

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Working collaboratively means connecting or partnering with individuals, organisations, and networks to achieve our vision of a world where women and their children are thriving, respected and free from violence. Violence against women is a complex, multi-layered social issue and partnerships and collaboration are vital to ensure the necessary complexity and nuance in approaches to address it. Ending violence against women requires large-scale, long-term efforts and DVRCV recognises that we are but one agency that has a role in working to achieve change. Partnerships and collaboration will benefit our work and our staff, but most importantly will ultimately benefit the women and children whose lives we aim to have a positive impact on.

Partnerships can take a range of different forms, from seeking input and advice on work that DVRCV is undertaking, through to the co-design and co-delivery of work – with equal responsibility shared by DVRCV and our partners. While we do not partner on every piece of work, we seek to work collaboratively with a wide range of partners to ensure the best outcomes for women and children. We prioritise partnerships with others who work with or within diverse communities, to strengthen our intersectional feminist approach and ensure our work is informed by diverse practice expertise and the lived experience of all women.

We recognise that skills and resources are required to collaborate meaningfully. DVRCV is committed to supporting our staff to strengthen these skills, and to providing the time and resources necessary to build and maintain meaningful relationships with partners and within the organisation to ensure our work achieves the best outcomes possible.

BENEFITS OF WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

Influencing social and systemic change that DVRCV could not achieve alone. By uniting with others to amplify our shared messages, we can influence broad structural change across all sectors and settings, to address violence against women.

Centring the lived experiences of diverse women. Partnering with others can provide opportunities to learn from women who have experienced violence and other forms of oppression about their experiences and needs, to ensure our work effectively addresses violence against all women. We work collaboratively with others who have dedicated expertise when addressing violence against specific cohorts of women, without exploiting their time or resources for our own benefit.

Sharing and strengthening our knowledge and skills. We have the opportunity to learn from our partners and build our own knowledge and skills, as well as sharing our expertise to support their development.

Expanding the breadth and depth of our impact.

Partnerships and collaboration can extend the reach of our work into communities, sectors and settings where DVRCV may not have existing expertise or connections. Working collaboratively can also help to ensure that limited Victorian resources are used effectively and efficiently, and have the most significant impact.

Complimenting and building upon existing activity.

Partnerships provide an opportunity for DVRCV to connect with, contribute to and strengthen work that is already happening across Victoria to address violence against women. Working collaboratively also means sharing our knowledge and seeking support for activity we are leading, to minimise duplication and ensure resources are used effectively.

PRIORITISING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We prioritise collaboration and partnerships that will provide the above benefits. This means working intentionally and strategically with organisations, networks and individuals who have a deep commitment to ending violence against women; who have experience and expertise working with diverse communities of women; whose work is embedded within communities, sectors or settings that DVRCV does not have reach into; and who can increase and extend DVRCV's influence and impact in influencing broad social and structural change. An intersectional feminist approach also means that DVRCV is committed to ensuring our collaborative relationships – both internal and external – benefit and have value for all parties and do not exploit or marginalise anyone.