

Pathways to Safety – The Readiness Program

Primary care's readiness to address domestic and family violence

How ready is your practice to respond to families affected by DFV?

The Safer Families Centre, University of Melbourne is leading *Pathways to Safety-The Readiness Program*, a national domestic and family violence (DFV) training program for primary care. A virtual practice-centred program, it aims to strengthen capacity to effectively recognise, respond, refer and record DFV using a trauma and violence informed approach.

The Pathways to Safety program is designed to enhance a whole of practice response. Skilled GP and FV Facilitators deliver the training to clinical and non-clinical staff over two 1.5-hour online sessions. Funded by the Australian Government, limited places are available to those working in general practices and other primary care services through submitting an Expression of Interest via the Safer Families website (see link below).

Why should you consider taking part?

At least one in 10 women attending general practice will have experienced domestic violence, which translates to around five women per week for a full time GP. Primary care also has an important role to play in responding to and caring for patients who are experiencing DFV as they are the highest group people will talk to about past or current domestic violence. Even more than the police.

Our program will help to streamline pathways and reinforce a team approach to recognition and referral. Participants of our program will receive accredited in-practice education, tools and support for the whole of practice to effectively identify, respond and refer individuals and families experiencing DFV.

How does the program work?

- All clinical and non-clinical staff participate in the training
- Flexible and delivered at times that suit participants
- Content tailored for primary care by Prof Kelsey Hegarty's team at Safer Families Centre, University of Melbourne
- Training delivered by skilled GP Facilitators and local Family Violence Support Workers, with follow up provided
- Includes consideration of working in the context of the pandemic
- Training is delivered as an RACGP CPD accredited activity (40 CPD points for GPs)

What will you be asked to do?

- Prepare for training using written and interactive material (1 hour)
- Undertake two 1.5-hour virtual sessions delivered by a GP Facilitator and Family Violence Support Worker
- Reflect on current practice, test new tools and participate in experiential learning
- Patient audit (optional) to support clinical learning, for practice information only
- Brief (10 mins) pre and post survey & evaluation
- Opportunity to participate as a follow up in a GP-led Community of Practice with other practices



*“A health professional may be the **only** person that sees a victim who is experiencing family violence. Your report could save a life.”*

Jasmine, survivor and member of WEAVERS

“The training changed my own feelings of readiness to bring up the topic of family violence.”

Adam, GP training participant

To register your interest, please complete an Expression of Interest at www.saferfamilies.org.au/practice-pathways or to find out more contact Safer Families Project Officer k.novy@unimelb.edu.au

'Pathways to Safety' is an evidence-based educational program developed by the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University, and now forms part of **The Readiness Program** led by Safer Families Centre. Find out more at www.saferfamilies.org.au/readiness-program