



# NTV State Budget Submission 2019-2020

## Enhancing perpetrator responses: a long-term approach to family violence reform

February 2019

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## About No to Violence

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No to Violence (NTV) is the largest peak body in Australia representing organisations and individuals working with men to end family violence. NTV provides support and advocacy for the work of specialist men's family violence interventions carried out by organisations and individuals. NTV's members reflect the diversity of the community services and family violence sector and include large national organisations, specialist services, non-family violence agencies, advocacy groups and individuals interested in social policy and direct practice.

NTV also provides a range of training and professional development activities for the specialist men's family violence workforce and non-family violence sector, including a Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management (Male Family Violence). NTV plays a central role in the development of evidence to support the practice of working directly with men using family violence, providing guidance for sector development in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

The work undertaken by specialist men's family violence services is diverse and includes but is not limited to; enhanced intake responses; Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP); case management; individual counselling; and research and evaluation. NTV delivers the Men's Referral Service, providing telephone counselling and an intake service for men using family violence across Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

## Executive Summary

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No to Violence is delighted to present this comprehensive, strategic and long-term vision for the resourcing of the emerging range of men's family violence interventions. NTV has been, and continues to be, at the forefront of innovations and best practice. NTV wants to play its fullest part in creating a system across all human services and the Victorian community that can enhance ways to end family violence.

This Victorian Government has provided strong leadership and an unprecedented commitment to ending family violence. NTV recognises the significant investment that has been made to enhance and strengthen the perpetrator intervention system and integrated responses across Victoria.

As we move into the next phase of the Royal Commission into Family Violence reforms, No to Violence's State Budget Submission 2019-2020 outlines a vision to continue our shared effort to inform and shape a robust "whole-of-family" family violence system that engages directly with perpetrators to enhance safety and outcomes for victim-survivors. NTV believes that working with men to address family violence is tackling the problem at the source. Men who use family violence must be held accountable for their violence, and accountability is an integral part of the process of behaviour change.

NTV's State Budget Submission 2019-2020 highlights key policy and practical investments to sustainably grow the perpetrator family violence system. The recent Listening Tour No to Violence undertook across the state has provided us invaluable insight into the appetite for collaboration, opportunities and innovative practices, and funding gaps.

For our full report, please see [Victorian Listening Tour Report](#).

## Create sustainable long-term workforce development strategies

No to Violence has delivered industry-specific and accredited training for 25 years. NTV provides training options for practitioners entering the specialist men's family violence workforce, those already engaged in delivering specialist interventions, non-family violence practitioners from community and statutory services, and the broader community.

Workplace training and workforce development continues to be a high priority for the specialist and non-family violence sector as they work to enhance their practice with perpetrators and engage in multi-agency and integrated service models. There is a crucial need for appropriate and consistent training for practitioners and organisations who hold different roles, responsibilities and opportunities for engaging and working with men who use family violence.

### Creating a consistent and robust perpetrator-specific workforce development strategy

NTV has a critical role in our shared effort to build specialist and non-family violence workforce capability to work with perpetrators of family violence. As a key priority under the Industry Taskforce's Rolling Action Plan (2019-2021) *Strengthening the Foundations*, NTV is best placed to analyse the current service provision landscape and workforce issues to develop a Workforce Development Strategy responding to the needs of those across all sectors whose work brings them in direct contact with perpetrators.

In our work across specialist and community services, NTV continuously hears of the challenges of recruitment and workforce sustainability, and that training, professional development and specialist supervision support is sorely needed.

*'We just cannot wait for this training. Right now we don't know what to do with a perpetrator and we know that increases risk for the family' - Industry partner, November 2018*

The current formal training offering through the Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management (Male Family Violence) is only one part of the effort needed to develop a robust, sustainable and high-quality specialist workforce that can support men across different service types. In the development of new types of interventions and enhancing intake, assessment and motivational practices, additional formal training opportunities are required to strengthen practice and consistency amongst the current and emerging specialist workforce.

