



**DART**  
**INSTITUTE**

Domestic Abuse  
Resource and Training

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# CEO REPORT



**JOLENE ELLAT**

CEO, DART Institute

As CEO of DART Institute Australia Inc, I am honoured to present our Annual Report for the year 2023-2024. This year has seen its challenges, but most importantly, it has been a year of achievements as we continued our mission to provide critical training and support to professionals and community members.

Our organisation remains committed to creating safer homes, safer schools, safer workplaces, and safer communities by equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to recognise, respond to, and prevent family violence.

We have expanded our specialist training programs, launching new training modules focused on cultural competency and trauma-informed care, enabling participants to approach family violence with a more nuanced and compassionate perspective.

We have increased our reach and impact with our training programs reaching over 300 individuals in the first 5 months of operation including law enforcement officers, specialist workers, healthcare professionals, educators, and community leaders.

Our reach extended to over 200,000 Australians with a live on-air micro session of DART's Umbrella of Coercive Control and how to recognise forms of abuse and tactics. We provided the opening speech in Perth to over 3000 attendees at the 'No More Rally'. This has demonstrated a growing influence and the increasing recognition of the importance of family violence education.

We have forged new partnerships with local and national organisations. These collaborations have been instrumental in broadening our reach and enhancing the quality of our training materials, and we have hosted and been part of several local community events, national conferences, panel discussions, and workshops.

While we have achieved much, we also faced challenges. We have learned the importance of flexibility and the need to continually evolve our programs to meet the changing needs of our participants and the communities we serve.

As we look to the future, our focus will be on deepening our impact and expanding our reach. We plan to continue to develop new training programs that address emerging issues, such as technology-facilitated abuse and the intersection of family violence with substance misuse, and mental health. Additionally, we will continue to strengthen our partnerships and explore opportunities for collaboration, both locally and nationally.

We have been inundated with success stories from adopting our training principles. We are also committed to enhancing our data collection and evaluation processes to better measure the effectiveness of our programs. This will enable us to continuously improve our offerings and demonstrate the tangible impact of our work.



# CEO REPORT

## CONTIUNED

None of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our specialist facilitators, Specialist consultation groups, volunteers, partners, and supporters. I extend my deepest gratitude to our Board of Directors for their guidance and to all our sponsors for their generous contributions.

DART Institute Australia Inc. remains steadfast in its commitment to eliminating family violence through strengthening an FDV-informed workforce. As we move forward, we are more determined than ever to create a world where every individual can live free from fear and harm. Together, we will continue to work towards a safer, more just society.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

**Jolene Ellat**

CEO, DART Institute Australia Inc





# CHAIR REPORT



**SOPHIE MANERA**

Acting Chair, DART Institute

As we approach the one-year anniversary of DART Institute, Western Australia's leading provider of family violence prevention and response training, I am filled with immense pride at what we have achieved in such a short period. When I first joined DART, I was inspired by Jolene's vision to create a comprehensive, industry-led training provider that could address a significant gap in the field. In the last 12 months, this vision has been brought to life with remarkable impact.

From the outset, DART has hit the ground running. We have provided specialised training to a wide range of organisations, ensuring that those on the frontline of family and domestic violence (FDV) response—such as police, social workers, healthcare professionals, and community organisations—are equipped with the skills and knowledge to respond effectively and compassionately. As a result, our training programs have empowered hundreds of professionals, enhancing their ability to support individuals and families affected by violence.

Looking ahead, DART has several exciting projects in development, and we anticipate 2025 will be a year of significant growth and innovation.

Our team is committed to expanding the reach of our services, both geographically and in scope, and we are focused on creating new partnerships that will enable us to further strengthen the family violence prevention ecosystem.

Family and domestic violence remains a critical issue in our society, one that demands sustained attention and action. In the media and public discourse, much emphasis is placed on the role of first responders—those who are often the first to witness the devastating effects of violence. Through our training programs, we are proud to support these professionals in their vital work and to contribute to the broader effort to end family violence.

While it is still early days for DART, I am confident that with the imagination, determination, and expertise of Jolene and the entire team, we will continue to make significant strides in the years ahead. I am incredibly excited about what the future holds for DART and the potential we have to lead meaningful change in this space.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jolene, Sharon, and the entire DART team for their ongoing dedication and hard work. I also wish to express my gratitude to the DART Board for their strategic insight, enthusiasm, and commitment to our shared mission. Together, we are building a stronger, safer future for families across Western Australia. It is my privilege to support and guide DART Institute as we continue this important journey, and I look forward to another year of progress and impact.

