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| Ending family violence |
| Annual report 2022 |
| OFFICIAL |

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In this document, ‘Aboriginal’ refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ‘Indigenous’ or ‘Koori/Koorie’ is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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# Foreword from the Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister Vicki Ward

I’m pleased to present the Ending family violence annual report, which documents the crucial work done across government to prevent and respond to family violence in Victoria.

It’s been seven years since the Royal Commission into family violence handed down its final report. We committed to implement all 227 of its recommendations and began the task of building a new, stronger and more coordinated family violence system.

And we did it - in 2022, we implemented the final 23 of those 227 recommendations. It’s been a period of fast-paced whole-scale change funded by an investment of more than $3.86 billion and led by many dedicated individuals and organisations across Victoria, a huge achievement.

During 2022, five more Orange Doors opened, completing the state-wide rollout of The Orange Door network, along with the opening of four new specialist refuges and expansion of the Central Information Point. Legislative amendments were passed supporting victim survivors of family violence giving evidence and seven additional courts in the Specialist Family Violence Court Division started operations.

It is all wonderful progress, but the work needs to go on.

So, we are keeping the focus on *Ending family violence,* our 10-year plan, guided by the current Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023. I’m pleased to note that we are on track to complete most of the remaining activities outlined in the plan, driving the next phase of reform and creating a system that is more connected, sustainable and delivering better outcomes for victim survivors.

We committed to ending family violence here in Victoria. We knew it wouldn’t be easy and we knew it would take generations, but it has to be done.

The Ending family violence annual report shows how far we’ve come and reveals the sobering truths about just how far we still have to go. It shows how we are continuing our work to build a nation-leading family violence system, with transparency and accountability.

# Acknowledgements

## We acknowledge Country

The Victorian Government acknowledges Victorian Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We acknowledge and respect that Aboriginal communities are steeped in traditions and customs built on a disciplined social and cultural order that has sustained 60,000 years of existence. We acknowledge the significant disruptions to this social and cultural order and the ongoing hurt caused by colonisation.

We acknowledge the ongoing leadership role of Aboriginal communities, particularly Aboriginal women, in addressing and preventing family violence. We will continue to work in collaboration with First Peoples to eliminate family violence from all communities.

## We are committed to truth-telling and Treaty

We acknowledge the impact of colonisation to this day, including discrimination in the way that our structures and systems operate.

We seek ways to rectify past wrongs. We are deeply committed to Aboriginal self-determination and to supporting Victoria’s Treaty and truth-telling processes.

We acknowledge that Treaty will have wide-ranging impacts for the way we work with Aboriginal Victorians. We seek to create respectful and collaborative partnerships and develop policies and programs that respect Aboriginal self-determination and align with Treaty aspirations.

We acknowledge that Victoria’s Treaty process will provide a framework for the transfer of decision-making power and resources to support self-determining Aboriginal communities to take control of matters that affect their lives. We commit to working proactively to support this work in line with the aspirations of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians.

## We recognise those who have been harmed by family violence

The Victorian Government recognises those who have experienced violence at the hands of someone close to them, including adults, older adults, children, young people and those within our workforce. Our efforts to prevent and respond to family violence are for them. It is vital that policies and services are informed by their experiences, expertise and advocacy.

We also remember and pay respects to those who did not survive and extend our respects to all of those who have lost loved ones to family violence.

We keep at the forefront of our minds all those who have been, or continue to be, harmed by family or sexual violence, and acknowledge their ongoing courage and resilience.

## Content warning

This document contains reference to and descriptions of acts of family and sexual violence.

If you have experienced violence or sexual assault and need immediate or ongoing help, contact 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) to talk to a counsellor from the national sexual assault and domestic violence hotline. For confidential support and information, contact Safe Steps’ 24/7 family violence response line on 1800 015 188.

If you have concerns about your safety or that of someone else, please contact the police in your state or territory, or call Triple Zero (000) for emergency help.

## Terminology and language used in this report

Language relating to family violence is always evolving and varies between communities and government and non-government agencies.

We aim to use language that people who use the system are comfortable with, as this can help build trust. This section provides an overview of the language used commonly in the family violence sector and throughout this report. The [‘Glossary](#_Glossary_of_terms) of terms’ (p.58) provides a more detailed list of terminology.

We know family violence is gendered. Most violence is perpetrated by men, and most victim survivors are women and children. However, this report does not use gendered language to describe every form of family violence. This is to capture the full array of victim survivors who may experience family violence. This includes people who historically may have had difficulty being recognised, who experience unique risk of family and sexual violence, and who face barriers to safety and support.

The family violence system is diverse, and different language is used to refer to people who experience or use family violence. In this report, we use the language of government and non-government agencies across the family violence sector. This includes the terms **victim survivor** and **perpetrator**.

* The term **victim survivor** refers to adults, children and young people who experience family violence. Under the [*Family Violence Protection Act 2008*](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/family-violence-protection-act-2008) <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/family-violence-protection-act-2008> children are considered victim survivors if they experience family violence directed at them, or they are exposed to the effects of family violence. This includes being present at or witnessing a family violence incident.
* The term **perpetrator** refers to an adult who uses violence or threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour against family members (as defined in the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*) in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships.

Variations of language this report uses to describe family violence include the following:

* The term Aboriginal people is used throughout this report and refers to both Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.
* Aboriginal people and communities may prefer to use the term ‘people who use violence.’
* This report uses the term ‘young person who uses violence’ rather than ‘adolescent using violence’ or ‘perpetrator’ for children aged 10–17. Young people who use family violence need distinct responses, tailored to their age, safety and developmental needs. Young people who use family violence are often also victim survivors.

Other terms for different functions or points in time within the family violence system include the following:

* Police use the terms ‘**affected family member**’ or ‘victim’ to refer to the person deemed to be most harmed and affected by events occurring during a family violence incident. Police make an assessment of risk, considering past family violence and any recorded criminal history to identify who is being harmed and affected the most during an incident.
* Police use the term ‘**respondent**’ in family violence intervention order applications to describe the person against whom an order is sought. The term ‘offender’ describes a person who has been found guilty of an offence.

# Our commitment to end family violence

The 2015 [Royal Commission into Family Violence](https://www.vic.gov.au/about-royal-commission-family-violence)(Royal Commission) <https://www.vic.gov.au/about-royal-commission-family-violence> highlighted the devastating prevalence and impact of family violence across Victoria. Family violence cuts lives short, inflicts significant harm, and creates cycles of intergenerational trauma and violence.

Our vision is a future where all Victorians are safe, thriving and live free from family violence. *Ending family violence: Victoria’s plan for change* is our 10-year plan to work towards this vision.

It laid the foundation for a period of fast-paced change, backed with investment of more than $3.86 billion since 2016. The Victorian Government has now implemented all 227 of the Royal Commission’s recommendations. However, we remain focused on our 10-year plan. We are implementing it through a series of three consecutive action plans. Our current work is guided by the second *Family violence reform: rolling action plan 2020–23*.

## About this report

This report outlines the key actions undertaken by the Victorian Government in 2022 to implement the 10-year plan and the second *Rolling action plan*. It does not capture the full breadth and depth of work undertaken by the family violence sector across Victoria, nor its many achievements over the past year.

The report also includes an annual update on the outcomes of our efforts. We use the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* to monitor progress towards our goals.

The Victorian Government acknowledges and thanks every person who works to prevent and respond to family violence across our state. We acknowledge the tireless efforts of the family violence sector, which designs and delivers nation-leading primary prevention initiatives and frontline services, and provides expert advice to government, including through the Family Violence Reform Advisory Group.

We acknowledge our enduring partnership with Aboriginal people and organisations through the Dhelk Dja Partnership Agreement and reaffirm our commitment to self-determination.

The lived experience of victim survivors is at the heart of this. We acknowledge their resilience, diversity and powerful insights that help guide our efforts, including through the formal advice we receive from the Victim Survivors Advisory Council.

# A future where all Victorians are safe, thriving and live free from family violence

**The Victorian Government has delivered on its commitment to implement all 227 recommendations of the Royal Commission.**

In 2022, we passed a significant milestone on the path towards a Victoria free from family violence: the implementation of the final 23 [recommendations of the Royal Commission](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-recommendations) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-recommendations>.

This achievement is the result of more than six years of dedication, investment and collaboration across government and the family violence sector.

To implement these remaining recommendations in 2022, we:

* opened five Orange Doors to complete the statewide rollout of [The Orange Door network](https://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au/) <https://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au/> across Victoria. This network brings services together in accessible locations to support people affected by family violence.
* established an additional seven [Specialist Family Violence Courts](https://www.mcv.vic.gov.au/about/specialist-family-violence-courts) <https://www.mcv.vic.gov.au/about/specialist-family-violence-courts>, bringing the total number to 12 sites operating across Victoria at the end of 2022. The facilities and services at these courts make the court experience safer and more responsive to the communities needs.
* passed amendments to the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 and the Criminal Procedure Act 2009 to enable victim survivors of family violence to give evidence from a place other than the courtroom. This keeps victim survivors safe by minimising the potential for further trauma and avoiding direct contact with perpetrators during court proceedings. The change is being embedded through the Remote Hearing Support Service, which became available for family violence hearings at 11 Victorian Magistrates’ Court locations in 2022.
* opened four [core and cluster refuges](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-recommendations/support-service-providers-phase-out-communal-refuge-model) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-recommendations/support-service-providers-phase-out-communal-refuge-model>. These provide safe and private independent unit accommodation for victim survivors. Fourteen core and cluster refuges are now operational.
* expanded the [Central Information Point](https://www.vic.gov.au/central-information-point) (CIP) <https://www.vic.gov.au/central-information-point> to Safe Steps and the Men’s Referral Service. This enables these services to share information about a perpetrator or alleged perpetrator which is compiled into a consolidated report to assist with family violence risk assessment and management. The work builds on the implementation of CIP for The Orange Door network from 2018 to 2022, and for the Risk Assessment and Management Panels from 2020 to 2022.

## Is family violence decreasing in Victoria?

After the Royal Commission, we set out to reduce the gap between the number of family violence incidents in Victoria and how many of those are reported to police. We have had some success in doing this.

Reports of family violence steadily increased in the early years of our 10-year plan. This is in part because our reforms made it easier for people to identify family violence, report it and seek help. The COVID-19 pandemic may also have contributed to this increase. Family violence workers reported more first-time reports of family violence during the pandemic.[[1]](#endnote-2)

In addition, our reforms mean police are more responsive to the complexity of family violence. More perpetrators are being reported and sentenced for breaching family violence orders, including against former partners.[[2]](#endnote-3)

We have strengthened the system so that victim survivors now have more entry points to seek help, including through Victoria Police, The Orange Door network and Safe Steps. Client surveys show an 86 per cent satisfaction rate with The Orange Door services.[[3]](#endnote-4) The Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor reported that victim survivors’ experiences with the family violence system are more positive compared with the pre-reform period.[[4]](#endnote-5)

Reports of family violence appear to be plateauing, but they remain 23 per cent higher than in 2017, having increased from 75,056 reports in 2017 to 92,296 reports in 2022.

Table 1: Family violence incidents reported to police five-year trend, Victoria

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Number of reports |
| 2017 | 75,056 |
| 2018 | 79,337 |
| 2019 | 84,540 |
| 2020 | 92,513 |
| 2021 | 91,139 |
| 2022 | 92,296 |

**Source:** Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, Family violence incidents

We do not yet have all the data we need to fully understand the extent of family violence in the community, especially how it affects specific groups and communities. While we build this data capability, we will focus on reducing the gap between prevalence and reporting so we do not leave anyone behind.

# The *Rolling action plan 2020–2023*

The [*Rolling action plan 2020–2023*](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-reform-rolling-action-plan-2020-2023/guide-rolling-action-plan) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-reform-rolling-action-plan-2020-2023/guide-rolling-action-plan> is our second rolling action plan under the [*Ending family violence: Victoria’s 10-year plan*](https://www.vic.gov.au/ending-family-violence-victorias-10-year-plan-change) <https://www.vic.gov.au/ending-family-violence-victorias-10-year-plan-change>.

Its purpose is to focus our efforts and investment as we work towards a Victoria free from family violence.

It does this by setting out 10 specific priorities for the period of the plan and reaffirming our commitment to three reform-wide priorities. These are discussed in the ‘Our progress against the *Rolling action plan*’ section that follows.

