

# ACT Domestic and Family Violence Data Collection Project Report

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## Executive Summary

Domestic and family violence data collection in the ACT cannot currently measure the effectiveness of interventions. Federal, state and territory governments recognise that improving the evidence base for domestic and family violence is a priority, however, the National Data Collection and Reporting Framework will not be operational until 2022 (*National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*). The ACT Attorney-General, therefore, tasked the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) with improving domestic and family violence data collection in the ACT. A consultation was undertaken to identify domestic and family violence data in the ACT. This report summarises the findings of the consultation and provides recommendations for improving domestic and family violence data collection in the ACT.

There are multiple sources of data from which information on domestic and family violence can be extracted as no one data source provides complete coverage. The true extent of domestic and family violence may never be known due to under-reporting; hidden reporting; under-recording; and recording rules (ABS 2009; ABS 2013a&b). However, improving current data sources; adding new data sources (particularly as ICT systems are replaced or upgraded); and linking administrative data (ABS 2013a; State of Victoria 2016) will improve the evidence base. The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommends that the Victorian Government set a strategic direction for data collection; develop a state-wide data framework; and explore options for data linkage (State of Victoria 2016). The ACT would also benefit from a coordinated response to data collection.

## Findings

Defining domestic and family violence:

- There is no consistent definition of domestic and family violence used across the ACT. This results in particular challenges in differentiating between domestic violence and family violence and comparability of data.

Efficiency and consistency of data collection:

- Information on domestic and family violence in the ACT is primarily recorded in paper files or as free text in notes fields of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems so it is not readily available or reportable.
- The recording of data by the community sector is dependent upon funding agreements (ACT, NSW, federal, philanthropic etc); databases e.g. Specialist Homelessness Information Platform (SHIP); and standards e.g. National Legal Assistance Data Standards.
- The recording of data by government directorates also varies and is particularly impacted by old ICT systems.

Coordination of data collection:

- There is no single ICT system in the ACT. The only ICT system used by multiple organisations is the SHIP database used by Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS).<sup>1</sup>
- Many ICT systems are client based, not transactional so data is not always current. Client based databases also make it difficult to implement all the domestic and family violence data items e.g. date and location of violence recommended by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).
- There is no minimum dataset of demographics that all government and government funded organisations in the ACT are required to collect. As a result, organisations collect different demographic data items and use different standards of measurement for the same data item, particularly for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) characteristics and disability status.
- ACT Policing and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) use the PROMIS Person ID; and SHS use a linkage key comprising a combination of given name, family name, sex and date of birth. No other linkage key is used in the ACT.
- There is no central position or branch coordinating the purchase or upgrade of ICT systems across the ACT Government and there are few formal mechanisms for ACT Government policy-makers to feed into their development.

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<sup>1</sup> Beryl Women, Doris Women's Refuge, EveryMan Australia, FirstPoint, Karinya House, OneLink, Northside Community Service, and Toora Accommodation and Support Service (TASS) were consulted and all use SHIP.

- There is no ACT requirement for new databases or datasets to include domestic and family violence data items or linkage keys.

Data usage:

- The community sector has a better appreciation of the utility of their data than government directorates and is more likely to make regular use of data for trend measurement, reporting and program development.

## Recommendations

To build a stronger evidence base for domestic and family violence in the ACT, the DVPC recommends that a mandatory minimum dataset for demographic and domestic and family violence data is developed and implemented. If this data was routinely collected, and potentially linked, across the ACT it would provide a powerful resource for research and evaluation and the development of local policy and programs.

1. The mandatory minimum dataset for demographics in the ACT should include:
  - Sex or gender: Male, Female, Non-binary (multiple answers allowed)
  - Date of Birth: DDMMYYYY
  - Address: standard look-up address
  - Indigenous Status: Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Neither, Both, Not stated/Inadequately described
  - CALD Characteristics:
    - Country of Birth: list of countries
    - Translator: Yes/No and Language: list of languages
    - Visa Type (mandatory for specialist victim services): list of visas
  - Disability Status: Yes/No
  - Linkage Key: PROMIS Person ID for the ACT criminal justice system and another linkage key, potentially that used by SHS, for all others. If PROMIS is replaced or upgraded in the future it should continue to use the PROMIS Person ID but also include the other linkage key to facilitate linking across systems.
2. The mandatory minimum dataset for domestic and family violence data items in the ACT should include:
  - Domestic and Family Violence: Yes/No, flag or checkbox.
  - If the organisation deals with clients who use, experience and/or witness domestic and family violence: Yes, perpetrator; Yes, victim; Yes, witness; No (multiple answers allowed).
  - Relationship between Parties: standard list of options (specify which way i.e. victim/witness to perpetrator e.g. wife or perpetrator to victim/witness e.g. husband). The options should be extensive, gender specific (as not all organisations record the sex or gender of both the victim/witness and perpetrator) and include same sex relationships. e.g. girlfriend, ex-girlfriend, wife, ex-wife, defacto wife, ex-defacto wife, same-sex (female) partner, same-sex (female) ex-partner etc. If carer is included, differentiating between partner carer, family member carer and non-family carer should be considered.
  - Type/s of Violence (mandatory for specialist victim and perpetrator services): standard list of options.