The current and future demand for a skilled workforce across all sectors working with perpetrators of family violence is high. Victoria urgently needs a perpetrator-specific workforce audit and training needs analysis in order to understand current issues and identify practical strategies for future investment.

Fund NTV to develop a training needs analysis and workforce development strategy for Tier 1-4 workforces who work directly with men using family violence. **Cost: \$500,000**

NTV call on the Victorian Government to fully fund the NTV's workforce development strategy, which may include capacity building activities, evidence-informed training, specialist professional development including best practice models, leadership and supervision, intake and assessment. **Cost: \$TBD**

**Formal training for specialist perpetrator workforces**

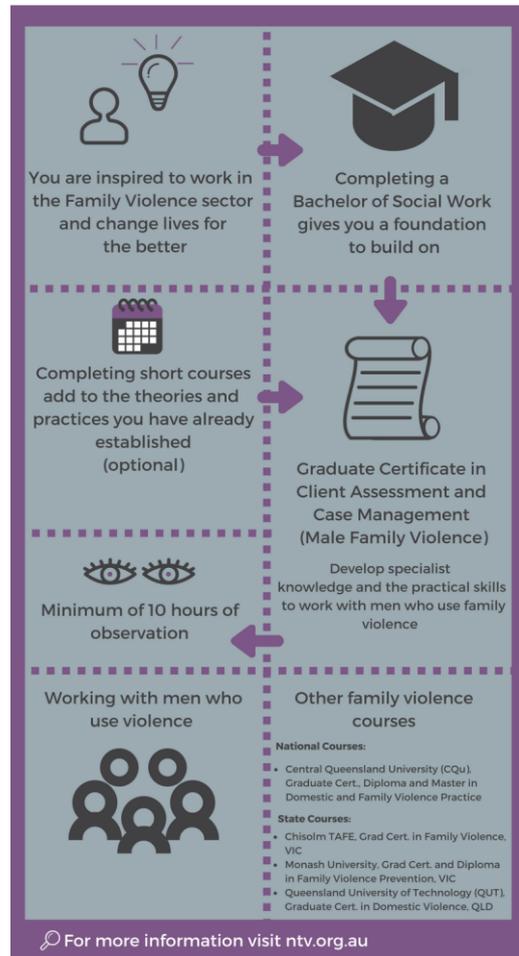
NTV acknowledges the commitment of the Victorian Government to invest in developing the specialist workforce by providing subsidised places for students to complete the Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management (Male Family Violence). Through this course, 35 new practitioners will graduate from the 2018 cohort, ready to enter the specialist Men’s Behaviour Change Program workforce, with a further 17 enrolled in Semester 1 2019.

Student fees have long posed as a barrier to people both seeking to apply to undertake post-graduate specialist courses as well as accepting offers for enrolment. Continued investment through guaranteed student fee support that is accessible and scalable is required for NTV to ensure the accessibility and availability of this course across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

NTV call on the Victorian Government to provide funding over two years for 120 student places to complete formal training. Flexibility to increase this target is required if demand is experienced as delivery improves and grows. **Cost: \$850,000**



**PATHWAYS FOR WORK IN MEN'S FAMILY VIOLENCE**



**Harnessing further opportunities through the Workforce Training Innovation Fund project**

In 2018, No to Violence succeeded in winning a tender through the Workforce Training Innovation Fund for a collaborative project between industry and training providers to deliver innovation in training and workforce development. This two-year project will lift specific areas of the specialist and non-specialist workforce and their capacity to respond to and work with perpetrators of family violence. Targeted sectors include mental health, culturally and linguistically diverse, homelessness, alcohol and other drug and LGBTI community services as well as professional development for Koori and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Developing and delivering accredited training solutions in a consortium of industry and training partners, this project provides us with a solid foundation to enhance training and workforce development opportunities across Victoria.

The development of training programs that are tailored to industry expectations and the identified gaps in knowledge heavily relies on the engagement of specialists across various community service sectors. In the early delivery of this project, NTV and partners have identified further opportunities to strengthen collaboration across these sectors, with a clear need emerging to work with partners in the development, delivery and management of training for culturally diverse communities and specialist Alcohol and Drug workforces.

