

Senate Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children

Hearing- 4 October 2023

Kimberley Community Legal Services

Response to Question on Notice

- 1) Responding to Incidents of Family and Domestic Violence by Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT):**

The below response has been prepared with reference to the 'Family and Domestic Violence Response Team Operating Procedures' document (<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2021-10/FDVRT-Operational-Procedures.pdf>) and direct discussions with two (2) members of the East Kimberley FDVRT. For further information as to the practice and procedure of the FDVRT team, it is recommended that the Inquiry approach the coordinating body directly.

The East Kimberley FDVRT comprises of a representative from Western Australia Police (WAPOL); an Anglicare support worker; and two senior child protection workers from the Department of Communities- Child Protection and Family Support (DCPFS).

When a notification of family violence is received by the FDVRT, it is first reviewed by the WAPOL officer, before being released to the whole FDVRT for review and triage. These meetings take place each weekday (Monday-Friday). Each incident is reviewed by the team and support/response offered in some form to the victim of *each* incident- if children are involved, this is facilitated by DCPFS; if no children are involved, this is facilitated by Anglicare.

It is KCLS' understanding that the FDVRT does not require six (6) incidents of family violence before a wraparound response is triggered. Each incident is considered by the team and a wraparound response considered in respect of each, even where there have been no prior incidents of family violence (first incident). Furthermore, should a wraparound response be required at a later date, there is a mechanism whereby any member of the team can call a whole FDVRT meeting with a view to coordinating such a response at that point in time.