The 10 specific priorities are:

* reforming the way **courts** respond to family violence
* implementing *Dhelk Dja: Safe* **our way**– a 10-year agreement for the delivery of family violence services for Aboriginal Victorians
* providing access to safe, secure and stable **housing**
* improving **legal assistance** access, representation and integration across the family violence system
* putting in place the **MARAM and information sharing** frameworksto provide a shared approach to family violence risk assessment and management across justice, community, education and health
* creating a system-wide approach to create an effective web of accountability for **perpetrators and people who use violence**
* effecting long-term behavioural change through **primary prevention** to stop family violence before it starts
* coordinating **research and evaluation** across the family violence reform
* delivering **The Orange Door network** – an accessible and visible service for people experiencing family violence and children and families in need of support
* the development of a dynamic, collaborative and specialist **family violence workforce** based on *Building from strength: 10-year industry plan*

The three reform-wide priorities are:

* **Aboriginal self-determination**, which creates policies and structures that place Aboriginal communities at the heart of decision making on the matters that affect their lives. For further information, refer to the Dhelk Dja priority area
* **intersectionality**, which recognises people are diverse and characteristics such as race, age, class, ability, sexuality and gender can combine to create overlapping systems of discrimination and advantage
* involving people with **lived experience** of family violence in the design, delivery and evaluation of our work to prevent and respond to family violence, which ensure it is inclusive and accessible and leads to better outcomes for all Victorians.

The *Rolling action plan* highlights two additional themes:

* **Children and young people – the Rolling action plan recognises that children and young people are victim survivors in their own right with their own distinct needs. It sets out the tailored support children and young people need to be safe and recover from family violence.**
* **Sexual assault and family violence – the Rolling action plan recognises that sexual violence, abuse and harm share the same origins in gender inequality as other forms of family violence. and outlines how the family violence system is responding to sexual assault.**

Each of these themes is considered across the delivery of all areas of family violence reform.

# Our progress against the *Rolling action plan 2020-2023*

We committed to 209 activities in the second *Rolling action plan*. At the end of 2022:

* 121 (58 per cent) are complete, up from 40 in 2021. This includes ongoing activities that are now under way
* 82 (39 per cent) are in progress, with most of these on track to be completed in 2023
* 6 (3 per cent) are in progress but have experienced delays.

A full status update on all actions is included in ‘Appendix A: Rolling action plan activities, 2022 progress update’ (p.64).

The following sections highlight key actions taken in 2022 in relation to:

* the reform-wide priorities of lived experience and intersectionality (Aboriginal self-determination is addressed under the priority relating to *Dhelk Dja: Safe our way*)
* the additional themes of sexual assault and children and young people
* the 10 specific priorities under the *Rolling action plan*.

## Reform-wide priorities

### Lived experience

* The [Victim Survivors’ Advisory Council](https://www.vic.gov.au/victim-survivors-advisory-council) <https://www.vic.gov.au/victim-survivors-advisory-council> introduced seven new members in October 2022. It co-designed the *Lived experience strategy* and the online forum *More than our story: Action, wisdom and change.*
* The [Lived Experience Strategy](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-lived-experience-strategy/introduction) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-lived-experience-strategy/introduction> sets out clear priorities and actions to create more opportunities for people with lived experience to lead and influence the implementation of the family violence reform.

### Intersectionality

* As part of the Intersectionality Capacity Building Project, we piloted and released resources to equip family violence and universal service workforces to embed an intersectional approach across family violence, sexual assault, and child and family services.
* Through the LGBTIQ+ Family Violence Capacity Building Initiative, we continued to build the capacity of specialist family violence workers to provide appropriate support and resources for LGBTIQ+ communities. Key achievements include the development of the *Inclusive refuge guide* and the roll out of LGBTIQ+ inclusion training to sexual assault services.

## Additional themes

### Children and young people

* Approximately 3,000 therapeutic services were provided to children to support their healing and recovery from family violence. These included services such as child–parent attachment therapy for children under five, and play, art and music therapies.
* The Adolescent Family Violence in the Home program was expanded across the state. The program delivers a new early intervention model of care for young people aged 12 to 17 years who use violence and their families, to reduce violence in the home and increase the safety of impacted family members. Approximately 1,040 children and young people, and their families, participate in the program each year, including 170 Aboriginal families.
* We funded the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare to develop eight practice guides to support workers across The Orange Door network and the broader sector to engage more effectively with children and young people in their own right.
* Monash University was funded to deliver a lived experience research project to inform the development of the *Child and young-person-focused MARAM practice guides* and tools. The [*I believe you* report](https://bridges.monash.edu/articles/report/I_believe_you_Children_and_young_people_s_experiences_of_seeking_help_securing_help_and_navigating_the_family_violence_system/21709562) <https://doi.org/10.26180/21709562.v2> report was published in 2023. It presents findings from 17 in-depth interviews conducted with Victorian children and young people, aged 10 to 25, with lived experience of family violence.

### Sexual assault

* 15,788 sexual assault support services were provided to victim survivors of recent and past sexual assault, including children and young people. These services included immediate crisis support such as counselling, advocacy, and liaison with Child Protection as well as long-term therapies to support healing and recovery.
* We upgraded the statewide Sexual Assault Crisis Line delivered by Sexual Assault Services Victoria. This upgrade will provide an improved service for victim survivors of sexual assault, enhance record-keeping and provide a web-based chat option.

# Courts

We are transforming the court system to make it safer and more accessible for all people affected by family violence, including children and young people. Courts are also working to increase the accountability of people who use violence and encourage them to change their behaviour.

Specialist Family Violence Courts are the centrepiece of these reforms. They provide a trauma-informed response for people affected by family violence and give them more choice over their court experience. A team of specially trained magistrates, operational staff and family violence practitioners ensure that community members can access tailored and effective family violence services at court and beyond.

Specialist magistrates have the power to order respondents to attend approved counselling through the Court Mandated Counselling Order Program. This helps promote the safety of people affected by family violence by holding respondents accountable for their use of violence and supporting positive behaviour change.

## Key activity in 2022

* An additional seven Magistrates’ Courts were established, bringing the total number of Specialist Family Violence Courts in operation to 12. These courts are now operating at Ballarat, Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Frankston, Geelong, Heidelberg, Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, Moorabbin, Ringwood, Shepparton and Sunshine. Two further specialist courts will be established in Bendigo in 2023 and Wyndham in 2025.
* The Remote Hearing Support Service was made available at 11 Victorian Magistrates’ Courts in 2022. This service provides specialist support to affected family members to appear remotely in their family violence proceeding from a safe and confidential location.
* The Court Mandated Counselling Order Program was rolled out to all 12 Specialist Family Violence Courts. This includes providing specialist training to judiciary and court staff. The program helps keep respondents to family violence intervention orders accountable and supports them to change their behaviour.
* We evaluated the implementation and effectiveness of the Koori Family Violence Intervention Order Breaches pilot in Mildura to inform the further development of this pilot. The pilot allowed for breaches of FVIOs to be heard in the Mildura Koori Court, rather than the mainstream Magistrates’ Court. The pilot provides victim survivors and people who use violence with a more culturally appropriate response to reduce the impacts of family violence. It also improves court users’ perceptions of the courts and reduces recidivism.
* The Integrated Counselling and Case Management Program was trialled and evaluated at the Ballarat Specialist Family Violence Court. This program provides integrated case management to address the complex interplay between family violence, alcohol and other drugs, and mental health issues.
* All Victorian Specialist Family Violence Courts have continued to implement the MARAM framework and embed it into practice. The MARAM framework supports a system-wide approach to assessing and managing the risk of family violence.
* Family violence training for interpreters was delivered over four courses to 63 participants. Feedback from this training confirmed the course had increased skills and confidence of all participants.

# Dhelk Dja: Safe our way

Family violence is not a part of Aboriginal culture. Colonisation, dispossession, child removal and other discriminatory governmental policies have resulted in significant intergenerational trauma, structural disadvantage and racism. These have had long-lasting and far-reaching consequences, including a disproportionate level of family violence against Aboriginal people.

Victoria has committed to an Aboriginal-led agreement Dhelk Dja: Safe *our way – strong culture, strong peoples, strong families* (the Dhelk Dja Agreement) to address family violence in Aboriginal communities. The agreement is grounded in the self-determination principles within [*Korin Korin Balit-Djak*](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/health-strategies/korin-korin-balit-djak-aboriginal-health-wellbeing-and-safety-strategic-plan-2017), Victoria’s Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017–2027.

## Key activity in 2022

* We funded 33 Aboriginal-led initiatives and services under Dhelk Dja Family Violence Fund. This Fund supports eligible Aboriginal organisations and community groups to enable a range of Aboriginal-led tailored responses for victim survivors and people who use violence to reduce the disproportionate prevalence and impact on Aboriginal people and communities.
* The [Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Mapping Initiative](https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-family-violence-prevention-mapping-project-0) <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-family-violence-prevention-mapping-project-0> was published in July 2022 mapped government-funded Aboriginal family violence prevention initiatives from 2016 to 2021. It found more than $18.7 million has been invested in 251 initiatives since 2016, with more than 88 per cent of this funding provided to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) and community groups.
* We made significant progress towards establishing two Aboriginal Access Points, which commenced operation in 2023.[[5]](#footnote-2) The design of Aboriginal Access Points and the service pathways they offer has been community-led and self-determined by Aboriginal peoples and will be delivered by ACCOs.
* The Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum endorsed the *Second Dhelk Dja three-year action plan*. Regional action plans will be developed to support the implementation of the recently endorsed *Three-year action plan* and will be reviewed annually.
* We expanded the [Police and Aboriginal Community Protocols Against Family Violence](https://www.police.vic.gov.au/family-violence-and-aboriginal-communities#community-protocols) <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/family-violence-and-aboriginal-communities#community-protocols>. This will enable statewide coverage. The protocols define a model for collaboration between police and local Aboriginal communities to address family violence. They operate in 10 Victorian areas with seven additional areas expected to commence in late 2023.

# Housing

**Safe and appropriate accommodation and housing are critical to the safety and long-term recovery of victim survivors.**

**While many victim survivors want support to stay in their own homes and communities, those who cannot stay at home need immediate short-term refuge followed by timely access to a stable home in a suitable location. This longer-term housing helps provide them with security and stability in their employment and education. However, f**amily violence continues to be a leading cause of homelessness, especially for women and children.

Victoria is delivering on the $5.3 billion Big Housing Build, to increase social and affordable housing. On completion, it will deliver more than 4,200 new social housing dwellings across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. This includes the delivery of up to 1,000 dwellings for victim survivors of family violence.

## Key activity in 2022

* We opened four new core and cluster refuges. These provide victim survivors with immediate access to safe independent living (known as clusters), while also offering 24/7 comprehensive support services on site (known as the core). The new refuges cater to people who have historically experienced barriers to access. This includes victim survivors with adolescent sons, victim survivors from diverse cultural and faith backgrounds, larger families, LGBTIQ+ victim survivors and those with substance dependency.
* Aboriginal-specific core and cluster refuges provide a space for Aboriginal women and children experiencing family violence to receive culturally appropriate support. One Aboriginal-specific refuge is operational, with the final two in the design phase.
* In 2021–22, we funded inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence (inTouch) to work with all refuges across Victoria to enhance service responses for victim survivors on temporary visas in refuge. This included training and capacity building for refuge staff in culturally responsive practice and working with temporary visa holders.
* The Personal Safety Initiative continued to provide safety and security planning for victim survivors including the installation of home security and/or property modifications to enable victim survivors to remain safely in their own homes, return home, or safely relocate to a new home. In 2021–22, the initiative supported 1,403 safety and security home audits, which made security and technology recommendations for victim survivors.

# Legal assistance

We are working to improve early access to legal assistance and representation for people affected by family violence, as well as those who use violence.

One of the ways we are doing this is by integrating legal services across statewide family violence services, such as The Orange Door network.

This supports victim survivors to understand their legal options and make informed decisions about their family and safety needs. It also helps perpetrators understand police and court processes and meet any obligations associated with court outcomes.

## Key activity in 2022

* The Pre-Court Engagement and Resolution Program was expanded to seven Magistrates’ Court locations following a successful pilot in Frankston. This program proactively engages people prior to their court hearing so that they are better prepared and able to understand and participate in the court process. The program is now operating in Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, Ringwood, Sunshine and Werribee.
* Through the Specialist Family Violence Legal Practice Model, resources were developed in consultation with people with lived experience and justice sector partners, to improve referrals to family violence legal and non-legal services before court.
* Djirra enhanced its [Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service](https://djirra.org.au/what-we-do/legal-services/#afvls) <https://djirra.org.au/what-we-do/legal-services/#afvls>. across metropolitan Melbourne. It also opened four new regional offices in Morwell, Echuca, Bendigo and Ballarat, bringing the total number of regional offices to seven. This service supports Aboriginal people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence. It also assists people experiencing family violence who are parents of Aboriginal children.
* Pre-separation legal information is now available on the Victorian Legal Aid website, providing free, easily accessible information to support victim survivors to understand their rights before leaving a relationship. Victorian Legal Aid also launched the Screening, Triage and Referral Tool to identify an individuals’ legal needs and direct to relevant legal information and referrals.
* Women’s Legal Service Victoria continued to deliver the Safer Families program to Community Legal Centres. This professional development program supports community legal centre lawyers to provide high-quality, effective advice and representation to clients experiencing family violence.