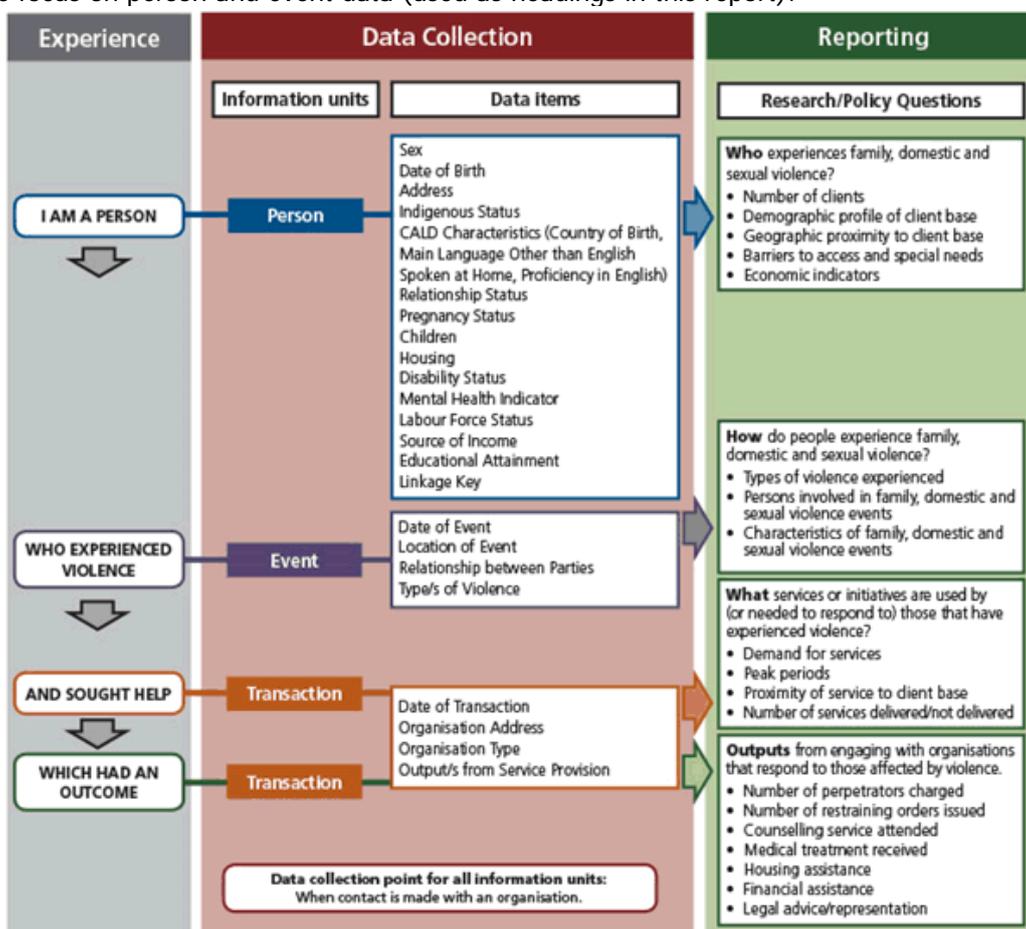
Developing a minimum dataset is more than identifying data items and data standards. It also requires staff training and changes to forms and ICT systems. Implementation of a minimum dataset also requires the same question be asked by all organisations, with the same response options and accompanied by the same explanation as to why the question is asked. This will ensure optimal data quality (ABS 2014). While it might be unrealistic for all organisations to begin implementing a minimum dataset immediately, implementation can be staged as ICT systems are upgraded or replaced. The development of the minimum datasets can, however, begin immediately. It is important to note that a minimum dataset does not preclude the collection of additional data items. The use of the minimum datasets should be mandated in funding agreements for the community sector. The community sector may require additional assistance to implement the changes.

A number of organisations are currently replacing their ICT systems including ACT Law Courts & Tribunal, ACT Corrective Services and Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS). Other organisations are considering whether to replace their ICT system in the near future. The Better Services Initiative is also developing a dataset. The development of new ICT systems and datasets provides a time limited opportunity to develop and begin implementing a minimum dataset for demographics in the ACT and to improve domestic and family violence data collection. If included in new ICT systems, these items would improve the evidence base for policy making on domestic and family violence in the ACT. To avoid missing this opportunity, data fields should be included now, even if not immediately used.

## Background

Information about domestic and family violence comes from two main data sources: administrative by-product and surveys. Administrative by-product is derived from government and community sector client and/or transaction records (ABS 2009). The advantage of administrative by-product is it uses existing data, in a timely manner. There is, however, a limit to the questions that can be answered by this data and its reliability depends upon its quality (ABS 2013a). This project focused on administrative by-product in the ACT.

The ABS recommends all organisations use the [Foundation for a National Data Collection and Reporting Framework for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) (2014) (the Framework) to improve domestic and family violence data collection. The framework is designed to guide organisations on the collection of administrative data by providing a structure for data collection activities; guidelines for collecting data items to ensure consistency; and advice on implementing data collection, storage and reporting. The purpose of collecting administrative data is to determine who experiences family violence; how they experience family violence; what services they use; and what services are provided. The framework provides a basis for exploring administrative by-product across the ACT, with the focus on person and event data (used as headings in this report):



The consultation for this project was undertaken between February and July 2016 and more than 60 organisations within the ACT government and community sector were consulted (Appendix A). A survey was also developed and disseminated to a broader set of ACT community sector organisations including those who participated in the Office for Women's ACT Domestic Violence Service System Gap Analysis survey.<sup>2</sup> The survey was also distributed via CDNet.

The survey sought to identify what domestic and family violence data is collected across the ACT and was opened on 6 May 2016 and closed on 22 May 2016. Following a request from the Elder Abuse Network, the survey was reopened on 1 June 2016 and closed on 14 June 2016. Forty-three (43) completed responses were received from 40 organisations (Appendix B). Follow-up consultation was undertaken with a number of survey respondents to collect additional information.

## Person Data Items Discussion

### ➤ Sex

Almost all organisations consulted collect 'Sex' and the data quality is said to be high. There is, however, some diversity in the options provided by organisations:

- male/female;
- male/female/other;
- male/female/undisclosed;
- male/female/unknown;
- male/female/unknown/indeterminate/not stated/not adequately described.

Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC), Care Financial Counselling and the Consumer Law Centre of the ACT (Care) and Relationships Australia (Canberra & Region) (RACR) also include intersex, transgender and gender diverse. CRCC collect sexuality data.

The ABS recommends the collection of the data item 'sex' while the Australian Government's preferred data item is 'gender' (Australian Government 2015). Whether sex or gender is collected, the Australian Government uses M (male), F (female) or X (Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified) while ABS use male or female. For sex and gender, the Sex and Gender Advisory Group (National LGBTI Health Alliance; A Gender Agenda; OII Australia; Transformative and Transgender Victoria) recommend the use of "non-binary" as a third option as it is "more inclusive and respectful" (OII Australia 2015; The Sex and Gender Advisory Group 2015). OII Australia also recommends the use of multiple choice in order to allow people who are both male and female to select both male and female (OII Australia 2015).

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Sex or gender: Male, Female, Non-binary (multiple answers allowed)

The experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) populations and family violence is "poorly understood" due to a lack of data and research in Australia, including the ACT (Greenhalgh & Roberts 2015; Mitra-Khan et al 2016; National LGBTI Health Alliance 2013 & 2014; State of Victoria 2016, p.150). According to the Women's Centre for Health Matters (WCHM), data collection on service use by LGBTI populations is good practice to improve services for those experiencing domestic and family violence (Greenhalgh & Roberts 2015). A quarter (26%) of survey respondents identified LGBTI as a priority population group of interest. This is significant given the limited representation of LGBTI organisations as survey respondents.

The ABS acknowledges that identifying populations of interest such as LGBTI is a priority but notes that there is currently no agreed standard for measuring this data item which is why it has not been included in their framework. In considering data collection for LGBTI populations, it is important not to conflate sex, gender and sexual orientation (see National LGBTI Health Alliance 2013) with no one data item able to encompass all LGBTI populations. The lack of data items is why no additional LGBTI

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<sup>2</sup> The Office for Women kindly provided the project with a copy of survey responses from the questions (20 & 21) on data collection for follow-up.

data items are included in the minimum dataset in this report. Working with, and consulting LGBTI populations and organisations, should be undertaken to ensure proper inclusion in data collection and the development of appropriate data items in the future.