Sophie Manera

**Acting Chair, DART Institute**

# TREASURER REPORT



**BEN HIGGINS**

Treasurer, DART Institute

I am pleased to report that the DART Institute had a successful inaugural year, making significant strides in our mission to promote the prevention of domestic abuse through education and training.

In our first year, DART received grant funding totalling \$35,959, which was essential in supporting our programs and operations and generating \$138,819 in revenue by providing tailored training and educational services to over 20 different entities in the sector and allied sector.

After accounting for associated costs and administrative expenses, the institute achieved a net income of \$76,522. This surplus will be reinvested in the upcoming financial year to advance DART's objectives and ensure we continue to be the leading not-for-profit organisation in Western Australia offering best practice training in domestic abuse and coercive control.

As of 30 June 2024, DART maintained a healthy financial position, with cash at bank amounting to \$90,996 and account receivables of \$14,552 and payables of \$31,710. These figures demonstrate our strong financial standing and position us well to continue our important work in the coming year.

The institute remains on track to maintaining financial stability while investing in growth initiatives that expand our reach and impact. The net income carried forward will enable DART to broaden community engagement and solidify our role as a key contributor to domestic abuse prevention and education across the region.

We are confident that with the continued support of our partners and stakeholders, DART will build on this year's success and achieve even greater outcomes in the years ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our cause.

Ben Higgins

**Treasurer, DART Institute**







# OUR STORY

## VISION

DART Institute Australia's vision is clear. Family violence is preventable. DART works to build an FDV-informed system-wide workforce where everyone understands their roles and responsibilities and has the knowledge and skills required to provide safe, family violence-informed, and culturally appropriate responses to victim-survivors and users of violence. We are working towards creating safer homes, schools, workplaces, and communities. While DART was founded in 2022, we launched DART not-for-profit, DART Institute Australia in 2023. Since its founding in 2023, the organisation has impacted the community and participants in WA and nationwide through training, advocacy, and consulting in collaboration with various organisations.

## MISSION

- To build a service system response of DFV and sexual violence informed organisations.
- We do this by advocating for best practice, continuous system improvement and innovative policy responses to DFV and sexual violence at all levels.
- We support preventative, foundational, tertiary and specialist intervention work
- We provide leading consultation and training to the sector



# OUR WORK



The Domestic Abuse Resource and Training Institute (DART) was born out of passion and commitment to bring together a team of national and international specialists to deliver prevention and response training across Australia and New Zealand. We deliver training to the DFV and sexual violence specialist sector, community, education, housing, family court, corrections, child and family welfare, health and human services as well as private sector. DART Institute also provides specialist consultation, research and pilot project, community engagement and community advocacy.



DART Institute is a proud West Australian-owned not-for-profit organisation. We deliver on system-wide workforce development where everyone is clear about their roles and responsibilities. We aim to build the knowledge and skills across the FDV sector and allied sectors to ensure responsible provide safety-focused, family violence informed and culturally safe responses.







# TRAINING IMPACT

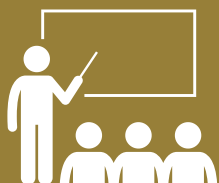
DART continues to expand our reach and impact by developing training programs tailored to the needs of both the sector and allied sectors. Our training has successfully engaged a diverse range of professionals, including Family Domestic Violence Response Teams (FDVRTs), child protection workers, men's behaviour change facilitators, Department of Justice staff, women's refuge and health workers, counsellors, mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) specialists. We remain committed to breaking down silos within the sector to foster collaboration and build an FDV-informed workforce.

Our training initiatives span across Australia, allowing us to deliver our programs nationally through our virtual classroom



**18**

FDV programs delivered



**801**

Attendees reached at  
conference and events



**36**

Organisations reached



**336**

Participants trained



# TRAINING SUCCESS STORIES

AT DART we work to build a whole of systems to respond to domestic family and sexual violence (DFSV). Our recent partnerships and training have demonstrated a further need for services to work beyond the current model and work towards an integrative and collaborative model when addressing DFSV.

