

Implementing Family Violence Reforms:

Promising Practice at the Intersect between Family Violence, AOD and Mental Health Work



NIFVS Forum
23 July 2019



About NIFVS

The Northern Integrated Family Violence Services (NIFVS) Regional Integration Committee provides family violence system leadership across the northern metropolitan region of Melbourne.

Our Mission

Provide regional leadership that increases the safety of victim survivors, the accountability of perpetrators and strengthens Victoria's family violence reforms.

Our Partners

25 committee members

271 services responding to family violence

2,214 professionals linked to various initiatives

Our Team

The comprising the Principal Strategic Advisor, a Senior Workforce Development Officer and a Regional Integration Resource Worker.





What is Family Violence?

Family violence is ‘a *pattern of coercive control* that one person exercises over another in order to dominate and get his way. It is behaviour that physically harms, arouses fear, prevents a person from doing what she wants, or compels her to behave in ways she does not freely choose’.*

Family violence is a deeply gendered issue rooted in the structural inequalities and the imbalance of power between women and men.

Diverse groups frequently contend with intersectional risks that can increase the prevalence and/ or severity of family violence.

* Jones, A. & Schechter, S. (1992). *When Love Goes Wrong*. Melbourne: HarperCollins.





What to expect from today

Today's forum will draw on local skill and knowledge to strengthen our responses to those impacted by family violence, AOD and mental health.

You will hear from Specialist Family Violence Capacity Builders and reflect on your own collaborative practice.

- **Understand** responsibilities under the family violence reforms
- **Hear** about promising practice in responding to family violence in AOD and mental health settings
- **Explore** how collaborative practice can enhance the safety of clients



Agenda

Activity One Locate yourself in key family violence reforms

Presentations Promising Practice from Specialist Family Violence Advisors

[BREAK]

Panel Discussion Case Study: Enhancing Safety

Activity Two Case Study: Strengthening Collaborative Practice

Activity Three Your hopes for the future





Key Family Violence Reforms

The Victorian Government is implementing a range of inter-related reforms across justice, education, health and human services.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM)

Sets out the responsibilities of different workforces in identifying, assessing and managing family violence risk.

Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS)

Enables authorised organisations to share information to facilitate assessment and management of family violence risk to children and adults.

Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS)

Enables authorised organisations to share information to promote the wellbeing and safety of children.





Phased Reform Implementation

Initial Group

FVISS started on 26 February 2018 for an initial group of organisations and services.

Phase One

More organisations and services were prescribed under the FVISS, CISS and MARAM in September 2018.

Phase Two

Subject to consultation, additional organisations and services are likely to be authorised in 2020 under all 3 reforms.



Family Violence Capability Framework

The *Responding to Family Violence Capability Framework* (2017) outlines four 'tiers' which help us better understand workforces that respond to family violence.





MARAM Responsibilities

The MARAM Framework consists of 10 responsibilities for workers depending on how they are required to respond to family violence.

1. Respectful, sensitive and safe engagement

2. Identification of family violence

3. Intermediate risk assessment

4. Intermediate risk management

5. Seek consultation for comprehensive risk assessment, risk management and referrals

6. Contribute to information sharing with other services (as authorised by legislation)

7. Comprehensive assessment

8. Comprehensive risk management and safety planning

9. Contribute to coordinated risk management

10. Collaborate for ongoing risk assessment and risk management



MARAM Training

- **MARAM Leading Alignment training (DVRCV)**
- **Comprehensive Renewing Practice: CRAF to MARAM training (DVRCV)**
- Comprehensive Newer Family Violence Specialist training (DVRCV)
- Brief and Intermediate (Government Departments)
- Screening and Identification (Government Departments)
- Collaborative Practice (via Family Violence Regional Integration Committees)



MARAM Resources

Core Knowledge Guide

Tools, practice guidance and resources for:

- Identification and Screening
- Victim Survivor Brief Assessment
- Victim Survivor Intermediate Assessment
- Comprehensive Victim Survivor Assessment
- Perpetrator Behaviour Assessment
- Comprehensive Perpetrator Risk Assessment

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Family Violence Information Sharing

Information Sharing Entities (ISE) share information for a family violence protection purpose.

Family violence protection purpose: once family violence risk is established, to manage the risk of the perpetrator committing family violence, or the risk of the victim survivor(s) being subjected to family violence. Managing risk involves removing, reducing or preventing the escalation of risk.

Risk Assessment Entities (RAE) are ISE's that can also share information for a family violence assessment purpose.

Family violence assessment purpose: to establish whether family violence risk is present, assessing the level of risk the perpetrator poses to the victim survivor, and correctly identifying the perpetrator and victim survivor.





Activity One: Your role in the Reforms

In pairs, introduce yourself and your role.

Use the worksheet and documents provided to map your role, responsibilities and next steps under the key reforms of MARAM and Information Sharing.

Discuss with your partner.

