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**Research, Scope and Design  
a Safer Families Project for  
the ACT AOD Sector (AOD Safer  
Families Project)**



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**Draft Project Update # 4**

**October 2017**

ACT Health has engaged ATODA to December 2017 to scope and design a multi-year multi-component pilot project that provides more effective responses for people who use alcohol and other drugs (AOD) in harmful ways and either experience domestic and family violence (DFV) or are at risk of using violence.

This document provides a summary of the current status and recent activities undertaken as part of the *Research, Scope and Design a Safer Families Project for the ACT AOD Sector* (referred to as the *AOD Safer Families Project*). This includes:

- Consultations summary
- Deliverables summary
- Other activities summary

For information on the AOD Safer Families Project:

- visit <http://www.atoda.org.au/research-scope-and-design-a-pilot-project-safer-families/> —includes the Terms of Reference of each of the project components
- Or contact the AOD Safer Families Project Team at ATODA on [dfv@atoda.org.au](mailto:dfv@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6230 0919

## Consultations:

Date	Duration	Audience	Topics	Further details if available
19 July 2017	½ day	AOD Sector, invited DFV stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic and Family Violence Capability Tool (DFVCAT)</li> <li>• Scope of Practice</li> </ul>	The agenda included an overview of the AOD Safer Families Project from ATODA; a discussion of the potential domains for the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Capability Assessment Tool (DFVCAT)</i> ; criteria across the domains of the DFVCAT; overarching principles of practice; and a discussion of a scope of practice.
6 September	½ day	AOD Sector, invited DFV stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic and Family Violence Capability Tool (DFVCAT)</li> <li>• Brief: Scope of Practice</li> <li>• Brief: Pilot design: Evidence Based Practice Framework; Evaluation Framework</li> </ul>	Forum agenda included: overview presentation of AOD Safer Families Project, including an update of the components; individual and small group feedback on the DFVCAT document
7 September	Full day	Clinical / expert roundtable (by invitation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic and Family Violence Capability Tool (DFVCAT)</li> <li>• Brief: Scope of Practice</li> <li>• Evidence Based Practice Framework</li> <li>• Brief: Pilot design: Evaluation Framework</li> </ul>	Clinical Roundtable agenda included: overview presentation of AOD Safer Families Project, including an update of the components; individual and small group feedback on the DFVCAT document; formation of clinical questions to inform the development of the Evidence Based Practice Framework

20 October	Full day	AOD sector, invited DFV stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic and Family Violence Capability Tool (DFVCAT)</li> <li>• Scope of Practice</li> <li>• Pilot design</li> <li>• Evaluation Framework</li> </ul>	<p>Forum will include feedback from AOD services involved in the implementation testing of the DFVCAT (26 September to 19 October).</p> <p>Additional components are not yet confirmed, but are likely to include sector input into the pilot design and the evaluation framework</p>
24 October	Full day	Clinical / expert roundtable (by invitation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence Based Practice Framework</li> </ul>	<p>Roundtable of experts to consider the evidence tables produced from the clinical questions determined at 7 September Roundtable. Will aim to reach agreement on the evidence and clinical consensus in the absence of evidence.</p>
9 November	Full day	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details being finalised</li> </ul>	<p>Details being finalised</p>

Note: A further engagement is being planned, including a launch of the multi-year AOD Safer Families Project.

### Deliverables:

Deliverable	Description	Level / focus of the deliverable	Activities undertaken between July – September 2017	Current Status / Next step
Project Advisory/Working Group	Convening of an Advisory Group whose primary function is to provide high level advice, strategic guidance and governance to the Project.	Whole of sector / policy level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Project Advisory Group meetings held on 13 July, 10 August, 21 September 2017</li> <li>• Membership is drawn from specialist AOD services; representatives from the Womens Services Network and Domestic Violence Prevention Council; consumer organisation; ATODA; ACT Health &amp; clinical consultants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Project Advisory Group meeting to be held 26 October 2017.</li> </ul>

Needs analysis with AOD sector	Development, dissemination and analysis of workforce engagement activities	Whole of sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced and analysed an internal summary of the <i>Understanding and responding to DFV workforce survey</i> that was implemented with AOD workers who attended the symposium on 24 May 2017. The survey results demonstrate that respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ have an understanding of the basic dynamics of DFV</li> <li>○ are less clear about the causes of DFV</li> <li>○ do not hold violence supportive attitudes</li> <li>○ are already responding to women who are disclosing current experiences of DFV</li> <li>○ are responding to women with past experiences of DFV at high rates</li> <li>○ ask women about their experiences of DFV as a matter of course</li> <li>○ are somewhat confident in working with and referring women who have experienced DFV</li> <li>○ do not receive many (or any) disclosures of DFV use by men</li> <li>○ are somewhat confident to work with and refer men who report using violence</li> <li>○ want to access further training and resources.</li> <li>○ Clearly, because of small respondent numbers, the results of this survey should be used cautiously in making generalisations about the AOD workforce. However, at a high level, it indicates that there is a strong foundation to build on—understandings of, attitudes to, and awareness of DFV are good among the AOD workforce. The survey also indicates that capacity building is needed in the sector to build on this strong foundation, and that the approach of the AOD Safer Families Project is therefore appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with AOD services to identify DFV related training needs through participating in the <i>Domestic Family Violence Education Session</i>, delivered by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service on 8 November 2017.</li> </ul>
'Scope of practice' (i.e. level of care)	Documentation of the roles and responsibilities of AOD services	Organisational and practice / clinical level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A terms of reference and project plan for the DFVCAT (that included a description of the Scope of Practice) was finalised (see attachment 2).</li> <li>• A preliminary literature scan was undertaken.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scope of Practice is being informed by and developed</li> </ul>

