

HOPE VALE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN

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Background

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders readers are warned that the following report contains references to deceased persons.

History

Hope Vale is situated on the Cape York Peninsula and is 46 kilometres northwest of Cooktown. The community is within the traditional lands of the Guugu Yimithirr people which spans from the Annan River south of Cooktown, north to the Jeannie River and west to Battle Camp.

In 1986 the community became the first to receive a Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) and formed the Hope Vale Aboriginal Council.

The Hope Vale population is comprised of 13 clan groups including the Dhuppi Thuubi, Nukgal Nugal, Binthi Binhthi, Thitharr Thiithaarr, Dharrpa, Ngayumbarr- Ngayumbarr Nguymbaarr- Nguymbaarr, Dingaal, Ngururumungu Nguurruumungu, Thaanil Thanil, Gamaay, Ngaatha and Burunga Clans.

Hope Vale Congress Aboriginal Corporation is a representative body for the 13 clan groups. The body is comprised of members from each clan deciding on matters relating to land management for their respective clan group areas.

In addition to these clans, the community is made up of the Guugu Yimidhirr speaking peoples, the Yiidhuwarra Yiithuwarra (traditional owners of Barrow Point, Flinders Island, and the South Annan), the Bagaarmugu, Muunthiwarra, Juunjuwaara and Muli people plus the Gungarde and Bulgoon Bulgun people from the south, the Kings Plain's Thukuun Jugun Warra people and the Sunset Yulanji people from the Maytown area. The most common Indigenous language spoken in Hope Vale is Guugu Yimithirr. ⁽¹⁾

Background

In May 2021, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council secured funding through the Local Thriving Communities Fund to develop an approach to domestic and family violence (DFV). These funds were used to create a future Cool Down facility for men who use violence and to develop a DFV Action Plan. In October 2023, Council engaged the services of WorkHaven to develop this Plan.

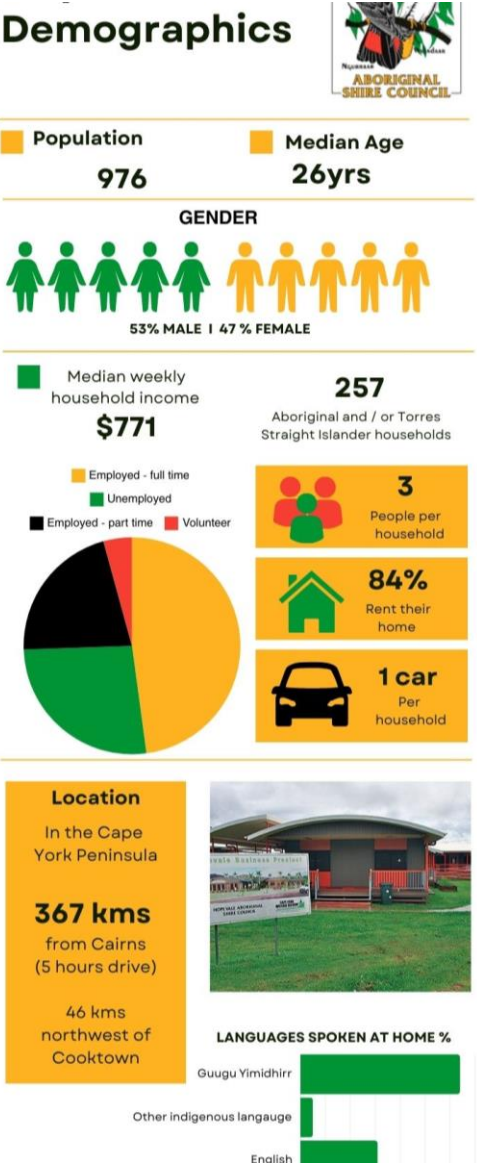
In October 2023, WorkHaven visited Hope Vale and Cooktown to speak with local stakeholders to better understand the causes of domestic and family violence, map the current services available and identify any gaps. They also spoke to other stakeholders after their visit to gain a deeper understanding.

In February 2024, a workshop was held in Hope Vale with many of the stakeholders (*see appendix 1 for list of attendees*). The purpose of the workshop was to agree the drivers of violence, confirm the availability of existing services and agree opportunities to improve the local response to reduce the impact and incidence of DFV.

Following this workshop, the draft DFV action plan was developed. This plan includes an outline of the drivers of violence in Hope Vale and a range of initiatives and activities to address these issues.

Relevant statistics

Hope Vale demographics



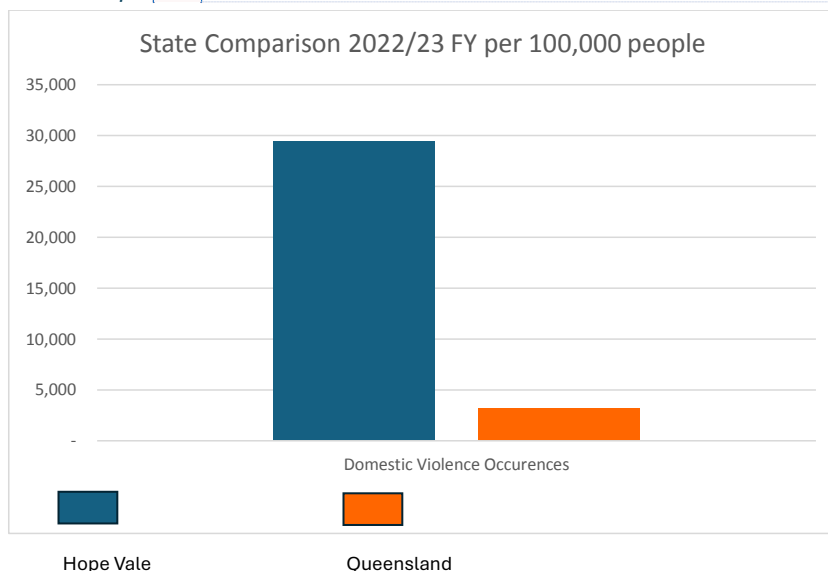
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DFV amongst First Nations Peoples – National Data

1. In the period 2017–18, just over 2 in 5 Indigenous homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner, with Indigenous female victims more likely (89%) to be killed this way than Indigenous men (24%).	2. 3 in 5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have experienced physical or sexual violence perpetrated by a male intimate partner.
3. <i>According to a study, between 2010–14, despite representing around 3.3% of the Australian female population, First Nations women represented 22% of domestic violence femicide victims.</i>	4. Almost 6 in 10 (57%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who had experienced family and domestic violence were physically injured.
5. First Nations women across Australia experience violence and assault disproportionately and at high rates compared with non-Indigenous women. First Nations women are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence, and 11 times more likely to die due to assault than non-Indigenous women	

