

# Department of Communities & Justice: DFV & Homelessness Commissioning 2026

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# Homelessness & DFV Commissioning overview

## Shared principles

- Long contracts to embed service delivery (5 years).
- Ensuring service stability during and after commissioning process.
- Effective use of funding to match current and future community needs.
- Culturally safe and appropriate homelessness and DFV services where Aboriginal-led service delivery is supported and grown.
- **DFV:** Strengthening connections across the DFV service system to support integrated client responses across programs including connections with early intervention and family responses.
- **Homelessness:** Strengthening connections across the housing and homelessness service system through integrated planning and rapid rehousing responses for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

# Homelessness & DFV Commissioning overview

## Programs being commissioned

### Homelessness

- All Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) including women's refuges, Service Support Fund (SSF) and Homelessness Youth Assistance Program (HYAP).
- Other homelessness programs including:
  - Assertive Outreach (AO/HOST)
  - Sustaining Tenancies in Social Housing (STSH)
  - Reintegration Housing Support Program (RHSP)
  - Mental Health In-Reach
  - Universal Screening and Supports (USS).
- Commissioning activities will be coordinated wherever cross-over service delivery is commissioned e.g. women's and / or DFV services.

### DFV

- Specialist Workers for Children & Young People (SWCYP)
- Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE)\*
- Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV)
- Integrated Domestic & Family Violence Services (IDFVS)
- Domestic Violence Pro-Active Services (DV PASS).

\*DVRE attached to SHS contracts.

\*\*DFSV emergency package (14 new SHLV and 6 new IDFVS are contracted to 2031 and not part of commissioning)

Procurement approach will be the **least disruptive procurement process possible**, with the aim of providing stability to the sector and preserving existing collaborative relationships, while meeting NSW Government procurement requirements.

# Timeline

Programs	2025 Jan - March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	2026 Jan- March	April - June	July – Sept	Oct - Dec
<b>Programs to be commissioned</b>								
Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) Program			<b>Procurement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Least disruptive process – direct negotiation or single invited tender for most programs</li> </ul>		<b>Contract negotiation and execution</b>		<b>Service commencement with contracts to 2031</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexible contracts that allow changes through the contract term where this is agreed</li> <li>Emergency response is better understood and integrated with DFV service system</li> </ul>	
Domestic Violence Enhancement Response (DVRE)								
Specialist Workers for Children and Young People (SWCYP)								
Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV)								
Integrated Domestic and Family support contracts (IDFVS)								
Domestic Violence Proactive Support Services (DVPASS)								
<b>Program extensions through the DFV Emergency Funding Package Programs will have contracts to 2031 and this will not be subject to commissioning process for 2026</b>								
Staying Home Leaving Violence 14 Services with mixed procurement – open and single invited tender	<b>Contract execution</b>		<b>Service commencement from April with contracts to 2031</b>					
Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service 6 new services in areas of high needs Mixed procurement – open and targeted procurement	<b>Procurement and contract execution</b>			<b>Service commencement from August with contracts to 2031</b>				
Bourke Staying in Community Leaving Violence Three other codesigned models in locations of highest need	<b>Community Consultation and procurement &amp; Contract execution</b>				<b>Implementation and service commencement with contracts to 2031</b> Time frames are dependent on the community consultation and model design			

# Secure Jobs and Funding Certainty (SJFC) Roadmap

**A new contract term of 5 years delivers on the Secure Jobs and Funding Certainty election commitment made by the NSW Government.**

NSW Government is committed to working with the community services sector over the coming years to realise the Roadmap's vision and deliver meaningful outcomes for the community.

The SJFC Roadmap identifies the following priority areas as vital to the transformation of the NSW community services sector:

- **Priority Area 1 – Long Term Funding Arrangements:** Establish preferred funding terms of five years for key community services.
- **Priority Area 2 – A Community Services Funding Framework:** Develop a framework to guide how services are procured and managed and key principles for how the government and community services providers will work together.
- **Priority Area 3 – A Community Services Jobs Compact:** Develop a compact with the sector to enhance job security between community sector workers, sector organisations and the NSW Government. The compact will outline how community services will support workers to have permanent jobs.
- **Priority Area 4 – A Community Services Prequalification Scheme:** Streamline funding application processes to reduce duplication and administrative burden and create efficiencies for both government and service providers.

