



# A TRAUMA-INFORMED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESPONSE TO FAMILY, DOMESTIC, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (FDSV): RECOGNISE, RESPOND AND REFER TRAINING

Family, domestic, sexual violence and child sexual abuse (FDSV) are serious public health issues. Primary health care professionals, such as general practitioners (GPs) and allied health professionals, have an important role in prevention, early identification and responding appropriately to disclosures of FDSV.

Capital Health Network (CHN), ACT's Primary Health Network (PHN) invites primary health care professionals to access our Trauma-informed Primary Care Response to Family, Domestic, Sexual Violence and Child Sexual Abuse training, developed as part of the Supporting Primary Care Sector Response to Family, Domestic, Sexual Violence, and Child Sexual Abuse (FDSV) Program.

The program aims to support primary health care professionals in recognising and responding to early signs of FDSV by offering free, tailored and trauma-informed training and resources. Central to this initiative are Link Workers, embedded within local specialist organisations, who play a pivotal role in facilitating the coordination of referrals, improving integration between primary care and the FDSV sector, and enhancing service navigation for victim-survivors.

## Training offerings

- A Trauma-Informed Primary Health Care Response to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV)
- A Trauma-Informed Primary Health Care Response to Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)
- A Trauma-Informed Primary Health Care Response to Sexual Violence (SV)

## About the training

Training sessions are free, RACGP-accredited, approximately 2 hours in duration and have been co-designed by Link Workers and CHN's Family Safety Team, expertly advised by a GP with lived experience and special interest in FDSV, and other key FDSV sector stakeholders with both lived and clinical experience. Sessions are co-delivered by Link Workers and CHN's GP Advisor, with flexible offerings (in-person or online, during/before or after practice hours). In these sessions, trainers will discuss the prevalence and health impacts of DFV/CSA/SV in Australia and provide key strategies to recognise and respond to DFV/CSA/SV disclosures in a primary health care setting.

## Who can access this training?

Training is available to all primary health care professionals across the ACT. This includes:

- GPs
- Dentists
- Nurses and midwives
- Allied Health Professionals (including Psychologists, Counsellors, Social Workers, Physiotherapists, Osteopaths, Speech Pathologists, Pharmacists, and Dietitians)
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service staff
- Medical and allied health students and staff from ACT universities

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## Learning outcomes

- Identify the nature of DFV/CSA/SV and understand the health and biopsychosocial impacts of FDSV on victim-survivors.
- Recognise FDSV as a significant public health issue.
- Describe the role of primary health professionals in contributing to the prevention and response of FDSV and reducing harm.
- Identify key risk factors for FDSV.
- Develop the communication skills needed to encourage and respond to disclosures of FDSV, safely and effectively.
- Develop confidence in documenting, responding to subpoenas, meeting legal obligations, and reducing re-traumatisation risk.
- Identify appropriate referral points and specialist services to provide support to people who have experienced FDSV.

Learning outcomes and session content can vary and is tailored to each session, based on the needs of attendees.



## In-depth learning

Additional topics and learning opportunities will be available for health professionals with existing foundational FDSV knowledge. These may include:

- Working safely and effectively with people using violence
- Harmful sexual behaviours in children and young people
- Training specific to priority population groups
- Coercive control
- Non-fatal strangulation

## How to access the training?

In-service training sessions can be organised with practices, on request. Additionally, standalone training sessions will be held on a quarterly basis and advertised on CHN website.

For more information on upcoming training dates, please contact CHN Family Safety team.



[familysafety@chnact.org.au](mailto:familysafety@chnact.org.au)



02 6287 8080; 02 6287 8027



[chnact.org.au/for-health-professionals/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence-pilot-program](https://chnact.org.au/for-health-professionals/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence-pilot-program)



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