



Tools to Build African Australian & CaLD Men as Leaders in the Prevention of Domestic Violence Project

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Abuse:** is the improper, harmful or unlawful use of something or behaviour toward someone.
- Confidentiality:** is the non-disclosure of the private information of another.
- Attitudes:** are our views, opinions, and feelings about something.
- Beliefs:** are firm opinions normally based on religious and cultural values and principles.
- Breadwinner:** is the person who is primarily responsible for earning money to support the family.
- Bystanders:** are individuals who witness emergencies, criminal events or situations that could lead to criminal events and by their presence may have the opportunity to provide assistance, do nothing, or contribute to the negative behaviour.
- Class:** is a set of people grouped together by their level of wealth, status and/or the jobs they do in the economy
- Collective actions:** involve people coming together and working together to discuss and resolve issues.
- Culture:** is the beliefs, customs, practices and learned attitudes and behaviours of a society or group within society. It can be understood as 'a set of rules, written and unwritten, which instruct individuals on how to operate effectively with one another and with their environment. It not only defines ways to act, but also ways to react. It is 'the way we do things around here'.
- Culture is not a characteristic of individuals; it encompasses a number of people who are conditioned by the same education and life experience. When we speak of the culture of a group, a tribe, a geographical region, a national minority or a nation, culture refers to the collective mental programming that these people have in common; the programming that is different from that of other groups, tribes, regions, minorities or majorities, or nations. It is often difficult to change; if it changes at all, it does so slowly

Discrimination: is a term used to describe unfair or different treatment because of a person's social status

Domestic violence (DV): refers to 'acts of violence that occur between people who have, or have had, an intimate relationship. While there is no single definition, the central element of domestic violence is an ongoing pattern of **behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear**, for example by using behaviour, which is violent and threatening. In most cases, the violent behaviour is part of a range of tactics to exercise power and control over women and their children and can be both criminal and non-criminal' (*The Australian Government's National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2010-2022*). Domestic violence can include physical, sexual, emotional, social, financial, spiritual and psychological abuse, neglect, and the abuse of, or threats to abuse children and/or pets (see Attachments 1 and 2).

In South Australia the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Regulations 2011* define domestic violence as: 'the use of violence or intimidation to coerce, dominate, or control a spouse, domestic partner, or family member'.

Emotional violence: is violence manifested through insults, humiliations, threats, lack of affection etc. The consequences for men and women may be low self-esteem, distrust and emotional insecurity.

Family violence: Family violence is a broader term that refers to violence between family members, as well as violence between intimate partners. It involves the same sorts of behaviours as described for domestic violence. As with domestic violence, the Australian Government's *National Plan* recognises that although only some aspects of family violence are criminal offences, any behaviour that causes the victim to live in fear is unacceptable. The term, 'family violence' is the most widely used term to identify the experiences of Indigenous people, because it includes the broad range of marital and kinship relationships in which violence may occur (*The Australian Government's National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2010-2022*).

The definition of family violence in the national *Family Law Act* is in Attachment 2

Gender: refers to socially learned roles and responsibilities assigned to women and men in a given culture and the societal structures that support these roles. They comprise widely shared ideas and expectations of masculinity and femininity - what it means to be a male or a female - and how they should behave in various situations - usually defined by the geographic or cultural context.

Gender-based violence: is any behaviour, act or threat that inflicts or intends to inflict physical, sexual, or psychological harm on an individual on the basis of their sex or gender.

Gender equality: means that women and men enjoy the same status on political, social, economic and cultural levels. It exists when women and men have equal rights, opportunities and status. Gender equality gives freedom to both men and women to develop their personal abilities and make choices without limitations set by predefined stereotypes, gender roles and/or prejudices. The different behaviours, aspirations and needs of both men and women are equally considered, valued and favoured and the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of a person are not dependent on whether they are born male or female.

Gender equity: is the condition of fairness in relations between women and men, leading to a situation in which each has equal status, rights, levels of responsibility and access to power and resources. Gender equity leads to gender equality.

Gender identity: is a person's innate, psychological identification as a man or a woman, which may or may not correspond to the person's physiology or designated sex at birth.

Gender roles: arise from socially perceived differences between men and women that define how men and women "should" think, act and feel. Gender roles are constantly changing and can vary between and within cultures. They are learned behaviours in a given society, community or social group where certain activities, tasks or responsibilities are perceived as male or female; these roles are affected by age, class, ethnicity, religion and the geographic, economic and political environment.

