

Implementing Family Violence Reforms:

Intersect between Family Violence, AOD and Mental Health

Forum Summary

On 23 July 2019, almost 100 participants discussed the intersection between family violence, AOD and Mental Health work. Participants heard from family violence capacity builders and panel members working in a range of services who highlighted the opportunities that arise from using key family violence reforms: the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme and MARAM.

Information Sharing Schemes

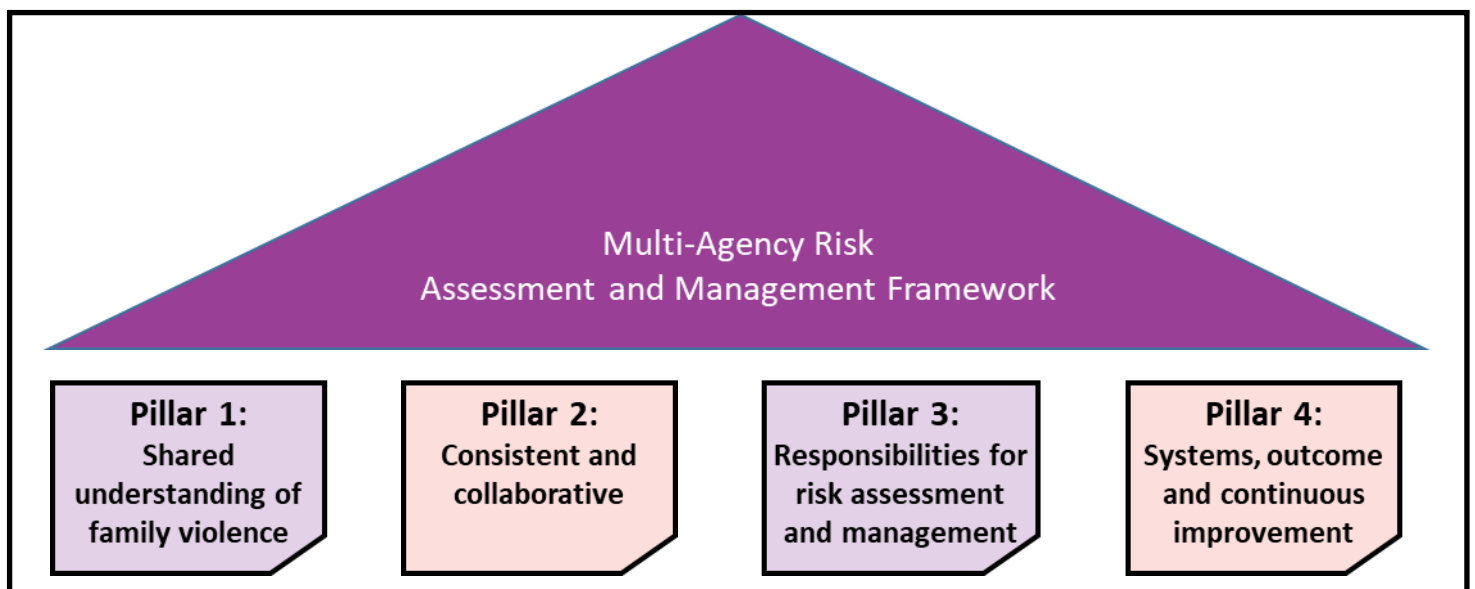
Enable authorised organisations to share information to:

- facilitate assessment and management of family violence risk to children and adults (Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme - FVISS)
- promote the wellbeing and safety of children. (Child Information Sharing Scheme - CISS)

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM)

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

A [broad range of prescribed organisations](#) now have responsibilities under both information sharing and MARAM.



Sarah Johnson (Principal Strategic Advisor) reassured participants that the MARAM and Information Sharing reforms are to be implemented as a 'maturity model'. With training still coming, workers are not expected to be across all the responsibilities overnight.



Intersect between Family Violence, AOD and Mental Health



Panel members: Rosie Carr (Regen), Alison McRoberts (Headspace), Jennifer Ratnajeya (Berry Street), Adam Stefano (Sunbury Community Health), Jodii Geddes (VACCA) and Sarah Johnson (NIFVS)

'The forum helped me to have a better understanding about the MARAM and information sharing scheme. I will be confident to put them into practice at my work.'

(Forum Participant)

Panel's Advice For Workers

In response to a case study concerning an Aboriginal woman experiencing family violence panellists advised:

- Focus on safety: consider risk factors (e.g. recent separation, stalking, threats).
- Resist colluding with perpetrators.
- Collaborate with Aboriginal services.
- Gain consent to share information from an Aboriginal client wherever possible, as not doing this can damage the trust relationship.
- When supporting perpetrators: recognise warning signs; and address how his substance use impacts the risk he poses.
- Keep the perpetrator in view through collaboration.

How Family Violence Capacity Builders are Influencing Practice

Something is just not right about 'the fight' Nathan said he had with his partner.



After consulting with Family Violence Capacity Builder, Alex Gale, an AOD counsellor used the FVISS to contact police, who explained Nathan had a history of family violence and a warrant out for his arrest. The phone call promoted the police to follow up with the warrant for Nathan's arrest.

This is family violence! This is power and control. He had me fooled for a while. He was so charming.



Family Violence Capacity Builder in mental health, Pauline Kelly described a hospital registrar's 'aha' moment about a patient's husband. The victim survivor was able to speak to a family violence worker as a result.

Further Resources:

Visit www.nifvs.org.au to view the forum presentation and resources on Risk Assessment and Safety Planning.