DART's training encompasses evidence-based practices, interdisciplinary collaborations, and cultural competence. Through our training, we ensure professionals are equipped with the most up-to-date knowledge and skills. This includes risk assessment, safety planning, and trauma-informed care, all of which are critical when working with victims and survivors of family violence. Further, we ensure the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing family violence organisations to provide comprehensive support to victims and survivors whilst having an understanding of the specific needs of marginalised populations, such as Indigenous communities, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ individuals, and adapting interventions accordingly.

## WA ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Our recent partnership with WAAMH brought together various teams across the mental health space. Mental health organisations play a significant role in healing and need to have an understanding of DFSV and how this impacts the well-being of victims and survivors. Through this collaborative partnership, we were able to support various personnel across the sector in recognising and responding to DFSV as well as provide the relevant skills to screen, assess risk, safety plan, and refer.

### Key Takeaways:

- **Complexity of Domestic Violence:** Acknowledged the multifaceted nature of domestic violence and the collective responsibility in recognising and responding to it.
- **Strengths-Based Approach:** Learned the significance of approaching interventions from a strengths-based and trauma-informed perspective.
- **Empowering Safety Planning:** Emphasised the importance of active listening and following the victim's lead in safety planning processes.
- **Importance of Screening:** Recognised the critical role of screening for family violence and acquired techniques for effective risk assessment.





# TRAINING SUCCESS STORIES

## DERBARL YERRIGAN HEALTH SERVICE

Medical practices have a significant role to play in recognising DFSV and responding. Our recent partnership with Derbarl Yerrigan Medical Health Service saw our team support the development of a culturally informed family violence risk screening tool for all clients entering the service. Inclusive of our partnership was the development and delivery of a 2-hour culturally informed DFSV face-to-face training for general practitioners, medical clinicians, and the whole of practice staff. To ensure its relevance several consultations and a working group were formed. The success of this training has seen an increase in referrals to family violence support across Derbarl Yerrigan with screening tools implemented as part of clinician engagement.

### Key Takeaways:

- **Deeper Understanding of Evidence-Based Risk Factors:** Participants gained insights into evidence-based risk factors and the crucial lethality percentages that guide assessments of imminency of risk.
- **Navigating High-Risk Factors vs. Imminency:** The training delved into effectively working with both high-risk factors and situations where risk factors may be low, yet imminency is high—an essential skill for our specialists.
- **Fine-Tuning Skills on Risk Management:** Attendees honed their skills in risk management, learning how to seamlessly integrate them into Multi-Agency Case Meetings (MACM) for optimal outcomes for families.
- **Screening for Family Violence:** Learnt strategies for identifying and addressing family violence with sensitivity and awareness.
- **Perpetrator and Survivor-Focused MACM:** Emphasising a balanced approach, the training explored the dynamics of MACM with a focus on both perpetrator accountability and survivor strengths.
- **Role of GPs in the Service System:** Gained a clear understanding of how GPs fit within the broader response framework for family violence.



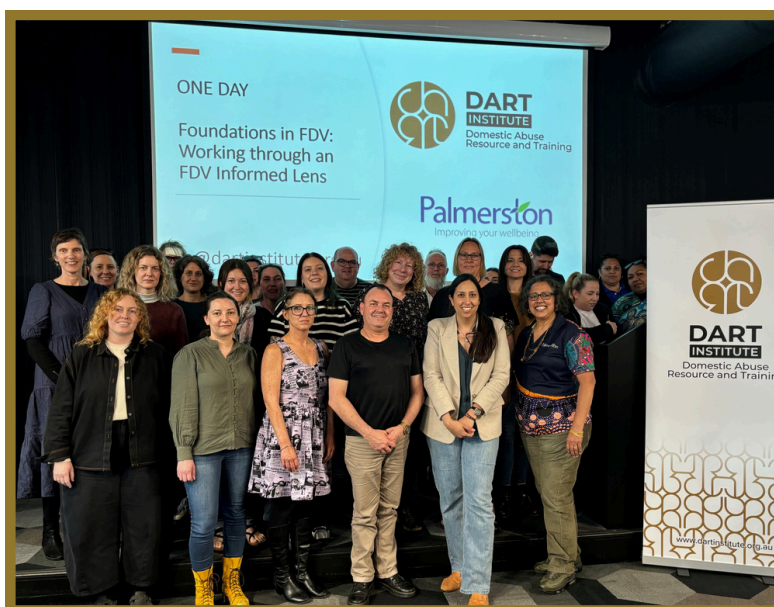
# TRAINING SUCCESS STORIES

## PALMERSTON ASSOCIATION

When working with DFSV we must break away from the silos that dismantle effective healing and perpetuate negative social responses. Our recent organisational partnership with Palmerston has highlighted the importance of a collaborative and integrative approach when working with co-occurring factors such as the intersection between DFSV and alcohol and another drug (AoD). We are better able to recognise DFSV and causal or exacerbating factors due to the perpetration of abuse. Further, we are better able to effectively work with users of violence to reduce further risk of harm and effectively engage additional providers to ensure perpetrator visibility