# DFV commissioning approach

# DFV Commissioning – evaluations and service specification reviews

Insights from DFV program evaluations (including SWCYP, SHLV and IDFVS) have helped us understand how programs are working on the ground and have informed new program specifications.

IDFVS and SHLV program evaluations recommended program specifications were reviewed and updated.

Commissioning provides further opportunities to use the findings of these evaluations, combined with other information and data inputs, to inform the recommissioning approach.

IDFVS program specifications that have been reviewed and released can be viewed [here](#). New contracts will reflect these program specifications.

SHLV program specifications have been reviewed and some minor changes made. These specifications will be released for consultation with the sector in May/ June 2025.

# DFV Commissioning

Services commissioned from 1 July 2026 for five-year contracts

Procurement will be least disruptive and allow service continuity

SHLV and IDFVS services funded under DFSV Emergency Package currently being commissioned (14 new SHLV and 6 new IDFVS) will be contracted to 2031 and are not in scope for DFV 2026 commissioning

## Women's refuges

Commissioned under Homelessness Commissioning framework

## Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE)

## Specialist Workers for Children and Young People (SWCYP)

## Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV)

## Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services (IDFVS)

## Domestic Violence Proactive Support Service (DV PASS)

# Scale of change



No change

Minister Harrison has committed to:

- ❖ Where we have what we need delivered in the right places with the right linkages.
- ❖ Undertake process with existing providers to commence new contracts.
- ❖ Procurement through least disruptive approach – more details to follow soon



Minimal change

- ❖ Small contractual changes to reflect the service system – e.g. geographic change of LGAs serviced for SHLV by agreement with local providers
- ❖ New contracts will work to new revised service specifications IDFVS and SHLV
- ❖ Procurement through least disruptive approach – more details to follow soon

# Homelessness services commissioning approach

# Our starting point

- Homelessness commissioning is driven by the new **NSW Homelessness Strategy**, stepping NSW towards the 10-year goal that the experience of homelessness is rare, brief and not repeated because people have a safe home and the support to keep it.
- Our **starting point** is that overall, the Specialist Homelessness Services sector is meeting and exceeding expectations, and we want to work with the sector as trusted partners to create the conditions they need to do their work.
- We will work **within our existing funding envelope** to make it easier for organisations to do their work.
- We are committed to the **existing June 2026 timetable** for commissioning.

# Commissioning approach

- Commissioning will primarily be led by **engaging with existing providers about a new five-year funding agreement** with key outputs that can be utilised in contract management.
- New contracts will **enable greater flexibility** for services to work in their areas of strength and meet local need.
- Minister Jackson has committed to:
  - **Providing opportunities for new entrants** who currently don't receive SHS funding to bid for targeted funding sources or to fill priority gaps.
  - **Providing opportunities for providers to request to exit partnerships** that are no longer working.
  - **Enabling change within this 5-year contracting period** to facilitate future strategic initiatives in the homelessness and DFV space.

# Next steps for homelessness commissioning

- Update of SHS Program Specifications underway
- Working through the procurement process – more details will be shared as soon as they are confirmed.
- DCJ will invite service providers to engage in contract negotiations in the coming months and allow plenty of time for these negotiations to be finalised before 30 June 2026.
- Review of other homelessness programs (outside SHS) ongoing. We are committed to sharing more details as soon as they are known.

# Commissioning contacts & further info

## For more information or questions:

- Contact your DCJ Commissioning and Planning Manager
- Refer to the DCJ Commissioning webpages:
  - [DFV Commissioning](#)
  - [Homelessness Commissioning](#)

## Next commissioning information session:

- SHS Network Meeting - 22 May 2025

# Q&A