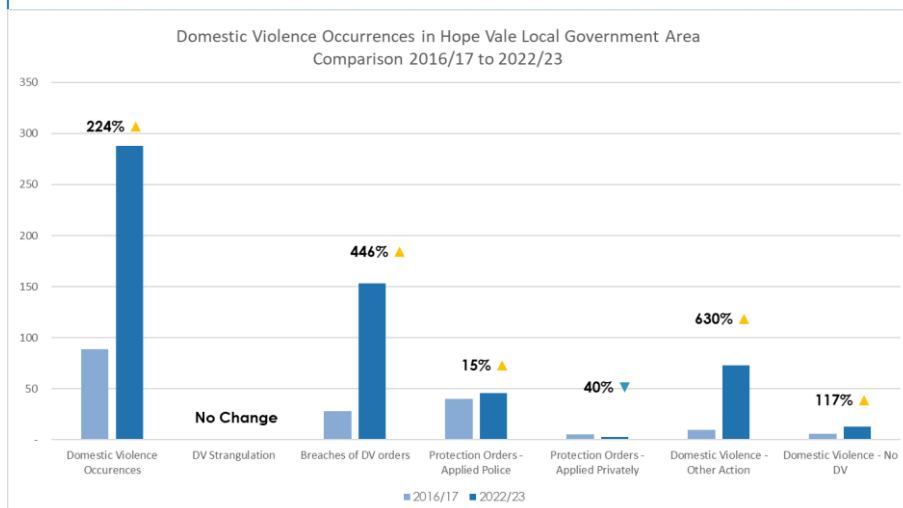
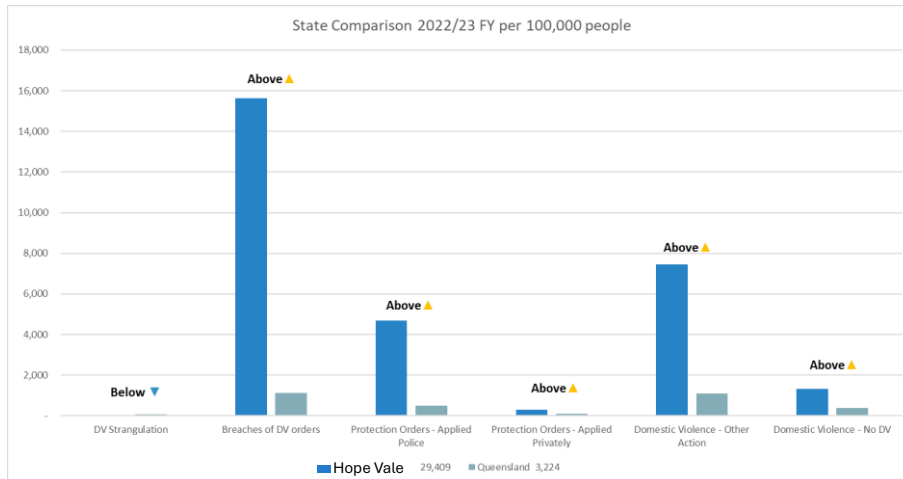
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DFV in Hope Vale



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Since 2016/17 in the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council LGA:

- 224% increase in occurrences and police call outs
 - Could be explained as an escalation in offences and/or by improved practices by Police in dealing with callouts around DFV.
- No change/occurrences of DFV Strangulations
 - The offence of strangulation in a domestic setting was introduced in 2016 and includes choking, suffocation or strangulation. Non-fatal strangulation is a key indicator of repeat and escalating DFV and a red flag for further serious harm, increasing risk of homicide by up to 800%. More than 98% of strangulation cases finalised in Queensland courts involved male offenders, according to data from the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council.

- 446% increase in breaches of Protection Orders
 - Increases in Protection Order breaches may reflect an escalation in offences but may also be explained by changes in reporting practices, greater understanding by the public of what constitutes a breach, and changes in the way police respond following enhanced training.
- 15% increase in protection orders made by Police and 40% decrease in protection orders made Privately to Court
 - Protection order applications are either issued by police or privately made to the court to stop threats or acts of DFV and following consideration by the Court it is either dismissed or becomes a DFV Order and sets out the rules that the 'respondent' (the person who has committed domestic violence) must obey. It is designed to keep the 'aggrieved' (the person who has experienced the violence) safe by making it illegal for the respondent to behave in specific ways.
 - DFV orders do not become a criminal offence or appear on the respondent's criminal history except in the event they are breached, in which case the court can decide to record a conviction for the offence and a maximum penalty of 5 years jail.
- 630% increase in DV other actions
 - DV Other actions means that police were unable to establish enough evidence to make a Protection Order, but the case remains open and can be built upon. In these instances, referrals are still made by police to support services.
- 117% increase in No DV
 - "NO DV" occurrences are when police attend a location where DV was alleged to have occurred and investigations reveal that the persons involved are not in a relevant relationship as defined under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, or the actual incident does not meet the requirements of domestic violence under the Act.

Recommendations for practitioners and service providers

A range of research has been undertaken and standards have been developed in relation to DFV and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples. This work can provide valuable insights to form an effective response to DFV in Hope Vale and can also provide assistance in developing a framework for implementation and measurement of DFV prevention and awareness activities. A summary of relevant research and standards is outlined below.

Safe, Respected and Free from Violence NT Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation, Larapinta Child and Family Centre, and italk Studios ANROWS research.

The Northern Territory stands out with the highest rates of domestic, family, and sexual violence in Australia, with Aboriginal women among the most victimized groups globally. This report delves into the evaluation of two community projects within the NT, aimed at combating violence against women by reshaping attitudes towards them. ^(11a)

Led by Indigenous communities, these projects exhibit some success in challenging gender stereotypes. Employing a mixed method approach, the evaluation gauges the projects' impact on participants' views on gender, violence, and Aboriginal culture, alongside assessing the effectiveness of resources and media in conveying anti-violence, anti-racist, and gender-equitable messages.

From this evaluation, recommendations have been made, tailored to the studied projects with potential applicability to similar community-driven primary prevention initiatives.

- Use more explicit and accessible messaging to target and challenge highly entrenched attitudes and beliefs, such as the justification of violence, jealousy, and the misconception that traditional Aboriginal cultures are inherently gender inequitable and/or condone Violence Against Women.
- Increase the accessibility of resources and materials and ensure they are disseminated using a range of platforms (social media, print media, digital media).
- Educate, raise awareness and increase understanding of Violence Against Women in the community, especially regarding the drivers of Violence Against Women and the promotion of gender equality as a means to prevent VAW.

These recommendations reinforce the need for relevant communications and education programs to be undertaken in Hope Vale as detailed later in this Action Plan.

Our Way

Our Way outlines a framework for transformational change that will occur over the next 20 years.

It represents a long-term commitment by the Queensland Government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to work together to improve the life outcomes of vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and set the right conditions so each child can reach their full potential and thrive.

Parents, with support from families and communities, have the primary responsibility and accountability for raising their children and keeping them safe. Setting expectations, attitudes, norms and behaviours that reinforce parental and family responsibilities, and that do not tolerate violence, abuse or neglect, are an essential part of our strategy.

This approach illustrates the need for support in relation to youth and parenting as outlined later in this action plan. ⁽¹²⁾

ANROWS report - Overarching principles for responses across the service system

This 2022 ANROWS report, recommended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led centres for healing for all members of the family in each state. ⁽¹³⁾

A 2020 report called *Dreaming Big* by the Healing Foundation, collated a series of statements from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and was based on recommendations of building effective strategies that provide support, guidance and culturally appropriate resources for each mob. ^(13a)

Strategies that can also support non-Indigenous people and service providers to provide better service and be culturally competent. Relevant insights include:

1. Allowing mob to grieve in a cultural way and not a western way.

Bidjara, Kamilaroi, Gunggari, Kooma, female, adult, Coolabine, 4574

2. Having healing opportunities to share your experiences in a safe cultural way. Sometimes it's not about what you can resolve, but it's about listening and understanding. Most times Silence is the key to Healing and help the individual and community to grow through their changed behaviour and actions in moving forward.

Wakka Wakka and Wangan, male, adult, Aspley, 4034

3. Our own culturally safe places that create opportunity to gather in community or to go bush to reflect and regather ourselves. Let it be run by Elders.

Kabi Kabi, female, adult, Granite Vale, 4815

These recommendations and insights align with the Connecting to Culture recommendations outlined below.

Aligning with Queensland Police Services - Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2023-2025

This strategy is part of the broader Queensland Government systemic and legal reform to ensure Queenslanders are kept safe from DFV and that perpetrators are held to account in response to the Taskforce's recommendations in Report One.

The reforms aim to support First Nations peoples, people with disability, children and young people, older people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people who identify as LGBTIQ+.