# MARAM and information sharing

The Family Violence [MARAM framework](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-multi-agency-risk-assessment-and-management-framework) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-multi-agency-risk-assessment-and-management-framework>, the [Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme>, the [Child Information Sharing Scheme](https://www.vic.gov.au/child-information-sharing-scheme) <https://www.vic.gov.au/child-information-sharing-scheme> and the [Central Information Point](https://www.vic.gov.au/orange-door-service-model/central-information-point) <https://www.vic.gov.au/orange-door-service-model/central-information-point> support a consistent approach to assessing and managing the risk of family violence.

They also increase collaboration between services through information sharing. They support workforces to understand their responsibilities in identifying and responding to family violence. They help us respond to family violence in more accessible and equitable ways.

## Key activity in 2022

* In 2021–22, 43,191 professionals across family violence, health, education, justice and other social service settings received MARAM training. This brings the total to more than 107,456 professionals from over 6,000 government and non-government organisations who have now undertaken training since commencement of the reforms in 2018.
* As part of the expanded MARAM training, frontline universal services workforces, such as health and education workers, received victim survivor-focused training to assist them to respond appropriately and effectively, including through collaboration with other services.
* Family violence training and resources aligned with the MARAM framework were developed for public maternity services. In 2022, public maternity staff completed 1,452 units of training. Key record-keeping systems were updated to include screening questions which support maternity service providers to screen and identify patients for family violence and refer them to appropriate services in accordance with the MARAM framework.
* We commenced development of additional MARAM guidance and tools for working directly with children and young people to identify, assess and manage family violence risk and wellbeing. This work is part of the continuous improvement model underpinning the MARAM framework. The standalone practice guides and tools are anticipated for release in 2024 and will support all workforces prescribed under the MARAM framework to undertake:
	+ direct risk and wellbeing assessment and management for children and young people as victim survivors in their own right
	+ risk and wellbeing assessment for young people using family violence in the home and in dating relationships
* We published and commenced implementation of the comprehensive *Adults using violence MARAM practice guides* to support specialist workforces responding to and working with perpetrators to identity and respond to coercive control and misidentification and to manage risks of system abuse. As part of this work, we launched the MARAM Predominant Aggressor Identification tool and practice guidance to support professionals across the family violence system, including police, to accurately identify perpetrators of family violence who are claiming to be victims.
* For further information on the implementation of MARAM in 2021–22, please refer to the [*MARAM framework annual report 2021–22*](https://www.vic.gov.au/report-implementation-family-violence-risk-assessment-and-management-framework-2021-22)< https://www.vic.gov.au/report-implementation-family-violence-risk-assessment-and-management-framework-2021-22>.

# Perpetrators and people who use violence

Every time a person who uses violence interacts with the family violence service system, there is an opportunity to influence behaviour change. This change is more likely to happen when the government, the broader service system, community and society are working together to prevent violence or intervene early.

This is why we are developing a system-wide approach to keep people who use violence visible and accountable to take responsibility for their violence and change their behaviour.

## Key activity in 2022

* We contributed to the draft National principles to address coercive control, with the consultation draft released in September 2022. These principles will help enable a shared understanding of coercive control across Australia and will help to inform more consistent responses. The principles are expected to be finalised in 2023.
* We increased access to men’s behaviour change programs, with over 641 placements in these programs and 203 individual case management placements in Community Correctional Services in 2021–22.
* In 2022, the Place for Change Program (formerly the Medium-term Perpetrator Accommodation Service) provided approximately 50 adults using family violence with up to six months of stable accommodation. Access to accommodation is dependent upon recipients’ behavioural and attitudinal change to address their use of violence.
* We expanded the Tuning into Respectful Relationships program bringing the total number of prisons invited into the program to 11. The short program introduces remand and short sentence prisoners to the concept of healthy relationships including building awareness of the benefits of respectful attitudes and behaviours and understanding the connection between disrespect and acts of violence. In 2021–22, Anglicare delivered this program to 206 participants including 148 men, 59 women, two transgender people and one gender-diverse person.
* We recognise many perpetrators of family violence are also clients of other social service programs. From June 2022, the Better, Connected Care reform (formerly Common Clients) operates statewide and began testing new integrated, person-centred service models through the Putting Families First pilot.
* We designed the intensive interventions for high-risk perpetrators pilot service model (the serious-risk pilot), to increase the visibility of serious-risk perpetrators across the system and the coordination and management of responses. The pilot will provide a dedicated, coordinated response to serious-risk perpetrators and victim survivors impacted by their violence. Across three sites, the pilot program will deliver intensive interventions and individual behaviour change work through specialist family violence services and multi-agency collaboration to help prevent future harm to victim survivors.

# Primary prevention

Primary prevention aims to address the underlying drivers of family violence and all forms of violence against women to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. These drivers include gender-biased systems, structures, norms, attitudes, practices and power inequality.

Primary prevention is a long-term strategic approach that seeks to engage people of all ages in the places where they live, work, learn and play. It aims to drive social and cultural change towards a society where Victorians can live free from violence.

The [*Free from violence: second action plan 2022–2025*](https://www.vic.gov.au/free-violence-second-action-plan-2022-2025) <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-violence-second-action-plan-2022-2025> sets out our approach to primary prevention. Under this plan, we are working to scale up the most effective primary prevention approaches and increase the capability and capacity of the primary prevention workforce.

## Key activity in 2022

* Respect Victoria’s three-yearly report, *Progress on preventing family violence and violence against women in Victoria* was tabled in Parliament in September 2022. The inaugural report spans 2018 to 2021, articulating the progress Victoria has made and outlining opportunities for future action.
* The [Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program](https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/preventing-violence-through-sport-grants-program) <https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/preventing-violence-through-sport-grants-program> funded 12 partnerships to deliver prevention training in community sports settings. The partnerships comprise a diverse range of community sports clubs and leagues, local governments and women’s health services, reaching young people and communities across metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria.
* We supported 33 organisations to deliver primary prevention, awareness raising and early intervention projects with over 27 multicultural communities and five faith groups through the [Supporting Multicultural and Faith Communities to Prevent Family Violence Program](https://www.vic.gov.au/dffh/prevent-family-violence-2021-grant-program) <https://www.vic.gov.au/dffh/prevent-family-violence-2021-grant-program>.
* Rainbow Health Australia developed and published the [*Pride in prevention partnership guide: a guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ communities*](https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-partnership-guide) <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/news/pride-in-prevention-partnership-guide>. This guide aims to build the capacity of LGBTIQ+ organisations and practitioners and the broader prevention sector.
* Respect Victoria delivered behaviour change campaigns including the statewide Respect Women: [‘Call It Out' (Respect Is](https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/campaigns/16-days-activism-2022-respect-women-call-it-out-respect))<https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/campaigns/respect-women-call-it-out-respect> campaign in October 2022. The campaign featured diverse stories of what respect means in the context of the drivers of violence against women.
* In partnership with Jesuit Social Services, we designed an early intervention project targeting at-risk boys and young men at critical points in their development to equip them with the skills and confidence to challenge harmful norms and attitudes that lead to violence against women.
* Up to 48,200 families benefited from the [Baby Makes 3](https://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/resources/baby-makes-3) <https://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/resources/baby-makes-3> program,[[6]](#endnote-6) which promotes equality in parenting by supporting new parents to build mutual respect for each other, and challenges gendered expectations of becoming a parent. Fifty-three childbirth and parenting educators completed training to deliver the program.
* Balit Booboop Narrkwarren, which means ‘strong baby and family’ in Woiwurrung language, is a culturally adapted model of the Baby Makes 3 program to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. In 2022, an additional 11 people were trained as Balit Booboop Narrkwarren Champions to deliver the program for Aboriginal families.

# Research and evaluation

A strong evidence base is key to delivering long-term, sustainable reform of our family violence system. It tells us what is working, what needs to be adjusted and where to focus our efforts for the greatest effect.

We are focusing on research activities that fill gaps in knowledge across primary prevention, early intervention and response, and working to improve the quality, availability and use of data to build our understanding and drive improvement.

## Key activity in 2022

* Victoria’s [*Family violence research agenda 2021–2024*](https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-family-violence-research-agenda-2021-2024) <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-family-violence-research-agenda-2021-2024> was released in February 2022. It articulates the Victorian Government’s research priorities to strengthen evidence and support strategic decision-making in relation to family violence and sexual assault.
* To support the *Research agenda*, we funded 13 research projects across seven subject areas under the Family Violence Research Grants Program. This research is not only building evidence but also translating it into practice to support better outcomes and long-lasting change for both victim survivors and those who use violence.
* Respect Victoria progressed a number of primary prevention-focused research projects, including:
	+ the [*No more excuses report*](https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/no-more-excuses-primary-prevention-violence-against-women-disability) <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/no-more-excuses-primary-prevention-violence-against-women-disability>, which explores the extent and nature of violence against women with disability in Australia, and what works to prevent this violence before it starts
	+ the Aboriginal Family Violence Primary Prevention Research Project, which is being conducted by Urbis Consulting in partnership with Yorta Yorta researcher and community development expert Karen Milward
	+ the Migrant and Refugee Women and Girls Research Project, conducted by Monash University, explores the ways that that primary prevention and coercive control are understood by migrant and refugee Victorians, with a particular focus on women and their experiences
	+ the Evidence Synthesis Review Project, which sought to strengthen understanding of the similarities and differences in what drives different forms of family violence and violence against women.
* The Harmony Study, conducted by Latrobe University in partnership with the inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, worked with primary care clinicians to increase their ability to identify and intervene early in situations of family violence among migrant and refugee communities.
* The *Dhelk Dja monitoring, evaluation and accountability plan* was prepared by the Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum to accompany *Dhelk Dja: Safe our way – strong cultures, strong peoples, strong families*.
* The Family Violence Data Portal is updated every quarter. Since its creation, there have been several modifications to include new data. For example, sexual violence data was added to the portal for the first time on 1 December 2021 and is regularly updated.
* Evaluations of family violence initiatives were undertaken in 2022. This included the evaluation of the Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPs) which provided a set of themed recommendations and next steps to inform future directions for RAMPs.

# The Orange Door network

[The Orange Door network](https://orangedoor.vic.gov.au/) <https://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au/> is the first of its kind in Australia.

It provides a single visible and accessible entry point for Victorians to access family violence, child and family services and Aboriginal services. This single-entry point means individuals and families are able to engage with one service to meet their current needs and navigate broader system responses without having to re-tell their story.

Through the Victorian Government’s partnerships with community service organisations, The Orange Door network provides tailored support for:

* adults, children and young people who are experiencing family violence
* families who need support with the care and wellbeing of children and young people
* perpetrators and people who use family violence.

## Key activity in 2022

* Through the opening of Orange Doors in Brimbank Melton, Wimmera, Outer Eastern Melbourne, Hume Merri-bek and Western Melbourne, the statewide rollout of The Orange Door network across Victoria was completed.
* In 2022, more than 164,000 people, including 69,000 children accessed both immediate and longer-term support through The Orange Door network, bringing the total number of people supported by The Orange Door to 303,000, including 121,000 children, by the end of 2022.
* We commenced implementation of *The Orange Door Aboriginal inclusion action plan*.
* As part of the implementation of the [Lived experience strategy](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-lived-experience-strategy) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-lived-experience-strategy>, we commenced the second evaluation of The Orange Door network. The evaluation considered client experiences of The Orange Door and was designed and delivered in collaboration with peer evaluators who have lived experience of family violence or the child and family services system.
* In October 2022, The Orange Door in the Bayside Peninsula area commenced a pilot to connect clients of The Orange Door with legal services, which allows clients access to a dedicated lawyer with their Orange Door Practitioner present in a supportive and trauma-informed environment.
* We implemented the Strengthening Cultural Safety Training Program in all The Orange Door locations where there is a partnership in place with a local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. Cultural Safety Project Leaders have been employed to facilitate cultural safety self-assessments and provide foundational training to The Orange Door staff.
* We progressed The Orange Door partnership performance framework including development of initial measures and data collection, with trial reporting to commence in 2022–23.
* The Orange Door induction training has been refreshed.
* A suite of operational guidance has been developed to support integrated practice in operational areas of The Orange Door. This includes guidance on workflows that support the interdisciplinary teams across all Orange Door networks.

