

Family Safety Framework: A Snapshot

Family Safety Framework began in Alice Springs in July 2012. In 2015 the Family Safety Framework began expanding to Tennant Creek, Yuendumu, Darwin, Katherine and Nhulunbuy. Further expansion is anticipated.

The purpose of the Family Safety Framework is to provide an action-based, integrated service response to individuals and families experiencing family or domestic violence who are facing a serious and imminent threat to their life, health or safety.

The Family Safety Framework is a co-ordinated effort between key agencies in Alice Springs. NT Police have the operational lead and work in partnership with:

- Territory Families
- Correctional Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Alice Springs Hospital and other health services
- Alice Springs Women's Shelter
- NPY Women's Council
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- Tangentyere Council
- Commonwealth Department of Human Services (Centrelink).

The Family Safety Framework includes the following elements:

1. Common Risk Assessment

The Family Safety Framework relies upon the use of a common risk assessment form by all participating agencies. The risk assessment form helps workers assess the risk of further harm for women, children and young people experiencing family and domestic violence. It uses known risk factors to identify the probability of harm occurring. It is intended as a guide or checklist to prompt workers to consider relevant factors in each case. It does not replace the use of professional judgement which must be exercised by each worker in accordance with their professional responsibilities. Cases assessed as posing a serious and imminent threat to life, health or safety are referred to the Family Safety Framework.

2. Protocol for Information Sharing

The Family Safety Framework is dependent upon agreement between agencies to share information about high risk cases to prevent further harm to the women, children and young people involved. All agencies participating in the Family Safety Framework adhere to an information sharing protocol. This includes the signing of a confidentiality declaration at every Family Safety Framework meeting and agency responsibility for the safeguarding of information in keeping with the *Information Act* (NT) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

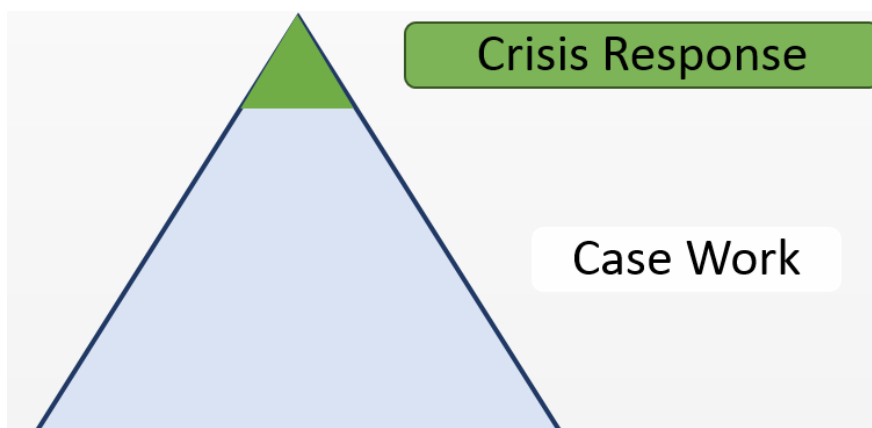
3. The Family Safety Framework Meeting

Agencies participating in the Family Safety Framework meet on a fortnightly basis to discuss referred cases and to agree on appropriate actions to be taken to increase the safety of the individual/family. The meeting is chaired by Police. The meeting provides a co-ordinated process for increasing the safety of women, children and young people at high risk of violence by identifying high risk cases, sharing information across agencies, agreeing on actions to increase safety, and monitoring and reviewing the extent to which those actions have improved safety. The meeting generates a specific action plan to support the reduction of risk for each person/family referred.

4. Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

The Family Safety Framework includes monitoring and evaluation of how it is operating and its impact on safety.

The Family Safety Framework is a crisis response and not ongoing case management.



Training: Please attend Family Safety Framework Training before making a referral or attending a Family Safety Framework meeting.

Training registrations (free of charge) may be made at <https://mylearning.nt.gov.au/>

Or contact Territory Families, Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction at TF.DomesticViolenceDirectorate@nt.gov.au or 8935 7825

Forms and more information: Practice Manual and referral forms are available online:

www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Police/Community-safety/Family-Safety-Framework.aspx

All referrals are sent by email to: FSFAliceSprings@pfes.nt.gov.au

For guidance on high risk cases:

1. For participating FSF agencies: Contact your agency's FSF representative.
2. Contact Alice Springs Women's Shelter: 8953 7648
3. Contact NT Police Alice Springs Domestic Violence Unit: 8951 1856

To make a mandatory report of domestic violence to Police:

000 in an emergency

131 444 at all other times

Free training on mandatory reporting available at: <https://mylearning.nt.gov.au/>