

Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1

Page 12

The amendment to the WA Police definition of a family and domestic relationship makes it difficult to accurately compare the current rate of family and domestic violence incidents with the rate prior to the change of definition.

Finding 2

Page 26

Despite foreshadowed legislative change to amend the *Restraining Orders Act (1997)* to introduce a Family Violence Restraining Order, it has not been introduced.

Finding 3

Page 29

The number of police officers assigned to specialist domestic violence units (now called Victim Support Units) has halved since the introduction of the *Frontline 2020* model in June 2014. Under the new model, all police officers are expected to respond to family and domestic violence incidents.

Finding 4

Page 45

While WA Police has some tools for monitoring the response of its officers to family and domestic violence, it has no set timeline to introduce any formal evaluation measures.

Finding 5

Page 48

The absence of any questions measuring family and domestic violence crimes, victim safety or victim satisfaction in the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing makes it impossible for jurisdictions to compare their performance in this area.

Finding 6

Page 51

While the attitude to family and domestic violence of many WA Police officers cannot be faulted, there is evidence of an enduring element of some officers with negative attitudes towards police responsibilities in this area.

Finding 7

Page 53

The demand on police resources is such that WA Police has not met its response time targets for attending priority 1 and 2 calls. This will impact on the response to more serious family and domestic violence crimes, putting victims at risk and potentially affecting their willingness to report such offences in the future.

- Finding 8** **Page 54**
Domestic Violence Incident Reports are not always completed accurately by attending police officers, which can impact on the assessment of a case and result in an inappropriate response.
- Finding 9** **Page 56**
There is inconsistency in the response of WA Police officers to breaches of restraining orders, with many breaches not being recorded as such.
- Finding 10** **Page 57**
Family and domestic violence victims are not always informed by WA Police in a timely manner of legal action taken against the perpetrator, potentially exposing them to further abuse.
- Finding 11** **Page 60**
While not all Aboriginal victims of family and domestic violence report negative experiences with police, some have received insensitive and inappropriate responses which can be directly linked to their Aboriginal status.
- Finding 12** **Page 60**
Police face challenges in dealing with family and domestic violence in Aboriginal communities due to historical and cultural factors.
- Finding 13** **Page 62**
WA Police officers repeatedly fail to provide interpreters for family and domestic violence victims who are not proficient in English. Where they are provided, accounts are sometimes misconstrued in favour of the perpetrator.
- Finding 14** **Page 66**
The existing family and domestic violence training received by recruits at the WA Police Academy does not adequately prepare them for policing family and domestic violence effectively.
- Finding 15** **Page 69**
The Aboriginal cultural awareness training provided to WA Police recruits and officers is ad hoc, inconsistent and insufficient.
- Finding 16** **Page 72**
WA Police officers and civilian staff need to develop greater understanding of the dynamics of family and domestic violence and how to deal sensitively with victims, including those with different views to their own.

Recommendation 1	Page 75
That WA Police adopts all elements of Recommendation 11 (pertaining to training) set out in the 2014 Law Reform Commission of Western Australia report <i>Enhancing Family and Domestic Violence Laws</i> , as well as the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That face-to-face training is prioritised over computer-based training wherever possible. • That training is provided to ensure that the correct policy and procedures are being used, to ensure a consistent response. 	
Recommendation 2	Page 76
That progress on family and domestic violence training be reported on in the WA Police annual report.	
Recommendation 3	Page 78
That the Attorney General expedites the initiation of amendments to sentencing laws and the introduction of the necessary laws to enable GPS tracking of serious domestic violence offenders.	
Recommendation 4	Page 79
In the event that GPS tracking is introduced, that WA Police ensures that it implements an evaluation plan to assess its effectiveness.	
Finding 17	Page 85
WA Police does not collect survey data to measure how satisfied family and domestic violence victims are with the police response.	
Finding 18	Page 90
The single audited KPI related to family and domestic violence provides only a limited measure of the effectiveness of policing in this area.	
Recommendation 5	Page 90
That WA Police commits to establishing a set of intermediate performance indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of family and domestic violence policing by June 2016.	
Finding 19	Page 90
WA Police has no intention of updating its family and domestic violence strategy and has relinquished leadership on family and domestic violence to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.	

Recommendation 6**Page 90**

In keeping with practices in other Australian states, WA Police should take a leading role in combatting family and domestic violence by ensuring it has a strategy with objectives specific to police.

Finding 20**Page 92**

The participation of WA Police in multi-agency approaches to domestic violence has been positive, and the agency's interest in being involved in an expansion of this approach is commendable and encouraging.

Finding 21**Page 95**

There is a general lack of demographic data related to family and domestic violence offences collated and/or published.

Recommendation 7**Page 95**

That demographic data related to family and domestic violence offences is collected and made publicly available by the relevant agencies.

Recommendation 8**Page 96**

That WA Police introduces formal performance measures related to its response to family and domestic violence, giving consideration to the following measures:

- reduction in repeat victimisation
- accurate recording and identification of incidents
- breaches of Violence Restraining Orders
- attending officers adequately informed about previous attendance and violence
- victim satisfaction with response
- willingness of victims to call police
- response time for domestic violence incidents
- progress of training in domestic violence policing
- level of workforce diversity (including targets)