

Family and domestic violence (FDV) e-learning suite

The Emerging Minds: National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health has developed a suite of family and domestic violence (FDV) e-learning courses for practitioners working in all adult-focused services who engage with adult and family adversity. The foundation course, *The Impact of Family and Domestic Violence on the Child*, provides an introduction to the impact of FDV on children. The core course, *Family and Domestic Violence and Child-Aware Practice*, includes a guide for practitioners to engage with parents in conversations about their children's social and emotional wellbeing where FDV may be present.

Who are the courses for?

The courses are designed for all practitioners in adult-focused services who engage with adult and family adversity. They recognise the significant proportion of parents affected by FDV who present to services, and the interrelated nature of FDV and mental health, substance use, homelessness, financial pressure and child protection issues.

Why were the courses developed?

The courses were developed from evidence which shows the high instances of FDV within Australia, and the effects on women and children. The intersection between FDV, homelessness, substance use and poverty also means that practitioners in these services require robust frameworks to help them identify and respond to the effects of violence on children.

The courses provide some foundational understandings of the effects of FDV on children to support practitioners who want to know more about this, or who may be noticing many of their adult clients talking to them about their – and their children's – experience of violence.

The core course, *Family and Domestic Violence and Child-Aware Practice*, introduces the PERCS Conversation Guide in this setting by using scenarios of practice and inviting practitioners to reflect on how they might use the Guide in their own practice context.



How were the courses developed?

These courses were developed in collaboration with a number of stakeholders from academia, specialist violence services, women's safety services, general adult and child services, child mental health experts and with mothers with lived experience of domestic and family violence. A comprehensive literature review was undertaken into the effects of FDV on Australian children and the intersection of violence with other societal issues.

The PERCS Conversation Guide was originally developed by Emerging Minds as an evidence-based intervention with parents with mental health issues, as a way of thinking about their relationships with their children.

How was evidence used to inform the courses?

The evidence used to inform *The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2010-2022)* and *The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2009-2020)* has also informed these courses.

Evidence from practitioners in General Practice, Family Violence Services, Women's Support Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Services and generalist practice was used to develop the PERCS Conversation Guide featured in the core course. Additionally, the lived experience of parents who have experienced FDV was vital to the production of these resources.

Delivery partners:



RACGP

The National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the National Support for Child and Youth Mental Health Program

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The Impact of Family and Domestic Violence on the child

What is this course about?

This course provides a definition of FDV and describes some important understandings that support practice. It highlights the impact that FDV can have on the child's relationships, physical health, and social and emotional wellbeing.

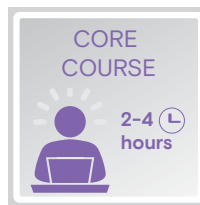
Learning outcomes

Practitioners who complete this course will:

- gain an understanding of the nature and prevalence of family and domestic violence in Australia
- become familiar with some important understandings that can support practice
- recognise the impact of family and domestic violence on children
- identify the link between the impact of family and domestic violence and a child's social and emotional wellbeing
- understand the importance of identifying and responding to issues of FDV in ways that prevent immediate and long-term consequences for the social and emotional wellbeing of children
- reflect on how to conduct preventative conversations with parents about their children's social and emotional wellbeing where family and domestic violence is present.

How long does this course take to complete?

This course will take approximately one hour to complete, and includes readings, videos and reflective activities. It is designed to be undertaken individually but can also be used as a prompt for conversations between colleagues.



Family and Domestic Violence and Child-Aware Practice

What is this course about?

This course provides practitioners with a conversation guide to assist their work with parents who are living with family and domestic violence (FDV). This recognises the importance of practitioners focusing on the safety and social and emotional wellbeing of children in families where FDV is occurring.

The course examines opportunities for practitioners to engage in a prevention and early intervention approach around children's mental health and wellbeing in the context of family violence, and provides examples of situations where:

- a mother presents to a service and it becomes evident that she and her children are living with her male partner who is using violence and abuse in the family
- a father presents to a service and it becomes evident that he is using violence and abuse in the family affecting his female partner and children.

Learning outcomes

This course will enable you to support both mothers and fathers to:

- consider the impacts of FDV on their children
- lessen these impacts in order to support their children's safety and social and emotional wellbeing
- be curious about the social and emotional wellbeing of their children by using the PERCS Conversation Guide and parent engagement principles
- continue working on their presenting issue (other than violence) while acknowledging the context of FDV and its effects on the various domains of their and their children's lives.

How long does this course take to complete?

It is estimated that the course will take two–four hours to complete, including watching the videos, completing reflection activities and assessments.

Visit the courses at:
emergingminds.com.au/training

Delivery partners:



Australian National University



RACGP

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