#### ➤ **Date of Birth**

Almost all organisations consulted collect 'Date of Birth' and the quality of this data is said to be high. There is, however, some diversity in how it is recorded in different ICT systems.

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Date of Birth: DDMMYYYY

#### ➤ **Address**

Almost all organisations consulted collect 'Address' and the quality of this data is said to be high. There is, however, some diversity in how it is recorded in different ICT systems including suburb and/or postcode only; one data field for the address; and numerous data fields for the address e.g. number, street, suburb and postcode recorded separately.

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Address: standard data fields

#### ➤ **Indigenous Status**

Most organisations consulted with the exception of Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and ACT Law Courts & Tribunal collect 'Indigenous Status'. The most common options are Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or Both. Additional options include Neither, Unknown, Unknown/Not stated, Question not asked, Declined to answer, Not specified, Not stated and Not stated/Adequately described.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) *National best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets* provides useful information on the question; the response; how to ask the question; how to record responses; why the question is asked; and recommendations for staff training (AIHW 2010).

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Indigenous Status: Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Neither, Both, Not stated/Inadequately described

#### ➤ **CALD Characteristics**

Approximately three quarters of organisations consulted collect 'CALD Characteristics' in one form or another, however, for many, including ACT Policing, it is not compulsory or it is not always completed so the quality is variable and not as good as the above demographic data. This is problematic given the policy interest in this area. Data items and their data standards vary and multiple data items are often included:

- Non-English Speaking Background checkbox;
- Country of Birth (drop down box with list of countries; Australia or Other);
- Year first arrived in Australia;
- Ethnic Origin;
- Religion;
- Preferred Language;
- Interpreter Required checkbox;
- Interpreter Usage (Y/N and type);
- Language at Home;
- Main Language Spoken;
- Proficiency in English;

- Visa Type;
- Permanent Resident;
- Sponsored Migrant.

ANROWS notes that there is no one definition of CALD in Australia which is why the ABS recommends the use of country of birth; main language other than English spoken at home; and proficiency in English data items for 'CALD Characteristics'. Stakeholders consulted by ANROWS noted that CALD data collection is inconsistently collected and the limitations of collecting 'Country of Birth' without ethnicity or cultural background. The lack of data collection on visa types was also noted (Mitra-Khan et al 2016). A number of organisations consulted in this project noted the importance of visa types and commenced collecting this data after seeing a spike in numbers. This was primarily for spouse visas but one stakeholder also mentioned student visas. The importance of ethnicity or cultural background was also noted, particularly for second-generation migrants.

The Western Australia (WA) Government have published guidelines on CALD data collection for the WA public service to "facilitate effective planning and delivery" of services. The core set comprises country of birth; main language other than English spoken at home; and proficiency in spoken English. The other indicators are ancestry; birthplace of parents; first language spoken; languages spoken at home; main language spoken at home; religious affiliation; and year of arrival in Australia. The WA Government encourages the public service to collect the core data set and to identify and include other indicators as appropriate (Office of Multicultural Interests 2014).

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Country of Birth: list of countries
- Translator: Yes/No and Language: list of languages
- Visa Type (mandatory for specialist victim services): list of visas

#### ➤ **Disability Status**

CYPS, Conflict Resolution Service (CRS), CRCC, Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS), Housing, RACR, SHS, Toora Women Drug and Alcohol Service and Victim Support ACT collect 'Disability Status' in one form or another including:

- Disability disclosed checkbox;
- Yes/No;
- Yes/No with type (drop down list of options);
- Intellectual/Learning, Psychiatric, Sensory/Speech, Physical/Diverse, N/A;
- Difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses, difficulty hearing even if wearing hearing aid, difficulty walking on slope, difficulty remembering or concentrating;
- Alert for Text Difficulties, Hearing Impaired, Sight Impaired, Mobility Impaired;
- Need for help/supervision with activities in a life area (multiple parts and answers);

The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children recommend the improvement of data collection for people with disabilities (State of Victoria 2016; COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children 2016). ANROWS notes that the "definition of disability is highly contested, complex and multi-dimensional, with variation seen across a range of disciplines, organisations policy-makers, service providers and advocacy groups." To deal with the lack of consistent definition in Australia, stakeholders suggested self-identification and a human rights approach using the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* definition (Mitra-Khan et al 2016, p.9). Advocacy for Inclusion also recommends using self-identification and simply recording Yes/No would significantly increase the data on 'Disability Status' in the ACT.

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Disability Status: Yes/No

## ➤ Linkage Key

Data linkage is a technique for creating links within and between data sources so that information that relates to the same person or event can be connected. It transforms routinely collected data into a powerful resource for research and evaluation (Australian Early Development Census 2014). ACT Policing and the ODPP use the PROMIS Person ID, and SHS use a linkage key comprising a combination of given name, family name, sex and date of birth. No other linkage key is used in the ACT.

The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence acknowledged the benefits of linking family violence datasets including improving the evidence base for planning and service delivery and recommended the Victorian government explore options for data linkage (State of Victoria 2016). The Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland recommended that the Queensland Government prioritise the Single Person Identifier (SPI) project to better assess the effectiveness of the criminal justice system's response to domestic and family violence offenders. The unique identifier in the Queensland Police database is to be incorporated into other justice agency databases (Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland 2015).

Data linkage within the ACT criminal justice system was previously explored by the Justice and Community Safety (JACS) Directorate during the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) project involving ACT Policing, ODPP, Children's Court, Magistrate's Court, Supreme Court, Legal Aid, Victim's Services, Corrective Services and Youth Services Branch and the Office of the Community Advocate. The origins of the project date back to 1995 but received new focus in 2002 due to a 2001 election commitment. An IJIS would have the ability to track individuals through the entire criminal justice system as well as providing data for evidence based policy to deliver better safety outcomes for the community and better justice outcomes for victims and offenders. The project noted the lack of linkage key, lack of minimum dataset and different counting rules. The scope of this project was subsequently changed and the project renamed to the Criminal Justice Data Project (CJDP).

In 2002, SMS Management & Technology identified four options for an IJIS including a common system across all agencies; a central data repository or data warehouse; an upgrade of point to point electronic information exchange processes; and an integrated knowledge brokering system. The second option was recommended by SMS, preferred by the Data Reference Group and accepted by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) as providing the optimum solution:

- "It allows for the creation of a centralised data repository for research and analysis purposes (minimum data set) without disturbing existing operational systems. Consequently, disruption to business processes, change management and training costs are minimal;
- Allows for the capacity to track a person through the criminal justice system;
- Addresses ACT Policing concerns regarding security and retains accountability for data with each relevant agency;
- Solution is scalable to provide future functional benefits (for example, work flow and electronic brief management); and
- Represents best value for money with an estimated costs of between \$1.4M and \$1.7M" (SMS Management & Technology 2002, pp.5-6).