Table 2: The Orange Door network – by open date

| Date opened | The Orange Door location |
| --- | --- |
| 2018–19 | * Mallee
* Barwon
* Inner Gippsland
* Northern Melbourne
* Bayside Peninsula
 |
| 2020 | * Central Highlands
* Loddon Campaspe
 |
| 2021 | * Wimmera South West
* Goulburn
* Ovens Murray
* Outer Gippsland
* Southern Melbourne
* Inner Eastern Melbourne
 |
| 2022 | * Western Melbourne
* Brimbank Melton
* Hume Merri-bek
* Outer Eastern Melbourne
 |

# Workforce development

Strengthening the capability of the people who work to prevent and respond to family violence is critical to reform success.

We are also building the family violence capabilities of workforces that intersect with family violence including community services, health, police, courts, schools and early years services.

The focus for the *Rolling action* ***plan*** is to continue to strengthen our specialist prevention and response workforces by:

* recruiting and retaining people with skills from diverse backgrounds
* working to create clear career pathways that develop expertise and knowledge
* providing training and skills development
* creating a workplace where people feel valued and supported.

## Key activity in 2022

* In 2022, over 1,700 individuals completed the course in Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk. This free TAFE course delivers foundational family violence knowledge and skills to undertake MARAM screening and identification. It is targeted to universal services workers.
* We delivered the Fast Track Program, supporting 127 mid-career and senior practitioners to develop skills and capabilities in family violence prevention and response. Program participants directly attribute workplace achievements to the confidence and capabilities gained through the Program.
* In July 2021, the Mandatory Minimum Qualifications Policy for specialist family violence response practitioners commenced with a five-year transition period. Under the policy, new specialist family violence practitioners must hold a minimum of a social work degree or equivalent qualification or be working towards this. Almost $2 million in adjustment funding was distributed across 78 organisations.
* In partnership with 22 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, we delivered a scholarship program for 33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to support them meeting the Mandatory Minimum Qualifications Policy. The scholarship program builds on the existing investment in upskilling and expanding the Aboriginal family violence workforce.
* The Family Violence and Sexual Assault Traineeships Program piloted, with 312 trainee places funded across 31 family violence, sexual assault, primary prevention and community services organisations to support workers undertake further education and training.
* In 2022, 52 graduates and 57 trainees commenced in funded roles designed to build capacity within the family violence, sexual assault and prevention sector.
* We published the [Family violence workforce health, safety and wellbeing guide](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-workforce-wellbeing-guide) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-workforce-wellbeing-guide>. The guide provides evidence-based tools and guidance that recognise the health, safety and wellbeing impacts experienced by the family violence workforce. It supports promoting and protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of employees in the workplace and enables practitioners and organisations to become advocates for workplace health, safety and wellbeing.

# *The Family Violence Outcomes Framework*

The ***Family Violence Outcomes Framework*** translates our vision for a Victoria free from violence into a quantifiable set of outcomes, indicators, and measures.

The framework comprises four domains that reflect the long-term changes we want to achieve through our family violence reforms. These are:

1. **Prevention:** Family violence and gender inequality are not tolerated
2. **Victim Survivors:** Victim survivors, vulnerable children, and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive
3. **Perpetrators:** Perpetrators are held accountable, connected, and take responsibility for stopping their violence
4. **System:** Preventing and responding to family violence is systemic and enduring

Each domain contains a set of outcomes, indicators and measures. A short definition for each of these terms is provided in the **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Definitions of outcomes, indicators and measures

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition  |
| Outcomes | Articulate what success looks like, and are clear, unambiguous, high-level statements about the things that matter to prevent family violence in Victoria |
| Outcome indicators | Specify what needs to change to achieve each outcome and set the direction of change, for example, are we looking for an increase or decrease? |
| Outcome measures | Provide the more granular and specific details about what will change and how we will know if we are making progress. They enable us to determine the size, amount or degree of change achieved |

The [*Family Violence Outcomes Framework measurement and monitoring implementation strategy*](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-outcomes-framework) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-outcomes-framework> sets out our staged approach to measuring and monitoring the outcomes of family violence reform in Victoria.

This approach is founded on our understanding that it will take time to address data gaps, strengthen the validity and reliability of data sets, and build capability and capacity across the family violence system to collect, analyse, and report outcomes data.

## Strengthening how we measure family violence outcomes

The outcomes framework provides a clear focus on the long-term outcomes we are working towards. However, we still have considerable work to do to strengthen the indicators and measures, increase the quality of data we have access to, and use that data in more sophisticated ways.

This will help us better understand the impact of our work and more meaningfully report on the outcomes we are achieving.

There are two key challenges we working to address:

1. **Tracking our progress against long-term outcomes**

Currently, the outcomes, indicators, and measures relate to long-term goals and use population-level data. While these are important elements of a statewide outcomes framework, they are not sensitive to change in the short-term. This makes it difficult to track our progress as we work towards our long-term goals. When data is at population level, it is also more difficult to measure the impact of reforms on particular communities to inform decision-making about where additional effort or investment may be required.

1. **Strengthening data quality and availability**

Measuring outcomes and monitoring progress requires different types of data across each of the four domains. For example, the Prevention domain uses program and project-level data gathered through community partners that are delivering primary prevention initiatives. The data relates to the specific projects they deliver and there is little consistency and few systems in place to track the collective outcomes of these projects.

The Victim Survivors, Perpetrators and System domains rely heavily on service delivery data, which comes from four key datasets: police incidents, intake (The Orange Door, Safe Steps and Men’s Referral Services), case management and refuges, and program data from both therapeutic programs and Men’s Behaviour Change Programs.

The systems supporting these datasets were developed at different times and sit on different platforms that do not to talk to one another. This makes it difficult to track client journeys through the family violence system and therefore measure outcomes.

These challenges are not unique to Victoria. Strengthening data collection systems is also a key priority under the [*National plan to end violence against women and children (2022–2032)*](https://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence) <https://www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence>*.*[[7]](#endnote-7)

To address these challenges, we will:

* develop meaningful short- and medium-term indicators and measures
* identify data sources for all measures by mapping reform initiatives, exploring opportunities to link datasets, and creating new data sets to address gaps
* enter into data-sharing agreements with data custodians to develop linked datasets and mandate how data is collected and analysed
* develop a data improvement strategy to strengthen data quality, reliability, and availability
* develop data collection tools and systems to report and analyse data, and integrate them into programs, services, and evaluations
* disseminate guidance materials that are clear, specific, and practical to implement.

# Domain 1: Prevention

Most violence, including family violence, is committed by men.[[8]](#endnote-8) This violence is grounded in gender inequality. It is driven by men’s control of decision-making, limits to women’s independence, rigid gender stereotypes, cultures of masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control, and the condoning of violence against women.[[9]](#endnote-9)

Primary prevention focuses on stopping family violence and violence against women before it starts. This requires coordinated action across multiple settings that challenge the attitudes, social norms, and behaviours that perpetuate gender inequality and condone violence towards women.

Victoria’s approach to primary prevention is set out in [*Free from violence: Victoria’s strategy to prevent family violence*](https://www.vic.gov.au/free-violence-victorias-strategy-prevent-family-violence)<https://www.vic.gov.au/free-violence-victorias-strategy-prevent-family-violence>. It was launched in 2017. The strategy guides our engagement with Victorians of all ages and from all communities to prevent family violence in all the places where they live, work, learn and socialise.

We do this work in partnership with local councils, women’s health services, maternal and child health services, multicultural, youth and community organisations, sporting clubs, educational institutions, settlement services and workplaces. Respect Victoria plays a critical role as Victoria’s dedicated organisation for the prevention of family violence and violence against women.

## Prevention outcomes we are working towards

1. Family violence and gender inequality are not tolerated.
2. Victorians hold attitudes and beliefs that reject gender inequality and family violence.
3. Victorians actively challenge attitudes and behaviours that enable violence.
4. Victorian homes, organisations and communities are safe and inclusive.
5. All Victorians live and practise confident and respectful relationships.

## Strengthening our data

To address the challenges with long-term, population-level outcomes, we are developing short- and medium-term indicators and measures for our prevention work. These are milestones on the pathway to driving down family violence and violence against women in Victoria. They will help us know we are on track to achieving our long-term outcomes.

Currently, we rely heavily on population-level data to understand changes in the Victorian community’s understanding of, and attitudes about, violence against women. We are working to identify additional sources of data from programs and initiatives delivered in the community.

Program-level measures are currently being piloted through evaluations of primary prevention programs to test whether they are fit-for-purpose, and ensure there is consistency in outcomes data collection, analysis and reporting. Including this additional data from evaluations will enable us to better understand both the individual and collective impact of prevention programs across Victoria.

The next steps for the ‘Prevention’ domain include confirming the feasibility of data sources, establishing data-sharing agreements with data custodians, developing data collection tools and systems for reporting data, and integrating these into programs and projects. Implementation will be supported by guidance materials.

## Data in this report

The primary prevention data in this report is drawn from two population-level representative surveys:

* the National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS), administered by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS)
* the Personal Safety Survey (PSS), administered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

These data sources allow us to monitor attitudes over time. This includes community understanding of violence against women, attitudes towards this violence and towards gender equality, and the prevalence of violence in Victoria.

They also enable the monitoring of societal norms and practices in relation to gender equality and the drivers of violence against women, as well as the proportion of women in Victoria who experience sexism, sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

While there are four long-term outcomes in the ‘Prevention’ domain, only three have data available. The outcome, ‘Victorian homes, organisations and communities are safe and inclusive’ does not have data to report against the measure ‘Proportion of women who feel safe walking home at night.’ The Australian Bureau of Statistics has not released Victorian data for this measure from the Personal Safety Survey.

# 1.1 Victorians hold attitudes and beliefs that reject gender inequality and family violence

## Indicator: Increased awareness of what constitutes violence

Being able to identify violence is critical, as it can prompt people to seek help or report if they have, or someone they know has, experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment or other forms of violence. Understanding that violence includes a range of behaviours, including non-physical forms of violence, such as emotional, financial or technology-facilitated abuse, can contribute to a shift in attitudes that condone or minimise these types of violence.

This indicator provides insights into the level of understanding of what domestic violence and violence against women looks like, and whether advocacy and awareness raising efforts are having an impact.

### Measure: Victorian mean score on the Understanding of Violence Against Women Scale (UVAWS)

The Understanding of Violence Against Women Scale (UVAWS) examines whether people recognise the range of violent, abusive, and controlling behaviours as domestic violence and violence against women, and that men are the main perpetrators of this violence.

Table 4: Understanding of violence against women over time (UVAWS subscales), Victoria, 2009–2021

|  | 2009 | 2013 | 2017 | 2021 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UVAWS mean score | 62 | 62 | 65 | 69 |

There is a statistically significant difference between 2021 and the years 2009, 2013 and 2017.

**Source**: 2021 National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS): Findings for Australian states and territories.

Table 4 shows that Victoria had a significantly higher mean UVAWS score in 2021 compared with 2009, 2013 and 2017. This finding indicates a significant increase over time in Victorians’ understanding of violence against women.

UVAWS subscale scores indicate an improvement in Victorians’ understanding of the different behaviours that constitute domestic violence and violence against women more broadly. Both the subscales scores for ‘Recognise violence against women’ (68) and ‘Recognise domestic violence’ (69) were significantly higher for Victoria in 2021 compared to all previous years.

Despite these improvements, 39 per cent of Victorians still believe domestic violence was perpetrated by men and women equally in 2021. This is despite Personal Safety Survey, police and court data clearly showing that most perpetrators are men, and most victims and victim survivors are women.

This suggests Victorians, like Australians more broadly, are generally better at recognising behaviours that constitute domestic violence than they are at understanding that domestic violence is highly gendered in that it is disproportionately perpetrated by men against women.

## Indicator: Decrease in attitudes that justify, excuse, minimise, hide or shift blame for violence

This indicator relates to condoning violence against women, which is one of the four gendered drivers of family violence and violence against women identified in [*Change the story*](https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resource/change-the-story-a-shared-framework-for-the-primary-prevention-of-violence-against-women-in-australia/) <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resource/change-the-story-a-shared-framework-for-the-primary-prevention-of-violence-against-women-in-australia/>.

Violence against women can be condoned or excused through social attitudes and norms, practices or structures. For example:

* justifying violence against women on the basis that it is acceptable for men to use violence in certain circumstances
* excusing violence by attributing it to external factors or implying that men cannot be held fully responsible for their own behaviour
* trivialising violence based on the perception that its impacts are not serious enough to warrant action
* downplaying violence by denying it seriousness, that it occurs or denying that certain behaviours constitute violence
* shifting blame for the violence from the perpetrator to the victim.

