

# Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: The purpose and practices of partner contact

Partner contact work (performed by advocates, or victim/survivor advocates in Queensland) is an essential part of Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs). It typically involves working with the current and/or former partner(s) of the perpetrator who is undertaking the program to provide support, information, and safety planning.

This report found that across Australia, there was no consistent approach to partner contact work in MBCPs. The review of programs in various locations observed that partner contact work is often not prioritised as it is labour intensive, and resources are limited. Other problems, such as support for partners being withdrawn when perpetrators stop attending programs highlights how victim/survivors can have little control over their contact with services, which affects risk of harm.

This report includes a practice guide for MBCP's to enhance their practice around partner contact (PC). It complements existing minimum standards and uses reflective questions to invite those working in MBCPs and other innovative DFV focused perpetrator programs to consider ways to deepen and strengthen their individual and organisational practice

A practice studio would involve implementing the practice guide and relevant recommendations from the report. It is noted in the report and important to note here that limited funding is a significant barrier to implementing program enhancements. It may not be possible to implement all the guidance contained with the guide without more funding. Equally, services funded to provide partner contact work already, may find that existing practice aligns to at least some of the recommendations for practice. It should be anticipated in doing a practice studio on this topic that an initial self-audit would be needed before implementation.

## Further reading:

[Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: Mapping the purpose and practices of partner contact Key findings and future directions](#)

[Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions: Practice Guide](#)

## See also:

[Prioritising women's safety in Australian perpetrator interventions webinar](#)