

Monitoring and Evaluation of Domestic Violence

By Marieta De Vos

Mosaic is a non-governmental organisation based in Cape Town that has been delivering support services to applicants for protection orders in domestic violence courts over the past ten years. Through the court support programme an average of 20,000 applicants, mostly women, is assisted with crisis counselling, completion of forms and explanation of the legal processes.

Over the years Mosaic has developed a data collection system that has enabled the organisation to interpret the dynamics and patterns of abuse and to plan its services in communities. The data form that is used currently provides basic information on an ongoing basis and offers valuable insights for public and private role players in the field of domestic violence.

Mosaic has also participated in two major research projects. One study looked at the effectiveness of the protection order while the other at the reasons for high attrition rates. Both these studies provided valuable information about the use and effectiveness of the DVA in South Africa.

This paper offers a methodology for collection of information to monitor, evaluate and track domestic violence cases within organisations in South Africa. It also comments on the challenges and pitfalls of data collection in this field.