



Practice Studio Option 1: National Risk Assessment Principles

Thematic area:	Risk Assessment and Safety Planning
Brief description	
<p>The Third Action Plan Of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children included a commitment to develop and implement national principles for risk assessment. The National Risk Assessment Principles (NRAP), developed by Toivonen and Backhouse (2018), provide a guide for ‘developing, revising or evaluating risk assessment frameworks, tools and resources’.</p> <p>The principles evolved from existing, established understandings of risk. A structured, professional judgement approach, which combines the use a tool(s), the victim’s own judgement and the professional judgement of practitioners’ and other experts is recommended as the best approach to assessment.</p> <p>Toivonen, C., & Backhouse, C. (2018). National Risk Assessment Principles for domestic and family violence (ANROWS Insights 07/2018). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS</p>	
Need(s) addressed	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk assessment and safety planning skills were identified as priority areas by 4 out of 5 regions during our regional workforce development workshops. 2. Effective risk assessment and safety planning needs skills, knowledge and training to identify the severity of the current risk and what may change this over time. 3. Implementing the NRAP across all funded services in Queensland can lead to better outcomes for victim survivors because safety risks may be reduced. 	
Practice studio potential: <i>The example is provided <u>only</u> to give an idea about how a practice studio option could be road tested. Organisations submitting nominations can propose a different solution in their EOI for consideration.</i>	
<p>Host organisations can use practice studio principles as a self-assessment checklist to identify strengths and gaps to action to comply with the principles. The aim of the practice studio is to better inform the service’s response to adults and children exposed to violence, contributing to improved safety and reduced risk of harm.</p> <p>We may support host organisations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the NRAP to develop a self-assessment checklist resource • Helping to self-assess across multiple levels of the organisation • Facilitating an action planning meeting to identify priority areas for the practice studio period • Helping to set action work plan goals that can be measured during the practice studio period • Providing advice, support and information to update policies and/or procedures • Developing or co-developing tools and resources to close gaps identified through the self-assessment process, including procuring training to help staff implement the NRAP 	

<p>Outcomes sought</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribute to enhancing the capability of the workforce through implementing a consistent and high standard of practice across the sector, including shared understanding and response to risk assessment and safety planning. 2. Increase and improve responses to adults and children exposed to violence amongst funded DFV services in Queensland. 3. Respond to the priority area identified through the sector consultations.
<p>Practical considerations for the host organisation: <i>These considerations relate to the example given above. Organisations who propose different solutions will need to consider what additional practical considerations arise and respond to those in their EOI.</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing new process or changing practice is difficult. Staying motivated and increasing commitment is greatly helped if both managers and executives demonstrate buy-in, commitment and remain proactive and enthusiastic throughout the process. 2. Staff hours will need to be committed to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Complete the self-assessment b. Attend our reflection and progress meetings c. Create or co-design with us new tools, processes, policies, procedures etc. as needed d. Collect evaluation data e. Training needs flagged through the self-assessment 3. Commitment is needed to share learnings and resources developed through the practice studios with the broader Queensland funded domestic and family violence, sexual assault and women’s health and wellbeing programs.
<p>Innovation and Alignment</p>
<p>Four out of five regional workshops said risk and safety planning are a priority. This is also a foundational skill for the sector. A practice studio testing implementation of the NRAP, could generate a model to apply in other regions and services. A standardised approach and shared language about risk across services will contribute to improved outcomes, including reduced risk and improved safety for victim survivors.</p>