

CAAFLU Submission to the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

Review of the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007 (NT)

About CAAFLU

Established in 2000, CAAFLU is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. We are a Family Violence Prevention Legal Service and provide information, referrals, advice, legal representation, support and advocacy for Aboriginal victims of domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

We have offices in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek and we provide services to victims ordinarily resident in Alice Springs, Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Papunya, Yuendumu, Tennant Creek and Elliott and smaller communities nearby.

Although we provide services to women, children and men, our clients are predominantly women and their primary source of income is Centrelink benefits. Our client's often speak English as their second language, and we are able to provide assistance with interpreter services.

CAAFLU employs 5 legal practitioners and 3 client service officers. Our lawyers work with the client service officers to assist victims in a culturally appropriate way with their legal issues which relate to them being victims of domestic violence or sexual assault primarily in the areas surrounding domestic violence orders, victims of crime compensation, sexual assault, child protection, family law and housing. The client service officers provide clients with non-legal support and assistance and referrals; services under the supervision of the lawyers. We also participate in and deliver community education, development and prevention initiatives, and contribute to law and policy initiatives and reform.

We aim to provide high quality and culturally appropriate services, including legal advice which draws upon Aboriginal law and custom and Australian law, to identify possible pathways for protection and change.

CAAFLU would like to thank the Department of the Attorney General and Justice for providing us the opportunity to put forward submissions as part of the Review of the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007 (NT) ("the Act").

For further information in relation to any of the issues raised in this submission, please be in contact with:

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Terminology

We have used the terms "domestic and family violence" and "family violence" interchangeably throughout these submissions, but each term relies upon the definition of domestic violence as defined in the Act.

The references "DVO" in these submissions refers to a domestic violence order as defined in the Act.

Limitations of submissions

Although CAAFLU provides information, advice, referrals, support, advocacy and legal representation (including at court) to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, we do not provide any assistance in relation to criminal law and therefore we are unable to comment or make submissions in relation to criminal law, evidence and procedure.

Structure of this report

We have structured our submission as follows:

1. Commentary on the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007 (NT) and related procedural and practice issues.
2. Addressing the recommendations provided as part of the Review of the Domestic and Family Violence Issue Paper.
3. CAAFLU's key recommendations.

1) THE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT 2007 (NT), PROCEDURAL AND PRACTICE ISSUES

In the following sections, references to sections are to sections in the Act and Recommendation(s) refers to the recommendations provided as part of the Review of the Domestic and Family Violence Issue Paper.

1. Preamble

CAAFLU submits that the Act should be amended to include a preamble which specifically acknowledges the prevalence and gendered nature of domestic violence and its far and wide reaching implications on the victims, their families, the society and the economy generally and that violence against women and children is a violation of human rights.

CAAFLU supports the inclusion of a preamble similar to the Victorian Family Violence Protection Act but with minor modifications such as:

- (a) Replacing the reference to "the justice system should treat the views of victims of family violence with respect" to read "the legal system should treat victims of family and domestic violence with respect and have particular regard to their safety."

2. Section 3 – Objectives

CAAFLU submits that the objectives should be expanded to include the following:

- (a) Amending 3(a) so that it reads "...who fear, experience or are exposed to domestic violence" in accordance with Recommendation 7-4.

- (b) Adding an additional subsection 3 (1)(d) to include promoting the recovery of victims of domestic violence. This supports our later submission in relation to the length of DVOs and is also something that a Court can take into account when looking at the terms of a DVO. For example, a defendant may argue that, at most, a non-harm, non-harass and non-intimidate DVO should be made, whereas the protected person is seeking a full non-contact DVO because they "just want to feel safe." The Act currently does not provide any real guidance as to what types of orders should be made in this case.

(c) Adding an additional subsection either to 3(1) or 3(2) to require that the judicial process in relation to DVOs be dealt with as little formality and technicality as each case requires.

3. Section 5(a) – Definition of Harm within the Definition of Domestic Violence.

CAAFLU submits that it is not appropriate for the definition of “harm” to be as set out in section 1A of the Criminal Code, which excludes emotional reactions such as “distress, grief and fear”. These emotions are fundamentally associated with domestic violence and their exclusion seems to be at odds with the definition and concepts of domestic violence in the Act.

