

NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021-2026

Summary This Information Bulletin is to notify the system of the release of the NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021-2026 (the Strategy).

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Distributed to Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, NSW Ambulance Service

Audience All Staff of NSW Health;NSW Health Violence, Abuse and Neglect (VAN) Services Management and Clinical Workforce;Emergency Department;Aboriginal Health Services;Mental Health;Directors of Workforce Development;Recruitment and Human Resources

NSW HEALTH STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE 2021-2026

PURPOSE

This Information Bulletin is to notify the system of the release of the *NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021-2026* (the Strategy).

KEY INFORMATION

The *NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence 2021-2026* has been released and is available from NSW Health [website](#).

The Strategy guides action for NSW Health over the next five years to strengthen the public health system's role in preventing and responding to domestic and family violence. It aligns with NSW Health's *Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence, Abuse and Neglect Framework* and has been developed in consultation with local health districts, specialty health networks, NSW Health Pillars, and partner agencies.

The Strategy recognises that all staff in the health system are likely to encounter people experiencing domestic and family violence in the course of their work. It supports them to respond in ways that contribute to safety and recovery of adults, children and young people who have been harmed by domestic and family violence.

The Strategy includes key priority areas and specific actions to support NSW Health staff to prevent, to respond to, and to reduce the impacts of domestic and family violence.

The Strategy includes six Strategic Directions:

1. Prevent domestic and family violence by challenging gender inequality and promoting healthy, safe relationships
2. Increase identification and improve early intervention, with a focus on priority populations
3. Provide trauma-informed, culturally safe, and integrated responses to victims of domestic and family violence
4. Increase visibility and accountability of perpetrators while keeping victims safe
5. Harness evidence and promote quality and safety in responding to domestic and family violence
6. Enhance the public health system's response to domestic and family violence.

Summary of key actions

All NSW Health organisations are to promote and utilise the Strategy for ongoing system reform and service redesign in preventing and responding to domestic and family violence. Organisations are to promote and use the Strategy to inform the direction and nature of local actions to strengthen the prevention of, and response to, domestic and family violence.

NSW Health organisations are expected to:

- support local implementation of priorities for action documented in the Strategy
- support frontline staff and managers to participate in training and development opportunities to enhance their skills and competencies in identifying domestic and family violence and providing high-quality responses
- monitor and report on implementation of outputs and outcomes of the Strategy.

Further information

For further information, contact the Prevention and Response to Violence Abuse and Neglect Branch at MOH-PARVAN@health.nsw.gov.au.