

# Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and Action Plan

2024–2025



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

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The Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters we share. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, as keepers of traditions, customs, cultures and stories and as the oldest continuous living culture on Earth. We recognise the critical legacy of First Nations ancestral cultural knowledge in guiding a sustainable, brighter future for the City of Ipswich and the greater Ipswich region.



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## MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF THE IPSWICH INTEGRATED SERVICE SYSTEM WORKING GROUP

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Our vision is to inspire hope within our community by framing domestic and family violence (DFV) as a collective concern. Through shared responsibility and active engagement, we strive to build a safer society, envisioning a future liberated from the scourge of domestic and family violence.

This strategy serves as a beacon of hope, leading Ipswich's response to DFV. Embracing community-led solutions, the plan invites active participation, ensuring that voices are not only heard but elevated. Beyond our community, this initiative stands as a potential template, offering guidance

to other communities. Our role as a working group is to monitor the progress of the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and Action Plan (the Action Plan) and work together to achieve our strategy. The collaboration across government, not-for-profit services, community groups and victim survivors instils hope in both the sector and the community. We acknowledge the multitude of services that have contributed over the years, recognising this as an ongoing journey. The working group plays a vital monitoring role, circling back to community consultation, symbolising the commitment to a lasting and inclusive process.





## A SHARED COMMITMENT TOWARDS ENDING DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

### **Living free from violence is a human right and fundamental social value.**

Violence against women is a problem of epidemic proportions in Australia. In Australia, one woman a week on average is killed by her intimate partner.

Domestic and family violence is complex and can affect anyone regardless of age, identity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, ability, where they live and irrespective socio-demographic or socio-cultural status. Domestic

and family violence has a direct and devastating impact on children and young people, is a major contributor to homelessness and costs the Queensland economy between \$2.7 billion and \$3.2 billion each year.

The inaugural Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and Action Plan supports the Queensland Government's significant domestic and family violence reform commitments and works in alignment with the below initiatives.

### **THE NATIONAL PLAN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN 2022-2032**

Australian, State and Territory Governments released [The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032](#) (National Plan). The National Plan provides a 10-year framework of guiding actions to end gender-based violence in one generation. The National Plan's actions sit across four domains:

- **Prevention** – addressing social, systemic and structural drivers of violence to stop violence before it begins
- **Early intervention** – supporting individuals at risk of experiencing or using violence and preventing reoccurrence
- **Response** – trauma-informed, holistic and evidence-based services responding to existing experiences of violence and holding those choosing to use violence to account
- **Recovery and healing** – supporting victim-survivors to recover from violence-related trauma and impacts – physical, economic, social, psychological and minimising further retraumatisation across systems responses.

## DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2016-2026

The Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland report, handed down by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence, outlined key recommendations to reform DFV responses in Queensland. This report was significant in bringing about change and has since shifted the way government and community think about DFV.

Recommendation 1 of the Not Now, Not Ever report was for the Queensland Government to develop a Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy to lay the foundations and create the building blocks for a Queensland free from DFV. A staged 10-year reform program was set out in the [Queensland DFV Prevention Strategy](#). The Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy and Action Plan aligns with the Fourth Action Plan of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26.

## DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE COMMON RISK AND SAFETY FRAMEWORK

In Queensland, integrated service responses are underpinned by the [Common Risk and Safety Framework](#) (CRASF), a whole of system framework for risk assessment and safety management. The CRASF is designed for use by government and non-government agencies, as well as community members, businesses and others who may come in contact with people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, DFV.

The CRASF offers an evidence-based, best-practice approach to recognising, assessing and responding to DFV. It articulates a shared understanding and language, provides common minimum standards and approaches and offers practical advice and guidance for risk assessment and safety planning. Queensland's integrated service system is based on three levels of response.