CAAFLU supports the definition of harm being limited to “Harm is physical harm or harm to a person’s mental health, whether temporary or permanent” without the additional subsections contained in section 1A of the Criminal Code.

CAAFLU supports recommendations 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 of the Recommendations which would address the above issue, but we also suggest that the definition be expanded to cover the following situations:

- (a) where a person uses their animal such as a dog to cause a family member to be controlled or fearful. For example, in some outstations where family members live close together, family members are encouraging their dogs to menace and/or harass other family members and refuse to keep their dogs controlled (for example within their fenced in yards) further exacerbating their fears so that they are virtually held hostage within their own homes. The relevant council, police and Central Land Council refused to take action in the above situation on the basis of lack of power, evidence or they simply did not want to get involved.
- (b) where the primary act of violence is publishing information, photos or material about the victim, without the victim’s consent, causing emotional and psychological harm. This could be adequately covered by incorporating it as specific example as set out in Recommendation 5.2 and by removing the need for the victim to prove emotional or psychological harm.

4. Section 7 - Definition of Stalking

CAAFLU submits that the definition of stalking should be amended to remove the requirement for the victim to prove the offender’s intention; and add the wording, “including but not limited to...” before the references to subsections (a) and (b).

5. Sections 9 to 11 – Concepts Relating to Domestic Relationships

CAAFLU submits that the definitions in sections 9 to 11 should be extended to include the following circumstances

- (a) Casual and one off sexual relationships, including consensual and non-consensual; and
- (b) The partners and former partners of parties to casual and one off sexual relationships, including consensual and non-consensual.

The above classes are currently excluded from the operation of the Act and therefore their only options are making an application for a personal violence restraining order (which includes the presumption to attend mediation) or to do nothing.

CAAFLU has been approached by victims on a number of occasions for assistance where they have had a one off sexual relationship with a person and then they have been subjected to

on-going abuse, threats and sometimes physically violent behaviour by the partner or former partner of the person they had the one off sexual relationship with.

6. Sections 15(3) and 28 – Age of Defendant and Young Person

CAAFLU submits that the age at which a DVO can be made against a Defendant should be reduced to 12 years of age (noting that the age for criminal responsibility is currently 10 years) due to children increasingly entering into relationships at younger and younger ages, particularly from the time they commence high school, and given that there are increasing problems of domestic violence at schools particularly involving social media and that this is independence for many children so there may be circumstances where a child doesn't feel comfortable or want to involve their parent or another adult in a court application. CAAFLU supports the age of a "young person" also being defined as beginning at 12 years of age for similar reasons.

7. Section 16 – Objects of the Chapter

The current objectives are silent on accountability and rehabilitation of perpetrators.

CAAFLU submits that this section should be amended so that it incorporates all of the objectives of the Act given that the chapter contains the bulk of the provisions relating to the making, variation and revocation of DVOs.

CAAFLU supports Recommendation 7-4 which contains an expanded set of core purposes of the legislation.

8. Section 17 – When Person Taken to have Committed Domestic Violence

CAAFLU submits that this section is confusing and believes that it should be deleted and a new section inserted into Chapter 1, Division 2, Subdivision 1 making it clear that if a person procures or counsels a third party to commit any of the acts set out in section 5, then the person procuring or counselling the third party is taken to have committed domestic violence themselves. Currently this is suggested by a note to section 5 and section 17, however a specific provision would be more appropriate.

9. Section 18 – Obligation to Attend Court

Section 18 should be amended to include an obligation placed on the Defendant to attend Court when a DVO is being made, unless otherwise excused, but acknowledging attendance includes by telephone, to accommodate Defendants who live remotely.

10. Section 19 (2)(a) – Family Law Orders

CAAFLU recommends that this section be extended to require the Court to consider any child protection orders either in force or pending in relation to the children of the parties.

11. Section 19 (2(c)) – Defendant's Criminal Record

In CAAFLU's experience, the Court in Alice Springs only considers the defendant's criminal record before making a DVO when the matter proceeds to a contested final hearing, and otherwise it is limited to the information known to the victim and deposed to in their affidavit which may not be complete or accurate for many reasons including their limited understanding of the criminal law system, poor memory from traumas they have experienced or they simply may not be aware of the defendant's actions prior to or during their relationship.

