

Legal Aid NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2019-2020

Promoting access to justice and pursuing excellence in legal services, including for people in domestic and family violence situations, continues to be a priority for Legal Aid NSW. The Strategy includes six key objectives, as well as actions for achieving those objectives. It builds on the actions set out in the first Legal Aid NSW Domestic and Family Violence Strategy which operated from 2016-2018.

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>1 Provide people affected by domestic and family violence with high quality, targeted services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Review Legal Aid NSW's eligibility policies to ensure access to legal assistance in matters involving ADVOs. (b) Measure the impact of our services on clients who have experienced domestic and family violence. (c) Review intake forms used across Legal Aid NSW to scope the inclusion of appropriate domestic and family violence screening and safety questions. (d) Investigate how to allow appropriate prioritisation of legal aid applications made by clients who have experienced domestic and family violence. (e) Explore options for improving service delivery for defendants in domestic and family violence matters. (f) Develop, test and implement improved means of identifying and responding to defendants who are primary victims of domestic and family violence.
<p>2 Provide innovative models of service delivery to clients affected by domestic and family violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Develop a service model that provides a coordinated response to victims of domestic and family violence across practice areas. (b) Implement the Family Violence and Cross-Examination of Parties Scheme. (c) Develop guidelines for the small asset pool property settlement Family Dispute Resolution scheme which protects those impacted by domestic and family violence. (d) Expand the holistic service delivery model of the Domestic Violence Unit by adding financial counselling capacity in that Unit. (e) Explore an upgrade for the WDV CAP Unit database.
<p>3 Equip our workforce to appropriately respond to clients and colleagues affected by domestic and family violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Review domestic and family violence training provided to all Legal Aid NSW staff and develop an action plan to address any training gaps. (b) Review existing Legal Aid NSW domestic and family violence resources for staff and clients and update resources as required. (c) Develop a policy to support Legal Aid NSW staff who are experiencing domestic and family violence.
<p>4 Support others to provide services to people affected by domestic and family violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Review domestic and family violence training provided to panel practitioners, CLCs and community workers and develop an action plan to address any training gaps. (b) Develop a communications and promotion strategy for the Family Violence Law Help website.
<p>5 Develop partnerships that work collaboratively to support people affected by domestic and family violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Develop a communications strategy for strengthening relationships between WDV CASs and Legal Aid NSW practitioners and panel practitioners. (b) Identify, explore and implement a referral partnership with a key agency for clients who have experienced domestic and family violence. (c) Investigate opportunities to partner with Multicultural NSW in relation to clients who have experienced domestic and family violence.
<p>6 Undertake strategic advocacy about domestic and family violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Advocate for legislative, policy and operational reform to ensure that young people are not inappropriately subject to domestic violence laws and policies.