

### BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Director General of Health committed \$1.56m to the Women and Newborn Health Service (WNHS), to implement a state-wide antenatal screening program to enhance WA Health's response to family and domestic violence (FDV) in public antenatal settings. The 'Strengthening the Antenatal Responses to FDV' (SARFDV) project was established and coordinated by the Women's Health Strategy and Programs (WHSP) team.

### KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE SARFDV PROJECT

- 1 Increase the knowledge, capacity and confidence of public health professionals working in antenatal settings across WA to identify, respond to and refer women experiencing FDV
- 2 Increase the number of women screened using the FDV 950 tool in antenatal settings across WA
- 3 All women attending public antenatal clinics across WA are screened for FDV at least once during their pregnancy
- 4 Increase the awareness and knowledge of FDV in public health professionals across key health settings in WA
- 5 To update and make accessible resources on FDV for all health professionals in WA



### WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

**Training and promoting the use of the screening tool FDV950:** A training program has been developed for antenatal staff in public healthcare settings incorporating the screening tool FDV950, to upskill staff in FDV screening and referral processes. To support education and training, the team has also developed two new e-learning modules; the first of a planned, coordinated electronic learning package on this topic.

**Policy and resource development:** The project team supports policy and guideline development, new resources, statewide FDV campaigns as well as advocating for families affected by FDV to be supported and guided to appropriate services through clear referral pathways.

## 78 EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS WERE DELIVERED AT PUBLIC HEALTH SITES IN WA

(1 Jan-30 Sep2020)



- ★ Peel Health Campus
- ★ Fiona Stanley Hospital
- ★ Babingur Mia
- ★ Rockingham General Hospital
- ★ Joondalup Health Campus
- ★ KEMH
- ★ Osborne Park Hospital
- ★ SJOG Midland
- ★ Armadale Hospital
- ★ Curtin University, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine



### COLLABORATION WITH THE WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE

A Memorandum of Understanding with the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) was signed in July 2020 to establish the SARFDV training programs in regional WA. A dedicated Education and Training Officer was appointed in August to train health professionals across all regions, complimenting social work consultations undertaken in April and May at Inland Community Health Service in the Great Southern, Northam Hospital, Eastern Wheatbelt Primary Health Service, Pilbara, Karratha and Kalgoorlie Hospital. The rollout of training programs in antenatal and emergency department settings are due to commence shortly, increasing linkages with the WACHS workforce, along with East, North and South Metropolitan Health Services.

*"Collaboration, engagement and investment of leadership and clinicians into strengthening responses to FDV across WA has been one of the major successes of the project so far." - Chloe Merna, Coord FDV - Antenatal, WHSP*

## WHO HAS RECEIVED TRAINING IN THE SARFDV PROGRAM? (1 JAN-30 SEP 20)



**47% OF THE WA PUBLIC ANTENATAL WORKFORCE HAVE ATTENDED TRAINING INCLUDING:**

<p><b>321</b> Midwives</p>	<p><b>26</b> Specialist Midwives</p>	<p><b>9</b> Antenatal &amp; Hospital Support Staff</p>
<p><b>45</b> Registered &amp; Specialist Nurses</p>	<p><b>46</b> Students &amp; Graduates</p>	<p><b>20</b> Registered Medical Officers</p>

## WORKFORCE TRAINING FEEDBACK

**98.3%** of WA Health staff, who received training and were surveyed, rated the course as excellent

*"Very helpful info from outside source...  
...really thorough. Super helpful."^*

*"Very informative, good to have outside information and views - of use."*

*"Interesting update for sensitive subject, 2 ladies worked well together."*

[Sample of comments from de-identified survey results]

*"...This screening tool was very foreign for many of our staff, so the face to face training for our gynae nurses was extremely useful. I am sure further in-service is definitely needed."*

-Amanda Grundy Staff Development Nurse/Midwife KEMH



*"I found the in-service education very useful and felt it increased my confidence in both conducting the screening and managing any disclosure of FDV." \**

*"I have found the introduction of screening in the gynecological and oncology clinics highly useful given the number of women screening positive in these areas." \**

\*Feedback from new graduate midwives

## WHAT HAS USING THE FDV950 TOOL REVEALED ACROSS WA HEALTH?

(1 JAN-31 AUG 20)



## ANTENATAL CASE STUDY ON USING THE FDV950 TOOL

Katie\* is a woman from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, in her mid 30s, who recently visited the antenatal unit at Osborne Park Hospital. She has no underlying health concerns, and is pregnant with her fourth child. The appointment went as expected and Katie was screened for FDV. Katie revealed that she was experiencing FDV from her partner and that he had "thrown" her out of her home. She accepted assistance from midwives and a referral to the Social Worker. The junior midwife who was caring for her remarked that, *"...using the FDV950 Tool enabled me to ask more appropriate questions and give correct advice for her (Katie's) circumstances."* \*Not her real name

## WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

In addition to promoting the use of the FDV950 screening tool in antenatal settings across WA and strengthening referral pathways, the project team will:

- Pilot the 'REAL Transformation Model' across three sites to inform a best practice model and provide recommendations for future FDV screening across all public health antenatal settings
- Pilot the Emergency Department FDV Training at two WACHS sites
- Publish the Antenatal FDV E-Learning Module package for culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Develop the Antenatal FDV E-Learning Module package for Aboriginal clients
- Continue the roll out of face to face training across WA
- Continue to build partnerships across the sector to improve FDV screening and response
- Continue to build on the collaboration with WACHS to ensure FDV screening is available in regional WA