CAAFLU submits that the defendant's criminal record, including any pending charges, can be very relevant to the Court in deciding whether to make a DVO and/or its terms, but is also of the view that obtaining this information should not delay the Court in making a decision, especially interim DVOs. CAAFLU submits that the Court should put a process in place so that upon the filing of an application for a DVO, that a copy of the defendant's criminal record (including pending charges) be placed on the Court file and that the parties can seek leave to inspect and copy it. The obligation should not be on the victim to provide the defendant's record because they can only obtain it by issuing a summons to the police.

12. Section 19 (2)(e) – Defendant's Mental Health

CAAFLU submits that

- (a) section 19(2)(e) should be amended to include the defendant's mental health as an example.
- (b) there should be an obligation on the Defendant to disclose any mental health episodes or mental health related admissions at a hospital within the last 12 months along with any current mental health diagnosis, treatment plans or medication that they are taking.

13. Section 20 – Presumption of Protected Person with Child Staying at Home.

CAAFLU recommends that the presumption should delete the reference to "a child" altogether, so that the presumption is simply that the protection of the protected person is best achieved by them living in the home.

14. Section 24 – Rehabilitation Program Orders

CAAFLU recommends the following changes

- (a) The definition of "rehabilitation program " be expanded to specifically include counselling, courses and other programs
- (b) The defendant's consent to participate in a rehabilitation program should not be required.
- (c) That a provision be included specifically allowing the Court to adjourn an application for a DVO to enable a party to attend a rehabilitation program if considered appropriate.

The government must provide sufficient funding for the establishment and continued operation of rehabilitation programs based on best practice models, that are culturally appropriate and that are available in all towns, regional and remote communities.

CAAFLU recommends that the government fund a position at all Northern Territory courts which deal with applications under the Act, whose role is to assist defendants on the day to make enquiries with rehabilitation program service providers to establish what programs are appropriate for them, and when there are available spaces. This person should be responsible for informing the court about the outcome of any such enquiries.

15. Sections 26, 123 and 124 – Publication of Personal Details

CAAFLU has assisted a number of victims of domestic violence where the offender has a high profile, and each victim has seriously considered not proceeding with getting a DVO due to concerns around them being the focus of media attention and the implications it could have on them, both from the offender's family, friends and the community generally, particularly given the small size of Alice Springs and the communities where our clients live.

Currently the sections empowering court to make orders prohibiting third parties from publishing information identifying the protected person are unclear and confusing, as

evidenced earlier this year by 2 Alice Springs magistrates following 2 very different processes and in one case relying on another Act to make a non-publication order aimed at the media.

CAAFLU submits that:

- (a) section 26 be extended to empower the court to prohibit the publication of details of not only the protected person and witnesses but also the defendant's where such publication may indirectly identify the protected person and expose that person to risk of harm, including publication of the parties' names in court lists.
- (b) Sections 26, 123 and 124 be amended and extended to make it clear that a DVO may include a provision prohibiting both a Defendant and third parties (such as newspapers) from publishing the names and identifying information about the protected person (irrespective of whether they are a child) and that there are clear penalties for breaches by a third party.

CAAFLU also supports the development of a national family violence bench book and on-going training for magistrates around domestic violence because:

- (a) One of our solicitors reported an incident earlier this year (prior to her employ with CAAFLU but whilst working for another domestic violence legal service in the NT) where she was appearing on behalf of a protected person and the presiding magistrate requested that she provide the victim's address to the police in open court for the service of court documents in circumstances where the defendant was present at court, the defendant didn't know where the victim lived and the victim did not want to disclose her address for fears around her safety. The solicitor offered an undertaking to provide the information to the police outside of the Court but it was rejected by the magistrate.
- (b) A CAAFLU solicitor earlier this year made an application for a non-publication order in relation to the media where the offender was a high profile person. Before granting the application the magistrate made extensive and forceful comments about the fact that the perpetrator was a high profile person and should be made an illustration of publicly, in incomplete disregard for the victim and how it may impact on them. The magistrate did ultimately grant the non-publication order after further submissions.