quadrants) for AOD and DFV	when working with consumers with DFV issues (based on presentation, severity of issues etc)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Scope of Practice was included as an agenda item for the first sector consultation held on 19 July 2017.</li> <li>AOD and DFV services provided preliminary information to 360Edge, the clinical consultants to the Project, on the appropriate scope of practice for AOD services when responding to DFV.</li> </ul>	concurrently with the development of the DFVCAT and the Evidence Based Practice Framework/Clinical Guidelines
Domestic and Family Violence Capability Assessment Tool	Development of a fidelity instrument for utilisation by AOD services to measure capacity for responses to DFV. An example of such a measure being utilised by ACT AOD services before is the Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment Index Tool.	Organisational level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A terms of reference and project plan for the DFVCAT was finalised (see attachment 2).</li> <li>A preliminary literature scan was undertaken.</li> <li>The DFVCAT was included as an agenda item for the first sector consultation held on 19 July 2017.</li> <li>AOD and DFV services provided preliminary information to 360Edge, the clinical consultants to the Project, on the essential elements and principles in relation to the DFVCAT.</li> <li>The first draft of the DFVCAT was considered for feedback at the Sector Forum (6 Sept) and Clinical Roundtable (7 Sept)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The second draft of the DFVCAT will be produced by 26 Sept for implementation testing between 26 Sept and 19 Oct</li> </ul>
Evidence Based Practice Framework / Clinical Guidelines	Development of practice / clinical guidelines for responding to domestic and family violence	Practice / clinical level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the first consultation on 19 July, a strong theme in the feedback provided at the consultation (including from ACT Health) was in relation to the need to have clinical and service level guidance to help operationalise the service improvements identified (at an organisational level) in the DFVCAT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A systematic literature review and the development of evidence tables is currently occurring.</li> </ul>

	in specialist AOD services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through discussion with ACT Health and 360Edge, the clinical consultants to the Project, it was agreed that these should take the form of an <i>Evidence Based Practice Framework</i> (similar to clinical guidelines).</li> <li>• A terms of reference and project plan for the Evidence Based Practice Framework was developed (see attachment 3).</li> <li>• Clinical Roundtable convened (7 Sept) involving ACT and interstate clinical experts; generated clinical questions for the development of the Evidence Based Practice Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These evidence tables will be considered at the Clinical Roundtable on 24 Oct to reach agreement on the evidence and clinical consensus.</li> </ul>
Community of Practice	Convening of a community of practice of clinicians and experts from the ACT and Interstate that will inform the development of project deliverables	Practice / clinical level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A terms of reference and project plan for the Evidence Based Practice Framework / Clinical Guidelines was developed that included reference to the establishment of a community of practice (see attachment 3).</li> <li>• In the first instance, an invitation to a first clinical / expert roundtable was disseminated to ACT and interstate participants on 7 September (see consultation information).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group of clinical experts (with a few additions) will be reconvened for the Clinical Roundtable on 24 Oct.</li> </ul>
Evaluation Framework	Development of an evaluation framework	Whole of sector / policy level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A request for quote for an evaluation consultant to undertake the development of an evaluation framework was finalised and disseminated.</li> <li>• Proposals were received and a preferred consultant identified by the assessment panel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently finalising the evaluation consultant</li> </ul>
Pilot design	Description / report of the pilot design elements and recommended approaches for utilising the	Whole of sector / policy level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary information has been developed regarding the potential approach to the pilot design (and how this could appropriately sit within the development and sequencing of other project deliverables).</li> <li>• A briefing on the proposed approach to the pilot design component of the project was given to the services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further consultation on the pilot design will be undertaken during the Sector Forum on 20 Oct</li> </ul>

	AOD Safer Families resourcing from 2018 onwards		attending the Sector Forum (6 Sept) and the Clinical Roundtable (7 Sept). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The terms of reference for the pilot design is in ongoing development.</li> </ul>	
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**Other Activities (Not Specific to Project Deliverables):**

- Attendance at the Domestic Violence Prevention Council monthly meeting to provide a briefing on the AOD Safer Families Project (this included engagement with Professor Nicole Lee from 360Edge, a clinical consultant to the Project).
- The ATODA Project Team met with Jo Wood, Coordinator General for Family Safety and staff from the Office.
- Fortnightly teleconferences between the ATODA Project Team and the clinical consultants 360Edge.
- Regular meeting with ACT Health to further refine project deliverables and terms of reference.
- Teleconference with the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association regarding potential alignments or sharing of information between the AOD Safer Families Project and capacity building activities planned for AOD services related to DFV in Victoria.
- Review of information in relation to the ACT Legislative Assembly, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence—Policy approaches and responses.
- Attended one-day training, *Domestic Family Violence Education Session*, delivered by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service.
- Purchased 10 places for ACT specialist AOD services to attend the one-day training, *Domestic Family Violence Education Session*, delivered by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service on 8 November 2017 – to inform future training needs of AOD services.