

ENGAGE - All locations

ENGAGE is a key intervention under the Premier’s Priority to reduce domestic violence (DV) reoffending.

ENGAGE aims to address a gap in early interventions for DV perpetrators, delivering workshops where participants learn skills to manage stress, identify abusive behaviour and develop a healthier lifestyle. ENGAGE also offers opportunities for referrals to additional support services and encourages program readiness for longer term interventions.

ENGAGE intervention

ENGAGE is currently delivered in the following locations:

North-West Metro Region: Blacktown, Penrith.

South-West Metro Region: Bankstown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Wollongong.

Northern Region: Cessnock, Maitland, Raymond Terrace.

How does ENGAGE work?

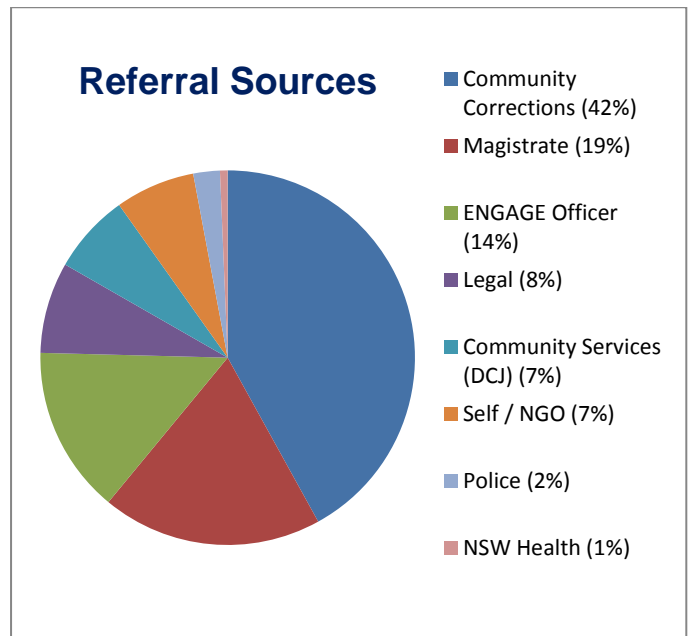
- ENGAGE Officers attend Blacktown, Bankstown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Cessnock, Maitland and Raymond Terrace local courts on DV list days to recruit participants. ENGAGE Officers also accept referrals via phone and email from a range of court and non-court providers.
- Referrals for Penrith and Wollongong are received by phone or email only as there is no court recruitment at these sites.
- Participants complete a six hour workshop using an action planning focus that addresses coping and managing emotions, identifying abuse, healthy lifestyle, communication, choices and exploring connections with family and friends.
- Participants also learn basic legal information related to DV issues.
- ENGAGE workshops are held weekly or fortnightly (or on demand) in a group or individual setting depending on participant

needs for additional support. *All Female participants are referred for individual workshops.*

- ENGAGE workshops are delivered by skilled facilitators trained in providing Men’s Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP).
- A certificate is provided to participants upon completion of the workshop.
- ENGAGE Officers make referrals to services pre and post workshop as required.

Referrals to ENGAGE

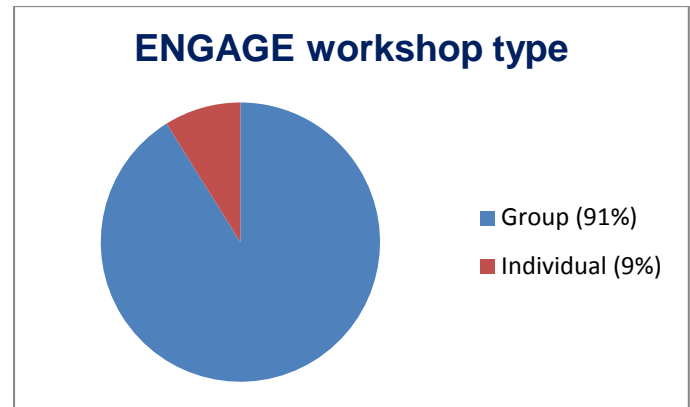
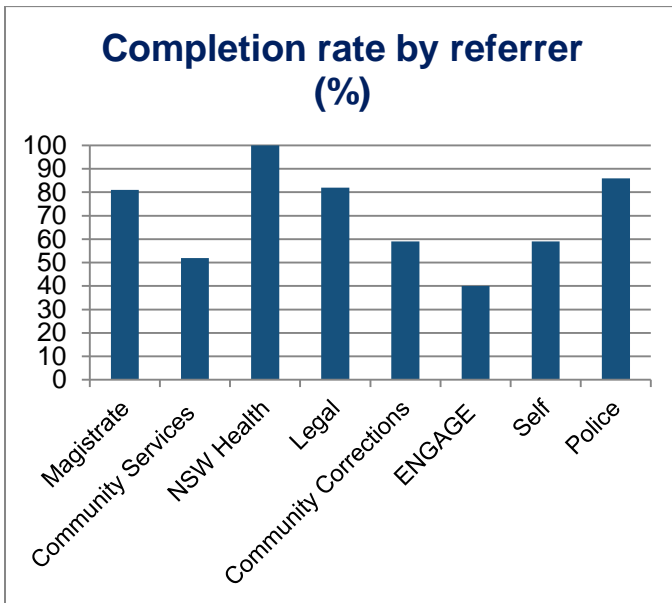
Persons can be referred to ENGAGE from the time of charge to post-sentence or where they are in contact with agencies and DV is an issue. Referring agencies and organisations play an important role in perpetrators accessing ENGAGE.



ENGAGE completion rates

1st July 2019 – 31st December 2019

505 people were assessed as eligible and invited to attend an ENGAGE workshop. Of these, **299** people completed a workshop representing a **59% completion rate** across all ENGAGE sites.



Note: Individual workshops are held for female perpetrators and where the participant requires an interpreter or a support person.

ENGAGE evaluation

Evaluation activities will commence in February 2020 to test the effectiveness of ENGAGE in meeting outcomes.

Participant Feedback

“It has helped to strengthen my relationships with my kids, since before when I was in and out of jail, and people can notice the changes in my life”.

“Definitely calmed me down, my family and my partner have all commented so that’s a good thing”.

“If you grow up here or were born here, you know these things from your friends and family. Coming from overseas, there was a lot I could learn from this course”

“I learnt a lot about ways to deal with my emotions.”

“...taking responsibility for my own actions, taking time out when I need to, using better communication skills”.

“...when I feel like I am getting frustrated, I walk away – time out or go for a walk”.

“I definitely have more to work on, but this was a good starting point, a stepping stone”.

“A very valuable learning experience for me. Except for a few work mates, I don’t really have anyone to talk and the facilitators were very helpful.”

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Referrals to additional services

29% of ENGAGE workshop participants were referred to additional services including mental health, drug and alcohol, women’s services, refugee support and Men’s Behaviour Change Programs (MBCP).

Participant Demographics

- The majority of ENGAGE participants are male (90%).
- Approximately 5% of ENGAGE participants required an interpreter to complete workshops.
- The most common language request for interpreter services was **Arabic**. Additional interpreter services were used for **Tamil, Dari, Samoan, Spanish, Tongan and Vietnamese**.
- Participants range from 18 - 70 years of age.