- Enhance integrated relationships with DFV support services and partner agencies to develop best-practice responses to DFV.
- Enhance collaboration and integration with partner agencies, in line with the QPS Engagement Strategy, to deliver effective responses and achieve positive outcomes for victim survivors and address perpetrator behaviour.
- Collaborate with the DFV service sector and partner agencies to deliver an integrated service to protect victim survivors and hold perpetrators to account.
- Expand innovative victim survivor support models across QPS regions.
- Promote the referral of DFV victim survivors, including children victim survivors, to appropriate specialist support services.
- Increase understanding of intersectional characteristics and vulnerabilities for members of the community who identify as First Nations peoples, culturally or linguistically diverse (CALD), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and questioning (LGBTIQ+), older people, and people with a disability.

These recommendations reflect the need for education and communications programs, integrated approach to services and connection to culture recommendations later in this plan. ⁽¹⁴⁾

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap has 19 national socio-economic targets across 17 socio-economic outcome areas that have an impact on life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Targets are specific and measurable goals that will be monitored to show how progress is being made across each of the outcome areas.

Target 13 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap states that:

By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced by 50%, as progress towards zero.

It is important that DFV prevention and awareness activities in Hope Vale align with the following [Closing the Gap](#) targets to ensure that the work in Hope Vale is consistent with a broader approach. The relevant targets are:

- Everyone enjoys long and healthy lives
- Adults are not over-represented in the criminal justice system
- Children are not over-represented in the child protection system
- Families and households are safe
- People enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing
- People have access to information and services enabling decision -making regarding their own lives. ⁽¹⁵⁾

DFV Prevention Council agreement

On 20 November 2023 the Mayors of the remote Far North Queensland communities of Cooktown, Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal signed a pledge as they formed a joint regional taskforce to address domestic and family violence in the region.

The Growing Respect Taskforce acknowledges the common issues and opportunities faced across the three local government areas and cements a shared objective to bring about cultural and attitudinal change.

The Taskforce will do this by increasing awareness and reinforcing intolerance of domestic and family violence and growing respectful relationships, including by:

- developing and promoting shared key messages to provide an accurate understanding of the nature, prevalence, causes and effects of domestic and family violence
- encouraging integrated and collaborative primary prevention responses that assist in community-driven early interventions.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council members joined previous Mayors Peter Scott, Bradley Creek and Jason Woibo for the signing of the historic pledge. This commitment and collaborative approach should be factored into the DFV action plan to ensure Hope Vale aligns with other Councils in the region to share an approach, learnings and resources.

Consultation process

To ensure the DFV Action Plan matched the specific needs of the Hope Vale community, engagement was undertaken with a broad range of stakeholders to better understand the drivers of violence in Hope Vale, to map the landscape of current organisations and programs that service this area in relation to DFV, to identify gaps and to agree a collective approach. This was undertaken with the support of the Local Thriving Communities Coordinator that is employed by the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council.

The stakeholders were comprised of government and community organisations that are either based on or service the local area. These include the following:

Organisation	Location
Hope Vale Justice Group Hope Vale Thurrpiil Community Justice Group	Hope Vale
Family Responsibilities Commission	Hope Vale
Apunapima Apunipima	
Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy	Hope Vale
Queensland Police Service	Hope Vale
Cooktown Hospital	Hope Vale
O Hub Opportunity Hub	Hope Vale
Cooktown District Community Centre	Cooktown
Cooktown Women's Shelter	Cooktown
Department of Corrections Queensland Corrective Services	Cooktown
Department of Child Safety	Cooktown
Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts	Cooktown
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	Hope Vale
Blue Care Cape York Family Centre	Hope Vale
Pama Futures	The Cape
My Pathway	Hope Vale
Alliance of Guugu Yimithirr People	Hope Vale

The engagement included one-on-one conversations plus a collective workshop in Hope Vale.

Current situation in Hope Vale

Several themes emerged during conversations with the above stakeholders. These anecdotal themes are outlined below and have been considered in the development of relevant activities to address DFV in Hope Vale.

DFV prevalence

- *DFV is the largest reason for calls to police and everything else is secondary. DFV will always get an officer called out. On average, there are two call outs per day, including assaults and wilful damage (usually mobile phone or car). There are also regular street fights and clan fights that overlap with DFV.*
- *95% of offenders are male perpetrators but women can play a part in antagonising the situation.*
- *DFV is the leading cause of injuries in the area. It is entrenched behaviour coming from generations.*
- *There is a high-risk of violence for women across mental, physical and emotional abuse.*
- *A large majority of perpetrators grew up in violence*
- *Approximately 55% of DFV offenders are repeat.*
- *There is approximately a 17.5% undercount of Indigenous Australians – not wanting to fill in form, not speaking for another family in the house. Therefore, the population of Hope Vale is greater than government figures – more like 1200-1500. This is because the census takes place in term time and students may be away to study.*
- *DFV occurs within a broad age group from early teens to mid-late 40's.*

Drivers of violence and contributing local issues

Drivers of Violence

To develop a relevant and meaningful approach to DFV in Hope Vale, it is important to understand the drivers/causes of the violence. The following drivers of violence were outlined in stakeholder engagement:

Driver	Explanation
Alcohol and drugs	Excess alcohol or drugs can exacerbate or inflame a situation. As people's inhibitions are numbed, this can lead to violence and abuse.
Money (too much/too little)	Money stressors can add to tension in a relationship, which can lead to violence. Also, when money is plentiful, this may be spent on drugs, alcohol or gambling, which may exacerbate the situation.
Jealousy and possessiveness	People being jealous of the other person and their interaction with others can lead to arguments and tension, which can then lead to violence.
Boredom	People feeling frustrated or lost and potentially spending a lot of time together without healthy space can lead to disputes.

Unemployment	Unemployment can cause people to feel bored, struggle with self-worth, encounter financial issues. All of these things can contribute to friction in a relationship, which may lead to DFV.
Lack of understanding of DFV	People may not understand DFV, and which behaviours constitute violence, particularly when actions are not physical. And so, they might be using DFV but not recognise or address it as such.
DFV not taken seriously/accepted	DFV in Hope Vale is currently a prevalent issue and some members of the community have become desensitised to the violence, meaning it is overlooked or normalised and so people do not step in to address it.
Learnt behaviour	A person using violence may have witnessed it during their childhood. It can become a learnt behaviour that is considered a normal part of a relationship.
Close proximity in community	Hope Vale is a small community, and in most cases, there is only one of each community facility. This means there is a high likelihood of the parties in a DFV situation seeing each other on a regular basis, and this can prolong and exacerbate the violence.
Intergenerational trauma	Children who are exposed to violence are highly likely to be impacted by or use violence in their adult relationships. Furthermore, the broader trauma experienced by some community members in Hope Vale has caused emotional and mental distress and illness, which can lead to DFV.
Lack of personal responsibility	People not recognising their behaviour and taking responsibility to address it and make changes.
Housing scarcity/overcrowding/not appropriate for needs	There is a housing shortage in Hope Vale, which means there can be overcrowding in some homes. This can create tension, which leads to violence. It can also mean there is nowhere locally for a person who is involved in the violence to go, either to get a break from the violence or to leave permanently.
Gambling	A person may choose to spend household finances on gambling without consulting their partner, and this can lead to household disputes. The stress caused by a lack of money due to gambling can also contribute to the DFV.
Mental health challenges and low self-worth	If a person is experiencing depression, anxiety, low self-worth or confidence or other mental health challenges, this can lead to them behaving in an abusive manner, including DFV.

