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# Information Sharing/MARAM Community of Practice

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(Systems)

## Family Violence Information Sharing (FVISS)

Recommendation 5:

The Victorian Government amend the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic) to create a specific family violence information-sharing regime [within 12 months]. The new regime should be consistent with the guiding principles and design elements described in this report.

## What drove these reforms ?

- The Coroners Court of Victoria undertook an in-depth review into family violence homicides
- In many instances important information was not shared
- Had this information been made available to all services
- This may have changed the outcome for these victims

## Luke Batty Inquest

- This view was reiterated in the coronial inquest into the death of Luke Batty
- Judge Gray stated to the RCFV that:  
'There seemed to be no sharing of information gathered across Victoria Police, the Family Court, the Magistrates' Court and DHS'.

## Background - RCFV

- Ms Rosie Batty's submission also highlighted that there were many 'red flags'
- Indicating that the level of risk posed by Mr Anderson was escalating

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How are we already sharing information?

## How are we already sharing information?

- We already share information to respond to safety and risk, already permitted under the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.
- Mandatory reporting
- With consent
- De-identified client information

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What do you think is different about FVISS?



## Policy Intent

- Promoting the safety of victim survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions and behaviour, is a basic objective of this reform.
- Individuals and systems are both responsible for perpetrator accountability.

## Evidence Based Risk Indicators

- International evidence-based reviews and consultation with academics and expert practitioners have informed the updated evidence-based risk factors.
- Refer to: MARAM Framework, Emerging risk factors are highlighted in Table 1, pg. 25 - 31

## Policy Intent

‘Keeping the perpetrators of family violence in  
view”

## Serious Risk Factors

- Which of these indicators do you identify in your assessments?
- Would are new/different?
- What are some challenges that arise from this?

## Policy Intent

“holding perpetrators accountable for their actions and behaviour”

## MARAM Framework

- Part A provides an introduction and overview
- Part B outlines the system architecture and accountability for the Framework via legislative changes
- Part C is structured against the Framework's conceptual 'pillars'

# MARAM Framework

Information Sharing  
(FVISS and CISS)

Keep perpetrators in  
view and accountable

Ensure safety and  
wellbeing of victim-  
survivors

## Four Pillars

- The pillars are set at the organisation level and are designed to build knowledge and skill and support an effective and integrated system-wide response to family violence in Victoria.



## Pillar 1: Shared understanding of family violence

- Framework organisations demonstrate an evidence-based, shared understanding of family violence risk and impact.
- A shared understanding promotes an effective, integrated service response to family violence and comprises:
  - spectrum of family violence types
  - evidence-based risk factors used to support determination of seriousness of risk
  - complexity of experiences across the community.

## Pillar 2: Consistent and collaborative practice

### Organisational Framework Requirements

Framework organisations use tools that are:  
consistent with the evidence based factors at Table 1,  
and  
share information relevant to family violence risk assessment and  
management with other services in accordance with relevant laws.

## Pillar 2: Consistent and collaborative practice

### Model of Structure Professional Judgement

- victim's self-assessed level of risk, fear and safety
  - assessment against evidence-based risk factors
    - information sharing to inform assessment
- professional judgement using intersectional analysis.



## Pillar 3: Responsibilities for risk assessment and management

- Framework organisations understand their responsibilities in risk assessment and management practice and how these relate to the operation of Part 5A of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008, as applicable.
- Framework organisations assign responsibilities of services and services providers within them in accordance with Table 3, pg. 46 & 47 MARAM Framework.

## Pillar 4: Systems, outcomes and continuous improvement

- establish or utilise existing relevant governance and advisory structures to implement the Framework
- collect consistent information about the evidence-based family violence risk factors
- undertake activities to change organisational culture and practice to promote continuous improvement in risk assessment and management practice, information sharing and enhanced collaboration with other services.

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# Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS)

## How to share information?

- Only prescribed information sharing entities can share
- See Appendix 2 – CISS Ministerial Guidelines for phase one prescribed entities



## Thresholds

There are 3 parts that need to be met prior to sharing:

- Threshold part 1: Promoting child wellbeing or safety
- Threshold part 2: To undertake activities
- Threshold part 3: Information is not excluded

## How are we already sharing information?

- What information do you share now?
- Who do you share with?
- What is the purpose for sharing?

## How are we already sharing information?

- We already share information to respond to safety and risk, already permitted under the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.
- Mandatory reporting
- With consent
- De-identified client information

## Legislative Principles

When sharing information under the Child Information Sharing Scheme, the legislative principles require information sharing entities to:

## Legislative Principles/consent

6. Seek and take into account the views of the child and the child's relevant family members, if it is appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.

## Thresholds part 1: Promoting child wellbeing and safety

- An information sharing entity must form a view that the request or disclosure is for the purpose of promoting the wellbeing or safety of a child or group of children.

## Professional understanding of child's wellbeing and safety

Factors to consider:

- Physical, psychological and emotional health
- Personal, social and cultural development
- Participation in education

## Thresholds part 2: Sharing to assist another information sharing entity to undertake activities

To meet the second part of the threshold the sharing of information must assist professional activities



## Thresholds part 2: Professional Activities

- Making a decision, assessment or plan
- Initiating or conducting an investigation
- Providing a service
- Managing any risk

## Thresholds part 3: Excluded information

- ‘Excluded information’ is information that cannot be collected, used or disclosed under the Child Information Sharing Scheme

## Thresholds part 3: Excluded information

- Risk safety
- Prejudice legal proceedings – investigation, coronial inquest, trial, court order
- Disclose or enable an identity of a confidential source
- Contrary to the public interest

## Record Keeping

- You must record relevant information when requesting or sharing information within case notes
- Refer to: Case note template FACT SHEET

# MARAM Training

## DVRCV developing MARAM Training modules

- MARAM Leading Alignment training (1 day)
- Comprehensive Renewing Practice: CRAF to MARAM training (1 day)
- Comprehensive Newer Family Violence Specialist training (1 day)

## Other MARAM Training Modules

- Brief and Intermediate and Screening and Identification
- Are being tailored and delivered via relevant departments to ensure consistency with different workforce approaches to MARAM.
- Further information will be available via your department or funded agency in the coming months.

# Information Sharing Implementation/MARAM alignment

- 1) What are the key challenges in your local area?
  - *(consider internal and external)*

# Information Sharing Implementation/MARAM alignment

- 2) What are potential solutions for the local area?
- 3) How can you work together to implement reforms in Central Highlands?
- 4) Ideas of practical support/activities from the group?



# Resources

Family Safety Victoria have developed a number of resources and templates for practitioners and clients, available on their [website](#)

## Info Sharing Training

- Online e-modules  
<https://www.vic.gov.au/infosharing/training-for-information-sharing-schemes-and-maram.html>
- 1 day face-to-face training (DHHS Workforces)