Fund inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence to lead training to CALD community sector workers as part of the Workforce Training Innovation Fund Project. **Cost: \$50,000**

Fund NTV to engage an Alcohol and Other Drugs specialist to consult to the Workforce Development Project. **Cost: \$10,000**

### A long-term vision for addressing family violence in Victoria

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No to Violence (NTV) believes that working directly with men to address family violence is tackling the problem at the source. All interventions endorsed or advocated for by NTV place primary importance to supporting the safety of victim-survivors. This safety is supported by working with men to change their violent behaviour while offering support for those family members impacted by their abuse. NTV believes that accountability is an integral part of the process of behaviour change. NTV advocates for an integrated family violence intervention system and believes that specialist men's family violence services must sit alongside statutory bodies, victim-survivor support services, and family services in order for victim-survivor safety to be upheld, and to support a perpetrator of family violence to take steps toward real, meaningful change.

This government continues to provide strong leadership to enhance the safety and outcomes of victim-survivors, with substantial funding to match the whole-of-government commitment to influence real change. The 2019-2020 State Budget provides an opportunity to create sustainable change, with greater emphasis on tilting the system to the perpetrator.

Perpetrator accountability is a key pillar of the Victorian Government's policy agenda; however, services are still lacking for large portions of the community, programs are under-funded through short-term contracts, and there remains a dearth of highly skilled specialist perpetrator practitioners and embedding of workforce capacity building for the non-specialist workforce.

No to Violence is committed to continuing its work with the Victorian Government to ensure the sustainable delivery of the Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations.

**Our vision for keeping women and children safer**



No to Violence ©2018

**Collaboration to strengthen reform implementation**

The Expert Advisory Committee on Perpetrator Interventions (EACPI) finalised its report to the Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2018. The Committee’s advice should now be harnessed to drive a whole-of-government commitment in partnership with the specialist perpetrator family violence sector.

An enhanced model of interventions for Victoria requires full commitment and funding, starting with developing a planned approach to deliver all recommendations outlined within the EACPI report. Planning and implementation requires solid governance and dedicated resourcing, with mechanisms for oversight that continue to reflect the collaboration between government and NGOs.

Fully fund the implementation of the EACPI final report recommendations.

Establish a collaborative government-sector governance mechanism to oversee recommendation implementation.

## Leadership and sector development

The specialist men's family violence sector has experienced a significant shift in our shared expectations of collaborating to inform, design, and build a robust integrated family violence system. No to Violence is committed to continuing our role to lead and support our sector in this reform period. We believe we can achieve greater results in leading specialist and non-family violence sector development and enhancing direct practice with perpetrators through providing evidence-based and practice-informed advice to government.

Consistency needs to be embedded in each part of the system that interacts with perpetrators, ensuring that the message that family violence will not be tolerated continues to be reinforced, while still engaging effectively with men to maximise opportunities for safety and change. Investing in NTV to expand our capacity to support practice leadership and policy advice is essential at this stage of family violence reform implementation.

NTV requires a full commitment to raising ongoing core funding for peak activity to the levels of boost and lapsing funding due to expire in June 2019.

NTV requires additional resources to expand capacity to support the implementation of reforms, lead workforce development, and provide robust and nuanced practice leadership and policy advice. Investment will "join the dots" to create a coordinated, efficient and effective system that tilts towards the perpetrator. **Cost: \$350,000**

## Strengthening capacity for expert advice

No to Violence and other peak bodies and expert groups actively contribute to projects to support the design of workforce capability actions as well as accredited family violence units of competency. In 2018 NTV was a member of the Accreditation of Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Steering Committee, providing expert advice on the first accredited Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework unit.

We understand that in the 2019 and 2020 calendar years NTV will be expected to continue to lend expertise to support work conducted by the Department of Education and Training and Family Safety Victoria to develop approximately 17 additional accredited family violence units. It is envisaged NTV will contribute across two separate steering committees, targeting prevention and response.

