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New primary care approach to family, domestic and sexual violence in Perth South

- **A new system integration service is being piloted in the Perth South Primary Health Network (PHN) region to increase the capacity of GPs, practice nurses and Aboriginal health services to support patients impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV).**
- **The Perth South FDSV Local Link will help busy general practice teams to intervene early and work collaboratively with specialist FDSV providers to connect victim-survivors to the support they need.**
- **Anglicare WA will deliver the Perth South FDSV Local Link into participating general practices in the cities of Armadale, Gosnells and Canning.**
- **Derbal Yerrigan Health Service Maddington is being funded to better support local Aboriginal families affected by violence and abuse.**

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a significant public health issue and WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) is guiding Australian Government investment to support Western Australians whose mental and physical health is impacted by violence and abuse.

Following a competitive open tender procurement process, WAPHA has appointed Anglicare WA to operate Perth South FDSV Local Link services.

Anglicare WA will be partnering with Starick Services to embed part-time social workers in participating general practices in the cities of Armadale, Gosnells and Canning to support GPs and practice nurses to:

- Enhance their skills and confidence in responding to victim-survivors.
- Create safe environments for disclosure.
- Work collaboratively with specialist FDSV providers to improve care pathways.

The initial focus will be on building the capacity within five partner practices before expanding the reach of the Perth South FDSV Local Link to accept referrals from any general practice in the cities of Gosnells, Canning and Armadale.

As the local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Derbal Yerrigan Health Service is being funded as part of the Perth South FDSV Local Link, to build their capacity at their Maddington clinic to support local Aboriginal families affected by violence and abuse.

WAPHA is also partnering with Phoenix Support and Advocacy Service, Sexual Health Quarters and other specialist training providers to coordinate tailored, needs-based training

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that further supports primary care professionals in the region.

As a priority action under the [National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032](#), WAPHA's Perth South PHN is one of twelve PHNs identified as by the Australian Government to [pilot an approach to supporting primary care to respond to FDSV](#).

Comments attributed to WA Primary Health Alliance Executive General Manager Primary Care, Tony Mottershead:

"The Perth South FDSV Local Link has been shaped by consultation with these lead agencies, along with other local FDSV service providers and peak bodies to adapt a national trial model to meet the local needs of this region."

"Through providing direct access to specialist FDSV providers, the Perth South FDSV Local Link can help busy GPs and practice teams to intervene early and work collaboratively to connect victim-survivors to the advice, resources and other supports they need."

"With their considerable experience and local expertise, Anglicare WA, Starick Services, and Derbal Yerrigan Health Services form a strong foundation for this innovative approach to FDSV in primary care."

Comments attributed to Anglicare WA Director of Services, Philippa Boldy:

"Anglicare WA is proud to be partnering with Starick to deliver this new family, domestic and sexual violence pilot program in the Southeast corridor of Perth. Our organisations both have an extensive history in the delivery of impactful services for those impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence and we look forward to partnering with local GPs in this new initiative to ensure more responsive pathways for victims and survivors."

This activity is supported by funding from WA Primary Health Alliance through the Australian Government's PHN Program.

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About Us: WA Primary Health Alliance shapes, strengthens and sustains primary health care through partnerships and strategies that improve people's access and health outcomes. As the operator of WA's three Primary Health Networks – part of the Australian Government national PHN program – we help communities and people most at risk of poor health to get better access to care closer to home. We achieve this by supporting general practice to deliver the highest quality patient care, funding local primary health care services based on community needs and connecting local services to simplify the health care system. Along with our strong partnerships, our statewide structure allows us to deliver better health, together for the benefit of the WA community. For more information, visit www.wapha.org.au