



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

Updated May 2023

Background

Family Violence Regional Integration Committees (FVRIC) are local governance structures that provide strategic leadership to drive effective responses to family violence and support Victoria's family violence reforms.

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.

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 Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) 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 Families, Fairness and Housing (Local Connections and Child Protection) and the Department of Justice and Regulation.

More than 400 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 Workforce Development Coordinator and a Communications and Project Officer.

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 the Principal Strategic Advisor at nifvs@whin.org.au.

Members from February 2022 include:

Chair

Helen Riseborough
CEO, Women's Health In
the North (WHIN)

Deputy Chair

Felicity Rorke
Executive Director
Good Samaritan Inn

Principal Strategic Advisor

Veronica Hunt, WHIN

The Orange Door

Del Aulich, Service System
Navigator – NEMA

The Orange Door

Kate Bevin-John
Service System Navigator –
Hume Moreland

Victim Survivor family violence services

Pauline Wright
Senior Manager Family
Violence, Berry Street

Hannah Stephen
Program Manager – NW
Family Violence Programs
The Salvation Army

Tracey Edwards
Operations Manager
Georgina Martina Inc

Felicity Rorke
Executive Director
Good Samaritan Inn

Tanya Corrie
CEO
Juno

Kelly Anne Andy
CEO
Elizabeth Morgan House

Deb Bryant
Executive Director
Women's Liberation
Halfway House

Perpetrator services

Deme Dunston
Manager of Community
Services, DPV Health

Gemma Hepton
Senior Service Manager,
Family Violence, Uniting

Adam Stefano
Manager Community
Mental Health, Sunbury
Cobaw Community Health

Jackie Bateman
General Manager,
Evidence Informed Practice
Kids First Australia

Sexual assault services

Vacant

Dhelk Dja Indigenous Regional Action Group

Ron Briggs
Deputy Co-Chair

Child & Family Services

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

Amanda Exley
Chair - Hume Moreland
Integrated Family Services
Group Manager, Child
Youth and Family Services
Uniting

Jan Pfeiffer
Chair – Operations Group
NEMA Child and Family
Services Alliance
Program Manager
Family & Community
Services, Anglicare Victoria

Courts

Marena Ghattas
Senior Practice Coordinator
Melbourne Magistrates'
Court

CALD family violence services

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

Homelessness Local Area Services Network (LASN)

Molly O'Shaughnessy
Senior Manager
Melbourne City Mission

Drug and alcohol services

Marlyn Gavaghan
Senior Manager Clinical
Services, Uniting

Mental health services

Beth Tynan
Specialist Family Violence
Advisor
Austin Health

Regional PVAW Strategy

Sue Rosenhain
Manager – Health
Promotion, WHIN

Community legal centres

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Disability Services

Kerry Ladiges, Family
Violence & Disability Practice
Leader, Berry Street

Hospitals

Marianne Crowe
Project Manager,
Strengthening Hospitals'
Response to Family Violence
St Vincent's Hospital

Victoria Police

Julie Gasparini
Detective Sergeant
Victoria Police

**Department of Justice and
Community Safety**

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

**Department of Families
Fairness and Housing**

Janelle Sheppard
Agency Performance and
Systems Support Adviser -
Hume Merri-bek

Ghill de Rozario
Agency Performance and
Systems Support Adviser -
NEMA

Laura Temple
Deputy Area Operations
Manager NEMA
Child Protection