NTV's expertise is essential in the development, refinement and rollout of these Australia-first units of competency. NTV's high-level expertise is required to ensure that specialist knowledge is being captured, embedded and promoted as best practice to future workforces.

NTV requires additional resources over the 2019 and 2020 calendar years to ensure our capacity to provide high-level expertise to the development of all family violence units of competency. **Cost: \$150,000**

## Investment in sustainable interventions

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Since the Royal Commission into Family Violence, we have witnessed a peak in public interest in addressing family violence. While reform is well and truly under way, we know this work requires long-term investment and a systemic approach to planning if we wish to achieve the vision set out by the Royal Commission and the Victorian Government's 10 Year Plan, *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change*.

Much of the reform effort and funds to date have rightly focussed on addressing the dignity, empowerment and needs of victim-survivors and their families. However, there has been less policy and practice attention and resource allocation for achieving the 10 Year Plan outcome that 'perpetrators are held to account, engaged and connected'. If we wish to see real systemic change, have a better understanding of the risk posed by perpetrators, and pivot our practice to engaging them in behaviour change, there is an urgent need to sharpen our focus on the diverse risks and needs of perpetrators.

*'Funding worries us' – NTV member, November 2018*

NTV's members have raised concerns about current funding arrangements that leave programs in fundamentally risky situations. Members have reported that a large portion of their funding to deliver Men's Behaviour Change Programs and enhanced intake is based on a yearly allocation of funds.

### **Increasing opportunities for engagement**

Across the state, boost funding accounts for between 30 and 60 per cent of the funds being provided to services delivering Men's Enhanced Intake. This service is responsible for responding to all police referrals for male perpetrators of family violence sent by Victoria Police. The broad Service Intake Model that underpins Men's Enhanced Intake highlights that access should be for 'all men who use violent and controlling behaviours, regardless of their mode of referral' and that as intake models are enhanced, assessment resources will increase<sup>1</sup>. Under this Model, services are expected to provide 'timely and proactive engagement of men, and enhanced assessment and referral processes'.

NTV continues to hear from its members that demand at intake services far outstrips the financial resourcing that has been provided to enable a timely, engaging and proactive approach to intake and assessment. With Men's Enhanced Intake, including the service operated by Men's Referral Service, funded under short-term contracts, agencies are unable to provide a consistently high-standard perpetrator intake and assessment service. These agencies play a critical role in bringing the perpetrator into the gaze of the service system and leveraging motivation to change.

Men's Enhanced Intake services urgently require a full commitment to raising ongoing core funding to the levels of boost and lapsing funding due to end in June 2019.

The Victorian Government must review demand modelling as a matter of urgency and raise the level of core funding accordingly.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Human Services (2009) *Enhancing access to men's behaviour change programs: Service intake model and practice guide*, Victorian Government: Melbourne.

## Increasing opportunities to change

*'Only 1/3 of our current funding is core ongoing funding. That means 3/4 of our workforce is currently on limited contracts. We have lost significant trained staff this year...we cannot give any security to staff.'* – NTV member, November 2018

The Men's Behaviour Change service sector continues to experience extraordinary rates of turnover, casualisation and instability. Services are operating their men's behaviour change programs with insecure funding, with between 30 and 65 per cent of income being secure ongoing funding and the balance made up of "boost", "lapsing" and invoice-driven contracts. In the coming months existing men's behaviour change program staff will commence looking for alternative employment as a result of this insecure funding model.

Men's Behaviour Change Programs urgently require sustainable funding. This includes consolidating boost and lapsing funding into core, recurrent 4-year service agreements to bring stability to program delivery and strengthen participation in the specialist workforce.

Increased demand for Men's Behaviour Change Programs puts increased pressure on already stretched resources. We need strategies to deal with waiting lists and funding is critical to address this challenge.

