

Domestic and family violence



We helped strengthen services for people experiencing family and domestic violence, with our evaluation of a government-funded initiative leading to the initiative's national expansion.

The Challenge

Domestic and family violence (DFV) is a complex issue which requires comprehensive and sensitive responses from healthcare and social service providers.

Recognising the need for effective interventions, the **Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC)** launched a pilot initiative in 2019 aimed at better supporting GPs and primary care staff to identify and assist victim-survivors of DFV.

Assessment of the initiative's feasibility and effectiveness was crucial for maximising its implementation and impact.

Our Role

In collaboration with **Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety**, the Sax Institute evaluated the pilot initiative throughout 2021 and 2022.

Working closely with six **Public Health Networks (PHNs)**, we assessed the initiative's implementation and the outcomes it achieved.

Our evaluation found that the program was overwhelmingly perceived as useful and needed. Training was provided to more than 1700 GPs and other staff, and more than 250 DFV victim-survivor referrals were made by participating GPs.

Policy Impact

The compelling evidence we generated helped inform policy decisions at a national level. In 2023, the Australian government allocated an additional \$36.8 million to expand the initiative nationally.

Recognising the importance of program evaluation in shaping effective interventions, DoHAC re-commissioned the Sax Institute to assess the expansion of the program.

The collaborative efforts between government agencies, research organisations and PHNs helped to improve the way primary care recognises, responds and refers victims of family and domestic violence.

Date: 2023

Partner organisations: Department of Health and Aged Care, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety