

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose:

The Network has been formed for the purpose of providing facilitated opportunities for DV Vic members to discuss, share and develop ideas and models for reflective practice, critical best practice and practice development. These discussions and briefings will occur in the context of the family violence field's accreditation against the Homelessness Assistance Service Standards, the QICSA Organisational Management Standards, and to the DV Vic Code of Practice for Specialist Family Violence Services for Women & Children.

Objectives:

- To foster a space and opportunities for members (workers and management) to raise and discuss practice issues and practice development and to undertake professional development.
- To facilitate the opportunity for workers to reflect on their practice and share new learnings, insights, practices and procedures that can contribute to the development of critical best practice for family violence services in Victoria.
- To develop and share ideas, processes and resources that will assist and inform implementation of the DV Vic Code of Practice.
- To develop and share ideas, processes and resources that will assist and inform the use of the DV Vic Code of Practice in relation to accreditation and continuous quality improvement
- To strengthen the links and connections between DV Vic members (peer support) and between DV Vic and DV Vic members, with attention given to including rural members.
- To promote sector involvement through active participation in the Practice Development Network and other sector forums.

- To support members to act as consultants regarding critical best practice in the family violence field to non-member workers and organisations.
- To develop a process for transferring issues that emerge from discussions in the Practice Development Network to the policy agenda.
- To make recommendations to DV Vic about practice development issues.

Membership:

The Practice Development Network is open to all financial members of DV Vic.

The Practice Development Network is convened and co-ordinated by Deb Western, DV Vic Practice Development Manager.

Process:

Members of the Practice Development Network commit themselves to functioning in an environment that creates and extends opportunities for:

- Open discussion about relevant practice development issues
- Learning, practising and developing critical best practice in a safe, non-judgemental setting
- Peer support and connection

Members of the Practice Development Network will work to ensure that the culture of the Network will enable all women to:

- Speak openly and honestly
- Be respected
- Be heard
- Ensure and protect the confidentiality of all members
- Participate in a spirit of learning and development rather than 'gossip', rumour or criticism

Minutes & agendas:

Agendas will be:

- Compiled from issues requiring further discussion from each previous meeting and from relevant practice issues as they arise.
- Distributed one week prior to the meeting and additional items can be added prior to this time.
- Re-negotiated (if needed) at the beginning of each Practice Development Network meeting

Minutes will be taken by the facilitator.

Meetings:

To be held every one – two months, commencing 26th July 2007.

Venue: Domestic Violence Victoria, 210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. The venue will be rotated and rural members are invited to host Practice Development Network Meetings and visits to their organisations.

Date approved: 10/12/07

Revised:

