



Our ref: DHS/19/00809
Your ref: 7224530

Ms Nat Cook MP
Member for Hurtle Vale
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Sent by email: shadowhumanservices@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Cook

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), received by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on 10 January 2019, seeking access to:

Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS or Ministerial Paper 18TDHS/1006.

Unfortunately, DHS was unable to make a determination on your application within the 30 days, therefore it is considered to be a 'deemed refusal' under section 19(2)(b) of the Act. However, DHS has continued to process your application outside of this timeframe. Section 19(2)(a) of the Act provides that an agency can release documents outside of the thirty-day timeframe, and this is still taken to be a determination under the Act.

Three documents were located that fit within the scope of your request and I have determined to release one document in full and refuse access to one document. Please note document 2 is publicly available. Document 3 has been determined to be exempt pursuant to clause 1(1)(e) of Schedule 1 of the Act as its release would disclose deliberations of Cabinet. Please find enclosed a copy of the document released, and a document schedule containing a brief description of each document and determination in summary form.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may/will be published on the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Fiona Braendler, Senior FOI Officer, on telephone 8413 9094 or by email at DHSFreedomofInformation@sa.gov.au. If you disagree with publication, you will need to advise the Senior FOI Officer within two weeks of the date of this determination.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Schutz
ACCREDITED FOI OFFICER

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – DHS/19/00809

Freedom of information application from Nat Cook MP seeking access to copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS or Ministerial Paper 18TDHS/1006.

No	Author	Date	Description of document	Determination	Reason
1.	Alisha Sopota, Senior Project Officer, Office for Women	03/08/2018	Briefing – 18TDHS/1006 - Release of National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions Report	Released in full	No exempt material
2.			Attachment 1 to Document 1 – National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention Report, Baseline Report, 2015-16	This document is publicly available National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention Report, Baseline Report, 2015-16	
3.			Attachment 2 to Document 1 - The current draft of The South Australian Safe Practice Standards for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Services and Interventions	Refused in full	Exempt clause 1(1)(e) – Cabinet documents

18TDHS/1006




Government of South Australia
Department of Human Services

TO MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

RE: Release of National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions Report

Decision/action required by:

Reason:

Recommendation	Response
1. That you approve the public release of the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions Report and advise Office for Women of your approval.	Approved / Not Approved / <u>Noted</u>
Comments: <i>For briefing / consideration at Justice sub-committee of Cabinet p11</i>	 Hon Michelle Lensink MLC <i>3/8/2018</i>

KEY POINTS

- On 10 July 2018, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services provided an embargoed copy of the inaugural *National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions* (NOSPI) Report (see Attachment 1) to Ministers responsible for women's safety in all states and territories for approval.
- The Commonwealth advises that the report will not be publicly released until all jurisdictions have briefed their Ministers, Women's Safety Ministers and the Council of Attorneys-General's; note the date is yet to be confirmed.
- It is important to note that although the NOSPI report provides data (where available) by state and territory, the report recognises that given the current quality of available data, this baseline report does not, nor should, make national comparisons (over time) or comparisons between states/territories.

DISCUSSION

Domestic, family and sexual violence against women is a pervasive problem in Australia with the overwhelming majority of perpetrators being male. It is therefore important to intervene effectively with men who use violence in order to disrupt their use of violence and abuse towards women and children.

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* (the National Plan) identifies "keeping perpetrators accountable across all systems" as one of six national priority areas.

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In mid-2015, a set of NOSPI Headline Standards were developed through extensive consultation with all jurisdictions and non-government experts in every state and territory. These were agreed to by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on 11 December 2015.

The NOSPI Headline Standards are:

1. Women and their children's safety is the core priority of all perpetrator interventions
2. Perpetrators get the right interventions at the right time
3. Perpetrators face justice and legal consequences when they commit violence
4. Perpetrators participate in programmes and services that enable them to change their violent behaviours and attitudes
5. Perpetrator interventions are driven by credible evidence to continuously improve
6. People working in perpetrator intervention systems are skilled in responding to the dynamics and impacts of domestic, family and sexual violence

A key action of the National Plan is to implement key performance indicators against the NOSPI Headline Standards and report against these annually.

