



Safe, thriving  
& connected

## Safe, Thriving & Connected - Information for Referring Agencies

### Overview:

Safe, Thriving and Connected (STC) is a therapeutic family violence recovery program for victim/survivors of family violence in the Loddon Campaspe area. STC is delivered by the Loddon Gender Equality and Violence Prevention Consortium, which is made up of the Centre for Non-Violence, Annie North Women's Refuge, Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health Centre, Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria, and Women's Health Loddon Mallee.

### Eligibility/Referral Guidelines:

- Adults, children, and young people who are victim/survivors of family violence. They may be currently experiencing or have previously experienced family violence.
- Safe from elevated, serious, and imminent risk of family violence. Agencies mandated under MARAM legislation are required to provide a completed MARAM risk assessment for all family members referred into STC before intake processes will proceed.
- Safe and stable living conditions, and capacity to commit to regular therapeutic sessions. STC does not accept referrals for clients with high levels of service-involvement.
- STC does not provide case management and will not accept referrals for clients with unmet risk management, housing, drug and alcohol or other case management needs.

### Children's Eligibility:

In addition to the general criteria for the STC program, the following criteria apply to children:

- Children of all ages, including babies and preschoolers can be referred. Children 4 years and under will attend with their mother/primary caregiver and the focus will be on strengthening their relationship.
- Children must have safe and stable living conditions and a primary carer who is able to support the therapeutic process outside of sessions and participate in sessions as needed.
- If the child/young person has a parent who is the identified perpetrator of family violence and the child has contact with that parent, we prefer consent from both parents. In the absence of both parents' consent, we will assess whether it is safe to provide counselling to the child. If not safe for the child, counselling will not be provided.

### Therapeutic Services:

STC provides a range of trauma-informed and evidenced based therapeutic services to support recovery from family violence. This includes individual counselling, dyad (parent/child) counselling and therapeutic groupwork.

### Service Locations:

- STC clinicians are based at the Centre for Non-Violence, Annie North Women's Refuge, Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health Centre, and Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria.
- Appointments are offered in Bendigo, Echuca, Castlemaine, Macedon Ranges, Maryborough and Kyabram.
- For any clients who face obstacles in attending face-to-face appointments, we can arrange remote therapeutic sessions including via phone and video.

## Referral Pathways:

STC has an online referral system. All referral forms are located at: <https://www.cnv.org.au/safe-thriving-connected-therapeutic-program>

- Agency referrals are accepted from community sector agencies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Orange Door, schools and tertiary institutions, hospitals, and community health services.
- Referrals from statutory services including Child Protection practitioners: STC will provide brief 3-session therapeutic psychoeducation intervention for eligible mandated referrals.
- Self-referral: if your client is not able to access the online system, they can call CNV to complete a phone referral, on (03) 5430 3000.

## Guiding Principles:

- Safety is at the core of our work, with therapeutic supports integrated within specialist family violence risk assessment and safety responses.
- We ensure perpetrators are in view and accountable, utilising Safe and Together and MARAM frameworks
- We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive service to all victim/survivors of family violence. STC welcomes people from all communities, including those who identify as LGBTIQ+. Interpreters are available for culturally and linguistically diverse community members.
- We support victim/survivors to reclaim their sense of self, tell their story in strengthening ways, repair parent/child relationships ruptured by family violence, and increase feelings of solidarity and connection with others.

## More Information:

Web: <https://www.cnv.org.au/safe-thriving-connected-therapeutic-program>  
Phone: (03) 5430 3000  
Email: [stc@cnv.org.au](mailto:stc@cnv.org.au)

## Acknowledgements:

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters where we work. We pay our respects to Elders and community members past and present.



The Safe Thriving and Connected program is supported by the Victorian Government.



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THE LODDON  CONSORTIUM  
— FOR GENDER EQUALITY + VIOLENCE PREVENTION —