Control	DFV is caused by the misuse of power and control. If a person needs control over another, this can manifest through DFV.
Lack of relevant support or awareness of support available	Some people do not reach out for assistance because they may not realise it is available or relevant to their situation, or there may not be the right support available.
Bullying at school spilling out to community and vice-versa	Conflict may begin at the school and then spill out into broader family life. It can also start outside school, but then leave to disputes and bullying amongst children in the school.
Parenting stressors	The stress and needs of parenting can add pressure to a household, which can then lead to DFV.
Victim of Crime funding	People may be driven to report DFV to gain the Victims of Crime payment.
Lack of transport/arguments over transport	Transport in Hope Vale can be problematic and there is very limited public transport to Cooktown. This can be another source of conflict, which may lead to violence.
Arguments over custody arrangements and child support payments	DFV may extend beyond a separation, as parents can clash over custody arrangements and child support payments.
Social media and revenge porn	A DFV situation may be started or inflamed by content on social media, which may expose or belittle a person and also enables the broader community to become involved. In some instances, intimate photos and videos are shared as a way to gain revenge on the other party and this can also aggravate the situation.
Natural disasters	The stress and upheaval of natural disasters can lead to DFV.
Time of year (Christmas, sporting events etc.)	There are certain times of the year when people spend more time together, increased alcohol may be consumed, there may be more gambling and other causal factors, and this can lead to a local spike in DFV.
Lacking cultural connections	Some members of the Hope Vale community feel disconnected from their culture, and elements of the culture have fractured. This disconnection can lead to sadness and stress, which may lead to violence. It may also mean that a person does not have access to traditional methods of therapy, guidance and healing.

Communication issues	Toxic communications, including name calling, body shaming and racial discrimination or a lack of communication.
Family disputes and elder abuse	Inter-family or extended family conflict can cause or feed into the issues.
Lack of understanding about women	Not understanding about women's needs and rights in relation to their bodies and sex.

Contributing local factors

A range of themes emerged from the stakeholder engagement as follows:

Attitudes to DFV

DFV isn't taken seriously – it is accepted but not understood. Much of the violence goes unreported and is often minimised. Often families become defensive and justify their actions. Elders used to interrupt DFV, but now its normalised, even viewed as entertainment. DFV is accepted but not understood. The community has lost respect in recent years due lost elders, the amount of ongoing violence and issues being perpetuated by social media.

To make a significant change, there needs a whole of community approach in Hope Vale.

There is often a resistance to reporting DFV and the community needs to encourage people to step forward and seek support.

There is lots of unseen DFV within the community, including elder and financial abuse. A lot comes back to money, including abuse of NDIS funding and praying on people who are illiterate.

There are dormant trauma issues in Hope Vale that trigger violence and there has been no time for emotional healing.

In many cases, a person may try to address their violence and associated behaviour, but they get pulled back into old patterns of behaviour by other members of the community.

In Hope Vale, there are community politics around people and clans and conflicts amongst clans can feed into the violence.

Sadly, in many cases there is a sense of despondency and uncertainty in Hope Vale – the community wants to address DFV, but they don't know how to do so effectively.

Finances and employment

From a financial perspective, the landscape is mixed in Hope Vale. Some family groups get royalties. Money that isn't earnt doesn't mean as much. The money comes and goes – no saving for a rainy day. When the big royalty payments come in (lost wages etc), new cars may be bought, money goes quickly.

There is a big difference in families that work and those who don't. Training and employment opportunities are key to getting people out of the house, not drinking etc. if people are motivated and out doing things, we see a big difference.

There is employment in community, although not jobs for everyone. Transport is a big one. Even if they have the skills and jobs available, people may not be able to afford to run a car or afford petrol. No transport between the two.

Unemployment impacts more men than women. We have a higher percentage of men, but this is probably because the women are looking after the kids.

When there was CDEP, everyone got paid on the same day. People's work may have been interrupted by 2 days drinking and then they returned to work. Now they can collect money every day and funds are spread across the community, which means alcohol can be bought all week.

Elder abuse within the community is often financial, for example grandchildren may transfer money from their grandparents and then abuse or intimidate their elders if they don't give them more money. Some of this money may come from stolen generation redress scheme.

For some people, the basic card works well. It enables people to spend their funds on healthy items and enables saving. For others, this scheme doesn't work as they buy things on the card for family members and get the cash, which they can spend on alcohol and tobacco.

The cost of Wi-Fi is high in Hope Vale (up to \$100 per month) and this can pose a safety risk to women and children who are experiencing violence, especially when financial abuse is occurring.

Youth

The impacts of violence can last from intra-utero up to teenage and can lead to trauma and behaviour issues. There is little community understanding about the impact of DFV on the children and changes to their brain structure. This leads to problems in future generations and causes a vicious cycle.

Youth crime is prolific in the community and is exacerbated by troubles at home. DFV, an unsafe space and a lack of food are contributing factors as local children don't want to be at home, and they are wandering around the streets and getting into trouble.

Young people are starting relationships and there is already violence, as the children may have experienced or witnessed see disrespect in their home. Furthermore, often parents are not overly engaged with school and the school is often blamed as parents don't take responsibility for children's actions.

DFV is creeping into teen relationships - girls from 13 years are treating partners like possessions and this jealousy can lead to bullying.

Bullying is also problem in the Hope Vale community and school. There is an opportunity to do more in schools to instil respect and stop bullying.

In Hope Vale, students learn by direct instruction (rote learning) – more advanced children finish tasks early but then must wait until everyone else has finished and this leads to disruption in class. Furthermore, children in Hope Vale learn from a different curriculum to Education Queensland and they may be the target of bullying from others as they are deemed stupid. For some students, this impacts their self-worth, and this plays out in later life into issues including DFV.

Disengagement with traditional culture

Traditional culture is on the decline in Hope Vale and in recent years, there has been a shift towards alcohol, drugs, gambling and porn. As part of the community's approach to DFV, there is a need and opportunity to re-introduce a cultural approach, activities and programs.

People are sceptical about Closing the Gap as there are concerns it will not make a difference until people own it and commit to making a change. Personal responsibility is key for both perpetrators and victims.

Treatment of and support for women

Some men believe they are entitled to be violent to women – that women have their place and are less than men (gender inequality) and women are regarded as possessions.

Women also use violence. This is often because they have been victims of DFV for a long time and then they snap, and their violence is retaliatory.

There used to be a women's shelter in Hope Vale that men didn't go near. This shelter no longer exists and in the majority of cases after a DFV incident, the police will take woman and kids to the shelter in Cooktown, which means they are displaced, and he is able to stay in the house. Furthermore, the shelter has very limited capacity and can therefore only provide short-term respite rather than ongoing support or long-term housing.

The judicial system

Distance conditions on a Domestic Violence Order are often compromised due to the limited public spaces in Hope Vale (for example, one church, one shop, one school). No-contact orders may be established but people still live under the same roof.

People in prison aren't eligible to programs while they are on remand and therefore, they come back to community without having any intervention, often returning to the partner they used violence against. Some perpetrators don't have harsh enough penalties for their actions. They might cause significant injuries, but they just get a breach or good behaviour bond. If a person breaches an order, parole board and sometimes Corrections looks at alternative actions and creates plans, including counselling.

Some members of the Hope Vale community feel a lack of trust for Government organisations and the police, and there is a lack of culturally responsive services. These factors need to be considered in Hope Vale's approach to DFV.

Trauma

Much of the issues of DFV in Hope Vale stem from unresolved trauma and this leads to violence amongst the families. Conflict within relationships is often compounded by poor coping skills, which leads to an impulsive response and violence. Previous generations have been prevented from talking about things and this has led to them being unable to resolve it. This leads to further shame and stigma.

The trauma from the stolen generation has led to a break down in values and practices and created untreated intergenerational trauma, which also leads to more violence.

