

## A new shared understanding of family violence with an Aboriginal cultural lens

The MARAM<sup>1</sup> has a new, extensive definition of family violence. This means all workers can now “speak the same language”, be part of a more consistent approach to assessing and managing risk and help to keep people using violence in view and accountable. The definition now includes:

- **A shared understanding of family violence in relation to Aboriginal<sup>2</sup> people:**

“In an **Aboriginal** community context family violence includes a wide range of physical, emotional, sexual, **social, spiritual, cultural** and economic abuses that can occur within families, **extended families, kinship networks and communities. It extends to one-on-one fighting, abuse of Indigenous community workers as well as self-harm, injury and suicide.** “

- **Expanded understanding and recognition of the effects of family violence on children:**

“Behaviour by any person that causes a child to hear or witness or otherwise be exposed to the effects of the above behaviour”

- **Family also includes family of choice for many victim survivors of family violence, LGBTISBQA<sup>2</sup> community members and members of the Stolen Generations.**

1. MARAM: Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework

2. Aboriginal includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

3. LGBTISBQA: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans & gender diverse, intersex, sistergirls, brotherboys, queer & asexual