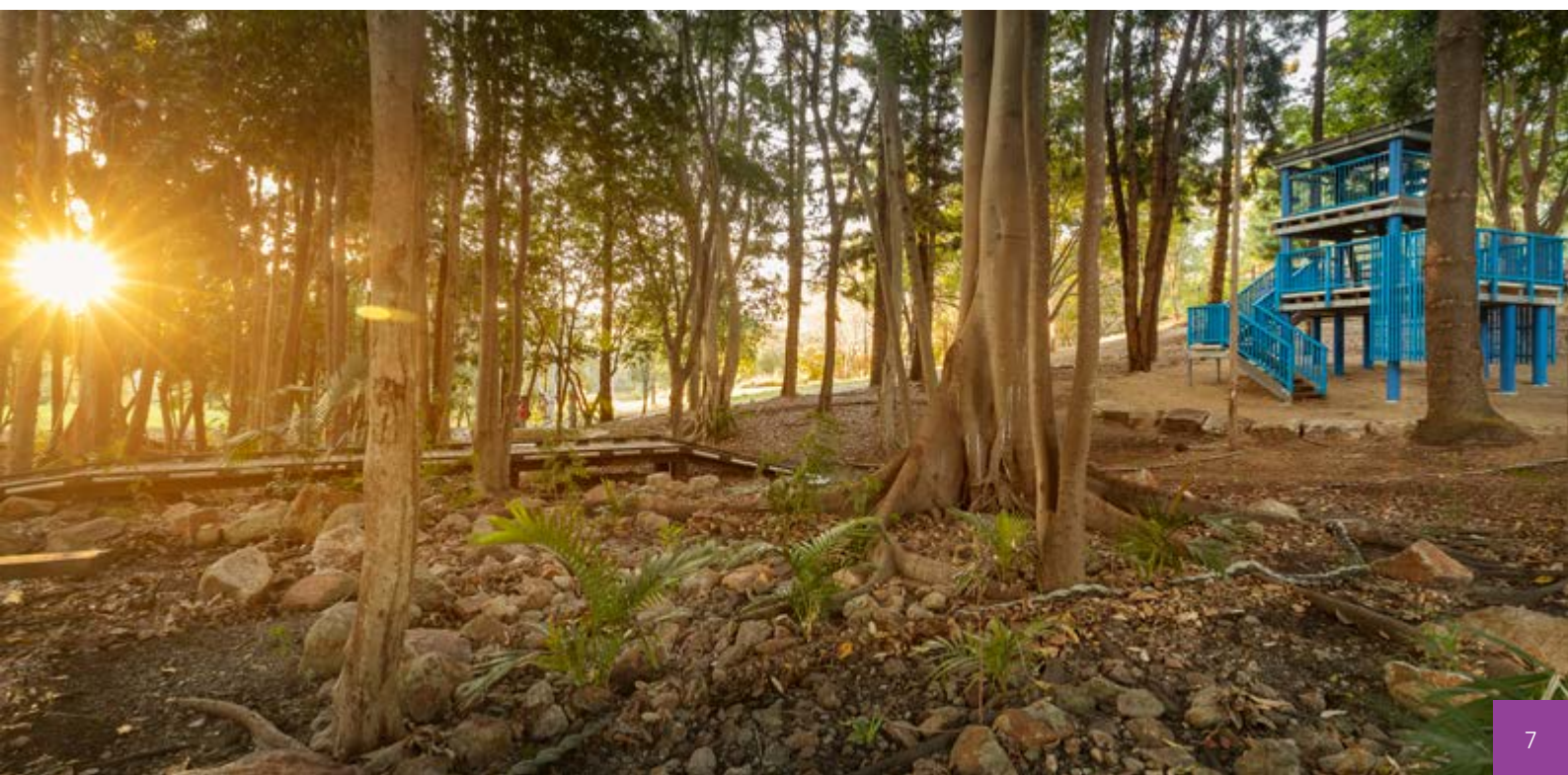
## WOMEN'S SAFETY AND JUSTICE TASKFORCE

The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (WSJT) was established by the Queensland Government to examine coercive control and review the need for a specific offence of domestic violence and examine the experience of women across the criminal justice system.

The WSJT has now released two reports:

- Hear Her Voice Report One - Addressing Coercive Control and Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland
- Hear Her Voice Report Two - Women and Girls' Experiences Across the Criminal Justice System.

These two reports provide a combined 278 recommendations.



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# WHY WE NEED AN IPSWICH DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY

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Eliminating DFV requires an integrated approach that involves the whole community. DFV must be everyone's concern and both government and the community have a responsibility to work together. Working in partnership with agencies, practitioners and community across Ipswich will ensure the most effective response to DFV and drive the prevention efforts required.

The Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group is a decision-making body responsible for overseeing and strengthening Ipswich's DFV integrated service system. This involves:

- clarifying the role of stakeholders across all elements of the integrated service system
- implementing the revised Common Risk and Safety Framework (Level 1 – Level 3)
- identifying gaps in services and finding local solutions.

*'Cultural and behavioural change requires long-term commitment at all levels of leadership whether it be across government, in our workplaces, schools, sporting clubs, communities or by individuals championing change.'*

**Fourth Action Plan of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26**

## The Swich Speaks Out Domestic and Family Violence Summit 2023

In May 2023, the Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group joined with Ipswich City Council, service sector and the wider community to share evidence-based practice and inspiration for responding to, and reducing, domestic and family violence in our community.

[The Swich Speaks Out Domestic and Family Violence 2023 Summit](#) aims were to:

- 1. Connect and upskill** Ipswich service systems and the wider community to respond to, and reduce, the prevalence of DFV within our local community
- 2. Enhance** an integrated approach to prevention, intervention, response, recovery and healing in line with the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032
- 3. Contribute** to building an empowered and resilient workforce that can respond to complex community needs
- 4. Elevate** the voice of lived experience victim-survivors, including children and young people
- 5. Develop** a localised action plan committed to ending gender-based violence in Ipswich.

Through consultation with leading industry experts, on-the-ground staff and a facilitated workshop with victim-survivors, seven key priority areas emerged to form the Action Plan.





## PRIORITY AREAS

The Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Strategy consists of seven priority areas which will guide the actions required to deliver an Ipswich community free of DFV.

Priority areas consist of a series of actions developed in collaboration between the Integrated Service Systems, experts by experience and community members. They are underpinned by community expertise, best-practice and evidence informed frameworks, trauma informed approaches and holistic responses.

1. DFV is everybody's business
2. Integration through partnerships and collaboration
3. Healing and recovery support
4. Workforce support and development
5. Walking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Community
6. Widening doors and elevating voices
7. Accountability and support for people using violence.

### Monitoring and evaluation

The Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group will measure the impact of the Action Plan. The Action Plan will also contribute to the evidence base of community based responses to DFV and improve future planning practices.

Measures taken will include:

- utilising Integrated Service System Working Group meetings to monitor progress
- establishing sub-groups to complete action items identified within the Action Plan
- utilising a framework to evaluate the progress of the Action Plan
- review trends and gaps to inform future planning
- ongoing community engagement to monitor the progress of the Action Plan
- reviewing the First Action Plan at the 2024 summit to share learnings and inform future planning.

## PRIORITY AREA ACTIONS

The actions below are set out across three domains. Representing what is already in place, what can be enhanced and what can be pioneered across each priority area.

### KEY:

Action items that are currently in place and will continue	<b>Activated</b>
Existing initiatives that can be strengthened	<b>Enhance</b>
Opportunities for new initiatives and responses	<b>Innovate</b>

## 1. INTEGRATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Ipswich High Risk Team complex case coordination.	<b>Activated</b>
Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group.	<b>Activated</b>
Annual Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Summit 'The Swich Speaks Out'.	<b>Activated</b>
Dedicated Domestic and Family Violence Child Protection Specialist Team working in partnership with the Department of Child Safety, co-located at the Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC).	<b>Activated</b>
Dedicated police officer to provide support to victim-survivors, co-located at DVAC.	<b>Activated</b>
West Moreton Health provide support to victim-survivors, co-located at DVAC.	<b>Activated</b>
Build the membership of the Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group.	<b>Enhance</b>
Develop an Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group logo to increase community presence.	<b>Enhance</b>
Strengthen relationship between Ipswich City Council and Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council.	<b>Enhance</b>
Support the development of Ipswich City Council as a community educator and leader in prevention response to DFV.	<b>Innovate</b>
Dedicated Ipswich Integrated Service System Working Group sub-groups to complete action items.	<b>Innovate</b>
Develop an Ipswich Community of Practice for community service workers responding to DFV.	<b>Innovate</b>
Explore using 'The Ipswich Portal' platform to support community services to connect and share resources related to DFV.	<b>Innovate</b>

## 2. ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE USING VIOLENCE

Intensive Family Support program that work with people choosing violence, delivered by Mission Australia.	<b>Activated</b>
Men Choosing Change program delivered by UnitingCare Community (UCC).	<b>Activated</b>
UCC delivered training to Queensland Corrections and the Department of Child Safety for staff working with people using violence.	<b>Activated</b>
UCC staff completed Safe and Together Training.	<b>Activated</b>
Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Court increased operation from two to four days per week. Funding was increased to DVAC and UCC to support victims and people using violence.	<b>Activated</b>

