Queensland Government’s implementation updates to recommendations arising from the *Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board 2017-18 Annual Report*

<table>
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<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Implementation update</th>
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<td><strong>Recommendation 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service examine the role of clinical forensic evidence in securing convictions for non-lethal strangulation within a domestic and family violence context, with a view to identifying opportunities for improvement and standardisation in processes.</td>
<td>Queensland Health and Queensland Police Service</td>
<td>The recommendation is accepted. On 28 October 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services responded: Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service met to discuss moving forward with this recommendation and invited the Department of Justice and Attorney General to participate in a working group. The working group is scheduled to convene in late 2019.</td>
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<td><strong>Recommendation 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;Queensland Health explore opportunities to increase public health clinicians’ (including ambulance officers, accident and emergency staff, drug and alcohol services, mental health clinicians) knowledge of the signs of, and appropriate responses to, non-lethal strangulation within a DFV context. This should include an evaluation of the current Queensland Health training modules (i.e. Understanding DFV, Clinical responses to DFV) to ensure they include relevant information to assist health practitioners identify and respond to non-lethal strangulation.</td>
<td>Queensland Health</td>
<td>The recommendation is accepted. On 28 October 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded: Queensland Health’s toolkit of resources for the health workforce was reviewed and updated in 2018 to be inclusive of information about the signs, symptoms and risk indicators of non-lethal strangulation. Following a review of evidence, <em>A health response to non-lethal strangulation</em> factsheet and flowchart was developed and published. As part of the outcomes of a recent process evaluation, Queensland Health’s training modules are currently being updated to include evidence-based information about recognising and responding to non-lethal strangulation. A communications plan will be developed to promote the toolkit across Queensland Health’s workforce. The Queensland Ambulance Service, in partnership with the Red Rose Foundation, developed and implemented an internal education package supporting frontline staff specifically to identify clinical features of non-lethal strangulation, as well as provide guidance in the appropriate management, documentation and referral options that can be offered to patients. Since implementation in April 2019, this training package has been delivered by the Queensland Ambulance Service Education Centre via the Quarter Four, Tier One Training Program to a total of 3,687 frontline officers statewide (as at 8 August 2019 and continues to be delivered to all frontline staff). Queensland Ambulance Service staff are also provided with the Queensland Ambulance Service employee assistance programs Priority One and Optum which provide staff support and counselling services, in addition to direct line managers for debriefing challenging situations and experiences.</td>
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Recommendation 7
The Queensland Police Service evaluates their existing training in relation to domestic and family violence to increase frontline responding officers’ knowledge of the signs of, and appropriate responses to, non-lethal strangulation.

Queensland Police Service

The recommendation is accepted.
On 21 January 2020 the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services responded:
The Queensland Police Service continues to invest in training, education and professional development opportunities for members that promote best practice policing strategies in response to domestic and family violence, particularly non-lethal strangulation.
The Queensland Police Service:
• offered further opportunities to members to attend strangulation prevention training, delivered by the internationally renowned Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention from San Diego. The aim of the training is to build an in-house knowledge and skill base to help embed a uniformed, best practice response during investigations
• enhanced existing training products to assist police with appropriate communications skills to build rapport with victims (and other persons coming in to contact with police at times of crisis or intervention)
• continued to offer access to professional development opportunities, such as the Queensland University of Technology Graduate Certificate in Domestic Violence and trialling the appropriateness of the Central Queensland University Graduate Certificate in Domestic Violence, where members learn about risk assessment tools in actual cases and the impact of domestic violence on victims, carers and the community.
Ongoing evaluation of training programs is part of the service’s normal business operations for continuous improvement. In building strong leadership within the organisation related to domestic and family violence prevention, the inaugural domestic and family violence specialist course was delivered in February 2019. Refinements were made to the course content, with two further courses delivered in July and October 2019. This course includes a module related to non-lethal strangulation within a domestic violence context.

Recommendation 8
Queensland Health explore data-linking opportunities with other relevant departments to improve the evidence base regarding the ongoing health impacts of non-lethal strangulation.

Queensland Police Service

And

Queensland Health

The recommendation is accepted.
On 28 October 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services responded:
The Queensland Police Service commenced drafting a memorandum of understanding that will outline the roles and responsibilities of both the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Health in relation to the provision, usage, storage and disposal of data associated with emergency department, hospital admission and death registration data.

Recommendation 9
The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners explore opportunities to

Queensland Health

The recommendation is accepted in principle.
On 28 October 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:
<table>
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<th>Recommendation 13 - Improving cross-agency responses to DFV</th>
<th>Queensland Health</th>
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<td>Primary health networks throughout Queensland play a leadership role in training and workforce development initiatives that seek to improve cross-agency responses to DFV within primary health care settings. This should focus on enhancing local partnerships between specialist DFV support services, and primary health care providers.</td>
<td>Queensland Health contacted the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) to discuss the work of the DFV Death Review and Advisory Board and how to increase general practitioners’ knowledge of non-lethal strangulation in DFV.</td>
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The recommendation is accepted in principle. On 28 October 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

The National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) sets out roles and responsibilities for the Commonwealth and state levels of government in relation to providing health services. The Commonwealth Government has designated responsibility for establishing primary health networks to promote coordinated general practitioner and primary health care service delivery, placing primary health networks outside of the jurisdiction of Queensland Health. Queensland Health policy staff are liaising with Brisbane South Primary Health Network. Brisbane South Primary Health Network has independently developed and is delivering an innovative new program to support primary care to enhance service responses to people who are experiencing DFV, and to improve outcomes for individuals and families. Brisbane South Primary Health Network’s Recognise, Respond, Refer (RRR) program incorporates workforce capacity building to improve DFV knowledge and skills of primary health clinicians, and a system integration function designed to bring primary care into the DFV service system. Federal funding to roll the model out to a further four primary health networks regions was announced in March 2019. In late 2019 Queensland Health will explore opportunities and forums to provide information to primary health networks about ongoing DFV service system reform work, including findings from the DFV Death Review and Advisory Board.