*'Demand has increased through the roof since the Royal Commission. Engagement has increased significantly since the Royal Commission. Beforehand, men's engagement was 18-25%. Post-Royal Commission, men's engagement is 60%'* – NTV member, October 2018

There will be unknown elements of demand as we start to strengthen practices within the broader services sector, particularly through mental health, alcohol and drug, family services, homelessness and counselling programs. Demand modelling is increasingly important and must start to move beyond traditional methods of measuring policing rates.

Demand continues to have huge impacts on waiting times. It is still not uncommon for men and their families to be waiting three to six months for support through specialist services. Men, women and children are often left unsupported, falling through opportunity and service gaps, which has significant impact on both his motivation and his family members' safety and wellbeing.

Services require funding for additional places by an **additional 25% above current core, boost and lapsing amounts** from *each* and *all* government departments, including Health and Human Services, Justice and Regulation and Court Services Victoria.

Fund Men's Referral Service to deliver a waitlist management service to respond to demand and harness opportunities to engage with perpetrators. **Cost: \$1.2 million**

Through the First Rolling Action Plan (2019-2021) *Strengthening the Foundations* we have an opportunity to further steer our efforts to address demand and its impact on individuals and services. It is critical that we collectively prioritise and work to address workforce health and wellbeing.

### Review and strengthen unit costing for better outcomes

While the unit pricing for Men's Behaviour Change Programs increased with the rollout of the new Minimum Standards, this still falls shy of the real cost of service delivery. Services have told us that the gaps in funding mean that they cannot deliver to a best practice standard that enhances perpetrator engagement and change and increases victim-survivor safety, support and recovery.

NTV and its members call on the State Government to review the current funding and pricing rationale for Men's Behaviour Change Programs. This must take into account the real cost of delivering a service that meets Minimum Standards with a view to best practice – a robust, integrated, specialist, whole-of-family response.

NTV has worked with its members to understand their program delivery. The gap between funding and best practice is significant. We estimate services are paid 50 per cent less per 'family unit' than required.

NTV urges the Victorian Government to review the current pricing rationale in close consultation with NTV and specialist men's behaviour change program providers and raise the level of unit costs accordingly.

### Honouring victim-survivors in perpetrator interventions

Women and children often access the service system for the first time through men's interventions and perpetrator programs. Often their needs cannot be met by the programs available within women's specialist family violence services due to eligibility criteria. Many men in interventions are in ongoing relationships with their partners and children, and women and children often want to access emotional support and counselling through the family safety contact practitioners within men's services to remain connected for consistency and safety.

Women and children want timely and accessible support. The role of the family safety contact practitioner is pivotal to safety, recovery and wellbeing. These practitioners have a unique role to play within the service system. However, their scope of practice is often misunderstood and undervalued in the context of setting funding and practice standards within men's interventions and the broader specialist victim-survivor support services.

*'Lower unit prices translate as cuts to somewhere in the program, and that often means cuts to family safety contact resources' – NTV member, October 2018*

NTV and its members believe that strengthening outcomes for women and children who are engaged through a specialist men's family violence intervention starts with having their own funding, separate to that designated for a man.

NTV calls on the Victorian Government to create **separate, distinct funding** to support the specialist work of family safety contact across all men's interventions.

## Sustainable and assured funding for new service types

### *Innovative perpetrator interventions trials*

The Victorian Government provided \$4.8 million in 2018 to fund trials of seven innovative new perpetrator intervention programs to target diverse groups through the Department of Health and Human Services to acquit Recommendation 87. Similar funding was allocated for trials through the Department of Justice and Regulation. But funding runs out at the end of June 2019.

This 12-month funding is too short-term to enable useful and robust evaluation to build our evidence base for what works, for whom, and when.

NTV calls on the Victorian Government to fund all Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Justice and Regulation trial interventions for a further **12 months** to enhance opportunities for real outcomes and extend the timeframes set for evaluation.

Fund effective knowledge translation activities, including the development of practice guidance and training, to support the specialist sector to build from trial learnings.