This indicator is important to monitor, because evidence indicates that when societies, institutions, communities or individuals support or condone violence against women, the prevalence of violence is higher.[[10]](#endnote-10) Men who hold these beliefs are more likely to perpetrate violence against women, and both women and men who hold these beliefs are less likely to support victims and hold perpetrators to account.[[11]](#endnote-11)

### Measure: Victorian mean score on the Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Scale (AVAWS)

The Attitudes towards Violence against Women Scale[[12]](#footnote-3) (AVAWS) measures the rejection of problematic attitudes regarding violence against women. These include attitudes that minimise violence against women, distrust women’s reports of violence, and objectify women or disregard consent.

Table 5: Attitudinal rejection of violence against women over time (AVAWS), Victoria, 2009–2021

|  | 2009 | 2013 | 2017 | 2021 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AVAWS mean score | 63 | 64 | 67 | 68 |

There is a statistically significant difference between 2021 and the years 2009 and 2013.

**Source**: 2021 National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS): Findings for Australian states and territories.

The mean AVAWS score for Victoria was significantly higher in 2021 than it was in 2009 and 2013. This indicates a significant increase over time in attitudes that reject violence against women (Table 5). However, like the rest of Australia, no significant increase in AVAWS scores was observed in Victoria between 2017 and 2021. This was largely due to a plateau in attitudinal rejection of domestic violence; Victorians’ rejection of sexual violence *did* significantly improve between these years.

There were improvements over time on two of the AVAWS subscales for Victoria:

* the ‘Mistrust women’ subscale indicated increased rejection of attitudes that women lie about being victimised to gain some advantage (68 per cent in 2021 compared with 66 per cent 2017; this scale was not included in the 2009 and 2013 survey)
* the ‘Minimise violence’ subscale indicated increased rejection over the longer term of attitudes that downplay the seriousness of violence and shift blame to victims and survivors (from 65 per cent in 2009 to 69 per cent in 2021). However, this rejection plateaued between 2017 and 2021, with no statistically significant change between these years.

There was no significant improvement in Victoria on the ‘Objectify women’ subscale between 2017 and 2021. The ‘Objectify women’ subscale measures attitudes that objectify women and disregard consent. This does not necessarily mean that Victoria is lagging behind other jurisdictions. Instead, it indicates Victoria progressed more slowly compared to the national average on those subscales between 2017 and 2021.

These results are a reminder that changing the deeply held attitudes that allow violence to occur is not easy. It is complex, long-term work that requires dedicated focus, investment and effort across the community.

# 1.2 Victorians actively challenge attitudes and behaviours that enable violence

## Indicator: Decrease in sexist and discriminatory attitudes and behaviours

As noted in [*Change the story*](https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resource/change-the-story-a-shared-framework-for-the-primary-prevention-of-violence-against-women-in-australia/) <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resource/change-the-story-a-shared-framework-for-the-primary-prevention-of-violence-against-women-in-australia/>, there is a strong and consistent association between gender inequality and levels of violence against women. Indeed, there are significantly and consistently higher rates of violence against women in countries characterised by gender inequality and poor human rights protections.[[13]](#endnote-12)

The NCAS shows that the strongest predictor of violence-supportive attitudes and a lower understanding of violence against women is the degree to which respondents hold sexist attitudes.[[14]](#endnote-13)

Tracking this indicator is important to understand the prevalence of sexist and discriminatory attitudes in Victoria. It also tells us whether efforts to promote attitudes and behaviours that support gender equality are having an impact at the population level.

### Measure: Victorian mean score on the Attitudes towards Gender Inequality Scale (AGIS) Scale[[15]](#footnote-4)

The Attitudes towards Gender Inequality Scale (AGIS), generated through the NCAS, measures rejection of problematic attitudes regarding gender inequality. These include attitudes that reinforce gender roles, undermine women’s leadership in work and public life, limit women’s autonomy in intimate relationships, normalise sexism and deny inequality.

The Victorian mean AGIS score was significantly higher in 2021 compared with 2009, 2013 and 2017 (Table 6).

This finding indicates a significant increase over time in Victorians’ attitudes that reject gender inequality. This is a positive sign of progress in Victoria, and it is reasonable to suggest that our efforts to advance gender equality and prevent violence against women have contributed to this progress.

Table 6: Attitudinal rejection of gender inequality over time (AGIS) score, Victoria, 2009 to 2021

|  | 2009 | 2013 | 2017 | 2021 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AGIS mean score | 64 | 63 | 65 | 67 |

There is a statistically significant difference between 2021 and the years 2009, 2013 and 2017.

**Source**: 2021 National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS): Findings for Australian states and territories.

The AGIS subscale findings indicate increased rejection by Victorians of attitudes that:

* limit women’s autonomy in intimate relationships (64 per cent in 2009 to 66 per cent in 2021)
* downplay sexism (64 per cent in 2017 and 66 per cent in 2021)
* reinforce traditional, rigid gender roles (66 per cent in 2017 to 67 per cent in 2021).

However, there was no significant improvement in the ‘Undermine leadership’ subscale or the ‘Deny inequality’ subscale between 2017 and 2021, indicating little or no change in attitudes that undermine women’s leadership in work, public life and attitudes that deny gender inequality experiences.

Overall, these results show us that Victoria’s long history of investing in gender equality is having an impact. This foundational work sets a strong base to support our primary prevention efforts to challenge the underlying drivers of gendered violence. It will take some time for the impact of this work to flow through in the form of community-wide changes in attitudes and behaviours.

## Indicator: Decrease in prevalence of reported workplace and everyday sexism, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination

Tracking the prevalence of sexism, sexual harassment and gender discrimination in workplaces and everyday settings enables us to see whether these forms of discrimination and violence are decreasing over time. This helps us understand whether our efforts to progress gender equality and prevent violence against women are having an impact.

Tracking these forms of discrimination and violence is also important because they are connected to the drivers of violence against women more broadly, including within families and intimate relationships.

We know that sexual assault is under-reported to Victoria Police. Evidence suggests this is because of mistrust in formal state systems, such as police and the courts, and in workplace processes. Data from the Personal Safety Survey captures family violence perpetrated against victim survivors who may have chosen not to report to police.

### Measure: Proportion of Victorian women aged 18 years and over who have experienced sexual harassment (in any setting) in the last 12 months

The rate of sexual harassment against women over a 12-month period has fluctuated since 2005. However, the survey indicates that the percentage of Victorian women who experienced sexual harassment within the 12-month period from 2021–22 is the lowest it has been since the PSS survey began.

Although 2021–22 PSS state and territory results by gender are not yet available, the Australia-wide results show women are almost three times as likely as men to have experienced sexual harassment in the previous 12-months.

Table 7: Victorian Women aged 18 years and over, proportion experienced sexual harassment in the last 12 months, 2005 to 2022

|  | 2005 | 2012 | 2016 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| % Victorian population | 19.3% | 14.4% | 20.0% | 12.6% |

There is a statistically significant difference in prevalence rate between 2021–22 and 2016.

**Source:** Personal Safety Survey (PSS), ABS, 2021–22

# Domain 2: Victim survivors

The Royal Commission highlighted how complex the family violence and sexual assault service systems were for victim survivors and families. Many people did not know what supports were available or how to access them. When people did seek help, they encountered a system that was difficult to navigate.

Under the reform, victim survivors are accessing more timely and responsive assistance, tailored to their individual circumstances. Supporting victim survivors is at the heart of the many changes across family violence services, housing, Victoria Police and the Magistrates’ Court.

The Royal Commission also found children and young people were often the ‘silent victims’ of family violence, but that this was shifting with children and young people being increasingly recognised as victim survivors in their own right. It found there was a need for dedicated support for children and young people, tailored to meet their distinct needs.

Since 2016, significant progress has been made in strengthening our response to children and young people as victim survivors in their own right and to drive change where children and young people interact with the system.

## Our outcomes

Victim survivors, vulnerable children and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive

1. Families are safe and strong.
2. Victim survivors are safe.
3. Victim survivors are heard and in control.
4. Victim survivors rebuild lives and thrive.

## Strengthening our data

To measure our outcomes for victim survivors, we rely heavily on service delivery data to track change and the impact of reforms over time. This data is drawn from four key datasets: police incidents, intake services across The Orange Door, Safe Steps and men’s referral services, case management and refuges, and therapeutic programs.

As previously mentioned, the current data sets captured across these systems are dependent on distinct platforms that do not connect. One of the challenges we need to address is that, currently, these datasets do not talk to one another to track client progress across different types of services. This makes it difficult to monitor victim survivors’ journeys through the family violence system and to measure outcomes across the system.

Across Australian states and territories, there is increasing commitment to strengthen family violence and sexual assault data collection systems. This is reflected as a priority under the *National plan to end violence against women and children 2023–2032*.

Work is also under way to develop short- and medium-term indicators and measures for victim survivors with a clearer connection to reform activities.

## Data in this report

Data for the ‘Victim survivor’ domain has been sourced from the Crime Statistics Agency, the Victorian Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program and the Coroners Court of Victoria. Other data sources are Homelessness Data Collection, and the Orange Door Client Relationship Management (CRM) system.

# 2.1 Families are safe and strong

## Indicator: Reduction in children and young people who experience family violence

Victoria’s family violence reforms recognise children as victim survivors in their own right. Any exposure they may have to family violence, is considered as part of a family violence incident.

This violence has a profound effect on children. It can affect their physical and mental wellbeing, development, and schooling, and is the leading cause of children’s homelessness in Australia.[[16]](#endnote-14)

### Measure: Number/proportion of unique affected family members who are children

A total of 6,181 children were listed on family violence incident reports to police in 2021–22, representing just over 10 per cent of affected family members in police reports.

Generally, the percentage of children recorded as affected family members has been decreasing slightly each year since 2015.

Table 8: Unique family members who are children, Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| Age group of AFMs | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of affected family members who are children (under 18 years of age) | 6,862 | 6,530 | 6,159 | 5,996 | 5,900 | 6,479 | 6,181 |
| Number of affected family members who are not children (18+) | 46,669 | 46,334 | 46,470 | 50,523 | 53,217 | 55,417 | 53,685 |
| Total(Includes affected family members with unknown age) | 54,296 | 53,598 | 53,329 | 57,209 | 59,856 | 62,741 | 60,665 |
| Proportion (%) of total affected family members who are children | 12.6% | 12.2% | 11.5% | 10.5% | 9.9% | 10.3% | 10.2% |

**Source**: Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

### Measure: Number/proportion of unique affected family members who are children – by Aboriginal status

Where Aboriginal status is known, 8.1 per cent of children recorded as affected family members in 2021–22 identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Although the proportion of child affected family members who are Aboriginal has remained relatively stable, 8.1 per cent is the highest proportion since 2015–16. We will monitor this closely in 2023 to determine if a trend is emerging.

Aboriginal children are overrepresented as a cohort. The 2021 Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics) indicates Aboriginal and Torres Strait children make up 1.8 per cent of the total child population in Victoria (0–17 years old).

Table 9: Unique family members who are children, Victoria – by Aboriginal status, 2015 to 2022

| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 418 | 368 | 361 | 389 | 373 | 401 | 413 |
| Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 5,427 | 4,920 | 4,584 | 4,514 | 4,622 | 5,021 | 4,671 |
| Total children (where Aboriginal status is known) | 5,845 | 5,288 | 4,945 | 4,903 | 4,995 | 5,422 | 5,084 |
| Proportion of children who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander | 7.2% | 7.0% | 7.3% | 7.9% | 7.5% | 7.4% | 8.1% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

## Indicator: Reduction in family violence among women who are pregnant or have a newborn

Family violence during pregnancy is a significant indicator of future harm to the woman and her children. Family violence often commences or intensifies during pregnancy. It is associated with increased rates of miscarriage, low birth weight, premature birth, foetal injury and foetal death.

Pregnancy and early parenthood are opportune times for early intervention, as women are more likely to have contact with health and other professionals.

### Measure: Number/proportion of family violence incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth’ is recorded

In 2021–22, there were 4,467 family violence incidents attended by Victoria Police where pregnancy or new birth was recorded as a risk factor. This equates to 4.9 per cent of total annual family violence incidents attended by Victoria Police.

Time series data shows the proportion of incidents where this risk factor is recorded has remained relatively stable over the past seven financial years (between 4 and 6 per cent). However, the 2021–22 level is the lowest it has been over these seven years.

Table 10: Family violence incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth’ is recorded Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| ‘Pregnancy or new birth’ recorded | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth’ recorded | 4,335 | 4,362 | 3,914 | 4,282 | 4,666 | 4,822 | 4,467 |
| Number of incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth not recorded’  | 73,671 | 72,115 | 72,179 | 78,367 | 83,538 | 88,613 | 86,086 |
| Total incidents | 78,006 | 76,477 | 76,093 | 82,649 | 88,204 | 93,435 | 90,553 |
| Proportion (%) of total incidents where ‘Pregnancy or new birth’ recorded | 5.6% | 5.7% | 5.1% | 5.2% | 5.3% | 5.2% | 4.9% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

## Indicator: Reduction in level of risk for victim survivors immediately post-separation

High-risk periods for people experiencing family violence include when a victim survivor starts planning to leave, immediately prior to taking action, and during the initial stages of, or immediately after, separation.