During 2016, the Commonwealth Government, in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), consulted with jurisdictions to develop draft indicators to measure outcomes in line with the NOSPI. In South Australia the Office for Women led the consultation around the development of the indicators, with the South Australia Police, the Courts Administration Authority, the Department for Correctional Services, the Attorney-General's Department and SA Health.

The national consultation resulted in an initial set of 27 potential national indicators, of which six have been chosen to report against in the first NOSPI report.

The report provides data for 2015–16 on indicators relating to Headline Standards 1, 3 and 4. The results of particular note for South Australia include:

Indicator: *Proportion of police-attended family and domestic violence (FDV) incidents where police issued FDV intervention orders on behalf of the victim.*

- South Australia recorded the second-lowest reported figure (19%) of police-attended FDV incidents as having police and/or court interim orders issued (the results ranged from 18% in the Northern Territory to 61% in Tasmania).

Indicator: *Proportion of sexual assault charges that result in convictions.*

- The proportion of defendants proven guilty for sexual assault and related offences ranged from 16% in the Magistrates' courts (South Australia) to 78% in the Higher courts (Tasmania).
- The proportion proven guilty in the Higher Courts in South Australia was 60% - this was the second-lowest proportion with only Queensland lower at 58.9%.

Note: This indicator includes both FDV and non-FDV related offences.

Indicator: *Waiting time for community-based interventions*

- In South Australia, 70% of perpetrators waited less than one month to commence a community-based intervention program, and 30% of perpetrators waited between one and three months.
- Tasmania was the only other jurisdiction to provide data for this indicator – they reported that 2.9% of perpetrators waited less than one month to commence a community-based intervention program, and 15.7% of perpetrators waited between one and three months.

Indicator: *Perpetrators commencing and completing programs*

- Across selected state and territory courts and corrective services systems:

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- Between 49% and 100% of perpetrators assessed as suitable, commenced a behaviour change program. In South Australia, 91.8% of perpetrators assessed as suitable commenced a court program and 89.9% commenced a corrections program.
- Between 45% and 68% of perpetrators assessed as suitable completed a behaviour change program. In South Australia, the completion rate for a court program was 44.9%, compared to 71.3% for a corrections program.

It should be noted that the area of FDV is complex making the identification of appropriate indicators difficult. Although consultation was undertaken on the indicators, it could be considered that some of the indicators may not provide a true and accurate account of the occurrence or appropriateness of perpetrator interventions in each state and territory.

Whilst the purpose of the report is not data comparison, it may be used as such once it is released publicly. Therefore, there are two key indicators that need to be considered; South Australia has the lowest rates of conviction for Sexual Offences in the Magistrates Courts, and the second lowest rate of conviction in the High Court. Additionally, South Australia has the second lowest rate for police issuance of interim Intervention Orders. The data that underpins this was collected from 2015-2016, as such Office for Women will provide up to date data as it comes through. However, it is important to note that these statistics support the need for the implementation of the NOSPI in South Australia.



The implementation of the NOSPI in South Australian will be carried out through the Safe Practice Standards for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Services and Interventions (the Standards) (see Attachment 2), developed by the Office for Women in rigorous consultation with the sector. The Standards, currently in draft, will seek to support each part of our perpetrator system to maximise the safety of women and their children through appropriate and evidence based intervention.

BUDGET

Are there financial implications	No
Is there a budget impact	No
Is there an FTE impact	No

MEDIA/SENSITIVE:

No

Division	Office for Women		
Director	Fiona Mort	/...../.....
		signature	
Chief Executive	Tony Harrison		17/7/18
		signature	date

ATTACHMENTS

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1. National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention Report – embargoed copy
2. The current draft of The South Australian Safe Practice Standards for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Services and Interventions

Contact Officer:	Alisha Sopota, Senior Project Officer 08 8463 3205, Alisha.sopota2@sa.gov.au
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