[20 Minutes]



Promising Practice: Stories from Specialist Family Violence Advisors

Alex Gale

Specialist AOD Family Violence Advisor
Uniting ReGen

Pauline Kelly

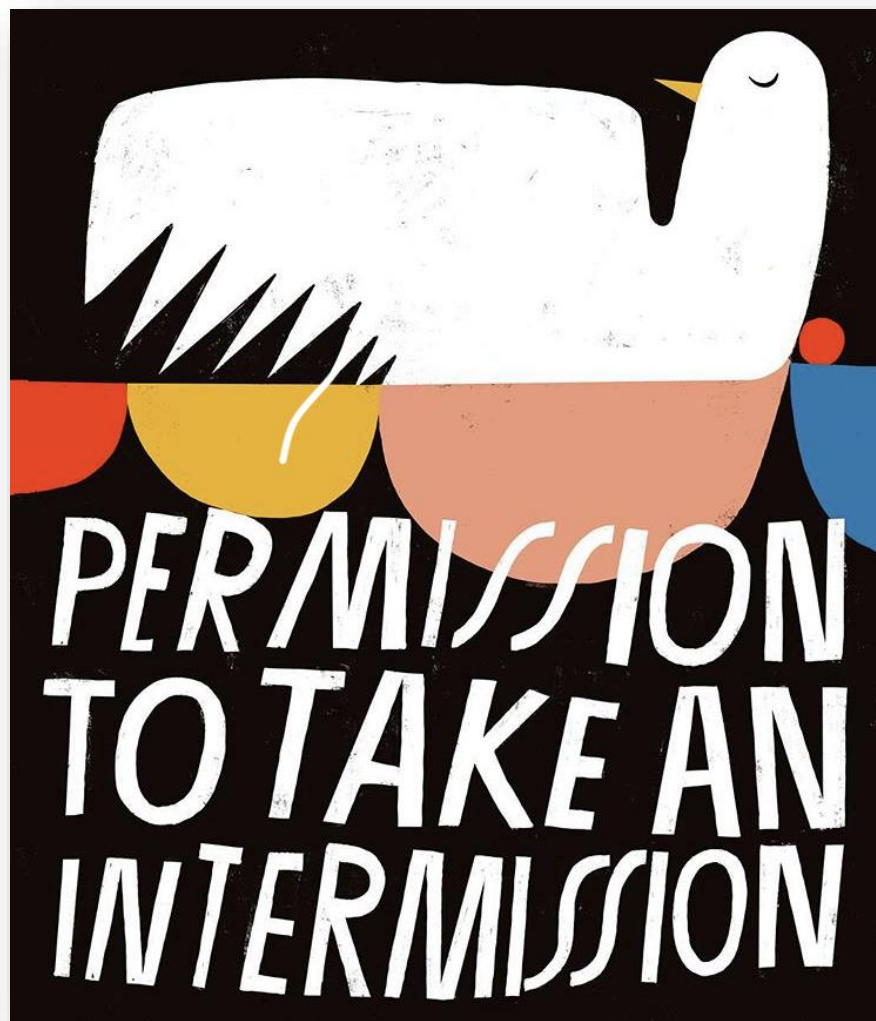
Specialist Mental Health Family Violence Advisor
Austin Health

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See you in 20 minutes

Artwork by Lisa Congdon, 2018





Panel Discussion

Jodii Geddes VACCA (Strengthening Cultural Safety Project)

Jenifer Ratnajeya Berry Street (Women's Family Violence Service)

Alison McRoberts Headspace (Mental Health)

Rosie Carr ReGen (Alcohol and Other Drug)

Adam Stefano Sunbury Community Health
(Men's Behaviour Change Program)





Panel Case Study: Molly & Nick

Nick is in his mid-20s and is undertaking individual AOD counselling to support the cessation of methamphetamine use. He states that the motivating factor is mending the relationship with his partner, Molly, a 21 year old Aboriginal woman. Nick reports that the relationship has been 'rocky' with ongoing 'arguments between' the couple. He reports that Molly is supportive of him and they have requested a referral to an in-house AoD family counsellor to assist with the impact of his drug use on their relationship.

The family counsellor undertook two counselling sessions with the couple and it became evident that there was significant family violence being perpetrated by Nick against Molly. His abuse was verbal and emotional. He also stalked Molly, needing to know her whereabouts every day and questioning her interactions with others. During the sessions, Nick made fun of Molly, called her 'crazy', belittled her and her statements.



...Case Study Continued

Due to Nick's behaviour, the family counsellor decided that family counselling was not safe for Molly, or a useful mechanism to support Nick to change his behaviour, so she decided to cease sessions with the couple.

Nick continued with individual AOD counselling and the family counsellor maintained weekly phone contact with Molly to check in and manage her risk. Molly told the counsellor that she broke up with Nick and asked Nick to move out. Molly said that Nick made threats towards her, and his own life, if she didn't get back with him.

The family counsellor consulted with the specialist AOD Family Violence Advisor and they agreed that they are concerned about Molly's safety. The family counsellor encouraged Molly to report Nick's abuse to the police however she states that she is afraid to do this.



Activity Two: Fahima and Tim

In pairs, read through Fahima and Tim's case study and spend some time answering the questions on the worksheet provided.

Focus on collaborative practice to enhance Fahima's safety and increase Tim's accountability.

[30 mins]



Activity Three: Reflection

Reflecting on today's forum, discuss with your table how you hope the MARAM and information sharing schemes will enhance your collaborative practice in the future.

[10 mins]

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Stay Involved

There are a number of ways to stay connected with the work of regional family violence integration:

- **Attend** Regional Family Violence Induction
- **Participate** in *Identifying Family Violence: Responding to Women* training (20 August)
- **Participate** in *Working with Male Perpetrators of Family Violence: Reflections on Collusion* training (29 October)
- **Join** the *Young Women and Family Violence* Community of Practice (26 November)
- **Join** a Local Family Violence Network
- **Order** and display family violence posters

www.nifvs.org.au



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Supported by the Victorian Government.



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