An electronic interface was established between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) network and the ACT Government network to allow secure sharing of data between ACT Policing and criminal justice agencies in the ACT. At present, the interface delivers data from ACT Policing to the ODPP and the ODPP to ACT Policing. There is capacity to implement additional data flows.

In 2003, and as part of the project, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) was engaged by JACS to undertake a pilot study on sexual assault and related offences data in the ACT. Stage 1 mapped a minimum data set on sexual assault and related offences. Stage 2 tracked 50 sexual assault cases through the criminal justice system. It was to be completed in six weeks but instead took eight months due to difficulties in linking the data, which was done manually. The AIC concluded that data linking within the ACT criminal justice system was time consuming and resource intensive.

The AIC recommended that system wide unique identifiers such as the PROMIS Person ID created by ACT Policing be mandatory fields for all criminal justice agencies (Borzycki 2007).

The IJIS project was not completed due to a lack of funding and other corporate priorities. A 2011 government brief noted that the 2002 recommendation remained relevant and that the identification of the data warehouse approach as the optimum solution remained convincing. This remains the case in 2017. Although there is currently no mechanism to link data across the ACT, the inclusion of standard linkage keys in the development of new databases (ACT Law Courts & Tribunal, ACT Corrective Services and CYPs databases) is the first step to future data linkage. The Better Services Initiative core data set also includes a linkage key to allow clients to be matched on a de-identified basis over time across the Better Services Initiative program activities and with other government data sets. Even if data linkage cannot be currently realised, including a linkage key will make it easier to facilitate in the future.

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Linkage Key: PROMIS Person ID for the ACT criminal justice system and another linkage key, potentially that used by SHS, for all others.<sup>3</sup> If PROMIS is replaced or upgraded in the future it should continue to use the PROMIS Person ID but also include the other linkage key to facilitate linking across systems.

#### ➤ Other Person Data Items

The remaining person data items ('Relationship Status'; 'Pregnancy Status'; 'Children'; 'Housing'; 'Mental Health Indicator'; 'Labour Force Status'; 'Source of Income'; and 'Educational Attainment') are almost non-existent in ICT systems. Where they do exist they have different ways to answer and record this information. 'Relationship Status' is collected by organisations which focus on relationships e.g. RACR. 'Children' is collected where children are the primary victim or offender or where they are included in applications e.g. Housing. 'Housing' is collected by organisations whose focus is housing and homelessness. 'Labour Force Status' and 'Source of income' are collected by organisations with financial eligibility criteria.

#### ➤ Data Quality

Organisations which reported higher quality data for demographics utilise some type of data quality check including automatic and manual checks. Other organisations who reported higher quality data regularly make staff aware, during team meetings, planning days or training, of how data is used and the importance of keeping quality data and/or train their staff on their responsibility as data collectors during induction. Lower quality data was associated with a lack of time spent on collecting data, particularly at intake or first contact; a lack of understanding of the relevance of data collection and how data is used, particularly where clients are in crisis; and ICT system limitations. One profession was highlighted by a number of organisations as "poor" data collectors who see data collection as irrelevant or unimportant to their job. Training provided to staff mostly involves how to use ICT systems and rarely includes a focus on the importance of good data collection and recording practices nor does it focus on definitions, what questions to ask and how to ask them.

A major challenge with data collection faced by the community sector is the different data requirements required by different funding sources. RACR is the closest to complying with the full set of person data items required in the ABS framework. This is likely due to the fact that RACR has 14 contracts from different federal, NSW and ACT government departments. Each contract has different data requirements making it challenging to collect, record and report on data. It often requires multiple fields per data item, requiring more time to input data and the potential for lower quality data if fields are missed. RACR also collects data for its own purposes.

Organisations that are mandated to use a particular database e.g. SHIP, may also collect their own data manually or use a second database. One community sector organisation advised that it takes 3.5

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<sup>3</sup> A two linkage key solution is recommended as a short term approach because the PROMIS ID is already a field used by ODPP and is an available field in the courts database. It could be added to Corrections' new database fairly simply.

hours to complete an assessment, 1.5 hours with the client and 2 hours on paperwork and data collection to comply with different funding agreements. When data becomes a burden, particularly in busy environments, there is a risk that data quality will reduce and/or time spent with clients. A minimum dataset across the ACT, at least, will not only provide more consistent, more comparable data but also aims to alleviate the data burden experienced by organisations. This is also an issue the ACT Government might wish to raise with other jurisdictions, particularly NSW.

## **Event Data Items Discussion**

### **➤ Domestic and Family Violence Data Items in the ACT**

Information on domestic and family violence in the ACT is primarily recorded in paper files or as free text in notes fields of ICT systems so it is not readily available or reportable. Of the organisations consulted, two thirds have a domestic and family violence data item in their ICT system. There is, however, considerable variety in the type of data item including flags, presenting issues and the reasons assistance were sought (see Appendix C for details). While most organisations record disclosures of domestic and family violence, some ask screening questions and others interpret the client's story.

The mapping exercise undertaken by the Office for Women in 2016 "revealed a significant absence of data collection in the ACT in relation to domestic violence, even amongst key agencies." Only 46% of their survey respondents keep data on the number of clients seeking support for domestic violence (Office for Women 2016, p.29). Similarly, the survey revealed a significant absence of data collection in the ACT in relation to domestic and family violence. This survey, however, was targeted more broadly. Only 29% of survey respondents who see clients (86%) have a flag, tick or checkbox for domestic and family violence in their ICT system while three respondents record this information in a spreadsheet (8%) and one respondent has a general "abuse/neglect" tick or checkbox (3%). Thirty-two percent of survey respondents can generate a report on domestic and family violence.

21% of agencies do not record any information on domestic and family violence while 37% record this information on a paper file and 58% record this information as free text in notes fields of ICT systems. Survey respondents provided a number of reasons why they do not collect domestic and family violence data including small sample size; lack of funding and time for extensive data collection; not required by funders; database limitations or lack of database; difficulty in identifying domestic and family violence within particular groups; irrelevant for referral or information services; policy requires paper files to be official files; and ACT Government has not mandated it. Confidentiality and privacy was also raised during the consultation as was client safety; the need for training on domestic and family violence before screening can be implemented and data recorded; and not wanting to record data unless the quality can be guaranteed.

The Office for Women supports mandatory data collection on domestic and family violence and the domestic and family violence death review in the ACT notes that it would be "particularly useful" to include a "flag" or "tick a box" into the databases of ACT Government and ACT Government funded service providers (DVPC 2016, p.10; Office for Women 2016). Of the survey respondents who see clients (86%), 97% work with clients who experience domestic and family violence; 84% work with clients who witness domestic and family violence; and 74% work with clients who use domestic and family violence. Therefore, the presence of a flag or checkbox, while useful, does not allow disaggregation of domestic and family violence data by victim, perpetrator and/or witness.

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Domestic and family violence: Yes/No, flag or checkbox.
- If the organisation deals with clients who use, experience and/or witness domestic and family violence: Yes, perpetrator; Yes, victim; Yes, witness; No (multiple answers allowed).

### **➤ Date & Location of Event**

The date of event is only recorded by the criminal justice system as they use transactional ICT systems. The date of event suggests domestic and family violence is one-off and fails to recognise the ongoing nature of coercive control. The Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme utilise a date range. Where violence is ongoing, an option is to record a start date and end date (if relevant). Only ACT Policing record the location of the event. It is not practical for most organisations, which utilise client databases and see clients who are experiencing ongoing violence, to record the date and location of event. As such, date and location of event is not recommended for the ACT's minimum dataset.

#### ➤ **Relationship between Parties**

ACT Policing, CRCC, CRS, DVCS, EveryMan Australia, RACR, Supportlink, the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme and Victim Support ACT collect information on the relationship between parties in one way or another but all have different data standards. For example:

- ACT Policing: Family – child; Family – immediate; Family – parent; Family – partner, spouse, etc; Family – sibling; Known non-family – ex partner; Known non-family – not ex partner; Known non-family – other; Person not known to victim; Relationship is not known; and Relative – not immediate family.
- DVCS: boyfriend, child, defacto, ex-boyfriend, ex-defacto, ex-girlfriend, ex-same sex partner, ex-spouse, ex-girlfriend, not stated, other person in the household, other relative, parent, same sex partner, sibling, spouse, step-child and step-parent.
- Victim Support ACT: family member, ex-partner, partner, known others, neighbour, not known and unspecified.

'Relationship between Parties' is a critical data item without which there is no understanding of the break down between domestic violence and family violence and the different types of family violence experienced in the ACT. The Office for Women also recommends that intimate partner violence is distinguished from other forms of violence (Office for Women 2016).

Recommended Minimum Dataset:

- Relationship between Parties: standard list of options (specify which way i.e. victim/witness to perpetrator e.g. wife or perpetrator to victim/witness e.g. husband). The options should be extensive, gender specific (as not all organisations record the sex or gender of both the victim/witness and perpetrator) and include same sex relationships. e.g. girlfriend, ex-girlfriend, wife, ex-wife, defacto wife, ex-defacto wife, same-sex (female) partner, same-sex (female) ex-partner etc. If carer is included, differentiating between partner carer, family member carer and non-family carer should be considered.

#### ➤ **Type/s of Violence**

'Type/s of Violence' is recorded in the criminal justice system as the offence or charge and only includes physical violence and property damage. CRCC and EveryMan Australia also record information on this but in different ways. Supportlink has five family violence indicators (verbal, physical, emotional, property and sexual) which ACT Policing can use. It is not clear if this is consistently and appropriately used by ACT Policing as they use the definition included in the *Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2008* not Supportlink categories to undertake their work. ACT Policing also do not formally use this data. CYPs record the type of abuse but because there is no 'Relationship between Parties' data item it is not possible to know whether the type of abuse is family violence except for 'Abuse – Emotional – Family/Domestic Violence'. DVCS are considering adding this data item to their ICT system. This information is useful to understand the types of violence experienced within different domestic and family relationships and can also provide information on where individuals who experience different forms of violence seek help or whether help is available for all types of violence.

Minimum Dataset:

- Type/s of Violence (mandatory for specialist victim and perpetrator services): standard list of options.

## ➤ Defining Domestic and Family Violence

There is no common and consistent definition of domestic and family violence in the ACT or Australia (ABS 2009; ABS 2013a; ABS 2013b; Mitra-Khan et al 2016; State of Victoria 2016) and definitions depend on context (ABS 2009; Gulliver & Fanslow 2012; State of Victoria 2016). According to the ABS, the two components of a definition are types of behaviour e.g. physical violence and types of relationships e.g. spouse (ABS 2013b). For a coordinated response to data collection, the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommends a “clear and shared understanding of what family violence is” (State of Victoria 2016, p. 143). It is questionable, whether there can ever be one definition underlying all data collection so the Council of Europe suggests it might be more reasonable to introduce uniform definitions in each area e.g. criminal justice system, health etc (Ruuskanen & Aromaa 2008).

The organisations consulted and surveyed were asked how they defined domestic and family violence. There was significant diversity in how it is defined. Many organisations do not define domestic and family violence or have a broad (unspecified) definition. Other definitions include reference to legislation (*Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2008* and the *Family Law Act 1975*); types of violence (physical, emotional, financial, verbal etc); or concepts of power and control. Many organisations rely on clients knowing what domestic and family violence is and disclosing it either spontaneously or during initial screening. Some organisations interpret client’s experiences as domestic and family violence. Given that professionals and community members do not always recognise domestic and family violence for what it is, especially non-physical forms (DVPC 2016), it is likely domestic and family violence is undercounted in the ACT. It is, therefore, important that professionals and the community know and understand what domestic and family violence is.

One way to do this is to have a territory wide definition of domestic and family violence. While developing a territory wide definition of domestic and family violence will be challenging, it is possible. The criminal justice system could adopt the new definition of family violence contained in the *Family Violence Act 2016* which is much broader than the current definition contained in the *Domestic Violence and Protection Orders Act 2008*. The remainder of the system could also adopt the *Family Violence Act* definition which could form the basis of staff training, community education programs, screening programs and data collection. The application of the definition would need to be inclusive to ensure the experiences of violence by different groups e.g. LGBTI, CALD, people with disabilities is captured (Mitra-Khan et al 2016).

## ➤ Data Quality

The organisations consulted and surveyed were asked about the quality of their domestic and family violence data. Higher quality data was associated with training on domestic and family violence, how to identify it and how to record it; experience in working with victims, perpetrators and/or witnesses of domestic and family violence; and domestic and family violence being a focus of their work e.g. specialist services and organisations who make it a focus of their work.

Organisations, particularly in the community sector, whose staff understand the importance of data collection reported higher quality data. This was facilitated through training, manuals/cheat sheets, team meetings and setting up a workgroup. Real life examples e.g. tracing funding to data was considered particularly useful for educating staff. The community sector provided many examples of the importance of data and how they used it including for assessing outcomes; monitoring trends; strategic and operational planning; developing new services or current services in a new way; seeking funding; policy and advocacy work; annual reporting; contract reporting; media engagement; and public forums or presentations.

Undercounting of domestic and family violence was attributed to a lack of understanding of domestic and family violence by staff and clients; definitional variations; insufficient time at intake; screening occurring at intake or first contact only and disclosures occurring later; ICT systems unable to record

further disclosures or staff not updating ICT systems following subsequent disclosures; and client's unwillingness to disclose due to privacy concerns, shame or other reasons.

