



FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAMS

REFERRAL TO THE MEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

This related resource outlines the procedures for referring clients who are using violence or are at risk of using violence to the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline (MDVHL). Once referred, MDVHL will initiate contact. Services offered by MDVHL include risk assessment, brief intervention, short-term telephone counselling, referral to violence focused individual or group counselling and/or any other services that the client may benefit from. This service is state wide and the services offered by the MDVHL will be tailored to the client's unique needs and circumstances. MDVHL are able to provide feedback to the Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT) about the success or otherwise of contact.

Referral to MDVHL is a referral option for men who have been engaged by a member of the FDVRT and subsequently consent to support services. The service offered by MDVHL does not replace the existing Domestic Violence Outreach service for men offered by Breathingspace. The Coordinated Response Service must refer all Domestic Violence Incident Reports (DVIRs) to Breathingspace where an adult male has provided consent to police to have their information provided to a support service (number 9 on the DVIR).

Referral email: breathingspace@communicare.org.au

BACKGROUND

The FDVRT is a partnership between WA Police, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) and non-government Coordinated Response Services. The role of the FDVRT is to undertake joint assessment and triage of DVIRs, provide safety focused responses to adult and child victims and to convene multi-agency case management of high risk cases.

The partnership between MDVHL and the FDVRTs is designed to support perpetrator accountability by providing men with a targeted, violence focused service response that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

PROCEDURE

- When responding to families experiencing domestic violence, representatives from the FDVRT (police and CPFS in particular) should find opportunity to engage the perpetrator, explain the services provided by the MDVHL and seek consent for referral. Verbal consent is required from the man in order to refer. NB: Should the primary aggressor be a woman, the same referral process can be used.
- To initiate a referral, the FDVRT worker must provide the following details to MDVHL by email:
 - identifying information of the man including name, date of birth, cultural background;
 - contact details;
 - best time to call (if known);
 - details about who received consent (workers name and agency) and when (date); and
 - the corresponding 'DVIR ID' in the triage application.

Referral email address: mdvhl@cpfs.wa.gov.au

- A worker from MDVHL will initiate contact, making three attempts.
- Feedback about the success or otherwise of contact will be provided to the FDVRT worker who made the referral. In situations of high risk, more detailed information about the contact with the client may be provided.