The current approach to DFV in Hope Vale

Availability and accessibility of services

The following services that either directly, indirectly or partly address DFV in Hope Vale are as follows:

Program	Location
<i>General</i>	
Intensive family support	Regional
Financial counselling	Hope Vale
Employment services	Hope Vale
Interagency meetings	Regional
Wellbeing Centre	Hope Vale
Drug and Alcohol program – Wellbeing Centre	Hope Vale
Foundation Vocational program	Hope Vale
Dept of Corrections – emerging from prison program	fortnight visit to Hope Vale
QPS – frontline services	Hope Vale
FAPs program	location to be confirmed
Justice Group	Hope Vale
Probation and Parole – Resilience program	Regional
Positive Futures	Regional
FRC	Hope Vale
<i>Men</i>	
Men's DFV program (CDCC)	Cooktown
Cool down facility (not yet operational)	Hope Vale
<i>Women</i>	
Women's shelter	Cooktown
Women's groups (x2) – DFV and general skills	Hope Vale
Women's DFV program	CDCC
<i>Kids and youth</i>	
Teenager program & Love Bites	Cooktown
PATHS - schools program	Hope Vale
<i>The elderly</i>	
Healthy ageing	Hope Vale

The Wellbeing Centre provides support for men and women, victims and perpetrators. Referrals may come from FRC, the school, police, Queensland Health. Most clients are in crisis and involved in the judicial system and/or child safety. An alcohol and drugs counsellor also works in the community.

Most people don't know about services or how to access them. Often, people will access services for suicide support or prevention but not in relation to DFV.

The services report a high demand but are facing issues in relation to fast employee turnover due to the remote location and the challenging nature of the work. In addition, many services are currently located outside of Hope Vale, and this drives employment elsewhere and deters people from seeking support.

Previously, there has been a women's and a men's group (18+), yarning circles. Both have counsellors in attendance. However, the men's group is no longer running.

The police usually refer the perpetrator, not the victim to support services. There is a men's behaviour program, but it is not mandated. QPS can direct people to attend voluntarily. Corrections can also refer and there are some self-referrals. However, due to the voluntary nature of the program, people that most need this support to address their behaviour choose not to attend. And often their motivation to attend programs is to look better in court, rather than a genuine commitment to address and change their behaviour. This impacts the effectiveness of the programs.

There is a men's DFV counsellor in Cooktown and he is the only specialist DFV worker up here. He doesn't run a specialist DFV program, and he is non-Indigenous. There is no specialist DFV program located in Hope Vale.

A monthly police liaison meeting takes place with QPS and corrections and meet monthly. To date, Hope Vale has not participated but they are invited. The meeting involves Cooktown and Wujal Wujal. The information they share is critical but not safety planning, especially when people are being released from prison etc.

The police station is attended for 8 hours each day, and so often people will present to the 24/7 Emergency Dept, either because they do not want to speak to the police or due to a lack of available personnel. There is concern that the Police often aren't trauma-informed, and this prevents people reporting incidents or from speaking openly about DFV.

Its optional to see the services, but they are told it will look better for them in court.

Cooperation and collaboration across services

There are currently inter-agency meetings between all people who work in community, and this is a good channel to disseminate information and drive outcomes. To date, the regularity and attendance of these meetings has been inconsistent. A common theme that emerged from the engagement is that Hope Vale has gone backwards with sharing information. There is a lack of awareness of service and high turnover of staff. However, the recent Cyclone has brought everyone together and the local relationships have improved considerably and talking to each other more.

Whilst there are plenty of services and programs operating in or servicing Hope Vale, these services are not working closely together. A holistic and collaborative

approach would be better to enable social and emotional wellbeing and to address DFV. There is also a lack of follow up from services to provide ongoing support.

Considerations for an approach to DFV in Hope Vale

The following considerations need to be factored into an approach to DFV in Hope Vale to ensure the approach is relevant, meaningful and relevant:

Community

- To encourage and increase positive interactions for families in Hope Vale, there needs to be more community activities and events.
- An approach and associated activities need to be community-led. This includes local-led solutions, increase connection by bringing community and families together, having a voice, having a say.
- Currently, a local approach is limited due to local skills and capabilities. It is important to include capacity building in Hope Vale as part of the approach.
- DFV is an issue that needs to be addressed collectively by everyone and Hope Vale does not currently take a unified approach to DFV, and this is a key to success. The leadership members and organisations within the community need to come together to address this issue.

Communication and education

- A local culturally-informed communications campaign is important to inform and educate the community about Domestic and Family Violence. This includes written and video information on social media, communication through services and council's website and social media page, through the local radio station, on electronic and static signage, posters in the supermarket, household packs, through sporting clubs and other available channels.
- Key messages:
 - Violence is not normal or acceptable
 - Report violence when it occurs
 - DV is not part of our culture
 - Encourage people to reach out for support and where to find it
 - The impacts of DFV on children - show your kids respectful behaviour
 - How to access support services
 - You can have influence in your community – lead by example
 - Consequences of DV:
 - Employment
 - Access to money
 - Not going to school
 - Recognising warning signs
 - Accessing support is a sign of strength
 - Understanding triggers – symptoms and cause

- Healthy household rules – sleep time, not leaving home late at night, meal times etc
 - Household packs including posters, power and control wheel, services phone directory.
- These messages need to be developed and delivered by local community members to ensure they are relevant and meaningful.

DFV education

- In addition to the communications campaign, the community needs access to DFV and positive relationships education, to provide more guidance and support.
- Increased, specific training could be developed for elders, teachers and health providers to deliver effective support in the community.
- Topics for education:
 - Understanding violence and getting support
 - QPS and the legal system
 - Positive parenting
 - Bystander training
 - Healthy relationships

Communication resources

- An emergency safety card would be helpful to provide a quick reference guide to support. This would include relevant contact numbers for services and safety plan guidance.

Connection to Culture

- Cultural considerations to be included in the design of all programs to ensure they are appropriate for the Hope Vale community. ⁽¹⁶⁾
- An emerging leaders' program should be considered, which would provide a structured approach to building leaders. This program could support people to stop using violence and to create role models in the community. The program could include regular camps for emerging leaders with no drugs or alcohol. Similar programs include Kings Narrative (NT) that offer cultural immersion camps for groups of Aboriginal men, looking for re-connection and healing through cultural activities and Narrative Approaches. This program was developed to provide:
 - Trauma informed healing practices
 - Narrative Approaches
 - Re-connection to country and culture
 - Cultural activities
- Some of the programs need to include trips on country to provide an environment for open communication and healing.
- Elder respect needs to be reinforced – the elders can lead the way to social change.
- Each group or clan needs to have a family group leader.

- All resources, communications and initiatives need to be developed and delivered in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner.

Facilities

- The cool down house needs to be allocated a host body and activated. This facility also provides an opportunity for elders to speak with people who are using violence to assist them in recognising and addressing their behaviour. As an option, men should be able to stay in the cool down house for an extended period to receive support to change their behaviour.
- Currently women need to go to Cooktown to attend the women's centre. A local centre would be very beneficial to provide ATOD counsellors to address alcohol, family relationship counselling, provide a safe space and employment support.
- The Family Centre currently requires people to have a child. Is there an opportunity to broaden this scope to people who are not parents?
- Over the next 5-10 years there needs to be a rehabilitation centre in Hope Vale. It needs to be local as going out bush is too far, and people struggle to maintain changes when they come home. This could be on local native land. The facility should include sober-up units for men and women, including showers, food and counselling.
- Due to the extent of financial abuse in Hope Vale, an Indigenous bank combined with increased financial counselling would be beneficial. A number of banks have in place programs and activities that focus on providing financial literacy training and financial inclusion strategies to Indigenous Australians and their communities. These include money management projects, matched savings programs, financial counselling partnerships, e-learning grants to Indigenous schools, Indigenous business enterprise development support, and Indigenous community worker training.
- With rising youth crime and increasing trauma amongst children, a safe space for young people would be of great use. This may include a de-escalation space for children who are triggered, a place for children to re-integrate to school after ongoing absenteeism and also a safe place to remove themselves from violence with counselling, showers and food.