Deliver a learning circle focusing on the Men Choosing Change program delivered in Western Australia (WA). Showcase of learning and practice (quarterly) initiated to commence October 2023.	<b>Enhance</b>
Extend the Person Using Violence Reflective Practice Network to include other Ipswich services who work with people using violence.	<b>Enhance</b>
UCC Master Students – two annually tailored placements to understand DFV work for new graduates (3rd year) – ongoing moved to two per year in 2023 (yearlong placements).	<b>Enhance</b>
Develop a manual to support the women’s advocacy program attached to the Men Choosing Change program by UCC.	<b>Enhance</b>
Support the implementation of Men Sustaining Change program in Ipswich delivered by UCC. This is a next step program for men using violence after the Men Choosing Change program.	<b>Innovate</b>

### 3. WIDENING DOORS AND ELEVATING VOICES

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) and DVAC will continue to work alongside Community Centre Leaders and deliver the CRASF Level 1 training to support staff and volunteers to respond to DFV.	<b>Activated</b>
Build DFV community awareness with priority populations through working with community centres and key agencies.	<b>Enhance</b>
Work alongside community leaders of diverse cultural backgrounds to strengthen relationships between DFV services and community.	<b>Enhance</b>
Explore opportunities to elevate the voices of victim-survivors.	<b>Innovate</b>
Explore opportunities to engage with diverse communities and increase community awareness of DFV.	<b>Innovate</b>
Use interagency networks to elevate the topic of DFV by including standing agenda items.	<b>Innovate</b>
Identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships between DFV support services and NDIS service providers.	<b>Innovate</b>

### 4. WALKING WITH ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ELDERS AND COMMUNITIES

Partner with First Nations Elders, Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts, and DVAC to deliver CRASF level 1 training to First Nations Elders.	<b>Activated</b>
Support men’s group - HeavyW8 Barbers.	<b>Activated</b>

Work alongside First Nations Elders to enhance the Level 1 CRASF training to be culturally appropriate.	<b>Enhance</b>
Establish Elder Advisory Group.	<b>Innovate</b>
Create opportunities for community conversations around DFV.	<b>Innovate</b>
Build cultural capability of practitioners involved in the High Risk Team to improve outcomes for victim-survivors and people using violence.	<b>Innovate</b>

