



Community of Practice - *Information Sharing Reforms: From Implementation to Maximised Outcomes*

Central Highlands Integrated Family Violence Committee welcomed a group of 60 attendees to Bacchus Marsh on the very chilly morning of May 30, for the fifth in the series of CHIFVC Community of Practice forums: ***Information Sharing Reforms: From implementation to maximised outcomes.***

After introductions by **Libby Jewson**, Chair of CHIFVC, **Dee Healey from DVVIC** and **Ebony Westman from No to Violence** delivered a presentation on information sharing reforms and the MARAM.

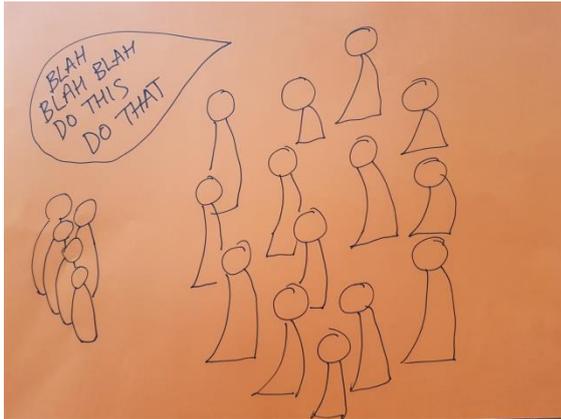
They discussed the drivers of the new information sharing reforms, coming from Recommendation 5 of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, including an in-depth review by the Coroner's Court into family violence-related homicides which identified that in many cases pertinent information was not shared.

The group reflected on how information is already being shared and discussed the policy intent, which is to promote the safety of victim survivors and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions and behaviour.

Following on from the keynote, **Peter Rademaker from CAFS**, **Sally Goldstraw from WRISC Family Violence Support** and **Brent Goodes from Centacare** presented a case study to the group and led attendees through an interactive physical representation of the case, where participants each represented an individual or agency involved with the case.



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Participants who were representing the family members positioned themselves in the centre of the room and participants representing service providers and other community members positioned themselves around the family. Family members used words such as **'chaotic'**, **'suffocated'** and **'overwhelmed'** to describe this experience. The participant representing the oldest male child drifted further and further away from the family unit and the participant representing the father was removed from the family unit altogether.

The group was then directed to make changes which would achieve better outcomes for the family. The final configuration settled on by the group saw the family unit out front, supported by one contact person, with other services behind them for support.



The group then moved into a reflective activity, identifying barriers, gaps and opportunities for practice. Common themes which came through from this activity were: ***the importance of prioritising the voice of the family; avoiding crowding or overwhelming the family; the need to coordinate service delivery; and the importance of working collaboratively.***



The CHIFVC would like to thank the members of the organising committee and all who made a contribution to the day.

The next Community of Practice event will be held in Ballarat and will focus on perpetrator interventions. Visit the [CHIFVC news](#) page or [follow us on Twitter](#) for updates about events or email info@chifvc.org.au to be added to our mailing list.

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