

CENTRE OF  
RESEARCH  
EXCELLENCE

**Safer  
Families**

# **PATHWAYS TO SAFETY WORKSHOP 2026-27**

## **Whole of Practice Checklist**



Safer Families Centre of Research  
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[www.saferfamilies.org.au](http://www.saferfamilies.org.au)



## 'Whole of Practice' Checklist

The whole of practice checklist objectives are:

1. To examine current practices and systems within the practice.
2. To identify areas for change within the practice.
3. To consider supports for staff experiencing family and/or sexual violence.

### Tasks for 'Whole of Practice' Checklist

1. Fill in the checklist on the next two pages.
2. Meet as a team and choose one or two identified items that could be changed to improve responses to family and sexual violence.
3. Decide how you will implement the new processes/changes and sustain them, including:
  - a. Who is responsible for what
  - b. The timing needed
  - c. Any additional resources needed
4. Implement the change/s and revisit your checklist at a later time to consider if the change/s were effective and if there are any more that you could make.

*For any questions on how to use the Whole of Practice Checklist tool, please contact Safer Families at: [safer-families@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:safer-families@unimelb.edu.au)*

Checklist	Describe
<b>The waiting room/website and other communal areas or general access points</b>	
<p>Are there messaging or posters saying the practice supports those who are experiencing family and sexual violence?</p> <p>Do you have messaging or posters that reinforce respectful communication where the client will be listened to and treated respectfully?</p> <p>Are resources appropriate to the health literacy and cultural needs of your patients available?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are there factsheets and resources available on family and sexual violence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In multiple languages?</li> <li>• Specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?</li> <li>• For LGBTIQ+ DFV specific service?</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Is information about local and national family and sexual violence support services clearly displayed?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Is there the facility for patients to speak privately to any member of the practice staff so they cannot be overheard?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Has the practice engaged in cultural sensitivity training in the last 2 years?</p> <p>Do you have an acknowledgement that you are on Aboriginal land?</p> <p>Does the practice acknowledge NAIDOC week?</p> <p>Do interpreters used by your health services receive family and sexual violence training?</p> <p>Do staff know how to use the interpreter service and regularly reminded of it?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Practice staff</b>	
<p>Does the practice have policies and procedures for staff who have been affected by family and sexual violence?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Is support available to staff who may experience vicarious trauma?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist	Describe	
<b>Practice procedures</b>		
Has the practice established access to regular and contemporary training in responding to family and sexual violence for clinical and administrative staff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are all clinical and non-clinical staff trained in responding to family and sexual violence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are they trained to recognise the warning signs of family and sexual violence?</li> <li>• Are they aware of privacy protocols and reporting requirements?</li> <li>• Are all GPs and nurses specialising in antenatal care trained to screen for family and sexual violence?</li> <li>• Have staff reflected on their own assumptions and bias regarding family and sexual violence?</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are staff aware of and use Medicare item numbers appropriately? e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health assessment and chronic disease plans?</li> <li>• Pregnancy numbers for screening and responding to psychosocial issues?</li> <li>• Domestic and family violence inquiry to Mental Health Care Plan templates?</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Has the practice established a referral pathway to specialist family and sexual violence agencies? Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients who have disclosed family and/or sexual violence</li> <li>• Perpetrators of family and/or sexual violence</li> <li>• Children affected by family and/or sexual violence</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a procedure in place to ensure patients who may be experiencing family and sexual violence can be seen on their own?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a procedure in place for requests for sharing information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do all staff know, or have access to, information about local specialist family and sexual violence services, their policies & procedures in relation to family and sexual violence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the practice have a family and sexual violence champion to oversee and regularly monitor practice protocols and act as a secondary consult?	<input type="checkbox"/>	