## 5. WORKFORCE SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

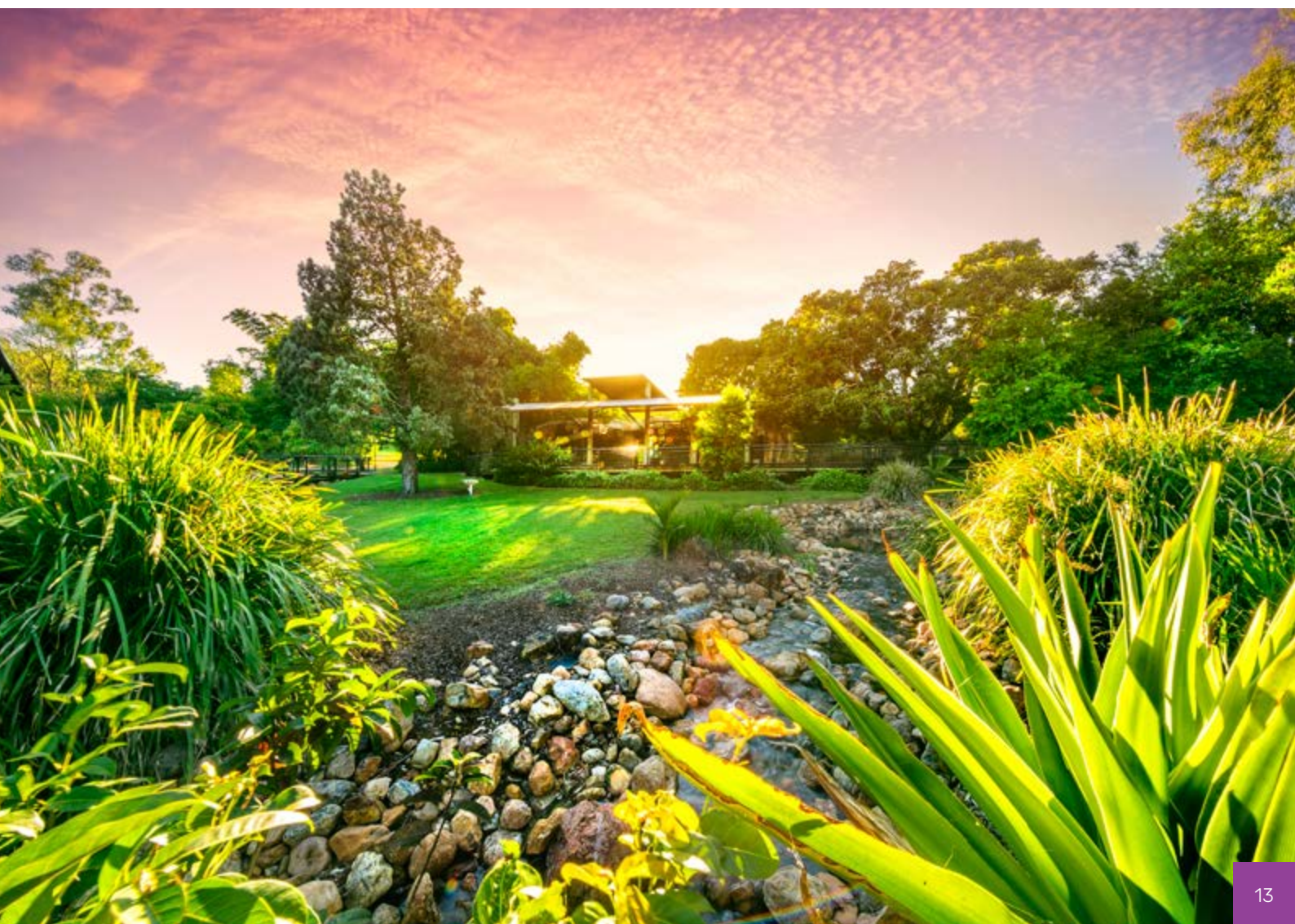
Practitioner Professional Development Forums are delivered quarterly by DVAC.	<b>Activated</b>
DJAG and DVAC will continue to deliver CRASF training levels 1, 2 and 3 to community services responding to DFV.	<b>Activated</b>
Continue to deliver annual The Swich Speaks Out DFV summit event.	<b>Enhance</b>
Deliver CRASF training Level 1 to the wider community including businesses to build awareness and capacity to Identify and respond to DFV.	<b>Innovate</b>
Develop an Ipswich professional development calendar, drawing on local skills and expertise of the Ipswich community service sector.	<b>Innovate</b>
Develop an Ipswich DFV induction and support package for new workers entering the sector.	<b>Innovate</b>
Host a dedicated annual dinner and awards night to acknowledge the community services workforce.	<b>Innovate</b>
Map current DFV programs and services in Ipswich.	<b>Innovate</b>
Work with executive leaders of community services to foster shared language and approach to domestic and family violence in their workplace and the wider community.	<b>Innovate</b>

## 6. HEALING AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

The DVAC social enterprise coffee van allows victim-survivors an opportunity to gain employment and training skills.	<b>Activated</b>
RUBY program delivered by PCYC is a fitness class for women who are, have been or may experience DFV.	<b>Activated</b>
Identify the gaps in healing and recovery support programs in Ipswich.	<b>Enhance</b>

## 7. DFV IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

Continue to deliver Annual Domestic and Family Violence Month Candlelight vigil lead by DVAC.	<b>Activated</b>
Level 1 and 2 CRASF training delivered by DVAC and DJAG.	<b>Activated</b>
Ipswich City Council DFV support webpage.	<b>Activated</b>
Broaden CRASF training across Ipswich focusing on organisations working directly with community members experiencing vulnerability.	<b>Enhance</b>
Develop a 'Red Bench' strategy for Ipswich to increase the number of benches in the community.	<b>Innovate</b>
Deliver Active Bystander training to the wider community.	<b>Innovate</b>
Investigate the Hairdresser Heart Program to support the beauty industry in having meaningful conversations with women experiencing DFV.	<b>Innovate</b>
Empower young people to address DFV through education and awareness.	<b>Innovate</b>





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