



**WOMEN'S HEALTH
IN THE NORTH**
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NIFVS Regional Integration Committee Fact Sheet Updated May 2019

Background

Family Violence Regional Integration Committees (FVRIC) are local governance structures that were established in 2006 to improve the integration of services that respond to family violence. The first task of regional integration was to break down significant silos that existed across the service system.

Today FVRICs play a strategic leadership role, building on the foundations of the strong relationships and more integrated system to drive effective responses to family violence, whilst supporting Victoria's family violence reforms.

FVRICs bring together agencies and sectors that respond to family violence - the major players in the current family violence reform agenda of *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change*. They are the only local governance structures that exist across the State with a focus on: local systems, a family violence lens and capacity building across all workforces.

The core functions of FVRICs are to maintain a strong focus on the local system; to understand what is needed at a system level so that a positive difference can be made to the experiences of service users entering and exiting the system at any point; and to inform decision makers of local system perspectives and thereby influence the direction of centrally-driven reform initiatives.

FVRICs strive to ensure mutually beneficial linkages with other local structures relevant to their system-focused function, including (but not limited to) Dhelk Dja Indigenous Regional Action Groups, Child and Family Services Alliances, Homelessness Networks, and primary prevention partnerships.

Principal Strategic Advisors (PSAs) across the State provide leadership and oversight of the work of FVRICs, providing advice to Committees, government and local services; coordinating capacity building initiatives and maintaining strategic relationships with key stakeholders.

NIFVS Regional Integration Committee

The Northern Integrated Family Violence Services (NIFVS) Regional Integration Committee provides family violence system leadership across the northern metropolitan region (NMR) of Melbourne. This includes the two Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) areas of Hume Moreland and North East Melbourne encompassing the seven Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra.

The Committee includes senior managers and CEOs from all specialist family violence services (working with victim survivors and perpetrators and including The Orange Door) as well as representatives from Child and Family Services, Courts, Victoria Police, Dhelk Dja Indigenous Regional Action Group, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse services, hospitals, alcohol and other drug services, homelessness services, sexual assault services, community legal services and women's health leading the Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) strategy for the NMR.

The Committee also includes representatives from relevant government departments including the Department of Health and Human Services (Local Connections and Child Protection) and the Department of Justice and Regulation.

More than 180 services across the NMR are engaged in the work of the NIFVS Partnership. Because of the large number of services responding to family violence across the NMR, apart from family violence services, there is one representative from each intersecting service type or sector.

These representatives are selected based on recommendations from existing networks and are responsible for communicating with their respective sectors on developments occurring within the Committee.

In the NMR the Committee is supported by the NIFVS team, comprising the Principal Strategic Advisor, a Senior Workforce Development Officer and a Regional Integration Resource Worker.

Role of Committee members

The role of Committee members is to provide leadership within their sector and organisation on Committee priorities. Members contribute knowledge and expertise about their sector to strengthen cross-sector integration. In addition they act as a conduit to report back to their sectors on Committee activities.

Committee members have a responsibility to:

- Participate in the development, implementation and review of the NIFVS Strategic Plan
- Report back to, and consult with, their respective sectors on developments occurring within the Committee.
- 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 opportunities to link the work of other regional governance structures with that of the Committee.
- Share data to support planning and continuous improvement processes.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen key system level reforms at a local level.

Getting involved

Whilst membership of the committee is limited, stakeholders are encouraged to feed issues and opportunities to the committee via relevant sector or service representatives.

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

Members from May 2019 include:

Chair

Helen Riseborough
CEO, Women's Health In
the North

Deputy Chair

Jade Blakkarly
CEO, WISHIN

Principal Strategic Advisor

Sarah Johnson, WHIN

The Orange Door

Jodie Woolcock
Manager

**Women's family violence
services**

Pauline Wright
Senior Manager Family
Violence, Berry Street

Gayle Correnti
Family Violence Manager,
VIC and TAS
The Salvation Army

Lisa Dunbar
CEO, Georgina Martina

Felicity Rorke
Executive Director
Good Samaritan Inn

**Children's family violence
services**

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

**Men's family violence
services**

Deme Dunston
Manager of Community
Services
DPV Health

Chris McInnes
Senior Manager, Uniting
Kildonan

Joy Fawcus
Manager – Counselling
Sunbury Community Health

Sexual assault services

Heather Clarke
Manager, Northern CASA

**Indigenous women's family
violence services**

Kelly Anne Andy
General Manager, Elizabeth
Morgan House

**Dhelk Dja Indigenous
Regional Action Group**

Alfie Bamblett
Dhelk Dja Co-Chair

**Child & Family Services
Alliances**

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

Emily McDonald
Executive Director
Kids First
NEMA Child and Family
Services Alliance

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

Drug and alcohol services

Marlyn Gavaghan
Senior Manager Clinical
Services
Uniting ReGen

Mental health services
[Position vacant]

**Regional prevention
strategy**

Sandra Morris
Manager, Health
Promotion, WHIN

Community legal centres

Marquita Nolan
Legal Practice Manager and
Principal Lawyer
Northern Community Legal
Centre

Hospitals

Natasha Knapic
Project Officer
Strengthening Hospital
Response to FV
Northern Health

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Victoria Police

Detective Senior Sergeant,
Melbourne Family Violence
Investigation Units
Christine Lalor (Div. 5)
Craig Mcevoy (Div. 1)
Tania Gallagher (Div. 4)

**Department of Health and
Human Services**

Daryl Glynn
Manager, Local Connections

DHHS - Child Protection

Pina Molea
Operations Manager,
Divisional Services Preston

**Department of Justice and
Regulation**

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