### Key Takeaways:

- **Earlier Training** – Many staff expressed how valuable the family violence training was, wishing they had received it sooner. They highlighted how it will now significantly inform their practice moving forward.
- **Role Clarity in AOD Work** – Participants recognised how crucial their role as AOD workers is within the broader framework of integrated, collaborative care when addressing family violence.
- **Tailored Screening Questions** – The family violence screening questions, particularly those tailored for users of violence in AOD settings, were highly appreciated by the group.
- **Shift in Therapeutic Approach** – A number of attendees noted a shift in their perspective—from a standalone therapeutic response to a family and domestic violence (FDV)-informed approach—thanks to the tailored case examples shared during the session.
- **Safety Planning** – The adaptability of safety planning templates for their specific work with survivors was another highlight that resonated with the team.
- **Understanding Risk and Impact** – Recognising the risks and impacts of FDV in AOD settings, along with the importance of bringing visibility to perpetrator behaviour and survivor strengths, was a crucial takeaway. The session reaffirmed that responsibility for violence rests solely with the perpetrator, not the protective parent



“ I NOW HAVE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY VIOLENCE RISK, AND HIGH RISK FACTORS WHEN OUR WORK INTERSECTS WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE. ”



# TRAINING SUCCESS STORIES

## SHELTER WA

Research shows that FDV is the leading cause of homelessness of women and children in Australia. Working with the Peak Body Shelter WA this year highlighted the significance of building a whole of service systems response to DFSV. Our training further enhanced the understanding of pathways into homelessness and how our systems can be better equipped to recognise and respond to DFSV when victims and survivors are at risk of homelessness due to the perpetration of abuse.

### Key Takeaways:

- **Complexity of Family Violence** – Participants gained valuable insights into the complexity of family violence, highlighting the importance of understanding its multifaceted impact on individuals and families.
- **Practical Risk Screening Skills** – The practical skills learned for screening risk and partnering with survivors were highly appreciated and are expected to enhance responses in real-world situations.
- **Understanding FDV Leave and Responsibilities** – A deeper understanding of family violence leave entitlements and organisational responsibilities was a key takeaway, reinforcing the importance of workplace support for affected individuals.
- **Risk Factors and Homicide Prevention** – The session shed light on the critical risk factors associated with family violence and how these can escalate to homicide, underscoring the importance of informed interventions.
- **Effective Training Delivery** – While the topic was heavy, participants relayed positive feedback for the trainings engaging and accessible delivery, making complex concepts easy to understand.
- **Organisational Commitment** – The training highlighted the organisation's proactive approach to ensuring staff are FDV-informed, a move that many participants found commendable and impactful for future practices.



# CASE STUDY 1

## UNITING WA

### Case Study from IFS Peel Team

Since completing DART's training programs, I approach cases with a clear FDV lens, which has fundamentally changed how I work.

The case I've chosen was one of the first referrals the Peel team received. It has been incredibly rewarding to partner with this mother, supporting her in transforming her relationship with both the perpetrator and her eldest child. This journey has demonstrated the impact of empowering clients to create positive changes in their lives and relationships.

My colleague worked with the mother in 2019, supporting her to enter a refuge. The case was re-referred to Uniting in 2022 to assist the mother in reunifying with her eldest son. She was now in a new relationship but struggled to communicate with the perpetrator and discuss him with her eldest son.

Using survivor engagement principles, I partnered with her to help her recognise her strengths as a parent and a partner. While acknowledging that the perpetrator had not been a good partner, we discussed the importance of allowing her son the opportunity to try and maintain a positive relationship with his father. We also worked on managing conversations with her son about his father in ways that avoided conflict. She shared that once her son realised she wasn't going to speak negatively about his dad, he became more open about his thoughts and feelings.