Services and initiatives

- There is currently a lack of visibility of funding in the Hope Vale community. An investment map has been developed to better understand which organisations are being funded to identify gaps and duplications of service.
- The funding for financial counselling is currently stretched with only 3 years funding to provide 1.5 counsellors over the whole Cape. Funding needs to be increased to reach more families.
- Services are often working in isolation and there is an opportunity to bring services together to service mapping and collaborate required for each individual to provide a connected, holistic and integrated approach to people using violence. By working together, services can also provide a more consistent approach.

- Opportunity to take therapeutic approach to address DFV and the community should consider different forms of therapy that may be effective in addressing trauma. EMDR and Narrative Therapy are effective and may be an option to consider.
- Specific DFV counselling programs are needed in Hope Vale. This may include men working as a group, women and kids as individuals, families and couple's therapy. Counsellors with lived experience, including those who have used violence and reformed their behaviour, may play a positive role in guiding change. There should be a focus on empowering people to stop violent behaviour and seek support, and how to self-regulate. There is also an opportunity to work proactively with families when things are harmonious before conflict arises/re-arises. All counsellors need to be trauma-informed.
- There is currently a lack of services providing support after 4pm, and this can be problematic when DFV incidents arise later in the day. Services should consider their operating times to accommodate this gap. This could be implemented like the Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation (PPAC) where the service provides support and supported accommodation services for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence daily, 52 weeks of the year. When the service has a vacancy:
 - It will be able to accept and commence new intakes until 7pm each (i.e. client to arrive at the service by 7.00pm)
 - Referrals will be accepted until 9.00pm each day for intake the next day; and
 - Existing clients and referral organisations will be provided with contact details for the on-call service and on-call staff who will respond promptly to all calls.
- There is currently an issue with a lack of participation or completion of programs. Workable solutions are needed to encourage people to engage with and complete programs.
- Possible collaboration with the local Hope Vale Police station similar to how the Pormpuraaw Police Station teamed up with local domestic violence agency Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation to raise awareness during Domestic Violence Month. ⁽¹⁷⁾
- Due to the volume of youth crime in Hope Vale, youth prevention programs are needed. This may include new bylaws, curfews, parenting programs and evening patrol officers. Or Youth development programs like YMCS sports, teambuilding Arts etc.
- Women often feel scared to work with services, either through fear of a lack of confidentiality and the rest of the community finding out about their DFV, or fear that the violence will escalate if they seek support. As a result, they may seek support from services in Cooktown. This can lead to additional issues as the women may be judged for not seeking local assistance from Indigenous organisations. A solution to these issues may be a women's wellbeing program that provides more holistic support and protects women from the

exposure that could occur from seeking DFV-specific support. If services promote their programs and services, women will have a choice to select the service that best meets their need as opposed to Indigenous versus non-Indigenous services.

- Changing contact details and addresses can prevent services from maintaining contact with clients, which can impede their ability to deliver support on an ongoing basis.
- There is a gap in service referral that can provide a specialised holistic healing program for families to break the circle of violence for families who want to keep their families together safely. Specialist cultural practitioners would be needed to triage the level of risk for victims and closely monitor during the program to work safely with families.
- Some organisations providing services to Hope Vale do both have a physical location in town and a lack of suitable accommodation (office) has hampered their ability to deliver support.
- The focus needs to include positive, healthy family relationships and DFV responses, including information, advice, referrals, counselling and evacuation. This includes family support, including parent-child engagement, couples counselling and healing, men's behaviour change programs.
- The self-determination model of ensuring that people can make decisions about matters that affect their lives is strong in Hope Vale. However, gaining community input into the co-design of services can be difficult. It would be positive to see a greater uptake of that to continue working toward improving local service capacity and choice for the community.
- Perpetrators are referred to DFV programs; however, there is little legal pressure or obligation to attend. This significantly reduces the engagement of men in counselling.
- Public transport does not operate from Hope Vale to Cooktown, which limits individuals' ability to seek confidential support, discreetly.
- Some services are not funded to provide an adequate level of support to enable effective, sustainable change.

Moving forward and DFV action plan

Possible initiatives

During the stakeholder consultation, a range of activities were identified to fill existing gaps. The stakeholder group then prioritised these activities, which have been divided into 2 lists:

1. activities to implement in the short term
2. activities to consider and agree as per the approach outlined later in this plan.

Activities to implement in the short term

Activity	Priority	Notes
Education and awareness program/campaign – DFV	High	To be run through established local channels. Should include key messages and resources and provide education on how to communicate positively and set household rules/systems to support harmony.
Local community events	Medium	Positive family events
Mechanism to bring services together	High	An inter agency method and commitment to provide integrated support
A mechanism to engage the community to gather feedback and ideas to address DFV in a relevant and meaningful way	High	Community-led community development has proven to be most effective, and it is important to involve community leaders from the top down would be beneficial.

Activities for consideration

The following activities were proposed during the stakeholder consultation. These were then confirmed during the community workshop.

Activity	Priority	Notes
<i>General</i>		
Programs run on country and sports	High	A range of programs aimed at different groups in community, sports activities and times out of town to talk discreetly
Emerging leaders' program	Medium	Aimed at youth and young people
Trauma therapy – investigate options	Medium	Including EMDR and CBT or Narrative therapy
Housing pathways for women	Medium	Outlining housing pathways for women emerging from DFV.

		To link in with Council's broader housing approach.
Employment pathways	Medium	To link in with Council's broader approach.
Local alcohol and drugs program	High	To link in with Council's broader AOD approach.
Rehabilitation centre in Hope Vale	Medium	
Training and awareness program/campaign – positive parenting	High	
Mental health support	High	Increase in services.
Self-worth program	Medium	
A safe space for elders	High	
A support centre for kids and youths	Medium	
Packs for women escaping	High	
Financial education	Medium	Increase in services
Men		
Enabling dads	High	Recommence this group
Men's group	High	Recommence this group
Cool down house	High	Operationalise this facility
Possible education about what they can and can't do if they have a DVO		
Women		
Women's centre/safe house	High	look at options to support women
Women's recovery and healing program	Medium	Consider options, including training facilitators in the Strong Women Talking program.
Women's wellness program	Medium	To enable women to seek holistic support and avoid them being exposed for seeing DFV-specific services.
Wi-Fi provision	Medium	The provision of Wi-Fi to be included in a woman's safety plan to provide additional safety.
Children and youth		
Children and youth centre	Medium	To enable children to re-engage with school, receive guidance and education about healthy relationships, trauma support and provide a safe space.
Youth prevention programs	High	May include curfews, updated bylaws and patrol officers
Elderly		

Financial education for older members of the community	High	
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Note: It is important that all agencies are accountable to deliver the services they are funded for. All of the above initiatives need to be accompanied by measuring strategies and metrics.

Goals and objectives

The DFV action plan includes a range of goals to address DFV in Hope Vale. The aim of this plan is to generate awareness through education, connect services to provide a holistic approach to assist people impacted and/or using by violence, enabling healing to provide rehabilitation and prevention opportunities and to support vulnerable groups.

It is important that these goals align with the [Closing the Gap](#) targets as outlined above to enable a consistent approach.

DFV action plan - approach

During the stakeholder consultation, several initiatives were identified to fill current gaps and to provide relevant support to the community.

Some of these initiatives can be established quickly, as they are relatively simple and can be undertaken by existing services and/or channels. These activities can be found under the short-term activities above.