Additional funding is also required to continue to roll out these programs on a broader scale, including for other diverse community groups. These include:

- Men with a cognitive impairment
- Women and gender diverse people who use force
- Hazara and South Asian men
- ATSI services

### *Perpetrator case management trial*

In 2018 NTV welcomed the Victorian Government's \$7.36 million investment to trial perpetrator case management. However, NTV continues to hear from its members that case management and individual-based interventions remains insufficiently funded and under-developed.

*'The more we can do to support the perpetrators with programs, the better off women and children will be' – NTV member, October 2018*

The perpetrator case management trial is currently funded until June 2019. Not all specialist men's services have been funded to provide case management, meaning some men must access multiple perpetrator services to get their needs met. Not all men who are ineligible for men's behaviour change group programs require a case management response. Some may be more suited to alternative interventions such as individual counselling that focusses on attitude and behaviour change. Improved resourcing to individual-based interventions is urgently required.

Fully fund and expand the perpetrator case management trial to be delivered by all specialist men's services across Victoria until 2020, including extending the timeframe for evaluation.

Following the extended trial, fully fund a perpetrator case management response within all specialist men's services across Victoria through 4-year funding agreements.

Fund an additional 2000 places across the state. **Cost: \$5.4 million**

## Strengthen monitoring and compliance of programs

Development of a compliance and accreditation framework for Men's Behaviour Change Programs was a core part of Recommendation 91 from the Royal Commission into Family Violence. The Royal Commission highlighted that a lack of active monitoring of compliance had historically resulted in inconsistencies in service delivery between providers and differing levels of accountability for men.

The delivery of a compliance framework and accreditation scheme for providers to 'ensure consistency of service delivery and that the providers have the skills and capacity to deliver programs in accordance with the minimum standards' is still outstanding. NTV understand that Nous Group was contracted to design a proposal for this work, however, two years on services are still left unclear as to how they will be monitored for compliance.

NTV calls on the Victorian Government to confirm a strategy for monitoring compliance and accreditation of Men's Behaviour Change Programs as well as *all* specialist perpetrator interventions.

NTV calls on the Victorian Government to fully fund the compliance and accreditation model.

## Multi-agency and integrated service delivery

### Integrated intake practices

The Orange Door (Support and Safety Hubs) model represents a unique opportunity to strengthen the intake and assessment needs for those experiencing and using family violence as well as for families in need of support to enhance child development and wellbeing. To date, staffing within the Orange Door has presented a number of challenges, in particular for specialist men's services.

NTV is aware that there remains a large discrepancy between the funding allocated to men's services vis-à-vis women's specialist and Child FIRST services. We do not believe this service response will adequately be able to lead in tilting practice to the perpetrator if such imbalance continues.

We acknowledge our sector continues to be plagued by a depleted but developing workforce. Despite this reality, we believe that the Victorian Government must invest in a plan to build the perpetrator workforce over the next three years, matched by a staged increase in funding to raise staffing levels for men's services located in the Orange Doors statewide.

To support this, NTV will lead a collaborative sector approach to develop specialist perpetrator practice guidance within the Orange Door and ensure that all local organisations are able to work towards Orange Door implementation.

Fund NTV to work collaboratively with the Orange Door to develop a robust perpetrator practice framework to enhance integrated practices. **Cost: 80,000**

Fund NTV to deliver specialist training on identifying and responding to perpetrators of family violence as well as a specialist intake and assessment unit of competency for those delivering intake services across the state. **Cost: \$350,000**

## Multi-agency risk assessment and management

The sector grants initiative to support cross-sector Information Sharing has been a welcome addition to our sector. These short-term grants, however, have not yet provided the necessary foundations to enable robust, ethical and “business-as-usual” practices. With the imminent rollout of the new Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (the MARAM framework), there will be further need for capacity building and resources to support both specialist and non-family violence workforces.

As funding for capacity building sector grants is due to conclude in June 2019, funding for these roles is urgently required. NTV believes that capacity building should be seen as a medium, not short-term project, and call for investment in these positions until mid-2021.

