

Child-aware practice: Family and domestic violence **online course**

While this area of work presents challenges for practitioners, it is important to work in a way that actively considers the safety and social and emotional wellbeing of children in families where family and domestic violence is present.

About this course

Family and domestic violence and child-aware practice provides practitioners with a conversation guide to assist their work with parents who are living with family and domestic violence (FDV). It recognises the importance of practitioners focusing on the safety and social and emotional wellbeing of children in families where FDV is occurring.

The course examines opportunities for practitioners to engage in a prevention and early intervention approach around children's mental health and wellbeing in the context of family violence.

Why was this course developed?

This course was developed from evidence showing the high rates of FDV within Australia and its effects on women and children. The intersection between FDV, homelessness, substance use and poverty also means that practitioners in these services require robust frameworks to help them identify and respond to the effects of violence on children.

The course introduces the PERCS Conversation Guide in the FDV setting by using fictional practice demonstrations and inviting practitioners to reflect on how they might use the Guide in their own practice context.

How was this course developed?

This course was developed in collaboration with a number of stakeholders from academia, specialist violence services, women's safety services, general adult and child services, child mental health experts, and with mothers with lived experience of FDV. A comprehensive

literature review was undertaken into the effects of FDV on Australian children and the intersection of violence with other societal issues.

Evidence from practitioners in general practice, family violence services, women's support services, alcohol and other drug services and generalist practice was used to develop the PERCS Conversation Guide featured in this course.

How was evidence used to inform the courses?

The evidence used to inform The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2010-2022) and The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2009-2020) has also informed this course. Additionally, the lived experience of parents who have experienced FDV was vital to the production of this resource.

Who is this course for?

This course is designed for all practitioners in adult-focused services who engage with adult and family adversity. It recognises the significant proportion of parents affected by FDV who present to services, and the interrelated nature of FDV and mental health, substance use, homelessness, financial pressure and child protection issues.

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