### **Future Data Collection Ideas**

The following ideas for data collection were identified during the consultation but are by no means exhaustive.

#### **➤ ACT Government – ACT Health**

The 'Pre-Birth Alert' in the Birthing Outcome System (BOS) is ticked for domestic violence disclosures and CYPS notifications. This is the only reportable information on domestic and family violence across ACT Health. Screening for domestic and family violence occurs in parts of ACT Health but in different ways. The data is recorded on paper files or notes fields in ICT systems and is, therefore, not reportable. Women's Health Service records 'History of Trauma', which includes but is not limited to domestic and family violence, in an Excel spreadsheet and the ACTPAS database.

Canberra Hospital can capture some data on domestic and family violence on presentation to the Emergency Department (ED) e.g. primary diagnosis: assault and location: home. Inpatient data capture can also identify reasons for hospitalisation. A fracture is likely to be recorded as a fracture and, if recorded at all, any information on domestic and family violence would be in the paper file or notes field. ACT Health advised that for International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes to be applied to a patient's record the following has to occur:

1. Patients need to present at a hospital;
2. Patients would need to disclose that their injuries were caused by DV, or a practitioner during the course of their treatment would need to identify that this had occurred;
3. Practitioners would need to enter this information into the patient's clinical record;
4. The clinical coders who pick out what Disease codes to accurately apply to a patient's record use the recorded doctor's notes to do this. They would need to identify the DV issue within the patient's medical record and pick an 'X00... etc' code;
5. Data analysts need to be able to extract the relevant patient records (de-identified) who have the appropriate X00 disease codes.

A number of other jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand report on or will report on hospital admissions using ICD codes Assault X85 to Y09. The ACT could consult these jurisdictions on how to better implement the use of these codes, at least for hospitalisations where there is more time than the ED. Calvary Hospital are considering developing a domestic and family violence policy, trialling screening tools and amending their ICT system to record disclosures. There is an opportunity for ACT Health to collaborate with Calvary Hospital for a standardised approach to dealing with domestic and family violence within the health system.

MGAHIC, the Mental Health ICT system, is currently being upgraded and Alcohol & Drug Services will move onto this system. Alcohol & Drug Services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services both screen for domestic and family violence. The database upgrade provides an opportunity to include domestic and family violence data items. This also provides an opportunity to standardise screening across ACT Health. While ACT Health develop a domestic and family violence policy and screening tools de-identified information could be recorded in Excel spreadsheets. Where screening for domestic and family violence is undertaken, recording the number of screenings and disclosures would provide useful information for evaluating screening programs i.e. if screening is high and disclosures are low then ACT Health would need to determine why. It would also be useful for areas which are not currently screening but receive disclosures to also record numbers e.g. Social work at the Canberra Hospital, Child Health Targeted Support Services etc.

#### **➤ ACT Government – Community Services Directorate**

CYPS are replacing their ICT system providing an opportunity to improve data collection:

- CYPs currently code for 'Abuse – Emotional – Family/Domestic Violence'. It is not known whether the other abuse types e.g. neglect, physical, sexual etc are domestic and family violence. Including the data item 'Relationship between Parties' would identify domestic and family violence within each abuse type and provide insight into who is perpetrating the different types of abuse.
- Adopting the criminal justice system family violence flag in Youth Justice and including the data item 'Relationship between Parties' and PROMIS Person ID as a linkage key.

➤ **ACT Government – Education Directorate**

The Education Directorate and schools collect no data on domestic and family violence in any reportable way. Children are often absent from data collections and schools are a potentially rich source of data. Domestic and family violence can contribute to children failing to complete school or leaving early, school absences, poor performance and social issues. Developing a way to record this information in an ICT system would not only provide useful information for school staff and others to assist children but would also provide useful information to the ACT Government on the need for child-focused programs or gaps in the system around this.

➤ **ACT Government – Justice and Community Safety Directorate**

ACT Policing could make the existing 'Country of Birth' data item in PROMIS mandatory for victims and offenders. If viable, a mandatory 'Disability Status' data item (Yes/No) for victims and offenders should also be created. ACT Policing should update their 'Relationship Offender to Victim' data item once the standard list has been developed. This data item should then be adopted by the ODPP, ACT Courts & Tribunal and Corrective Services. The ODPP and ACT Law Courts & Tribunal do not record any diversity data e.g. 'Indigenous Status'. The ODPP and ACT Law Courts & Tribunal could consider adding diversity data items and receiving the data from ACT Policing.

Supportlink captures information on non-crisis referrals for family violence made by ACT Policing. It does not capture information on the presence of family violence for other referral types e.g. Alcohol & Drugs, homelessness, elder abuse, mental health etc. The addition of a family violence checkbox could remedy this and provide data for example on elder abuse referrals which occurred in the context of family violence or homelessness referrals which occurred due to family violence.

The ACT Law Courts & Tribunal are currently implementing a new ICT system, ICMS. No additional data will be collected, however, current data (imported from MAX) will be more easily interrogated using a Business Intelligence tool. This provides an opportunity to improve data collection:

- Adopting the criminal justice system family violence flag in the Supreme Court to capture information on more serious family violence charges (indictable offenses/greater than two years sentence).
- Including a 'Relationship between Parties' data item to determine the break-down of violence types e.g. partner violence, elder abuse, child abuse etc. For criminal cases, this data could be supplied by ACT Policing. For protection orders, the applicant would need to provide this data.
- The PROMIS Person ID is a field in MAX and ICMS, however, sometime in 1999 this data was no longer transmitted from ACT Policing. Populating the PROMIS Person ID from ACT Policing as a linkage key to determine recidivism and allow future data linkage.

Corrective Services are also sourcing a new ICT system providing an opportunity to improve data collection:

- Adopting the criminal justice system family violence flag and attaching it to the offence, not to the offender, to allow tracking through the criminal justice system. Data on the management of domestic and family violence offenders including program attendance is critical.
- Including a 'Relationship between Parties' data item to differentiate between domestic and family violence. This data could be supplied by ACT Policing.
- Including the PROMIS Person ID from ACT Policing as a linkage key.
- The Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) score and program data should also be included.

The ACT Ambulance Service could potentially add a domestic and family violence flag or code to their database (VACIS). There is already an assault field so another option is to add a 'Relationship between Parties' data item and paramedics could ask who assaulted them. The ACT Ambulance Service rightly notes that they would require a definition and paramedic training. Ambulance data is often used instead of hospital data in relation to mental health, self-harm, substance abuse and alcohol so this is a possibility.