It is common for perpetrators to continue, and often escalate, their violence after separation. This may be as an attempt to gain or reassert control over a victim survivor, or as punishment for leaving the relationship.

### Measure: Number/proportion of family violence incidents where ‘recent or imminent separation’ is recorded

If a family violence incident involves current or former partners, police will record whether the couple recently separated.

In 2021–22, recent separation was recorded in one-third (32.2 per cent) of family violence incident reports.

The proportion of incidents where recent or imminent separation was recorded has remained stable since 2019–20 (between 31 and 32 per cent).

In 2019–20, Victoria Police introduced statewide changes to family violence recording practices through a new Risk Assessment and Risk Management report (L17). These changes to recording practices mean that it is not practical to compare data prior to 2019.

Table 11: Family violence incidents where ‘recent or imminent separation’ is recorded, Victoria, 2019 to 2022

| ‘Recent or imminent separation’ recorded | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of incidents where ‘recent or imminent separation’ recorded | 27,737 | 29,572 | 29,143 |
| Number of incidents where ‘recent or imminent separation’ not recorded | 60,467 | 63,863 | 61,410 |
| Total incidents | 88,204 | 93,435 | 90,553 |
| Proportion (%) of total incidents where ‘recent or imminent separation’ recorded | 31.4% | 31.6% | 32.2% |

**Source**: Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

# 2.2 Victim survivors are safe

## Indicator: Decrease in family violence deaths

### Measure: Number of family violence-related deaths

Analysis of data over the past seven financial years indicates that the number of family violence homicides has not significantly decreased. However, 2015–16 had the highest number of family violence-related homicides over this period, with a lower number of homicides in every year since.

Most family violence related homicide victims are women and girls, representing 14 of the 18 victims in 2021–22.

The time lag between when a homicide is reported to the register and when an investigation concludes (and identifies whether a homicide was related to family violence) is the key reason for the higher number of ‘yet to be determined’ homicides in the two most recent years, as shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Number of homicide victims, Victoria 2015 – 2022

| Type of homicide victim  | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Family violence related | 33 | 25 | 21 | 16 | 21 | 26 | 18 |
| Not family violence related | 38 | 29 | 39 | 34 | 48 | 28 | 22 |
| Unknown | ≤3 | 7 | ≤3 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 16 |
| Total  | 73 | 61 | 62 | 54 | 73 | 61 | 56 |

In 2021–22, the cause of 16 homicides was ‘yet to be determined’ due to ongoing investigations. A portion of these may be family violence related, with the figures in this graph subject to change.

**Source:** Coroners Court of Victoria data extracted from the Victorian Homicide Register by the Crime Statistics Agency

Table 13 provides Victorian data on the number and rate (per 100,000 people) of family violence related homicide victims from 2015–16 to 2021–22. While it may appear that family violence related homicides are decreasing, figures for 2021–22 are likely to increase as investigations into ‘yet to be determined’ homicides are finalised.

Table 13: Family violence related homicide victims – number and rate per 100,000

| Type of homicide victim  | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of family violence related homicide victims | 33 | 25 | 21 | 16 | 21 | 26 | 18 |
| Family violence related victims – rate per 100,000 | 0.53 | 0.40 | 0.33 | 0.24 | 0.32 | 0.40 | 0.27[[17]](#footnote-5) |

**Source:** Coroners Court of Victoria data extracted from the Victorian Homicide Register by the Crime Statistics Agency

# 2.3 Victim survivors are heard and in control

## Indicator: Increase in self-referrals to family violence support services

A key principle of the family violence service system is that there is no wrong door for seeking support or advice. Referrals to family violence services or to The Orange Door can be made from police, a non-family violence service provider or a person experiencing violence and their family and friends. Self-referrals are one important way victim survivors can access support and get help when and where they need it, giving people choice in how they engage with the family violence service system.

### Measure: Number and proportion of self-referrals to The Orange Door network by victim survivors

The number of self-referrals to The Orange Door network by victim survivors increased over the last four years. This is partly due to the progressive expansion of The Orange Door network over that period.

The increase also suggests that more people are proactively seeking help due to more visible and accessible entry points brought about by The Orange Door network.

There was a small drop in self-referrals during 2020–21, most likely due to restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced opportunities for victim survivors to self-refer.

Table 14: Self-referrals to The Orange Door, Victoria, 2018 to 2022

| Referrals to The Orange Door | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of self-referrals by victim survivors | 3,490 | 4,879 | 4,193 | 7,934 |
| Number of referrals for victim survivors from other pathways | 18,243 | 24,043 | 28,582 | 46,632 |
| Total number of referrals for victim survivors | 21,733 | 28,922 | 32,775 | 54,566 |
| Proportion of total referrals that were self-referrals  | 16.1% | 16.9% | 12.8% | 14.5% |

**Source:** The Orange Door Client Relationship Management system

### Measure: Number and proportion of victim survivors who self-refer to specialist family violence services directly

The number of clients who self-referred to specialist family violence services decreased over the three years from 2019–20 to 2021–22. This was due to the transfer of the intake function to The Orange Door as well as the progressive expansion of The Orange Door across Victoria.

This means more victim survivors are now self-referring to The Orange Door, rather than directly to specialist family violence services. This mirrors the general shift in clients from other referral pathways[[18]](#footnote-6) being referred to The Orange Door network instead of directly to specialist services.

Table 15: Direct self-referrals to specialist family violence services, Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| Specialist family violence case management services  | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of cases from self-referring clients | 6,070 | 7,312 | 8,965 | 8,792 | 9,463 | 8,455 | 6,939 |
| Number of cases from other referral pathways | 32,928 | 35,907 | 42,688 | 30,314 | 38,116 | 35,197 | 28,281 |
| Total number of cases (excluding those with unknown referral sources) | 38,998 | 43,219 | 51,653 | 39,106 | 47,579 | 43,652 | 35,220 |
| Proportion of total cases that were from self-referring clients  | 15.6% | 16.9% | 17.4% | 22.5% | 19.9% | 19.4% | 19.7% |

**Source:** Homelessness Data Collection

# 2.4 Victim survivors rebuild lives and thrive

## Indicator: Increase in victim survivors who have safe, secure, stable and affordable housing

Family violence is recognised as a leading cause of homelessness, especially for women and children.

Homelessness can occur as a direct result of experiencing family violence when a victim survivor leaves home in crisis to seek safety from a perpetrator’s use of violence. Structural barriers including gender inequality, a lack of affordable housing, and limited social supports can also prevent victim survivors from finding a safe and secure place to live.

### Measure: Number/proportion of victim survivors who are homeless or without a permanent place to live

In 2021–22, there were 5,360 family violence service cases where victim survivors identified themselves as homeless.

Data shows that clients accessing refuges make up the greatest proportion of victim survivors experiencing homelessness. In the most recent year to June 2022, almost half (48.6 per cent) of clients experiencing homelessness were in refuges. This cohort tends to be at highest risk as they are often forced to leave their homes to escape the violence.

Comparisons with earlier years should be made with caution due to a practice change in 2018–19 that altered the way some family violence agencies were recording clients up to that point.

Table 16: Victim survivors who are homeless or without a permanent place to live, Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| Victim survivor cases presenting to specialist family violence services  | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of cases homeless on presentation  | 4,694 | 4,962 | 5,483 | 5,795 | 5,631 | 5,474 | 5,360 |
| Number of cases not homeless on presentation  | 12,143 | 12,946 | 13,272 | 13,410 | 13,928 | 14,050 | 12,429 |
| Total cases (excluding those with unknown housing status) | 16,837 | 17,908 | 18,755 | 19,205 | 19,559 | 19,524 | 17,789 |
| Proportion of total cases where the victim survivor was homeless on presentation  | 27.9% | 27.7% | 29.2% | 30.2% | 28.8% | 28.0% | 30.1% |

**Source:** Homelessness Data Collection

## Indicator: Increase in victim survivors who have safe, secure, stable and affordable housing

### Measure: Number/proportion of victim survivors who experience an improvement in their housing situation after receiving a service

In 2021–22, there were 847 family violence service cases where victim survivors were no longer homeless at the end of their support period. In the same year, there were 4,326 cases where a victim survivor remained homeless.

Each year, over 80 per cent of family violence service cases with victim survivors who indicated homelessness on presentation, remained homeless when their support period ended.

In the most recent year to June 2022, the number of cases where the client was no longer homeless at the end of the support period decreased compared to the previous year.

Comparisons with earlier years should be made with caution due to a practice change in 2018–19 that altered the way some family violence agencies were recording clients up to that point.

Table 17: Victim survivors who experience an improvement in their housing situation after receiving a service, Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| Victim survivor cases presenting to specialist family violence services | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number no longer homeless  | 601 | 706 | 749 | 784 | 859 | 899 | 847 |
| Number remained homeless  | 3,864 | 3,802 | 4,399 | 4,609 | 4,440 | 4,301 | 4,326 |
| Total cases (excluding those with unknown housing status) | 4,465 | 4,508 | 5,148 | 5,393 | 5,299 | 5,200 | 5,173 |
| Proportion of total cases where victim survivor no longer homeless at end of support period  | 13.5% | 15.7% | 14.5% | 14.5% | 16.2% | 17.3% | 16.4% |

**Source:** Homelessness Data Collection

# Domain 3: Perpetrators

Since 2016, the Victorian Government has increased its focus on those who commit family violence and holding perpetrators to account. It is vital that family violence responses support victim survivors, while also working with perpetrators to reduce risk, support behaviour and attitude change, and stop their use of violence.

Every time a perpetrator interacts with the service system, there is an opportunity to effect behaviour change. If interventions are targeted to the right perpetrators at the right time, it can avoid significant costs to the lives of victim survivors, to the community and to government.

Accurate identification of the perpetrator of family violence is a critical component of risk assessment and risk management. The Misidentification of the Predominant Aggressor Program of Work was developed to address recommendations from the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor’s report [*Accurate identification of the predominant aggressor*](https://www.fvrim.vic.gov.au/monitoring-victorias-family-violence-reforms-accurate-identification-predominant-aggressor) <https://www.fvrim.vic.gov.au/monitoring-victorias-family-violence-reforms-accurate-identification-predominant-aggressor>.

This included a trial aimed to reduce police misidentification of the predominant aggressor. The trial concluded in December 2022 and learnings are being progressed by Victoria Police in consultation with key stakeholders (The Orange Door, Magistrates’ Courts Victoria) to help inform policy, practice guidance and IT changes in the broader program of work. This work is integral to keeping victim survivors safe and perpetrators accountable. Victoria is leading the way in terms of system, practice, and culture change, but there is still much work to do.

## Our outcomes

1. Perpetrators are held accountable, connected and take responsibility for stopping their violence.
2. Perpetrators stop all forms of family violence behaviour.
3. Perpetrators are held accountable for their behaviour.
4. Perpetrators have safe and healthy connections and relationships.

## Strengthening our data

The measures for this domain are limited and do not yet provide insights into perpetrators taking responsibility for changing their actions and behaviours, or the appropriateness of service responses.

This is exacerbated at the national level, where differences in measures and legal terms between jurisdictions make it difficult to build an accurate picture nationally.

Data disaggregation is limited and there is a need to build our understanding of people who use violence from across all communities, including the LGBTIQA+ community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Work is under way to measure client outcomes for perpetrators who participate in interventions, including perpetrator accommodation support services and behaviour change programs.

## Data in this report

Data for the ‘Perpetrators’ domain of the outcomes framework comes from Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data provided by the Crime Statistics Agency. There remain significant data gaps across the outcomes of Domain 3 that we will work to address over time.

# 3.1 Perpetrators stop all forms of family violence behaviour

## Indicator: Reduction in all family violence behaviours

### Measure: Number/proportion of individuals identified as the respondent in an L17 report who receive a subsequent L17 report within 12 months

A family violence incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police where a Family Violence Report (known as an L17 report) is completed. The Family Violence Report is a risk assessment and risk management tool for frontline police.

In 2021–22, just over one-third of respondents (36.9 per cent) were associated with more than one reported family violence incident over a 365-day period.

The proportion of respondents with more than one reported family violence incident has not changed substantially over time.

