**Domestic abuse – what we need to know**

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| What is the victim’s/abuser’s understanding of domestic abuse |  |
| **Evidence of domestic abuse victim’s/abuser’s response** |  |
| When was the first incident |  |
| When was the last incident |  |
| The nature of any domestic abuse (physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, financial, stalking and harassment. Also consider whether there are coercive and/or controlling behaviours present) |  |
| The nature of any threats including threats to kill |  |
| If physical abuse – any injuries and whether medical attention sought |  |
| Duration and frequency of the incidents |  |
| Police intervention |  |
| Continuing fear of further abuse |  |
| Use of contact to perpetrate domestic abuse |  |
| Breaches of court orders |  |
| Impact on victim |  |
| **Children** |  |
| Have children witnessed domestic abuse |  |
| Nature, frequency and duration of the incidents witnessed by the children |  |
| Have children been at home or in the vicinity when incidents have occurred |  |
| Have the children been caught up in incidents / injured |  |
| Children also subject to threats |  |
| Impact on the children: emotional and behavioural |  |
| Children subject to abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect |  |
| Vulnerability of the children: age, any disabilities |  |
| Understanding of impact on the children and actions taken to protect them |  |
| Availability of other supportive adults |  |
| Child’s relationship with each parent. |  |
| **Potential Vulnerabilities** |  |
| Victim’s / abuser’s mental health needs, including suicidal behaviour / ideation |  |
| Victim’s / abuser’s substance misuse |  |
| Victim’s / abuser’s learning or physical disabilities |  |
| Victim / abuser isolated / limited support network |  |
| Victim/ abuser has not accessed support services / resistance to such |  |
| Victim has experienced domestic abuse in previous relationships |  |
| Abuser has been violent in previous relationships |  |
| Victim’s / abuser’s experience of childhood abuse |  |
| Recent life event stressors: unemployment, financial problems, illness, loss |  |