16. Section 27 – Duration of DVOs

It is general practice in the Central Australia for DVOs to be for between 12 months and 2 years. Many of our clients have had DVOs in place against their offender partners for many years, and are forced to have to re-tell their story each time they want a new DVO and sometimes come up against the issue of proving why they need a new DVO when there has not been any violence for say the last 6 months since the previous DVO expired.

CAAFLU recommends that section 27 be amended to include a presumption that all DVOs have no end date (similar to the model in South Australia) but that the court may impose a sunset clause if sought by the protected person and/ or the court otherwise believes it is appropriate in the circumstances.

17. Section 31 - Notice of hearing of application

CAAFLU submits that this section be amended so that as soon as an application is filed with the Court, that the clerk must give written notice to the parties of the time and place of the hearing and arrange for a copy of the application only, not the affidavit, to be personally served on the defendant and that a copy of the affidavit is to be provided to the defendant

upon request or at the first return date when the defendant attends Court, whichever is the earlier.

It is CAAFLU's experience that in the majority of applications made by CAAFLU for DVOs the defendant is served with both the application and the affidavit, but the defendant doesn't come to court and the application is granted due to the serious domestic violence our clients have been subjected to. We are concerned that when defendants are served with the affidavit that it only further shames the victim and puts them at a heightened risk of domestic violence, both from the offender as they may take offense to allegations raised in the affidavit, from the offender's and the victim's families and community members if the offender shows them the affidavit particularly when both parties live in small communities. It is our submission that the benefits of providing the affidavit to the defendant at a later stage of proceedings outweigh any advantages of providing it earlier, particularly given that it is our submission that defendants be required to actively participate in DVO court proceedings as part of them taking responsibility for their actions and due to the longer durations of DVOs that we are proposing.

We submit that legal services must be funded to provide a duty lawyer service to both defendants and protected persons involved in DVO proceedings.

18. Section 38 – Consent DVO

CAAFLU has been involved in a number of cases where the victim is in a relationship with the offender and wants to continue to be in a relationship with the offender but also wants a non-intoxication or non-harm DVO in place for their safety. The victim also reports that she has spoken to the offender about it and the offender has indicated to the victim that he would consent to such an order being made.

In light of the above, in the interests of not having to re-traumatise the victim by having to file an affidavit (which by its nature is also likely to offend an offender) and to save lawyers, courts and police resources, CAAFLU supports the development of a form and a court process to enable the parties to file a consent application for a DVO, similar to an Application for Consent Orders in the family law courts.

19. Section 41 – Police Domestic Violence Orders

CAAFLU submits that the date of listing a police DVO before a court for confirmation should be set at least 7 – 14 days from the date of issue, with scope for parties to request the matter be re-listing at an earlier date if required. CAAFLU understands that it is police practice to issue a police DVO whenever they attend a domestic violent incident where there has been physical violence. The police DVOs are listed for confirmation in the first domestic violence duty list which in Alice Springs is Monday, leaving minimal time for the victims, especially if the violence occurred on a Thursday or Friday, to make an informed (including obtaining legal advice) and considered decision in relation to the terms of the DVO before it is confirmed. CAAFLU has observed that it is not uncommon for victims of domestic violence to seek assistance from our service to vary a police DVO which was only confirmed a few weeks earlier. We believe that by allowing parties extra time since the violent act to when the DVO is confirmed, there may be less applications to vary DVOs saving court, police and legal resources.

CAAFLU submits that section 41 should explicitly require for the wishes of the protected person to be considered by the police before they issue a police DVO, unless it is not appropriate due to urgent circumstances.

20. Section 43 – What police officer must do after DVO is made

CAAFLU submits that section 43(2) and (3) should be amended

- (a) to require the police upon issuing a DVO to explain to both parties, not just the defendant, the effect of the DVO, the consequences that may follow for a breach and rights to apply for a review
- (b) to require the police upon issuing a DVO to explain to both parties their rights to obtain legal advice and provide them with contact details for legal service providers
- (c) to require the police upon issuing a DVO to explain to the defendant our submission that they are required to attend court, when and the consequences for not attending court.

21. Section 45 – Power of court if person guilty of related offence

CAAFLU submits that s45(1) should be amended to provide that a court, after dealing with an offence that involves domestic violence may make a DVO if satisfied a CSJ DVO could be made against that person, and remove the requirement that it is only upon a finding of guilt, given that a DVO can be made based on the lower burden of proof of the balance of probabilities.