Table 18: Family violence respondents recorded with more than one incident within 12 months, Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| Respondents to family violence incidents  | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Respondents with more than one incident  | 17,514 | 17,422 | 17,012 | 18,598 | 19,975 | 21,352 | 20,788 |
| Respondents with one incident  | 33,116 | 32,538 | 32,874 | 34,604 | 35,734 | 36,748 | 35,488 |
| Total number of respondents | 50,630 | 49,960 | 49,886 | 53,202 | 55,709 | 58,100 | 56,276 |
| Proportion of respondents with more than one incident | 34.6% | 34.9% | 34.1% | 35.0% | 35.9% | 36.8% | 36.9% |

**Source**: Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

### Measure: Number of males and females identified as the respondent in an L17 report who receive a subsequent L17 report within 12 months

During the seven-year period, male respondents were more likely to be recorded with subsequent incidents.

In 2021–22, females accounted for 22.8 per cent of respondents with more than one family violence incident. This reflects an increase from 2015–16 when females represented 19.9 per cent of respondents with more than one incident.

The Victorian Government recognises the number of female respondents may be inflated in this data due to misidentification of the predominant aggressor. While the exact prevalence of perpetrator misidentification is unknown, stakeholders engaged with the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor’s (FVRIM) work on the [Accurate identification of the predominant aggressor](https://www.fvrim.vic.gov.au/monitoring-victorias-family-violence-reforms-accurate-identification-predominant-aggressor) <https://www.fvrim.vic.gov.au/monitoring-victorias-family-violence-reforms-accurate-identification-predominant-aggressor> in 2021 indicated it continues to occur too often, with harmful consequences for victim survivors.

In 2022, the MARAM Predominant Aggressor Identification tool and practice guidance was launched to support professionals across the family violence system, including police, to accurately identify perpetrators of family violence who are claiming to be victims.

The Victorian Government is undertaking further work to develop responses to the FVRIM’s proposed actions, including system improvements to reduce misidentification.

Table 19:Number/proportion of male and female respondents recorded with more than one incident within 12 months, 2015 to 2022

| Sex of Respondent | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Male  | 14,020 | 13,862 | 13,480 | 14,652 | 15,594 | 16,579 | 16,030 |
| Female | 3,490 | 3,555 | 3,520 | 3,942 | 4,376 | 4,765 | 4,749 |
| Total(Includes affected family members with an unknown sex) | 17,514 | 17,422 | 17,012 | 18,598 | 19,975 | 21,352 | 20,788 |
| Proportion of total that are male | 80.1% | 79.6% | 79.2% | 78.8% | 78.1% | 77.6% | 77.1% |
| Proportion of total that are female | 19.9% | 20.4% | 20.7% | 21.2% | 21.9% | 22.3% | 22.8% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

### Measure: Number of Aboriginal people identified as using violence in an L17 report who receive a subsequent L17 report within 12 months

The proportion of people with more than one family violence incident who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander has remained stable since 2015-16 (between 7.1 and 7.8 per cent).

Table 20: Number/proportion of people using violence in more than one incident, Victoria – by Aboriginal status, 2015 to 2022

| Aboriginal status  | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aboriginal people who use violence with more than one incident | 1,287 | 1,235 | 1,255 | 1,444 | 1,445 | 1,610 | 1,577 |
| Non-Aboriginal people who use violence with more than one incident | 16,085 | 16,055 | 15,574 | 16,961 | 18,423 | 19,631 | 19,070 |
| Total (where Aboriginal status is known) | 17,372 | 17,290 | 16,829 | 18,405 | 19,868 | 21,241 | 20,647 |
| Proportion of total people with more than one incident who are Aboriginal  | 7.4% | 7.1% | 7.5% | 7.8% | 7.3% | 7.6% | 7.6% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics

### Measure: Number of children identified as the respondent in an L17 report who receive a subsequent L17 report within 12 months.

In 2021–22, children accounted for approximately 7.2 per cent of people who use violence with more than one incident, with this remaining stable over time.

While this measure sits within the ‘perpetrator’ domain of the *Family* *Violence Outcomes Framework*, in Victoria, we do not refer to children and young people as perpetrators. The term ‘young people using family violence’ is used, recognising their developmental age and stage.

Table 21: Number / proportion of people using violence in more than one incident, by age – Children (17 and under) and Adult (18 and older), 2015 to 2022

| Age of person who uses violence | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Youth with more than one family violence incident | 1,218 | 1,181 | 1,216 | 1,288 | 1,405 | 1,492 | 1,505 |
| Adult with more than one family violence incident | 16,181 | 16,132 | 15,697 | 17,183 | 18,446 | 19,721 | 19,127 |
| Total | 17,399 | 17,313 | 16,913 | 18,471 | 19,851 | 21,213 | 20,632 |
| Proportion of total that are youth | 7.0% | 6.8% | 7.2% | 7.0% | 7.1% | 7.0% | 7.3% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

# 3.2 Perpetrators are held accountable for their behaviour

## Indicator: Reduction in all family violence behaviours

Family violence orders are a key mechanism to help keep victim survivors safe and hold perpetrators accountable.

Perpetrators who breach an order can be charged with a criminal offence.

### Measure: Number/proportion of reported contraventions of family violence orders

Most people on a family violence order[[19]](#footnote-7) are not recorded by police for a breach of the order.

In the most recent year to June 2022, 85 per cent of people on an active order were not recorded with a breach.

The proportion of people who breached (15.0 per cent) is the lowest since 2015.

In 2021–22, 11,710 people were recorded with at least one breach of a family violence order. This is the first time since 2015 that the number of people with one or more breach has decreased.

Table 22: Number/proportion of people on a family violence protection order who breach the order, Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| Breach flag | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| People who breached an order | 9,008 | 9,751 | 9,850 | 10,515 | 11,758 | 12,593 | 11,710 |
| People who did not breach an order | 47,028 | 49,964 | 52,184 | 54,927 | 59,023 | 63,026 | 66,111 |
| Total  | 56,036 | 59,715 | 62,034 | 65,442 | 70,781 | 75,619 | 77,821 |
| Proportion of total people on an order who breached  | 16.1% | 16.3% | 15.9% | 16.1% | 16.6% | 16.7% | 15.0% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

Table 23: Proportion of people on a family violence protection order who breach the order – by number of breaches, Victoria, 2015 to 2022

| Family violence protection orders and breaches  | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of people on active family violence prevention orders  | 56,036 | 59,715 | 62,034 | 65,442 | 70,781 | 75,619 | 77,821 |
| 0 (did not breach)  | 83.9% | 83.7% | 84.1% | 83.9% | 83.4% | 83.4% | 85.0% |
| 1 breach  | 7.6% | 7.4% | 7.0% | 7.0% | 7.3% | 7.1% | 6.5% |
| 2 breaches  | 2.9% | 2.9% | 3.0% | 3.0% | 3.0% | 2.9% | 2.7% |
| 3 breaches  | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.3% |
| 4 breaches  | 0.9% | 1.1% | 1.0% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.0% | 1.0% |
| 5 or more breaches  | 3.2% | 3.5% | 3.6% | 3.7% | 3.8% | 4.2% | 3.6% |
| Proportion of people who breached (combined)  | 16.1% | 16.3% | 15.9% | 16.1% | 16.6% | 16.7% | 15.1% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

# Domain 4: System

We need a whole-of-government approach to transform how we prevent and respond to family violence.

Victoria is a leader in family violence service innovation and integration. We know real and lasting change across the service system will need sustained commitment.

Through the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework, Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme, Central Information Point and a range of other reform efforts, we are working to build the foundations of an integrated and enduring whole-of-system response to family violence.

## Our outcomes

1. Preventing and responding to family violence is systemic and enduring.
2. The family violence system is accessible, and services and programs are available and equitable.
3. The family violence system intervenes early to identify and respond to family violence.
4. The family violence system is person-centred and responsive.
5. The family violence system is integrated.
6. The family violence and broader workforces across the system are skilled, capable and reflect the communities they serve.

## Strengthening our data

The ‘System’ domain was the last domain to have indicators developed. Consequently, it has the least number of measures. Work has occurred to develop measures across all outcomes, but inherent data challenges mean further work is required to test and develop these measures, including exploring opportunities for data linkage.

As key reforms and related data collection become more embedded in the family violence system, we will be better placed to monitor outcomes under Domain 4. For example, improvements to The Orange Door Client Relationship Management system are under way. This includes the development of a new referrals portal to track clients referred to family violence case management for victim survivors and perpetrators.

## Data in this report

Domain 4 uses Client Relationship Management data, Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data and workforce survey data to support reporting for four separate measures.

# 4.1 The family violence system intervenes early to identify and respond to family violence to prevent escalation

## Indicator: Increase in people receiving help and support following first disclosure

Engagement with The Orange Door network after a referral helps ensure victim survivors can get the right services they need at the earliest opportunity. With The Orange Door network bringing together workers from specialist family violence, child and family, Aboriginal and perpetrator services, victim survivors’ diverse needs can be identified and met through connecting the victim survivor with the services they need.

### Measure: Number and proportion of unique family violence clients who engaged with The Orange Door network following one or more police referrals

Since 2018, there has been an increasing number of family violence clients engaging with The Orange Door network following a police referral. The steep increase was due to the progressive expansion of The Orange Door network across Victoria and increased community awareness of the supports available.

Table 24: Family violence clients[[20]](#footnote-8) who engaged with The Orange Door network following a police referral, Victoria, 2018 to 2022

| Family violence clients referred to The Orange Door following police incident  | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of family violence clients referred following a police incident who engaged with The Orange Door network | 9,105  | 11,592  | 15,325  | 21,685  |
| Total family violence clients referred to The Orange Door network following a police incident (excluding clients where contact was not appropriate or safe) | 20,627  | 27,465  | 34,256  | 52,386  |
| Proportion of total clients referred to The Orange Door network who engaged | 44.1% | 42.2% | 44.7% | 41.4% |

**Source:** The Orange Door Client Relationship Management system

## Indicator: Decrease in people experiencing family violence who were previously in contact with services or police

Understanding the victim survivor’s pathway is critical to gauging change under this outcome. Further work is required, including data linkage, to better understand system interactions following a victim survivor’s first incident recorded by police.

### Measure: Number and proportion of unique affected family members who had more than one family violence incident

In each reporting year, most affected family members have one family violence incident recorded with Victoria Police. This may reflect that these affected family members are getting the help they need and police intervention (often followed by family violence services) may be reducing the risk of future harm.

About one-quarter of affected family members were recorded with more than one family violence incident each year. The proportion of affected family members with more than one family violence incident has remained relatively stable since 2015 (between 23 and 26 per cent).

Table 25: Affected family members who had more than one incident recorded by police within 12 months

| Number of family violence incidents | 2015–16 | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| One family violence incident  | 41,422 | 41,001 | 40,782 | 43,200 | 44,841 | 46,642 | 45,121 |
| More than one family violence incident  | 12,901 | 12,602 | 12,547 | 14,009 | 15,015 | 16,099 | 15,544 |
| Total  | 54,323 | 53,603 | 53,329 | 57,209 | 59,856 | 62,741 | 60,665 |
| Proportion of affected family members with more than one incident | 23.7% | 23.5% | 23.5% | 24.5% | 25.1% | 25.7% | 25.6% |

**Source:** Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program data collected by Crime Statistics Agency

# 4.2 The family violence system is integrated

## Indicator: Increased sharing or information to assess and respond to needs and risks

The [Central Information Point](https://www.vic.gov.au/orange-door-service-model/central-information-point) <https://www.vic.gov.au/orange-door-service-model/central-information-point> (CIP) is one way we are increasing collaboration between services through information sharing. The CIP compiles relevant risk information about a perpetrator or alleged perpetrator of family violence into a single consolidated report. Information from the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria, Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (Child Protection) is used to assist with family violence risk assessment and management.

A 2021 survey of practitioners in The Orange Door demonstrates the value the CIP provides to practitioners and victim survivors in risk assessment and management.

In the survey[[21]](#footnote-9):

* 100 per cent of practitioners said that the CIP report helped them to better understand the perpetrator’s family violence history and current risk
* 79 per cent of practitioners said that they assess the victim survivor to be at higher risk level based on the CIP report
* 78 per cent of practitioners said that they used the CIP report to support a referral or update risk management plans (including safety plans).

### Measure: Number of Central Information Point reports provided to services

The CIP responds to demand from The Orange Door network, Risk Assessment and Management Panels, Men’s Referral Service and Safe Steps.

The number of CIP reports delivered annually increased from 2,905 in 2018–19 to 4,539 in 2021–22 (a 56.2 per cent increase). During this time, the CIP was implemented for The Orange Door network from 2018–2022, for the Risk Assessment and Management Panels from 2020–2022 and it commenced service delivery to Men’s Referral Service and Safe Steps in November 2022, in line with the Royal Commission’s recommendation.