Stakeholders identified a range of initiatives that would be meaningful and effective to address DFV in Hope Vale. To enable this plan to be actioned, a DFV Coordination group will be formed to agree the best approach, apportion responsibilities and seek funding. This group will reflect the priority area number 3 of Closing the Gap - Justice and Safety

To ensure fair and meaningful representation in relation to DFV and the Hope Vale community, membership of each working group will comprise of the following, with representatives from relevant service and government organisations being invited to meetings as required.

- The Director of Health – Hope Vale Health Clinic - Queensland Health
- The Officer in Charge - Queensland Police Service – Hope Vale Police Station
- Justice Group Coordinator
- Family Responsibilities Commission
- Member of the Hope Vale community - Local Thriving Communities Coordinator
- Manager – Cape, FNQ Region, ATSIP and the CEO, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council will be the secretariat.

The DFV Coordination group will report into the Local Thriving Communities Committee, which will then report into Council for endorsement and approval.

A Terms of Reference for the DFV coordination group can be found in the appendices to this plan.

Reporting structure



DFV action plan - activities

Short term activities (3-6 months) - can be implemented through existing services and channels.

Activity/program	Person/group responsible	Notes
Communications plan and campaign	LTC/Council/CDCC	Key messages: Violence is not OK Different types of violence Where to find support
Education program	CDCC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding violence and getting support • QPS and the legal system • Positive parenting • Bystander training • Healthy relationships
Create a calendar of community family events	Council and relevant services/groups	Bringing the community together for positive events
Development of mechanism for integrated, collaborative approach from services, including a lead organisation.	Manager – Cape, FNQ Region, ATSIP, CEO, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Local Thriving Communities Coordinator will be the secretariat	An agreed collective approach amongst services to work together to provide holistic support to families experiencing violence. The suggested lead organisation is the Justice Group.
Development of DFV coordination group, including a lead organisation.	Manager – Cape, FNQ Region, ATSIP, CEO, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Local Thriving Communities Coordinator will be the secretariat	Formation of the DFV coordination group as outlined above. The suggested lead organisation is the Justice Group or FRC
Agreement on measuring outcomes of the DFV action plan	To be confirmed	A decision to be made on who is responsible to measure the outcomes of the DFV Action Plan (<i>suggestion – LTC/Justice Group/FRC</i>).

Medium term activities (6-18 months) - will require additional services and/or changes to existing services programs or services

Activity/program	Person/group responsible	Notes
DFV coordination group to agree on the list of initiatives and facilities to address DFV in Hope Vale	DFV coordination group	Re-confirm the priorities of these activities, allocate responsible parties and identify suitable funding as required.
Implementation of extensions and adjustments to existing services.	Relevant services	Identify opportunities to expand, enhance or adapt existing services to align with current needs and gaps, including provision of services both in Hope Vale (with a physical presence) and out of Hope Vale for people who would prefer to see services in another location for privacy or safety reasons.
Progress with medium term priority programs	Relevant services and DFV coordination group	Responsible parties to progress with agreed activities and provide updates to DFV coordination group
Applications for funding based on working group imperatives.	Relevant services	Responsible parties to identify funding path for agreed activities, apply for funding and provide updates to DFV coordination group
Ongoing review of DFV action plan	Relevant services and DFV coordination group	Measurement as outlined later in this plan

Long term activities (18 months - ongoing) - will require infrastructure and associated infrastructure to develop and stand up.

Activity/program	Person/group responsible	Notes
Development of additional services and facilities as per the DFV coordination group recommendations.	Relevant services	Responsible parties to progress with agreed activities and provide updates to DFV coordination group
Progress with long-term priority programs	Relevant services and DFV coordination group	Responsible parties to progress with agreed activities and provide updates to DFV coordination group
Applications for funding based on working group imperatives.	Relevant services	Responsible parties to identify funding path for agreed activities, apply for funding and provide updates to DFV coordination group
Ongoing review of DFV action plan	Relevant services and DFV coordination group	Measurement as outlined later in this plan

Outcomes measurement

The following measures can be implemented to assess the efficacy of this action plan in reducing the impact and incidence of DFV in Hope Vale:

Measurement	Notes
Alignment with Closing the Gap targets	Measuring Hope Vale against the relevant targets as outlined in the Goals and Objectives section of this document.
Reported incidents	Statistics from QPS regarding the volume of DFV incidents reported
DVO breaches	Statistics from Cooktown Magistrates Court
DFV incarcerations	Statistics from Cooktown Magistrates Court
Domestic and Family Violence Protection Order Applications	Statistics from Cooktown Magistrates Court
Re-offending rates	Statistics from QPS to outline the number of repeat offenders in relation to DFV
Level of local awareness of DFV	A local survey to gauge the level of awareness of DFV in the Hope Vale community.
Service and program uptake	Reporting from services in relation to their program uptake and completion rates.
Identification and assessment of cultural appropriateness for services and programs.	Evaluation of the service or program to respectfully use Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' knowledges, values, and actions – ways of knowing, being, and doing – when designing, delivering and evaluating services and programs to be used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

These measurements should be reported every 6 months. A mechanism and responsibilities for this measurement should be agreed as a short-term activity as outlined in the plan above.

Learning from others

There have been several programs and initiatives across Australia to address DFV in aboriginal communities. The following initiatives and associated learnings could be used as a reference for the planning of future activities in Hope Vale.

Strong Women Talking

Strong Women Talking is led by Butchulla and Garrawa woman Sono Leone, using an Aboriginal framework. Sono has worked for a number of years in the community service sector, and is an advisory group member of Our Watch 'Changing the Picture'. The services provided are threefold.

Educating: Women about the different forms of abuse and the cycle of violence. We believe education is the key to preventing cycles of violence for future generations.

Equipping: Women with new coping mechanisms and tools to be able to heal from trauma.

Empowering: Women to come into a deep revelation of self worth and self love. Having a strong sense of belonging and identity to be able to out their dreams and destiny's. ⁽¹⁸⁾

The Uti Kulintjaku Watiku (Men's) Project

The Uti Kulintjaku Watiku (Men's) Project is an Anangu-led initiative that began in late 2016 by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council's (NPYWC) based in Alice Springs NT.

The program is headed by a community leader who draws upon traditional culture and encourages the use of storytelling and sharing among workshop attendees.

Using a strengths-based approach, the leaders encourage men and young people to dialogue while practicing and respecting the Anangu culture.

This then fosters, and builds the resilience of, all who participate and it enables them to learn skills that steer them away from violent behaviour.

The Uti Kulintjaku Watiku Project is:

- Developing a shared bi-cultural understanding of trauma, trauma behaviour, including violence, and healing from trauma.
- Promoting positive narratives and pathways for Anangu men.

The recommendations in the review reflect the strategies outlined in the National Plan to End Violence against Women and their Children 2022–2032.

The Uti Kulintjaku Watiku Project has:

- Created a forum and a platform from which the Anangu men can position their voice within the dialogue relating to family violence prevention.

- Enabled a place for consideration and learning about the complex factors and circumstances that contribute to family violence.
- Provided a safe and creative space for the team members to think, learn, teach, express feelings and ideas and gain clarity to inform and take action; and
- Enabled the Anangu men to develop their language around trauma and family violence prevention so that they can genuinely and effectively enter into these dialogues at a family, community, regional and national level. ⁽¹⁹⁾

Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care (RAATSICC).

The **Place-based Escaping Violence Payment (PEVP) trial in Cairns** has been launched in partnership with local support services, to be delivered by Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care (RAATSICC).

RAATSICC which provides a variety of culturally informed services to children, young people, individuals, families and carers by information sharing and providing tools to promote self-determination. One program that is offered is called **The Strong Active Family Engagement Service (SAFE)** which supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to work together on worries that may place them at risk.

