



**WOMEN'S HEALTH
IN THE NORTH**
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NIFVS Regional Integration Committee Fact Sheet Updated April 2018

Background

The NIFVS partnership was formed in July 2006, following the reforms to the family violence service sector introduced by the Victorian Government.

The partnership was led by the Partnership Management Group which was made up of representatives from funded family violence services. The NIFVS Strategic Network provided a space for information-sharing across the entire service system.

In 2014, the NIFVS Partnership Management Group undertook a review of its governance arrangements. The review aimed to strengthen the integration of the family violence system in the Northern Metropolitan Region (NMR) and resulted in the formation of the NIFVS Regional Integration Committee. At the same time, the NIFVS Strategic Network was replaced by tri-annual NIFVS forums which focussed on specific areas identified in the NIFVS Regional Plan.

Regional Integration Committee

The purpose of the Regional Integration Committee is to “identify and prioritise local and regional family violence issues within the statewide policy reform framework and focus on regional work to achieve improved integration of family violence services and coordination with other key sector services”¹.

The new NIFVS Regional Integration Committee met for the first time on 11 March 2015. The new Committee includes representatives from: family violence specialist services, Victoria Police, courts and relevant government agencies, as well as CALD, disability, family services, housing, indigenous, legal, mental health, drug and alcohol, sexual assault and women’s health services.

Apart from specialist family violence services, there is one representative from each service type or sector. These representatives were selected based on recommendations from existing networks. The new structure will be reviewed after a year to ensure the makeup of the committee enables the effective progression of the NIFVS Regional Plan.

¹ Department of Human Services (2013) *“Regional Family Violence Integration Governance Model”*.

Role of Committee members

The role of a Committee member is to provide leadership within their service type/sector on the priorities identified within the NIFVS Regional Plan. Members will work collaboratively to continually improve the integrated family violence system across the NMR.

Committee members have a responsibility to:

- Contribute knowledge and expertise about their service type/sector and any specific issues experienced by that sector
- Inform approaches to improving service system responses
- Advise on practice and operational issues impacting on services
- Identify opportunities for addressing emerging issues and trends
- Identify and comment upon State and Federal reforms and their impact upon family violence service delivery to women, men and children
- Oversee the development, implementation and review of the NIFVS Regional Plan
- Provide relevant organisational and sector data to support planning and continuous improvement processes
- Implement and report on relevant actions in the regional plan
- Attend and actively contribute to regular meetings, maintaining consistency in representation
- Identify opportunities to link the work of relevant sector networks and groups with that of the Committee
- Report back to, and consult with, their respective sectors/service types on developments occurring within NIFVS and decisions made at the Committee.

Principal Strategic Advisor

In August 2017, the Regional Integration Committee endorsed a change of title for the Regional Integration Coordinator (RIC) to 'Principal Strategic Advisor'. The new title better describes the representative and advisory focus of the role both regionally and at a statewide level, aligning with similar changes for RIC titles in other regions across Victoria.

Since the role was established in 2006, RICs have lead regional service systems to improved integration and coordination. Ten years later the role has evolved to provide advice on statewide reforms and policy, providing informed advice on regional issues and opportunities to the Regional Integration Committee, government and importantly across a range of sectors.

Getting involved

Whilst membership of the committee is limited, we encourage you to feed issues and opportunities to the committee via your sector or service representative.

Where this is not possible/ applicable, you can contact Sarah Johnson, the Principal Strategic Advisor at sarahj@whin.org.au or on 9484 1666.

Members from April 2018 include:

Chair

Helen Riseborough
CEO, Women's Health In the North

Deputy Chair

Jade Blakkarly
CEO, WISHIN

Principal Strategic Advisor

Sarah Johnson, WHIN

Women's family violence services

Pauline Wright
Senior Manager Family Violence, Berry Street

Robyn Roberts
Senior Manager
Crossroads, The Salvation Army

Lisa Dunbar
CEO, Georgina Martina

Children's family violence services

Rosie Downs
Program Manager, Northern Metro Family &
Community Services
Anglicare Victoria

Men's family violence services

Louise Sharkey
Community Services Director,
Plenty Valley Community Health

Chris McInnes
Senior Manager, Uniting Kildonan

Joy Fawcus
Manager – Counselling
Sunbury Community Health

Indigenous women's family violence services

Kelly Anne Andy
General Manager, Elizabeth Morgan House

Indigenous FV Regional Action Group (IFVRAG)

Alfie Bamblett
IFVRAG Co-Chair
(at Indigenous Men's Resource and Advisory
Service)

Child & Family Services Alliances

Jo Malcomb-Black
Executive Director, Uniting Kildonan
Chair - Hume Moreland Integrated Family Services
Alliance

Emily McDonald
Executive Director
Children's Protection Society
Chair – ChildFIRST North East

Courts

Emma Taylor
Manager, Family Law and Intervention Registry,
Melbourne Magistrates' Court

CALD family violence services

Ruth Fox
Executive Manager Client Services, inTouch
Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence

Housing and homelessness services

Jade Blakkarly
CEO, WISHIN

Mental health services

[Position vacant]

Drug and alcohol services

Caroline Long, Service Development Manager
Odyssey House

Sexual assault services

Heather Clarke
Manager, Northern CASA

Regional prevention strategy

Sandra Morris
Manager, Health Promotion, WHIN

Community legal centres

Bridget Dwyer
Manager & Principal Lawyer
Darebin Community Legal Centre

Hospitals

Jane Hooker
Program Lead PVAW, Royal Women's Hospital

Associate members include:

Victoria Police

Carmel Ross
Family Violence Advisor Div 4

Department of Health and Human Services

Angela Papoutsoglou
Acting Area Director NEMA, DHHS

DHHS - Child Protection

Nathan Chapman
Operations Manager, North Division

Department of Justice and Regulation

Amanda Watkinson
Assistant Director Planning and Service
Integration North West Metropolitan Area