

Appendix three – Key NSW Police Force initiatives, July 2016–present

The NSW Police Force has implemented a range of initiatives aimed at improving domestic violence policing over the last several years. The review period for this audit is from July 2016 and the table following highlights some key initiatives corresponding to areas of the NSW Police Force corporate plan domains. Some key initiatives developed prior to the period of review include:

- In 2014, the NSW Police Force commenced the operation of domestic violence clinics to reduce the apprehension that domestic violence victim-survivors feel when attending court.
- In 2015, the NSW Police Force introduced Domestic Violence Evidence in Chief, an audio or video statement taken shortly after the commission of a domestic violence offence that is admissible in court as all or part of the victim’s evidence in chief at court.
- From 2015, the NSW Police Force has participated in the government’s Safer Pathway reform including administering the Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool and chairing Safety Action Meetings.

Exhibit 12: Key NSW Police Force initiatives, July 2016 to present

Prevention	Disruption
<p>Over the review period, the NSW Police Force funded several community service announcement campaigns to support prevention of domestic and family violence.</p> <p>In March 2020, the Domestic and Family Violence team prepared a COVID action plan to address the anticipated increases in volume or intensity of domestic and family violence. Key components of the plan included greatly increased Apprehended Domestic Violence Order compliance checks. The NSW Police Force co-chaired the Domestic Violence and COVID-19 multi-agency group to enhance coordination with other government agencies in response to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Over the period of review the NSW Police Force designed and implemented a structured approach to perpetrator accountability. There are now three tiers to this approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic Violence High Risk Offender Teams: introduced in August 2016 and state-wide by 2019. High Risk Offender Teams operate at region level. High risk offenders are referred to them by local commands in the region to manage. NSW Police Force have found that the High Risk Offender Teams are often able to provide enhanced victim support as well as perpetrator accountability. 2. Suspect Target Management Plan: version two commenced in February 2016. Local commands are expected to maintain a certain number of Suspect Target Management Plans. Version three of the Suspect Target Management Plan program commenced in November 2020 and includes enhanced options to refer targets to services as well as surveillance measures. The NSW Police Force is piloting an iteration of STMP III focused on domestic violence offending. 3. Apprehended Domestic Violence Order Compliance Checks: state-wide commenced in May 2017. All local commands are expected to incorporate a regime of enhanced Apprehended Domestic Violence Order Compliance Checks into daily taskings to improve offender accountability.

Prevention

The NSW Police Force changed its practice around **default Apprehended Domestic Violence Order lengths**. Apprehended Domestic Violence Order lengths sought by police are influential in determining final orders and in flagging the seriousness of the underlying concern to police and offenders. In 2018, the default was increased to two years for persons without domestic violence history, and five years otherwise.

Formation of **domestic violence teams at local commands** encouraged from May 2017. Some commands operate with this model.

Disruption

The NSW Police Force reviewed **training** packages at entry level and for domestic violence officers and multicultural community liaison officers.

In 2018, the NSW Police Force conducted a pilot aimed at enhancing officer's **social responses to victims to improve service and quality of evidence gathered**. While favourably reviewed, the pilot has not been incorporated into mainstream training to date.

Source: Audit Office analysis of NSW Police Force data.