



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

CHCDFV815B Establish and maintain the safety of people who have experienced domestic and family violence

Release: 1

CHCDFV815B Establish and maintain the safety of people who have experienced domestic and family violence

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit Descriptor

This unit focuses on the primary goal of working with the perpetrator to promote the safety of others who may have experienced violence and abuse. It includes work-related to establishing linkages between referring agencies, services providers, and statutory agencies including the criminal justice system, in order that the safety of others is given priority.

Application of the Unit

Application

This unit of competency applies to community services work which may involve domestic and family violence and which requires an advanced level of skills and knowledge.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Not Applicable

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills

This unit contains Employability Skills

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements define the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

The Performance Criteria specify the level of performance required to demonstrate achievement of the Element. Terms in *italics* are elaborated in the Range Statement.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1. Establish and maintain the safety of other people as the primary focus of the intervention

- 1.1 Explain clearly to the user of domestic and family violence the *key principles* which place the safety of other people as the primary focus of the *intervention* and that these reinforced as needed over the period of the intervention
- 1.2 Share *information relevant to the safety of other people* with agencies and workers throughout the intervention
- 1.3 Assess all interventions with the user of domestic and family violence for their impact on the safety of other people
- 1.4 Document and prepare *case notes* for the user of domestic and family violence that makes specific reference to issues affecting the safety of others

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. Undertake and record an assessment of responsibility with the user of domestic and family violence | 2.1 Explain the rationale for assessment to the user of domestic and family violence in terms of its contribution to enhancing the safety of other people
2.2 Evaluate the user of domestic and family violence's acceptance of responsibility for their actions
2.3 Explore issues of blame, minimisation and denial with the user of domestic and family violence in order to analyse ownership of responsibility for the violence and abuse
2.4 Identify, encourage and strengthen indicators which demonstrate <i>acceptance of responsibility</i> with the user of domestic and family violence
2.5 Identify in case notes areas where responsibility has been demonstrated, details of the user of domestic and family violence's goals for behaviour change and the agreed processes for change |
| 3. Undertake ongoing <i>risk assessment</i> with the user of domestic and family violence | 3.1 Assess <i>risk to safety</i> of other people during every contact with the user of domestic and family violence
3.2 Engage and explore with the user of domestic and family violence to whom or what they attribute responsibility for use of violence and abuse
3.3 Reappraise over the period of the intervention current and previous behaviours and levels of <i>risk as indicators of future risk</i>
3.4 Record and act upon, in accordance with policy, discrepancies between the user of domestic and family violence's account of their potential for violence and abuse and the account of <i>risks</i> to others safety and other workers
3.5 Assess behaviour for evidence of recognition of responsibility and actions in minimising <i>risk</i> to the other people |

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4. Develop processes to support limited confidentiality | 4.1 Provide to relevant stakeholders, a clear and comprehensive written explanation of the limits to confidentiality |
| | 4.2 Obtain written acceptance of the parameters and need for <i>limited confidentiality</i> from the user of domestic and family violence |
| | 4.3 Take action in response to risk in accordance with documented protocols relating to safety of others |
| | 4.4 Maintain, over the period of the intervention, <i>processes to respond to threats</i> to the safety of other people |

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5. Establish processes to ensure that the intervention is informed by partners and children experiencing the domestic and family violence and abuse | 5.1 Monitor work practices to ensure that they are consistent with statutory processes and services that promote safety of all people |
| | 5.2 Make reasonable efforts to contact the partner and children experiencing the domestic and family violence and abuse and offer <i>information and support</i> |
| | 5.3 Offer those that have experienced the violence and abuse opportunities to provide <i>information</i> to inform the intervention |
| | 5.4 Explain to those people who have experienced the violence and abuse that contact does not place them under any obligation |

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level required for this unit.

Essential knowledge:

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

These include knowledge of:

- Principles for working with user of domestic and family violence who behave violently and abusively
- Tactics and dynamics of violence and abuse
- Principles of good practice in relation to providing integrated services for working with users of domestic and family violence and abuse
- Intervention practices
- Intervention models
- Limited confidentiality rationale and processes
- Domestic violence theories
- Legal and criminal issues relating to domestic violence
- Statutory requirements
- Gender and power issues/politics of abuse
- Inter and intra agency protocols and policies

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Assessment and intervention instruments
- Risk assessment
- Professional codes of ethics
- Current research relating to domestic violence

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Essential skills:

It is critical that the candidate demonstrate the ability to:

- Undertake risk and responsibility assessments
- Provide group working and facilitation skills including conflict management, mixed gender co-facilitation
- Utilise and apply counselling skills
- Provide crisis intervention skills
- Complete casework, case planning tasks
- Liaise and collaborate with other services
- Effectively apply challenging and confrontation skills when working with users of domestic and family violence and abuse
- Use a range of instruments and processes for assessment and intervention
- Communicate sensitively with diverse groups of people
- Apply critical /analytical thinking to work practices

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the Performance Criteria, Required Skills and Knowledge, the Range Statement and the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate this unit of competency:

- Demonstrated ability to apply the key principles and good practice approaches to ensuring that the safety of people who have experienced domestic and family violence is established as the primary focus of the training program
- In particular, evidence must be obtained on the ability to:
 - articulate the principles of safety of all people and to monitor and enact these principles over the period of the intervention
 - identify any actual or potential risk to people and to act on these appropriately and within stated protocols, guidelines and legal considerations

EVIDENCE GUIDE

- monitor risk to people over the period of the intervention
- document the processes and practices used to monitor the safety of people
- undertake and record a responsibility assessment with the user of domestic and family violence
- apply the principles of limited confidentiality to work with user of domestic and family violence who have used violence and abuse
- interact with workers concerned with the safety of people
- Evidence of competency will also require demonstration of knowledge related to current accepted good practice in relation to working with people who have used violence and abuse

- Access and equity considerations:*
- All workers in community services should be aware of access, equity and human rights issues in relation to their own area of work
 - All workers should develop their ability to work in a culturally diverse environment
 - In recognition of particular issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, workers should be aware of cultural, historical and current issues impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - Assessors and trainers must take into account relevant access and equity issues, in particular relating to factors impacting on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients and communities

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Context of and specific resources for assessment:

Evidence will be determined by selection from the Range Statement, justified in terms of work requirements, work roles and responsibilities and occupational specialisations.

Resources may include:

- Literature and information relating to the theory and practice of providing integrated domestic violence services and interventions for users of violence and abuse
- Internet resources
- Agency/organisation policies and procedures
- Literature and information relating to the legislative and criminal justice system in relation to domestic violence
- Access to interventions for users of violence and abuse

Method of assessment:

- Evidence for assessment of competence may be gathered by appropriate combination of the following:
 - demonstration of competency within the working environment in delivering services to clients living with and affected by domestic and family violence
 - realistic simulations, projects, previous relevant experience or oral questioning on 'what if?' scenarios
 - observation of processes and procedures, oral and/or written questions on essential knowledge and skills and consideration of required attitudes
 - where performance is not directly observed and/or is required to be demonstrated over a period of time and/or in a number of locations, any evidence should be
 - authenticated by colleagues, supervisors, clients or other appropriate persons

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Add any essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts.

Key principles, within the context of the intervention, may include:

- The safety of the partner and children who have experienced violence is paramount
- Accountability to partner and children's experience of violence and abuse is central to the intervention process
- The user of domestic and family violence must be held responsible for their own actions, violence and abuse
- All interventions need to be respectful to other people
- A person's experiences of violence and abuse is central to and informs the intervention process

An intervention may consist of a number of processes including:

- Initial intake and assessment
- Responsibility assessment
- Risk assessments
- One on one counselling
- Group work, exit assessment
- Intervention outcome reports
- Contact with partner/previous partner
- Reporting and documentation provided to women/men and/or their advocate, women's services, courts, police, on safety matters

RANGE STATEMENT

Information relevant to the safety of other people may relate to:

- Incidents of criminal assault
- Threats to harm another person
- Breaches of domestic violence orders
- Sentencing and other court outcomes that may impact on safety
- Child protection issues
- Concerns a worker may have about the user of domestic and family violence's behaviour or attitudes that could impact on the safety of partner and children

Other agencies may include:

- Women's domestic violence services
- Men's support services
- Prosecuting Authorities
- Police
- Courts
- Child protection agencies

RANGE STATEMENT

Acceptance of responsibility by the user of domestic and family violence may include:

- The user of domestic and family violence acknowledging their violent and abusive behaviour
- The user of domestic and family violence being able to describe all forms of their violent and abusive behaviour including coercive and controlling behaviours
- The user of domestic and family violence acknowledging their choice to behave in violent and abusive ways
- The user of domestic and family violence's demonstration of understanding the significance and impact of their behaviour
- The user of domestic and family violence's ability to demonstrate respectful thinking and relating and how they are able to interrupt own unhelpful patterns of thinking
- The user of domestic and family violence's compliance with and acceptance of any domestic violence orders
- The user of domestic and family violence's ability to demonstrate their choices for violence free relating and the development and actioning of realistic and achievable goals
- The user of domestic and family violence's ability to demonstrate their changes and own the changes
- The user of domestic and family violence abstains from attributing blame and causality for their behaviour on others
- The user of domestic and family violence's preparedness to make their past violence and abuse public knowledge

RANGE STATEMENT

Case notes may include details of:

- Attendance
- Telephone contact
- Initial assessment
- Domestic violence orders and the conditions of any statutory requirements
- Assessment of responsibility
- Signed contract to engage in the intervention including limited confidentiality agreement
- Ongoing assessment
- Risk assessments - self, partner, children and workers
- The user of domestic and family violence's strategies to promote the safety of others
- The workers actions to promote the safety of others
- Group work notes relating to participation
- The user of domestic and family violence's goals for change and implementation plans
- Summary of the efficacy of the intervention process and outcome

Risk assessment includes consideration of the following factors:

- History of criminal charges
- Changes in situational factors (e.g. separation, court orders, contact with children)
- Disclosures by the user of domestic and family violence of suicidal/self-harm thoughts or plans
- Compliance/non-compliance with orders in relation to others
- The perceptions and judgements of others in assessing any risk to safety
- Specific behaviours reported by the user of domestic and family violence which are indicative of violence and abuse (physical, financial, sexual, social, emotional, spiritual)
- Any threat to the life or person of a party
- Alleged commission of a serious crime against a person
- Possessions of firearms
- History of violence and abuse
- Substance abuse

RANGE STATEMENT

Processes to respond to threats may include:

- Memorandums of understanding between agencies/organisations
- Agreements for report/information sharing expectations between agencies/workers
- Statutory obligations (intervention orders, mandatory reporting)
- Policy and procedure guidelines/requirements or agencies/organisations

Information and support may be provided to the other person in order to:

- Inform the person about limited confidentiality and the priority give to them safety
- Inform the person of processes to warn of threats to own and others safety throughout the user of domestic and family violence's participation in the intervention
- Inform the person of the principles of accountability and responsibility
- Inform the person of the intent of the intervention
- Give information to the person regarding services that will prioritise safety

Information provided by others (affected by the family and domestic violence) to inform the intervention may include:

- Information from others about their perceptions and judgements of any risk to own and others safety
- Information from others of preferences for contact with the workers
- Feedback from others on the appropriateness of the program
- Information from others of preferences for a process to inform of any further threats to their safety

Unit Sector(s)

Not Applicable