CAAFLU further submits that s45(2) should be amended to include that an application can be made by the victim of the offence or another person on the victim's behalf, not just on the court's initiative or on an application by a prosecutor.

We also support the section being expanded to make it clear that immediately following the outcome of the criminal hearing, that a Court may deal with an application by the protected person for a DVO, which isn't police initiated, and that the court can rely on the evidence of the criminal matter just dealt with along with any additional evidence filed at the time in support of the DVO in determining the application.

For example earlier this year our service was assisting a victim with an application for a DVO and whilst the process was on-foot the defendant was charged with making a threat to kill the victim. The victim instructed us that she wanted a full non-contact DVO and that it needed to include an order that the defendant keep his dogs restrained. The police agreed to apply for a full non-contact DVO on the victim's behalf at the end of the criminal hearing, but not to apply for the additional order in relation to the dogs because it didn't form part of the evidence of the criminal hearing. By including the above amendment, it would have enabled the client to file a small affidavit setting out the grounds in support of the order in relation to the dogs only, as much of the other evidence was already before the court. This would have reduced any re-traumatisation of the victim, resulted in a more quick and efficient outcome for the victim and save court, police and legal resources.

22. Section 57 (1)(b) – Referral of application to Court

CAAFLU submits that section 57 (1)(b) should be amended so that it applies to not only the defendant but any party who appears at the hearing of the application and does not consent to an order being made.

23. Section 81 – Appearing at Hearing

As set out above, CAAFLU submits that the key way for a defendant to actively engage in the court process is if the defendant is required to attend court proceedings in relation to DVO applications, failing which a warrant should issue. It should be acknowledged that the defendant is able to appear via telephone.

24. Section 82- Decision at Hearing

CAAFLU submits that section 82 should provide the court with specific adjournments powers for the purpose of allowing the defendant to complete an approved rehabilitation program.

25. Section 85(2) - Retrieval of the Defendant's Personal Property

CAAFLU recommends an additional subsection be added under section 85(2) which requires reasonable prior notice to be given to the protected person before property is retrieved by the defendant. This provision is needed to allow the protected person to make appropriate arrangements to not be present at the property if necessary, to organise a support person to be present during the retrieval of personal property by the defendant and to organise the property to be collected if appropriate.

26. Section 89 – Explanation of Court DVO

CAAFLU submits that this section should provide a requirement that the issuing authority offer the parties who are present the opportunity to obtain legal advice and representation in the matter.

27. Section 90 (1) and (2)

CAAFLU submits that section 90(1) and (2) should be expanded to apply not only to family law orders but also to child protection orders which are in force or pending.

28. Section 106 – When court may be closed

CAAFLU submits that section 106 should be amended to include a (1)(c) which provides the court with discretion to close the Court at such other times as the Court considers appropriate, including for the whole proceeding and that the section should include examples such as where the matter involves high profile parties, highly sensitive allegations or where the hearing is being heard as part of a bush or circuit court sitting where the court rooms are small and there are minimal safety measures available for protected persons and their families.

29. Section 110 – Evidence of Vulnerable witness

CAAFLU implores the Northern Territory government to better equip courts dealing with applications under the Act, particularly around safety measures for protected people and their families but also by ensuring adequate audio visual links are installed and available at the Courts, as many victims are forced to proceed without them especially in regional courts, simply due to the audio visual links not being available and the alternative would have been an adjournment, further prolonging the victim's anxiety and safety concerns.

30. Section 114 – Cross-examination by Unrepresented Defendant

CAAFLU submits that section 114 should be amended to specifically prohibit self represented defendants from putting any questions to a person (the witness) who is in a

domestic relationship with the defendant and implores the Northern Territory government to fund legal services such as the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission and the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service to be specifically funded to represent defendants at contested DVO hearings. Victoria Legal Aid provides a limited grant of aid to solicitors/barristers to represent the defendant ONLY for the purposes of carrying out the cross examination at contested DVO proceedings however it our view that this isn't sufficient and that the grant of aid should extend for the whole defended hearing, to avoid confusion for all parties and the Court around the roles and obligations of each party and to reduce potential negligence claims against the solicitors arising from their limited role in the proceedings. We have heard that due to concerns around risk management, some barristers and solicitors are opting to represent the defendant for the whole hearing but it makes the process not financially viable for them.

