Protect – Share – Support: Understanding Family Violence in Disability Service

Designed by practitioners for practitioners

Overview

Protect, Share, Support: Understanding Family Violence in Disability Service is a specialised workshop designed for disability support workers operating outside of Victoria's formal MARAM (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management) framework. This session introduces best practices from the MARAM framework and explores how they can be applied in disability service contexts, with a focus on safe, respectful, and informed responses to family violence.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how family violence presents—particularly through coercive control and cumulative harm—and how these experiences may uniquely affect people with disability. Using a disability- and trauma-informed lens, the workshop guides participants in responding to disclosures, sharing information appropriately, and seeking consultation from relevant support services.
The session also provides practical guidance on documenting concerns, maintaining privacy, and navigating information sharing responsibilities for organisations not formally included in Victoria's family violence information sharing framework.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the nature and spectrum of family violence, and how it uniquely impacts people with disability.
- Apply best practices for recognising signs of family violence and responding safely and respectfully to disclosures.
- Document observations and disclosures appropriately and collaborate effectively with family violence specialist services for consultation and support.

Delivery and Suitability

This is a 4-hour interactive workshop that can be delivered either in-person or online, depending on your organisation's needs. To ensure a meaningful learning experience and encourage active participation, each session is capped at 30 participants.

This training is designed for workers in the disability sector who may encounter clients experiencing family violence, particularly those whose organisations are not formally part of Victoria's MARAM framework.

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