#### ➤ **ACT Government – Shared Services**

All ACT Government enterprise/collective agreements include leave (paid and unpaid) for domestic violence purposes. Shared Services Human Resources uses general leave codes to maintain individual privacy. De-identified data such as the number of individuals; sex or gender, classification; section; type of leave; and length of leave could be recorded in an Excel spreadsheet and reported on annually. This data could be used for evaluation, particularly noting effects of any informational campaign on leave uptake.

Some ACT Government directorates run domestic and family violence training and keep data, others are considering running training. The domestic and family violence death review in the ACT recommended the development of a standard family violence training package for those in frontline service delivery (DVPC 2016). Keeping data on the number of participants and percentage of workforce trained is important and can be contrasted, over time, with number of disclosures to determine any impact. Shared Services Human Resources may have a role in collating and reporting on this data. The community sector should also consider keeping data on domestic and family violence training.

#### ➤ **Community Sector**

A number of community sector organisations, including Carers ACT, are currently considering how to record domestic and family violence. Care collect some data but are considering a standard domestic and family violence indicator and collecting data on the source of debts e.g. credit repair agencies, consumer leases etc. The ACT Women's Legal Centre also collect some data but are considering a standard domestic and family violence indicator for consistent use across all community legal centres in the ACT. This list is by no means exhaustive.

#### ➤ **Domestic and Family Violence Deaths**

The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network (Network) was established in 2011 and comprises representatives from established death review teams (Victoria, NSW, QLD, SA and WA). New Zealand and the ACT have observer status. The Network goals include, amongst others, national data collection and the identification of risk factors associated with domestic and family violence related deaths at a national level (NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team 2015, Appendix D). The Network has developed a preliminary data collection protocol for use by Network members. The goal of the protocol is to develop a staged standardised national dataset for all homicides that occurred in a domestic violence context. Stage 1 encompasses intimate partner homicides occurring in a domestic violence context. A minimum dataset for Stage 1 has been developed and is currently being trialled by NSW and Victoria. This data is being collated by the Network to contribute to national learning and information. ACT could contribute the data collected during its pilot review and data from any future reviews. While data on domestic homicides is available elsewhere, data on domestic violence homicides is not.

#### ➤ **Other Datasets**

The Department of Social Services Data (DSS) Exchange Framework is the new approach to program performance reporting in grant agreements and includes mandatory and extended data about clients as well as outputs and outcomes. It does not include any data items on domestic and family violence (Department of Social Services 2015). It is likely that domestic and family violence is an issue for

some clients receiving services funded by DSS. The ACT Government should consider advocating for the inclusion of domestic and family violence data items in the Exchange Framework.

There is no minimum dataset for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will keep data on participants centrally in a client record management system. It is likely that domestic and family violence will be an issue for clients receiving services under the NDIS. People with disabilities are often absent from data collections so this is a potentially rich source of data. The ACT Government should consider advocating for the collection of domestic and family violence data items by NDIS providers.

➤ **Websites**

There are numerous websites in the ACT which provide information on domestic and family violence such as the DVPC, DVCS, CRCC, EveryMan Australia, Women's Legal Centre, Victim Support ACT and the Community Services Directorate. The number of hits per website or page per day, month or year and the number of unique visitors can provide useful information, particularly noting any effects of a newspaper article, educational campaign or death.

## Appendix A: Consultation Participants

- ACT Health (Birthing Outcome System; Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; Child Health Targeted Support Services ; Community Health Intake; Drug and Alcohol Services; Management and Administration; MHAGIC Project; Performance Information; Perinatal Psychosocial Screening; Social Work Service, Canberra Hospital; Staff Development; Women's Health Service; Women, Youth and Child Health Policy; Women, Youth & Children Community Health Programs)
- ACT Human Rights Commission
- ACT Policing
- Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network
- Australian National University (Division of Student Life; Post-graduate and Research Students Association)
- Beryl Women
- Canberra Rape Crisis Centre & Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault
- Calvary Hospital
- Care Financial Counselling and the Consumer Law Centre of the ACT
- Carers ACT
- Centrelink
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (Training)
- Child Youth and Family Gateway
- Community Services Directorate (Child and Youth Protection Services; Housing; Training; Youth Justice)
- Conflict Resolution Service
- Domestic Violence Crisis Service
- Doris Women's Refuge
- Education and Training Directorate (Information and Communications Technology; Organisational Integrity; Social Worker; Training)
- Elder Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line (APRIL)
- Environment and Planning Directorate (Training)
- EveryMan Australia
- Family Court
- First Point
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate (ACT Law Courts & Tribunal; ACT Victims' Register; Corrective Services; Emergency Services Agency; Training)
- Karinya House
- Legal Aid ACT
- Menslink
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
- National Coronial Information System (NCIS)
- Northside Community Service
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- OneLink
- Relationships Australia (Canberra & Region)
- Shared Services (Human Resources; Training)
- Supportlink
- Territory and Municipal Services (Training)
- Toora Women (Drug and Alcohol Service; Supported Accommodation Service)
- Victim Support ACT (Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme; Victims Services Scheme)
- Women's Legal Service (ACT & Region)

## **Appendix B: Survey Participants**

- A Gender Agenda
- ACT Chinese Australian Association
- ACT Education Directorate
- ACT Shelter
- ADACAS
- Advocacy for Inclusion
- Alliance Family Law
- Alzheimers Australia ACT
- Argyle Housing
- Canberra Community Law
- Canberra Recovery Services
- Care Financial Counselling and the Consumer Law Centre of the ACT
- Carers ACT
- Child Youth and Family Gateway
- Companion House
- Conflict Resolution Service
- Connections ACT
- Doris Women's Refuge
- EveryMan Australia
- Families ACT
- Farrar Gesini Dunn
- Headspace
- Housing ACT
- Integral Counselling Services
- Karinya House
- Marymead Child and Family Centre
- Menslink
- Multicultural Youth Services
- National Council of Women of ACT
- Navitas English
- Northside Community Service
- Pappas J Attorney
- Prisoners Aid ACT
- Public Trustee and Guardian
- Ted Noffs Foundation
- Toora Women
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
- Woden Community Service
- Women with Disabilities ACT
- Women's Centre for Health Matters

