence Prevention Centre (DVPC) Gold Coast Inc. and the Gold Coast Domestic and Family Violence Integrated Response** – Council members learnt about differences in approach between the QPS DFV Taskforce and the longstanding Gold Coast Domestic Violence Integrated Response and the range of perpetrator programs provided by the DVPC.
- **Southport Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court** – Council members met with stakeholders and service providers to discuss the design of the specialist court, the services delivered and the staff involved in the program.
- **Multicultural Families Organisation (MFO) and SARA Domestic and Family Violence Centre** – Council members learnt about the work of Multicultural Families Organisation and the programs it provides to support women and children from a CALD background who experience domestic and family violence.
- **Health stakeholders** – Council members visited the Gold Coast University Hospital to meet with hospital staff involved in responding to domestic and family violence and discuss the range of initiatives to support victims.
- **Kalwun Development Corporation** – Council members met to discuss the range of services Kalwun Development Corporation provides to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders including: comprehensive primary health care, child and family support (including for domestic and family violence), housing support, emergency relief

assistance for families and individuals experiencing financial hardship, community care for the elderly and people with disability, cultural education and an Elders group.

- **Varsity Secondary College** – Council members visited the school with one former and one current player from the Gold Coast Titans to spread the message about respectful relationships.
- **Bella's Sanctuary\*** – Council members were taken on a tour of Australia's first purpose-built bridging accommodation facility that provides accommodation for up to 12 months to women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Following meetings with local stakeholders, the Council held its meeting at Halcyon Greens at Pimpama. Reporting on activities during the visit, Council members noted the **strong local leadership on domestic and family violence on the Gold Coast**, and the **inspiring way in which staff in all locations** have approached domestic and family violence **in an integrated way**. The Council noted that, despite recorded crime in the Gold Coast Police District being generally above the Queensland average for most categories of offences, staff and organisations involved in the response to domestic and family are well-coordinated and energetic, with a strong level of commitment across a broad range of services.

As part of the Council meeting, members were joined by representatives of Halcyon and Mirvac to be briefed on how they teamed up to deliver Bella's Sanctuary\*.

Further to Minister Farmer's briefing the previous day, discussions were held around the **Government's response to the liquidation of White Ribbon**; the release of the **Third Action Plan**; the closure of the **Not Now, Not Ever recommendations** and the Government's plans for the **future of the Council**.

Outcomes of the **evaluation of the integrated service response (ISR) sites**, including the **high risk team (HRT)** model continue to be of significant interest to Council members. Of equal interest is capturing specific **data on vulnerable groups under the evaluation framework** and **the outcome of service provider efforts**.

The Council was briefed on the release of **Recommendation 123 - GPS monitoring of domestic and family violence offenders** and provided copies of the following reports:

- Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) report – Electronic monitoring in the context of domestic and family violence;
- QPS trial of domestic and family violence GPS-enabled Electronic Monitoring Technology Evaluation Report
- Factsheet – GPS monitoring in the domestic and family violence context.

The Council discussed the outcomes of the 21 August 2019 meeting of its **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group** and amongst other things, encouraged a future Council to ensure **issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders** and **people who live in rural and remote areas** continue to be a focus.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, the Council considered the agenda for its **final meeting** and the preparation of its **final progress report** to the Premier and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.