A recurring challenge for her was her belief that the perpetrator used mind games to disempower her regarding contact with their son. We worked through what she wanted to say to him to feel more in control and rehearsed how the conversation might unfold. She was delighted to share with me later that her ex-partner had listened to her and agreed they needed to co-parent effectively for the sake of their son and his siblings. Recently, both parents attended an awards night together with their respective partners to support their son. The photos from the event show her son with the biggest smile on his face. The training provided me with the skills and confidence to help her recognise the perpetrator's patterns of behaviour, which had been difficult for her to identify due to the long-term, chronic nature of the abuse. By partnering with her, we also explored the impact of the abuse on her, her relationship with her son, and other aspects of her life, including past drug use.

We took time to acknowledge and build on her strengths as a parent and celebrated her significant achievements, including making lifestyle changes that led to her son being reunified with her. By understanding the complexities of her situation in the context of the perpetrator's abusive and controlling behaviour, she was able to move away from feelings of guilt, helplessness, and hopelessness to a place of empowerment and progress.





# CASE STUDY 2

## DERBAL YERRIGAN

A 34-year-old female client presented to Derbarl Yerrigan. The client initially met with her GP to address medical needs and obtain a doctor's certificate for work. During the consultation, the GP, who had recently undergone training delivered by DART and utilised their tailored FDSV (Family and Domestic and Sexual Violence) screening tool, conducted an FDSV screening.

### **The screening identified that the client had experienced:**

- Emotional abuse
- Blaming
- Use of children in coercive behaviors
- Coercion and threats
- Physical abuse
- Property damage

The client answered "yes" to three of the four screening questions for FDSV.

The GP addressed the client's initial medical needs and triaged her to the family violence team.

### **FDSV Involvement:**

The family violence team provided the following support:

- Completed a comprehensive intake and needs assessment.
- Developed a safety plan with the client.
- Provided the client with a "safe yarning" plan.
- Explored safety plans and strategies for the client, her children, and her mother.
- Supported a Violence Restraining Order (VRO) application, which was granted.
- Offered assistance to apply for a VRO for the client's mother.
- Supplied food support, fuel support, emergency packs, and security cameras.
- Assisted the client in applying for Emergency Voucher Payments (EVP) to secure her home, allowing her to return safely.
- Linked the client and her children to mental health support services.

The client continues to engage with Derbarl Yerrigan and the family violence team for long-term support.



# OUR SPONSORS



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**KATIE-JEYN ROMEYN**  
INTERNATIONAL



**\$9.7K**

Total Donations



**\$36K**

Total Grant Income



**30**

Gifted Training  
Places



# OUR TEAM



**Jolene Ellat**  
CEO



**Dr Lorraine Sheridan**  
Consultant | Trainer



**Marnie Dillon**  
Consultant | Trainer



**Sharon Tanner**  
Operations Manager



**Keri Anne Smith**  
Consultant | Trainer



**Daphne White**  
Educator | Content Creator



**Savanna Griechen**  
Music Therapist | Drama Teacher

# OUR BOARD



**Jolene Ellat**  
CEO



**Sophie Manera**  
Chair



**Kathy Greenwood**  
Co-Chair



**Ben Higgins**  
Treasurer



**Sharon Cumbers**  
Board Secretary



**Allan Ball**  
Board Member



**Daniel Principe**  
Board Member



**Martina Ucnikova**  
Board Member

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## FUTURE PLAN

As we transition into 2024-2025, we remain steadfast in our commitment to workforce development. Our goal is to cultivate a comprehensive system-wide response to family and domestic violence (FDV) that empowers every individual involved. We believe it is essential that each team member understands their role and responsibilities within the framework, fostering a culture of clarity and collaboration.

To achieve this, we will provide targeted training and resources that enhance knowledge and skills, ensuring that all staff feel confident in their abilities to deliver safe and culturally sensitive practices. By prioritising ongoing professional development, we aim to create a workforce that is not only well-equipped but also supported to implement FDV-informed approaches in their work.



## INOVATION

DART will work towards developing innovative, place-based training solutions for Domestic and Family Violence Services (DFSV). Our approach focuses on understanding the unique needs of various communities and tailoring our training programs accordingly. We believe that effective training should not only be informative but also relevant and accessible to those it serves.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are thrilled to announce new national offerings that will further enhance our training capabilities. These upcoming programs will incorporate the latest research, best practices, and input from community stakeholders to ensure they are relevant and culturally informed. Our goal is to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to address domestic and family violence effectively, fostering safer communities across the nation. Follow us on social media for more updates as we continue to innovate and expand our training solutions.





# CONTACT US



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