31. Section 115 – Evidence

CAAFLU submits that evidence in DVO proceedings should be way of affidavit, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

32. Sections 121 and 122 – contraventions

CAAFLU recommends that sections 121 and 122 be amended to specifically empower the court to be able to order a person found guilty of an offence against section 120(1) to be required to complete a rehabilitation program, including as a possible alternative to serving a period of imprisonment for less serious breaches, and that a successful completion of the program it is something that the court may consider in sentencing. Again, CAAFLU implores the government to fund best practice rehabilitation programs to support such a provision.

2) ADDRESSING THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED AS PART OF THE REVIEW OF THE DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE ISSUE PAPER.

CAAFLU has not expressed a view on all the recommendations arising out of the 2010 Australian and NSW Commission review, which is attached to the Department of Attorney General and Justice Review of Domestic and Family Violence Act Issue Paper. Where recommendations have not been listed below, this can be seen as neither an indication of support nor opposition. However, CAAFLU would like to provide general support for the following recommendations:

- (a) 5-1 : CAAFLU further submits that attempted strangulation should be specifically listed as an example of domestic violence;
- (b) 7-1
- (c) 7-2
- (d) 7-5
- (e) 7-6
- (f) 9-2
- (g) 11-3,11-4, 11-5: Noting that CAAFLU submits that a plea or finding of guilt should not be a pre-requisite for the court to confirm a DVO, given the different standard of proof applicable in criminal and civil proceedings;
- (h) 11-6
- (i) 11-12
- (j) 12-1
- (k) 12-5

- (l) 31-2
- (m) 32-3
- (n) 23-1
- (o) 26-2
- (p) 27 – 1,2
- (q) 31-2
- (r) 32 : Specialised Domestic Violence Courts

3) KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

CAAFLU submits that the changes which would provide the most tangible impact for a large number of our clients in the prevention of domestic violence are as follows:

1. Behaviour Change Programs
CAAFLU strongly recommends the establishment of effective behaviour change programs to be available particularly in rural and remote communities across the Northern Territory. These programs must follow best practice guidelines and be culturally appropriate and relevant to each community. A number of our clients who are victims of domestic violence are not wanting to leave their partners, but instead want services which are accessible, and culturally sensitive in their own communities, to allow for a positive change of perpetrator behaviour while also allowing them to maintain important relationships.
2. Safe Houses
CAAFLU submits that a prominent issue for many of our clients is the lack of safe houses particularly in regional and remote areas. Safe houses are crucial to managing the immediate risk of domestic violence for victims. Safe houses must be adequately funded and properly operational with agreed operational standards. Many of our clients instruct that they do not want to leave their community when they are at risk of violence, however with the lack of safe house facilities in their own community, they are left with little option but to leave. Safe houses would enable victims of domestic violence to proactively seek measures to ensure their own safety and that of their children, without having to travel long distances to access refuges when they are at risk of domestic violence.
3. Specialised Domestic Violence Court
CAAFLU recommends the establishment of specialised domestic violence courts with specialised judicial officers and prosecutors. Provisions must be put in place regarding the safety of vulnerable witnesses, with measures including safety rooms and proper facilities provided for the giving of evidence. The lack of resources and facilities to adequately protect victim in remote areas must be acknowledged and addressed, in order to ensure the safety of vulnerable witnesses in the court process. The practices and provisions for victim safety and support should be clearly established.
4. Community Engagement
CAAFLU submits that more thorough engagement and consultation with communities and service providers within communities, is needed by the Northern Territory Government to ensure that services are relevant and consistent with the particular needs and goals of each community.
5. Victims Register

CAAFLU submits that victims of domestic violence should be able to be placed on the Northern Territory Victims Register to receive information relating to the parole/release date of a defendant, regardless of whether the defendant's incarceration relates to that particular victim, as long as a DVO exists between the parties.

6. Department of Housing Support

CAAFLU submits that there should be more security measures in place to enable Territory Housing to support tenants who are victims of domestic violence. Appropriate safety measures are important to deter and prevent the further commission of domestic violence, which can include the provision of security cameras, safe rooms and duress alarms where appropriate.