## Practice development and research

NTV will continue to lead the development of strengthened practice guidance to support specialist and non-family violence specific services on working with men as both perpetrators and fathers. We have a central role in supporting the development of a suite of interventions based on risk and need, rather than a one-size-fits-all model.

Statewide practice development projects are urgently required to support practitioners and agencies to develop consistent practice frameworks and implement and embed new intervention models including case management, individualised and tailored responses, diverse cohort programs and fathering practices.

Investment in NTV to facilitate a collaborative practice framework for men’s engagement to ensure each part of the system has a consistent, best practice approach. **Cost: \$1,000,000**

Establishment of a statewide coordinator to develop a practice framework and support a practitioner-based community of practice for specialist case management. **Cost: \$150,000**

## Adolescent violence in the home and young men using dating violence

New ways are required for working with adolescents who use violence in the home, to support both them as individuals as well as their family members. NTV and its members are acutely aware of continued gaps at the ‘back-end’ for appropriate and timely responses to children and young people using violence in the home. A shared understanding of the experiences of adolescents remains lacking, as well as a nuanced and consistent approach to practice.

NTV anticipates that findings from the ANROWS-funded PIPA Project, due for submission in early 2019, will lend further insights to develop practice principals, frameworks and justice-based interventions.

Fund the development of appropriate practice frameworks and interventions for adolescents using violence in the home, in particular court-based responses.

NTV's members report that working with the older adolescent age group (18-24 years) presents its own unique challenges, particularly when attempting to address their issues within an adult framework. Adolescent stages of development, including levels of maturity, risk taking behaviours, brain development, relationship experimentation and learning capabilities and capacity are all elements that require consideration in adolescent perpetrator interventions. Current perpetrator interventions are not equipped to deal with the stages of adolescent development and are managed in a superficial way within adult perpetrator frameworks.

Similarly, homelessness and youth services have long struggled to bridge service gaps to provide support and opportunities for boys and young men using violence both within the home and in dating relationships.

Fund NTV to develop a framework for adolescent perpetrators of family violence aged 18-24 years. **Cost: \$100,000**

Fund the development of trial interventions targeted at boys and young men using violence with dating relationships, including evaluation and knowledge translation activities.

## Research

Australia has lacked research into the outcomes, effectiveness and development of men's behaviour change programs. Building on the ANROWS report on perpetrator interventions due in 2019, we believe that a strong evidence base is critical to ensure that governments, the community and the sector make good decisions about investments in these programs.

Whilst much of the research has been undertaken through university-based studies, NTV believes that practice-based research derived from those on the ground is also needed to be able to adequately assess investment outcomes and effective interventions.

Local research, both statewide across Victoria and in regions, is urgently needed to identify problem areas, improve interventions and continue to evolve innovative approaches. NTV recognises that further work is required to both scope emerging areas for research and translate completed research projects into tangible practice approaches.

## Fund recommendations from key research activities

NTV commends the Victorian Government for funding the implementation of all recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Family Violence, including key research and evaluation activities. Similar to the need to learn from the EACPI report, we must use this opportunity to build on new knowledge to further strengthen family violence systems and responses.

Brain Injury Australia's report which documents Australia's first research into the relationship between family violence and brain injury, launched in 2018 in response to Recommendation 171 from the Royal Commission. This report highlighted that brain injury exacerbates the impacts and avoidable costs of family violence for families as well as for the wider community, making four recommendations for action, including: the development and distribution of information resources on brain injury; the addition of screening questions for brain injury in family violence risk assessments; the mapping, or development of, services and supports for both victim-survivors as well as those at increased risk of perpetrating family violence as a result of their brain injury; and the piloting an integrated brain injury and family violence service. Whilst NTV acknowledges some steps have been made to work towards these outcomes, further funding and resourcing is required to fully capitalise on our learnings to date.

Fully fund the development and distribution of information resources on brain injury.

Fund the development of specialist service supports for both victim-survivors and perpetrators with brain injury.

Fund the pilot of integrated brain injury and family violence service responses across the state.