## Appendix C: Family and Domestic Violence Data Items in the ACT

ACT Health (ACTPAS)	N	n/a
ACT Health (BOS)	Y	Pre-Birth Alert (DV disclosures and CYPS notifications)
ACT Human Rights Commission	N	n/a
ACT Policing	Y	FV flag @ incident and apprehension in PROMIS SPT database includes date DVO received and date DVO served Family Violence Offenders Excel spreadsheet Case Tracking Word document
Australian National University	N	n/a
Beryl Women (SHIP) <sup>4</sup>	Y	Reason for seeking assistance & Main reason for seeking assistance (victim/s only): the client reported 'domestic and family violence' as a reason for seeking assistance, or the client was assessed as having a need for 'domestic or family violence assistance'
CRCC & SAMSSA (Casetrack 2.0)	Y	History of Assaults: intimate partner sexual assault and domestic violence
Calvary Hospital	N	n/a
Care Financial Counselling and the Consumer Law Centre of the ACT (Custom)	Y	Cause of difficulty: DV (financial counselling) and Relationship Debt & DV (solicitors)
Carers ACT	N	n/a
Centrelink <sup>5</sup>	Y	Social work referrals due to FDV Crisis payment due to FDV
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (Training)	n/a	If training is run, numbers are collected
Child Youth and Family Gateway (Excel spreadsheet): now OneLink	Y	FDV is colour coded includes sex of victim and perpetrator
CSD: Child and Youth Protection Services (CHYPS)	Y	Type of Abuse: Abuse – Emotional – Family/Domestic Violence
CSD: Housing (HOMENET)	Y	Application including transfers: Yes/No, if Yes: Is there an AVO or DVO in place? (AVO, DVO, Interim, No, Other) and Start and End dates of the Order Reasons for priority approval: Women with children escaping domestic violence and Children at risk of abuse or neglect Separate budget code for security upgrades due to FDV
CSD: Training	Y	Number of sessions, number of participants and their division and the provider
CSD: Youth Justice (YJIS)	N	n/a
Conflict Resolution Service (Custom)	Y	Flag
DVCS (Custom)	Y	Person subjected to violence (PSV), person using violence (PUV) and anonymous (multiple)
Doris Women's Refuge (SHIP)	Y	Reason for seeking assistance & Main reason for seeking assistance (victim/s only): the client reported 'domestic and family violence' as a reason for seeking assistance, or the client was assessed as having a need for 'domestic or family violence assistance'
Education and Training	N	n/a

<sup>4</sup> The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports annually on the reasons for seeking assistance and the main reasons for seeking assistance (total number of clients, number of females, number of males and percentage of clients). This data is also aggregated by state and territory (see AIHW 2016, Table 13 and Table 14). Other data can be requested from AIHW and charges apply. SHS providers report to the Community Services Directorate, who could potentially collate the data.

<sup>5</sup> To access this data, a Business Information Requirement (BIR) must be completed and charges may apply.

Directorate		
Education and Training Directorate (Training)	Y	New DV section (highly recommended only) included in online "mandatory reporting" training: Principals monitor compliance rates of their individual school
Elder Abuse Prevention Referral and Information Line (APRIL)	N	n/a
Environment and Planning Directorate (Training)	n/a	If training is run, numbers are collected
EveryMan Australia (IVO )	Y	Counselling, Personal Support and Preventing Violence, Managing Anger: -Commit Violence (Type and By/To) -Family Conflict, Cultural Issues, Dysfunctional Relationship, Parent/Adolescent, Carer (Adult/Child, Partner, Parent)
EveryMan Australia (SHIP): Working with the Man	Y	All clients are perpetrators FV Alert if there is a safety risk
Family Court <sup>6</sup>	Y	Parenting Cases: Notice of Child Abuse, Family Violence or Risk of Family Violence Magellan cases (allegations of serious physical abuse or sexual abuse of a child)
First Point (SHIP): now OneLink	Y	Yes/No (Prioritisation Profile)
JACS: ACT Law Courts & Tribunal – ACAT	N	n/a
JACS: ACT Law Courts & Tribunal – civil (MAX & ICMS)	Y	DVO numbers
JACS: ACT Law Courts & Tribunal – criminal (MAX & ICMS)	Y	FV flag (Children's Court and Magistrate's Court only)
JACS: ACT Law Courts & Tribunal – criminal (Sentencing)	N	n/a
JACS: ACT Victims' Register (Excel spreadsheet)	Y	FV offences noted but not for official purpose
JACS: Corrective Services (JOIS)	N	n/a
JACS: Corrective Services Domestic Abuse Program (Excel spreadsheet)	Y	All participants are perpetrators
JACS: ESA – ACT Ambulance Service (VACIS)	N	n/a
JACS: Training	Y	Number of sessions and number of participants (demographics as per JACS Staff Development Application Form)
Karinya House (SHIP)	Y	Reason for seeking assistance & Main reason for seeking assistance (victim/s only): the client reported 'domestic and family violence' as a reason for seeking assistance, or the client was assessed as having a need for 'domestic or family violence assistance'
Legal Aid ACT (Lexis® Visualfiles)	Y	FDV flag (Helpline, Face to Face advices, Minor Assistance and Advocacy) Matter code for Domestic Violence Order (General/Civil), Breach of order type offences (Criminal – includes both DVO and PPO) and Appeal DVO/PPO (Family Law – includes both DVO and PPO)
Menslink (Excel)	Y	Presenting issues: FV (victim), FV (perpetrator) and FV (both)

<sup>6</sup> The Family Court advised that for a number of reasons this is a poor indicator of domestic and family violence in the ACT.

spreadsheet)		Other issues: sexual abuse, physical abuse and family breakdown
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)	N	n/a
National Coronial Information System (NCIS)	N	External assault cause of death + Perpetrator Relationship = domestic homicide
Northside Community Service (SHIP)	Y	Reason for seeking assistance & Main reason for seeking assistance (victim/s only): the client reported 'domestic and family violence' as a reason for seeking assistance, or the client was assessed as having a need for 'domestic or family violence assistance'
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (CASES)	Y	FV flag for matters
OneLink (SHIP)	Y	Yes/No (Prioritisation Profile)
Relationships Australia (Canberra & Region) (Penelope)	Y	FDV Year – Perpetrator or Risk of Harm Year – Victim generates FV flag Presenting issues (maximum three): 0.1 Family Violence Safety (either perpetrator or victim) Safety Concern check box
Shared Services (Human Resources)	N	Paid DV leave: Other Leave (OTH) Unpaid DV leave: Leave not Elsewhere (U-NP)
Shared Services (Training)	N	n/a
Supportlink	Y	Non-crisis FV referral: Domestic & Family Violence (Offender): adult female or adult male; Domestic & Family Violence (Victim): adult female, adult male or victim has requested not to be referred to DVCS
Territory and Municipal Services (Training)	Y	Number of sessions, number of participants and provider
Toora Women Drug and Alcohol Service (rediCASE)	Y	FDV Alert
Toora Women Supported Accommodation Service (SHIP)	Y	Reason for seeking assistance & Main reason for seeking assistance (victim/s only): the client reported 'domestic and family violence' as a reason for seeking assistance, or the client was assessed as having a need for 'domestic or family violence assistance'
Victim Support ACT: Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme (Custom)	Y	Offence: DV Assault (all types of behaviours not just assault) Home Violence Alert
Victim Support ACT: Victims Services Scheme (Custom)	Y	Type of victim: other FV FV check box
Women's Legal Service (ACT & Region) (CLISIS)	Y	FDV indicator FDV as a problem

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