Clinical Champion Role Overview

Overview

The Women’s Prevention of Violence against Women (PVAW) Clinical Champions have an important role under the Women’s Prevention of Violence against Women Strategy: to support the whole of hospital model of sensitive inquiry to identify and respond to family violence disclosure.

The Prevention of Violence Against Women is a key focus area in The Women’s Strategic Plan 2016–2020, and the following Women’s policy documents guide this work:

* Prevention of Violence Against Women Strategy 2017-2021
* Violence against Women Assessment and Response Policy
* Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Procedure
* Family Violence Workplace Support Policy and Procedure
* Sexual Assault Clinical Pathway.

Violence against women is an area of strategic focus within the Women’s Strategic Plan 2016–2021. This means that The Women’s will continue to advocate for and provide leadership for the role of hospitals in responding to violence against women as a health issue.

The hospital system is an early contact point for many people who have experienced family violence. Pregnancy and the early years of parenting are periods when women may be at greater risk of experiencing family violence. As such, the Women’s is in a unique position to routinely ensure early identification of these concerns for the benefit of patients experiencing family violence.

An empathetic and professional response from a trusted nurse, midwife, social worker, doctor or other health provider can reinforce a woman’s understanding that they have the right to a life free from violence and harm.

The clinical champion role is a crucial strategy in implementing and sustaining the prevention of violence against women work across the hospital, particularly as antenatal screening for family violence in maternity settings across the hospital becomes routine.

With the support that they receive through the network they can become an educational and practical resource providing on the ground leadership to their colleagues and are a critical component of supporting the effective implementation of the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework.

The Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) Clinical Champions are members of staff who are trained to assist, support, and resource clinical staff to be able to access evidence-based information about family violence in relation to the care of patients within the hospital. This role will include the Clinical Champion assisting other staff to undertake the following with patients: recognise the signs of family violence, to sensitively inquire and respond to patients experiencing family violence, to enhance safety, and to provide appropriate support and referral options.

Clinical champions will also assist to build staff capacity and work-unit awareness to respond to violence against women through reflective practice and case review at relevant staff, team and clinical meetings.

Organisational Support Provided to PVAW Clinical Champions

The support and training requirements for the PVAW Clinical Champions is provided through the Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence (SHRFV) Project Team in collaboration with key specialist services.

Clinical Champions will attend formal meetings and education sessions to support their role. They will also participate in online forums, which will assist with developing their skills and capacity, as well as provide support for their ongoing role.

Quarterly debriefing/reflective practice sessions will be provided, and access to counsellors with experience with family violence are available within the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

PVAW Responsibilities & Major Activities

* Help promote awareness of the Violence Against Women Policy and Family Violence Identification and Response Procedure, including the Family Violence Workplace Support Policy.
* Support staff through case reviews and reflective practice at relevant staff, team and clinical meetings
* Provide information about and copies of the Women’s Prevention of Violence Against Women Policy and Family Violence Identification and Response Procedure and other relevant policies to any member of staff who requests their assistance.
* Provide clear, accurate, and accessible information to staff who seek assistance in relation to patients experiencing family violence.
* Outline the internal and external referral options available.
* Provide advice on what support services are available to an individual.
* Facilitate secondary consultations with manager, specialist staff (including social workers), or after hours manager if immediate risk issues for the patient are identified by the staff member.
* Work with other PVAW Clinical Champions through regular meetings and online forums to develop skills, share practice wisdom, and inform best practice.
* Participate in training to maintain and develop sound knowledge of the clinical indicators of family violence, primary prevention strategies and the family violence service system, including internal policies and procedures and projects
* Ensure equity and access issues for patients are addressed, including providing information to staff about access to language services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait liaison, or cultural-specific support services.

PVAW Clinical Champions Requirements

* Ability to build strong relationships within the workplace, including being approachable
* Good active listening skills
* A highly empathic and non-judgemental attitude - embraces and respects the individual differences of a diverse range of people
* Insightful – has the ability to discern core issues
* Decision Making – has sound judgment and makes appropriate choices
* Confidential – maintains appropriate confidentiality at all times
* Responsible – takes personal responsibility for handling difficult situations
* Self-awareness – awareness of own emotions and potential biases
* Understands and responds appropriately to the emotions that staff are experiencing, or may experience, if they have a concern regarding a family violence issue.
* Acts with integrity and has the ability to assess actual or perceived conflicts of interest between your PVAW Clinical Champion role and your other roles at the Hospital.
* Be able to commit to the role of PVAW Clinical Champion for a minimum of 12 months.
* Review and re-endorsement of PVAW Clinical Champion role will occur every 2 years, and champions will be assigned to strategic clinical areas.