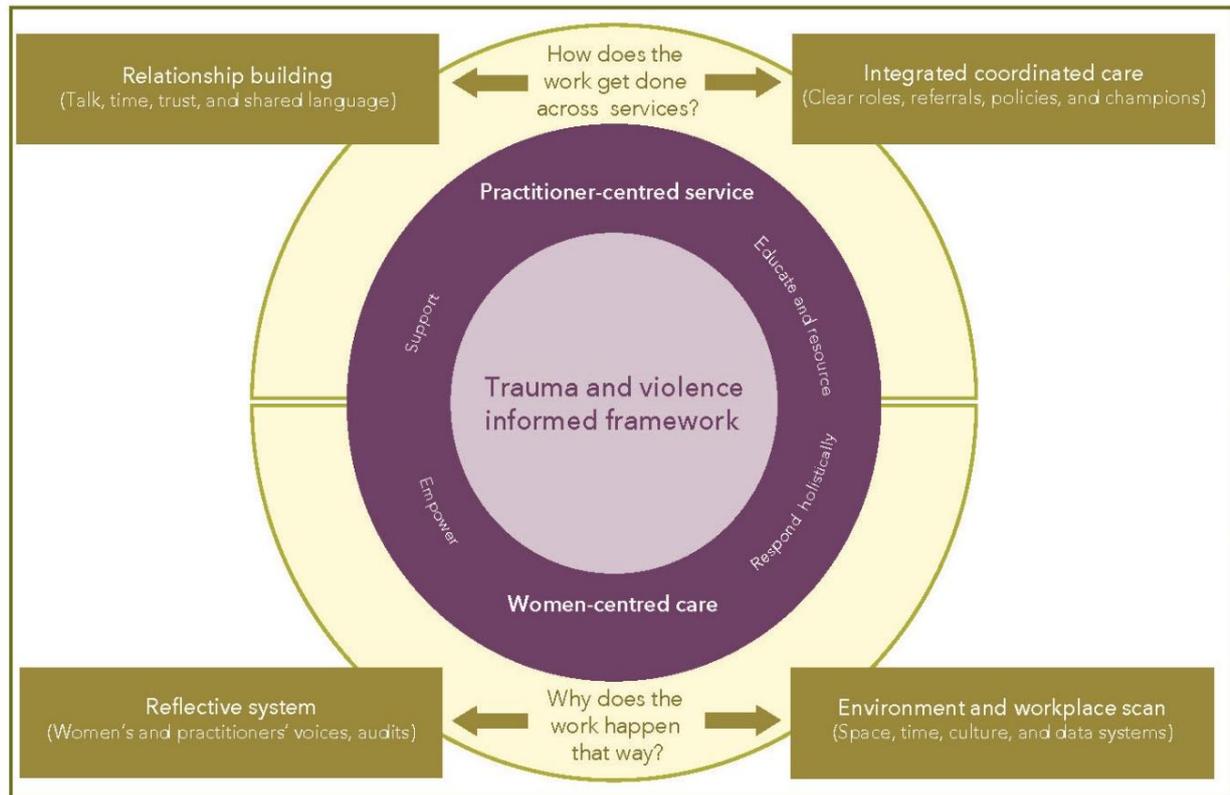




## Practice Studio Option 2: Trauma and Violence Informed Framework

Thematic area:	Trauma Informed Responses
Brief description	
<p>The trauma and violence informed framework was developed for health settings in Victoria as a result of the Women’s Input into a Trauma-informed systems model of care in Health settings (the <a href="#">WITH</a> study).</p> <p>The model was developed through extensive consultation with survivors of sexual violence, survivors of sexual violence who also had mental health problems, practitioners, senior staff and clinicians.</p> <p>Trauma and violence informed care expands on the concept of trauma informed care. It takes into account the intersecting impacts of systemic and interpersonal violence and structural inequities of a persons’ life.</p> <p>The four main building blocks of the framework are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Relationship building</li><li>2. Integrated co-ordinated care</li><li>3. Reflective system</li><li>4. Environment and workplace scan.</li></ol> <p>To implement the framework, two questions must be asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How does the work get done across services?</li><li>2. Why does the work get done that way?</li></ol> <p>By considering the questions with each of the building blocks, health care services can evaluate the degree to which their services are delivering trauma and violence informed care. From there, specific action can be implemented to improve, including regular quality improvement cycles that support ongoing improvement.</p>	



Hegarty, K., Tarzia, L., Rees, S., Fooks, A., Forsdike, K., Woodlock, D., Simpson, L., McCormack, C., Amanatidis, S. (2017). Women's Input into a Trauma-informed systems model of care in Health settings (The WITH Study) Final report (ANROWS Horizons 02/2017). Sydney: ANROWS.

Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence (SHRFV) Tool Kit. (2016) Available at: <https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/clinical-resources/strengthening-hospitals-response-to-family-violence/shrfv-resource-centre>

**Need(s) addressed**

Trauma informed responses for women and children were identified as a priority area by three of the five regional workshop groups.

Survivors of DFV and sexual assault must navigate many systems and services to access support for a range of complex needs. This can result in multiple, fragmented referral pathways and, in some cases, re-traumatisation due to the service response they receive. This framework aims to improve the experience for women victim survivors by enhancing the connections between services.

*Practice studio potential The example is provided only 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.*

A practice studio could use the framework to self-assess their organisation to identify strengths, improve internal processes and environments, the ease of access and experience with the broader service system that their clients must navigate.

We may support host organisations by:

- Helping to develop a self-assessment checklist based on the framework
- Helping to self-assess across multiple levels of their organisation
- Facilitating an action planning meeting to identify priorities for the practice studio period
- Generating an action work plan, including goals that can be measured throughout the practice studio period. study
- Providing advice, support and information to update policies and/or procedures
- Developing, or co-developing tools and resources to meet gaps identified through the self-assessment process

#### Outcomes sought

1. Participants demonstrate improved capability to provide trauma informed responses to women and children who have experienced DFV.
2. Women and children who have experienced DFV experience stronger attachment relationships and increased positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes.
3. A new model is developed for intervention, contextualised to Queensland's funded DFV services, that can be rolled out to other locations across the state.

Practical considerations for the host organisation *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.*

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:
  - a. Complete the self-assessment
  - b. Attend 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 in 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.

#### Innovation and Alignment

There is a growing awareness of the importance of trauma informed responses however with many different models are in use statewide. If this practice studio achieves the outcomes noted above, it could advance knowledge and produce further service innovations.