SAFE is free and confidential service that understands the child protection system and works to:

- the strengths of the family
- support cultural connection
- support and suggest family routines
- connect families to other local support services

This program could be used to support youths and families as detailed in the activities for consideration listed later in this plan. ⁽²⁰⁾

Family Wellbeing program

The Family Wellbeing Program is an empowerment program developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that has been widely delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia for close to 30 years. The FWB has been delivered in 60 known sites across Australia with more than 5,400 participants.

Personal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, adults, families and children affected by alcohol and violence, including those who are perpetrators of domestic violence and want to improve the safety and wellbeing of their families.

Activities that promote personal and social development and a sense of belonging in the community e.g. structured classes or group activities on various aspects of personal development.

The FWP program is being increasingly incorporated into a range of health interventions across Australia. These include mental health, schools' health promotion, alcohol and prevention and rehabilitation, workforce empowerment, diversionary and rehabilitation for men entering the criminal justice system as alternative to imprisonment, rehabilitation within prison, reducing family violence, leadership and governance, Job Preparedness, and Self-care in Chronic Disease management. Although these are diverse areas of interest, they all share common core components in the need for people to gain greater control over their lives and situations and skills to make and sustain healthier lives.

Many of the themes within the FWB overlap with the challenges Hope Vale is experiencing. This program could be used to assist in addressing these challenges.

(21) (22)

Kings Narrative

Kings Narrative is a profit for purpose social enterprise founded and led by Aboriginal men. Tyson Carmody is a trusted narrative therapist, community leader, proud Arrernte man, father, and the founder and managing director of Kings Narrative. His vision at Kings Narrative is to support Aboriginal men to be the authors of their own story and build a proud future for his sons to inherit. It aims to see Aboriginal men re-author their own stories, to step outside the discourses in place preventing men from seeing their true worth. They offer a variety of programs and initiatives including a cultural camp program offered to Aboriginal men, providing our men a culturally safe space to facilitate deep listening, unpacking of trauma, difficult discussions, and cultural sharing through Narrative Approaches. (23)

Definitions

Abuse: to insult, hurt, injure, rape and/or molest another person. This may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse and/or verbal abuse.

Abuser, perpetrator or person using violence: a person who uses abusive behaviours to exert power and control over another person.

Cultural safety is about overcoming the power imbalances of places, people and policies that occur between the majority non-Indigenous position and the minority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person so that there is no assault, challenge or denial of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person's identity, who they are and what they need. Cultural safety is met through actions from the majority position that recognise, respect, and nurture the unique cultural identity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Only the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who is recipient of a service or interaction can determine whether it is culturally safe.

Domestic violence refers to acts of violence (physical, sexual, emotional and psychological) that occur between people who have, or have had, an intimate partner relationship. It tends to involve an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear.

Family violence is the most widely used term to identify the experiences of Aboriginal people because it includes the broad range of marital and kinship relationships in which violence may occur, rather than just intimate relationships. It involves the same sorts of behaviours as domestic violence.

Elder: For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Elders are recognised community representatives and custodians of culture, history, the Dreaming and storylines.

Family: The use of the term 'family' acknowledges the variety of relationships and structures that can make up family units and kinship networks. It can include current or former partners, children (including adolescent or adult children), siblings, parents, grandparents, extended family and kinship networks and carers.

Family and Domestic Violence (FDFV): violent, threatening or other abusive behaviour that takes place in Indigenous communities, across extended families, kinship networks, and broader relationships. It can also include coercive control and causes the FDFV Specialist Service: a specialist organisation that provides support, counselling and practical assistance to victims of FDFV.

Healing: enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to overcome trauma and restore wellbeing. It is a holistic process that addresses mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Effective ways to support healing include reconnecting with culture, strengthening identity, restoring safe and enduring relationships, supporting communities to understand the impacts of their experiences

on behaviour, and supporting communities to create and lead change. For Stolen Generations, healing also means keeping children safe with family, and addressing the rates of out-of-home care and juvenile detention.

IPV Intimate Partner Violence

An intimate personal relationship includes (a) a spousal relationship; or
(b) an engagement relationship; or (c) a couple relationship.

Person impacted by violence/victim: a person who is abused, harmed or killed by another person (also known as “**Survivor**”). person harm or to be fearful.

Safety Plan: a verbal or written plan created by a victim of FDFV (either alone or with an advocate) with action steps to keep themselves and any impacted children safe when FDFV takes place or to prevent FDFV from happening.

Sexual Assault: any unwanted sexual activity forced on one person by another. ⁽²⁴⁾

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Appendix

Attendees to the Hope Vale DFV workshop in February 2024

Hope Vale Justice Group

Cooktown District Community Centre (CDCC)

Apunipima

Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships,
Communities and the Art (DTATSIPCA)

Queensland Police Service (QPS)

Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council

Local Thriving Communities

Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC)

Pama Futures

My Pathway

Cape York Family Centre

O-Hub

Integrated Service Group – Hope Vale - Draft Terms of Reference

Group Lead – to be confirmed. Suggestion – Justice Group

Frequency, time and day – to be confirmed

Members

- Justice Group
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council representative (Officer)
- FRC
- Apunipima
- Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy
- QPS
- O Hub
- CDCC
- Cooktown Women's Shelter
- My Pathway
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Child Safety
- Blue Care – Cape York Family Centre
- Pama Futures
- Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (secretariat and governance services)

Note: Relevant services from the list above will be invited prior to each meeting depending on the families who will be discussed and their specific needs.

Purpose

- To identify and focus on community priority issues and develop a coordinated approach to service delivery
- Facilitate referrals of clients amongst stakeholders
- Maximise the opportunity for common clients to achieve their requirements with each stakeholder through coordination of services
- Allow discussion and problem solving for support required for individual clients.

Referrals

- Each agency will be expected to provide own list of current clients in preparation for the meeting.
- Each agency will be given the opportunity to discuss referrals.
- Time limited to 5 minutes discussion for each referral.

Confidentiality

- All stakeholders understand and respect that each agency will have their own requirements and obligations regarding sharing of information of clients.
- All stakeholders agree that information shared and discussed at the meetings.
- A specific MOU outlining responsibilities on confidentiality and information sharing is also developed in agreement with all stakeholders.

Other business

Opportunity for a session on a possible program or initiative which focuses on a priority issue could be discussed and coordinated from this meeting.

DFV Coordination Group – Hope Vale – Draft Terms of Reference

Coordinators – Manager – Cape, FNQ Region, DATSIP and the CEO, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council

Group Lead – to be confirmed. **Suggestion** – *Justice Group or FRC*

Frequency, time and day – to be confirmed

Members

- The Don – Queensland Health
- QPS – Hope Vale Police Station
- Justice Group
- FRC
- Member of the Hope Vale community - Local Thriving Communities Coordinator
- Manager – Cape, FNQ Region, ATSIP and the CEO, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council will be the secretariat.

Representatives from relevant service and government organisations being invited to meetings as required.

Purpose

- To agree the best approach to address DFV in Hope Vale
- Agree priorities for activities and initiatives
- Apportion responsibilities for activity delivery and funding.
- Monitor the progress and results of DFV prevention and awareness activities

Closing the Gap

- The DFV coordination group will discuss DFV prevention and awareness topics in alignment with the following Closing the Gap priority area 3 - Justice and Safety.

Meeting components

- A range of proposed and existing initiatives will be provided prior to each meeting for discussion
- During each meeting, the group will discuss the need for each proposed initiative and, if agreed, the best way to proceed to enact the initiative, including
 - Timeframes
 - Cost and funding
 - Responsible party/agency
 - Measurement
 - Alignment with other initiatives

Service providers will be invited to attend to:

- Discuss potential initiatives and share ideas
- Provide an update on progress of initiatives
- Share information about the outcomes and results from initiatives

Reporting

The committee will report into the Local Thriving Communities Committee, which will then report into Council for endorsement and approval.