Gender sensitive: is being aware of differences between women's and men's needs, roles, responsibilities and constraints

Hegemonic masculinity: is the dominant version of masculinity, or "what it means to be a man" in one's culture, one that confers dominance and power over others. Men in most cultures are often socialised and encouraged to identify with and internalise this version of masculinity.

Heterosexuality: is the sexual, emotional, and/or romantic attraction to a sex other than your own.

Homosexuality: is the sexual, emotional, and/or romantic attraction to the same sex.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): is violence perpetrated toward a person by their intimate partner, or by a perpetrator who is in an intimate relationship with the victim.

Network: is a group or system of interconnected people.

- Norms:** are accepted forms and patterns of behaviour that are seen as 'normal' in a culture or society, or in a group within a society or culture.
- Participatory:** means providing the opportunity for individual participation.
- Patriarchy:** is a social system in which men are seen as being superior to women, in which men have more social, economic and political power than women, and in which men actively wield power over women.
- Power:** is the ability to do something as well as to control and influence other people and their actions.
- Rape:** In South Australia the *Criminal Law Consolidation (Rape and Sexual Offences) Amendment Act 2008*: A person (the **offender**) is guilty of the offence of rape if he or she engages, or continues to engage, in sexual intercourse with another person who—
- (a) does not consent to engaging in the sexual intercourse; or
 - (b) has withdrawn consent to the sexual intercourse, and the offender knows, or is recklessly indifferent to, the fact that the other person does not so consent or has so withdrawn consent (as the case may be).
- (2) A person (the **offender**) is guilty of the offence of rape if he or she compels a person to engage, or to continue to engage, in—
- (a) sexual intercourse with a person other than the offender; or
 - (b) an act of sexual self-penetration; or
 - (c) an act of bestiality, when the person so compelled does not consent to engaging in the sexual intercourse or act, or has withdrawn consent to the sexual intercourse or act, and the offender knows, or is recklessly indifferent to, the fact that the person does not so consent or has so withdrawn consent (as the case may be).
- Resources:** are a supply of something that can be used - for example, abilities, money, time, people, services.
- Sex:** is the biological characteristics which define a human being as male or female, intersex or transgendered.
- Sexuality:** is a central aspect of being human - it encompasses sex, gender identity, gender roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction, as experienced throughout one's life. A person's sexuality is experienced and expressed through thoughts, beliefs, desires, values, behaviours, practices, roles and relationships.

Sexual harassment: is manifested through indecent proposals, obscene words and pressure to have sexual relations, which the other party does not want.

Sexual violence/abuse: is a range of behaviours that are unwanted by the recipient - includes remarks about physical appearance, persistent sexual advances that are undesired by the recipient, as well as unwanted touching and unwanted oral, anal, or vaginal penetration. These behaviours could be initiated by someone known or unknown to the recipient, including someone they are in an intimate relationship with or married to.

Social cohesion: is the level of “working trust” and connections in a community.

Social status: is the position or standing of a person in a society or group in relation to others (for example the social and economic status of women in most societies is often regarded as being lower than that of men).

Stakeholder: is a person or group with an interest or concern in something.

Stereotype: is an exaggerated oversimplified belief about an entire group of people without regard for individual differences.

Stigma: is negative attitudes towards people who belong to a particular group, or who have different characteristics than others. It may take many forms: gossip, verbal abuse, judgments, and morally-driven values about other people that can make them more vulnerable to discrimination, including violence and physical abuse as well as loss of jobs and lack of services.

Violence: is the use of force or power to harm and/or control someone.

Violence against women: ‘...means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life’. *United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*

Voluntary: Doing, giving, or acting of one’s own free will.

Attachment 1 illustrates some common types of violence perpetrated against women:

| Table 1: Types of violence against women |
|--|
| Violence against women is any of the forms of abuse listed below. All types are unacceptable and some are criminal offences. |
| <i>Creating fear</i> |
| Fear is a key element in domestic violence and is the most powerful way a perpetrator controls his victim. It can include giving particular looks or making threatening gestures, possessing or threatening to use weapons (even if they are not used), destroying property, cruelty to pets - or any behaviour that intimidates and makes the victim feel powerless. |
| <i>Intimidation</i> |
| Includes smashing things, destroying possessions, putting a fist through the wall, handling weapons, using intimidating body language (angry looks, raised voice), hostile questioning, or reckless driving of vehicle with the victim in the car. It may also include harassing the victim at her workplace, either by making persistent phone calls, or by sending text messages or emails, following her to and from work or loitering near her workplace. |
| <i>Verbal abuse</i> |
| Using words as a weapon to cause significant and long-lasting damage. This may include threatening to hit, screaming, shouting, put-downs, name-calling, swearing, using sarcasm, or ridiculing her for her religious beliefs or ethnic background. Verbal abuse may be a precursor to or accompany physical violence. |
| <i>Physical abuse</i> |
| Behaviour such as pushing, shoving, pinching, hitting, slapping, attempted strangulation, hair-pulling, punching etc. and may or may not involve the use of weapons. It could also be threats to destroy or actually destroying prized possessions. It can range from a lack of consideration for the victim's physical comfort to causing permanent injury or death. |
| <i>Emotional abuse</i> |
| Behaviour that deliberately undermines her confidence leading her to believe she is stupid or that she is 'a bad mother', or useless in bed or even to believe she is going crazy or is insane. This type of abuse humiliates, degrades and demeans the victim. The perpetrator may make threats to harm the victim, her friends or family members, or threaten to take her children from her or kill the children, or to commit suicide. The perpetrator may also use silence and withdrawal as a means to abuse. |
| <i>Social abuse</i> |
| This involves isolating the victim from her social networks and supports, either by preventing her from having contact with her family or friends or by verbally or physically abusing her in public or in front of others. It may involve continually putting friends and family down so she is slowly disconnected from her support network. |
| <i>Financial abuse</i> |
| The perpetrator takes full control of all the finances, spending and decisions about money so the victim is financially dependent on her partner. It may also include denying her access to money, including her own, forcing her and her children to live |

on inadequate resources and demanding she accounts for every cent spent. This type of abuse makes it hard for the victim to leave the relationship.

Sexual abuse

Any unwanted sexual behaviours or comments. This may include forced sexual contact, rape, forcing her to perform sexual acts that cause pain or humiliation, forcing her to have sex with others, or causing injury to her sexual organs, telling her that she is frigid or sexually incompetent and openly having sex with other women.

Controlling behaviours

Dictating what she does and when she can do it, who she sees and talks to, where she goes, keeping her from making any friends or from talking to her family or having any money of her own. This can include preventing her from going to work, not allowing her to express her own feelings or thoughts or to make decisions for herself, not allowing her any privacy or forcing her to go without food or water.

Spiritual abuse

Ridiculing or putting down her beliefs and culture, preventing her from belonging to or taking part in a group that is important to her spiritual beliefs or from practising her religion.

Separation violence

Often after the relationship has ended, the violence continues. This can be a very dangerous time for the victim because the perpetrator may perceive he has a loss of control over the victim and may become more unpredictable. During and after separation is often a time when violence will escalate and may lead to threats of murder or suicide.

Stalking

The victim is stalked by the perpetrator before, during or after separation. Stalking includes loitering around places that she frequents, watching her, following her, making persistent telephone calls and sending emails or mail, including unwanted love letters, cards and gifts after the relationship has ended. Stalking is a criminal offence.

Domestic homicide

The victim and/or her children are killed by the intimate partner as a result of domestic violence – the risk is highest during or after separation.

Attachment 2:

The Australian ***Family Law Act 1975, Section 4AB*** applies nationally and defines family violence as follows:

(1) For the purposes of this Act, *family violence* means violent, threatening or other behaviour by a person that coerces or controls a member of the person's family (the *family member*), or causes the family member to be fearful.

(2) Examples of behaviour that may constitute family violence include (but are not limited to):

- a) an assault; or
- b) a sexual assault or other sexually abusive behaviour; or
- c) stalking; or
- d) repeated derogatory taunts; or
- e) intentionally damaging or destroying property; or
- f) intentionally causing death or injury to an animal; or
- g) unreasonably denying the family member the financial autonomy that he or she would otherwise have had; or
- h) unreasonably withholding financial support needed to meet the reasonable living expenses of the family member, or his or her child, at a time when the family member is entirely or predominantly dependent on the person for financial support; or
- i) preventing the family member from making or keeping connections with his or her family, friends or culture; or
- j) unlawfully depriving the family member, or any member of the family member's family, of his or her liberty.

(3) For the purposes of this Act, a child is *exposed to family violence* if the child sees or hears family violence or otherwise experiences the effects of family violence.

(4) Examples of situations that may constitute a child being exposed to family violence include (but are not limited to) the child:

- a) overhearing threats of death or personal injury by a member of the child's family towards another member of the child's family; or
- b) seeing or hearing an assault of a member of the child's family by another member of the child's family; or
- c) comforting or providing assistance to a member of the child's family who has been assaulted by another member of the child's family; or
- d) cleaning up a site after a member of the child's family has intentionally damaged property of another member of the child's family; or
- e) being present when police or ambulance officers attend an incident involving the assault of a member of the child's family by another member of the child's family.