Table 26: Central information points delivered, Victoria, 2018 to 2022

| Central Information Point requests  | 2018–19 | 2019–20 | 2020–21 | 2021–22 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Central Information Point reports requested  | 3,015 | 3,464 | 4,411 | 4,899 |
| Central Information Point reports delivered  | 2,905 | 3,379 | 4,207 | 4,539 |

**Source**: The Orange Door Client Relationship Management system

# 4.3 The family violence and broader workforces across the system are skilled, capable and reflect the communities they serve

## Indicator: Increase workforce diversity

The Royal Commission highlighted the lack of detailed knowledge and essential workforce data about family violence workers in Victoria. To address this gap, we undertake the [family violence workforce census](https://www.vic.gov.au/summary-findings-report-2019-20-workforce-census/introduction) <https://www.vic.gov.au/summary-findings-report-2019-20-workforce-census/introduction> every two years. The census collects data and information about family violence workforces.

In 2022, a Workforce Survey on Victoria’s specialist family violence workforce was undertaken in place of the family violence workforce census.[[22]](#footnote-10) The survey has been critically important in providing an updated understanding of the workforces, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, including workforce composition, intentions and conditions.

The data captured will inform the government’s strategic activities as well as being a valuable resource for the sector peaks and other bodies to support sector-based planning.

### Measure: Number/proportion of workforce who identify as from a priority community

A diverse specialist primary prevention and family violence workforce is required to reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community and provide services and spaces that are culturally safe, appropriate, respectful, and accessible for all service users.

Data from the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Workforce Pulse Survey report, in which 1,049 workers responded to the survey (an estimated 35 per cent of all family violence and sexual assault specialists in Victoria), indicates a modest level of diversity across the workforce.

Table 27: Family violence workforce diversity – specialist family violence response workforce, Victoria, 2021 to 2022

| Priority communities  | No. of responses | Total responses to question | Proportion of responses |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Self-described gender | 21 | 884 | 2.4% |
| Multi-gender attracted, same sex / gender attracted, or asexual (LGBTIQ+) | 167 | 884 | 18.9% |
| Age 55–74 | 136 | 881 | 15.4% |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 48 | 878 | 5.5% |
| Born outside of Australia | 208 | 879 | 23.7% |
| Speaks a language other than English at home | 139 | 873 | 15.9% |
| Speaks language other than English to carry out their role  | 72 | 873 | 8.2% |
| Person with a disability(Refers to people who experience difficulties or restrictions that affect their participation in work activities) | 94 | 875 | 10.7% |

**Source:** Workforce Survey 2022

# Conclusion

This report presents a snapshot of the significant achievements made across the family violence reform in 2022, in the final year of the second *Rolling action plan* under Victoria’s 10-year plan for change.

These achievements could not have been made without the efforts of specialist family violence and primary prevention practitioners, people with a lived experience of family violence, broader workforces who support people experiencing or at risk of family violence, universities and researchers.

To end family violence in Victoria, we need a sustained effort over a generation and across the community. We now turn our focus to the final phase of delivering on Victoria’s 10-year plan, the third and final *Rolling action plan*, due for release in mid-2024.

# Glossary of terms

| Term | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Access Points (in relation to The Orange Door network) | Access points are branded The Orange Door network locations that have at least one permanent multidisciplinary team that delivers the full suite of The Orange Door services.  |
| Affected family member  | The term affected family member is used by police to refer to the individual deemed to be most harmed and affected by events occurring during a family violence incident. Police assess risk, considering past family violence and any recorded criminal history. They identify who is being harmed and affected the most during an incident.  |
| Central Information Point | The Central Information Point consolidates information about a perpetrator of family violence into a single report for frontline practitioners to assess and manage risk of family violence. This brings together workers and information from the Magistrate’s Court of Victoria, Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria and Child Protection in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. |
| Child Information Sharing Scheme | The Child Information Sharing Scheme allows authorised organisations to share information to support child wellbeing or safety.This ensures that professionals working with children, young people and families can gain a complete view of the children and young people they work with, making it easier to identify wellbeing or safety needs earlier, and to act on them sooner. This will allow children to receive the best support possible across services. |
| Children and young people  | Children and young people are classified as anyone younger than 18 years of age. This is the same meaning as set out in section 4 of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic). Young person can refer to people up to age 25 reflecting ongoing developmental stages into adulthood. |
| Family Violence Incident (or Family Incident)  | When family violence is reported to or detected by Victoria Police, a Family Violence Report (also known as an L17 form) is completed. Each separate L17 form corresponds with a distinct Family Violence Incident.  |
| Family Violence Order  | Family Violence Orders include family violence intervention orders, interim family violence intervention orders and/or family violence safety notices. These orders include conditions to stop the respondent from using family violence against the protected person. If the respondent breaks the conditions of an intervention order, police can charge them with a criminal offence. |
| Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme  | The Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme enables the sharing of information between authorised organisations to assess and manage family violence risk.  |
| Family Violence Intervention Order Breach/Contravention | If a respondent breaks the conditions of an family violence intervention order, family violence safety notice or a counselling order, police can charge them with a criminal offence. This is called a breach or contravention.A breach/contravention occurs when a respondent for an active and served intervention order breaks the conditions of that intervention order. This is relevant to all intervention orders, including Family Violence Intervention Orders and Family violence Safety Notices.  |
| Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework.  | The Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework provides a system-wide approach to risk assessment and management. The MARAM Framework is approved by the relevant Minister under section 189 of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic). It prescribes a range of organisations and sectors to align their risk assessment and management activities with the MARAM Framework. |
| Family violence sector  | The family violence sector encompasses all stakeholders who work within the family violence workforce and contribute to the family violence reform. |
| Family violence system  | The family violence system incorporates all the family violence initiatives conducted by the sector as part of the family violence reform.  |
| L17 form  | An L17 form refers to the Victoria Police Risk Assessment and Management Report that Victoria Police are required to complete after they have attended a family incident. The report is completed when family incidents, interfamilial-related sexual offences, and child abuse are reported to police. |
| Offender  | An ‘offender’ describes a person who has been found guilty of an offence.  |
| Perpetrator  | A perpetrator of family violence is an adult who uses violence or threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour against family members as defined in the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic), in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships.  |
| Predominant aggressor  | The predominant aggressor is the term used to describe the person, who through known history and actions within a relationship, is exerting the greatest amount of harm and control over their partner or family member.This could be through any number of abusive behaviours including physical and sexual violence, coercive control, threats, intimidation, emotional abuse, stalking and isolation.  |
| Primary prevention  | Whole of population initiatives that address the primary (‘first’ or ‘underlying’) drivers of violence. Primary prevention works by identifying the deep underlying causes of violence. This includes the social norms, structures and practices that influence individual attitudes and behaviours. Primary prevention acts across the whole population to change these, not just the behaviour of perpetrators.  |
| Primary prevention workforce  | The primary prevention of family violence workforce includes those who work to prevent family violence through systemic / organisational / community-level initiatives. Example roles: family violence primary prevention officer or practitioner, family violence or respectful relationships educator, gender equity officer, prevention of violence against women officer, family violence health promotion officer, manager or trainer of primary prevention officers or practitioners, etc. |
| Respondent  | In both individual and police applications for family violence intervention orders, the ‘respondent’ describes the person against whom an intervention order is sought.  |
| Royal Commission into Family Violence  | The Royal Commission was Australia’s first Royal Commission into Family Violence. It was the established in 2015 after a number of family violence-related deaths in Victoria – most notably the death of Luke Batty. The role of the Commission was to find ways to:* prevent family violence
* improve support for victim survivors
* hold perpetrators to account.

The Commission included 25 days of public hearings. Community conversations were held with over 800 Victorians and nearly 1,000 written submissions were received. The Commission made 227 recommendations to reduce the impact of family violence in our community, with the Victorian Government committing to implement all recommendations. |
| Specialist family violence practitioners (workers)  | Specialist family violence practitioners are people who work directly with victim survivors, perpetrators, or cases of family violence as a family violence response specialist. or Those who work directly with family violence response specialists as a manager, supervisor or trainer, or in a capacity building, policy or practice development role. Example roles: family violence or justice case manager, family violence outreach, refuge worker, counsellor / phone support, crisis worker, men’s behaviour change practitioner or case manager, RAMP Coordinator, intake or enhanced intake, sexual assault worker, family violence court practitioner or family violence court registrar, etc.  |
| Specialist family violence services  | Specialist family violence services provide front line support for those experiencing family violence. |
| The Orange Door network  | The Orange Door is part of the Victorian Government’s response to the Royal Commission. The Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children. The Orange Door provides access to a range of family violence and family services in person, or over the phone. To make it easier for people to be safer and supported, The Orange Door brings together workers from specialist family violence services, family services, Aboriginal services and services for men who use violence.  |
| Unique affected family members   | The count of unique affected family members is the number of individuals who were recorded as an affected family member in any given year. Where an affected family member has been involved in incidents across a number of years, they will appear in each year in which they were recorded.  |
| Universal services | Universal services refer to services that are not specialised to deal with family violence. These include health services (e.g. general practitioners, maternal and child health services, hospitals), education (e.g. early childhood education, schools, universities and TAFE), and other social services. These services can provide opportune environments to identify family violence and intervene early.  |
| Victim survivor  | Victim survivor refers to adults, children and young people who experience family violence. Under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic), children are considered victim survivors if they experience family violence directed at them or are exposed to the effects of family violence, including being present to or witnessing a family violence incident. |
| Young person ‘who uses violence’  | Young people between the ages of 10 and 17 who use family violence are no longer referred to as an ‘adolescent or young person’ who uses violence. Common language is now ‘young person who uses family violence’ as a distinct group. This cohort requires distinct responses tailored to the age, developmental stage and circumstances of the young person and their concurrent safety and developmental needs. Young people who use violence against a family member are often also themselves victim survivors. In some instances, young people are misidentified as using violence where there is an adult perpetrator in the family. |

# Appendix A: Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan activities status

The following table outlined the current delivery timeframes for the *Rolling action plan* activities and includes an update on 2022 progress and achievements. It shows reporting from across departments, agencies or organisations. Activities that do not commence until 2023 are marked ‘not commenced’ and are not reported against.

## Overarching priorities activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Overarching priorities activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Build the capacity of specialist family violence services to better support and respond to the complex needs of women victim survivors exiting prison.  | I | I | I | This project was extended until June 2023 and we are exploring avenues to enable it to continue beyond this date. Key achievements in 2022 include:* Flat Out, in partnership with Safe and Equal, developed guidance for practitioners
* bespoke training was delivered to the Specialist Family Violence sector and key organisations in justice sector.
 |
| Deliver the Family Violence and Disability Practice Leaders Initiative. | I | I | I | This initiative has been extended to June 2025. Funding under the National Partnership Agreement has enabled up to five additional Practice Leaders to be funded for a two-year period commencing early 2023. An evaluation of the initiative will commence in 2023.  |
| Deliver the LGBTIQ+ Family Violence Capacity Building Initiative. | I | I | C | The pilot project at two The Orange Door sites has been completed, with further rollout of this work under consideration. Key achievements include the development of the Inclusive Refuge Guide and the roll out of LGBTIQ+ inclusion training to sexual assault services. |
| Develop and release a Victorian Elder Abuse Statement. | I | I | I | Work is under way, with background research undertaken to progress the Statement.  |
| Continue to support Victim Survivors’ Advisory Council in its role, including designing and implementing a refreshed Survivors’ Advisory Council model. | I | I | O | The Victim Survivors' Advisory Council (VSAC) is now in its third iteration, with seven new members inducted into the Council in October 2022. The VSAC model continues to be refreshed based on evaluations undertaken in 2021.The refreshed model includes trauma-aware and strength-based approaches, a two-year staggered term to support a mix of new and continuing members, as well as learning, development and support opportunities.  |
| Establish the Family Violence Reform Advisory Group. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021.  |
| Develop and release a comprehensive sexual assault strategy, informed by victim survivors and in partnership with the sexual assault and family violence sector. | I | I | I | The release of the Sexual Violence and Harm Strategy has been extended to 2023. Work is on track within these new timeframes, which will allow for further consultation. |
| Continue the Intersectionality Capability Building Project including the develop of resources that will support family violence organisations and workforces understanding and application of intersectionality.  | I | I | C | Successful pilots were completed, with feedback from these pilots informing the final resources released at the end of 2022. These resources aim to increase the capability of family violence and universal service workforces by embedding an intersectionality framework across family violence, sexual assault, and child and family wellbeing services. |

##

## Courts activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Courts activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The court will establish Specialist Family Violence Courts at four further locations, Heidelberg (2021), Frankston (2021), Bendigo (2023) and Wyndham (TBC). The Specialist Family Violence Court at Wyndham is part of a new investment in law courts for Wyndham announced in the *State Budget 2020–21*. | I | I | I | Operations commenced at an additional seven courts in the Specialist Family Violence Court Division. This expanded the Specialist Family Violence Courts to 13 locations including Ballarat, Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Frankston, Geelong, Heidelberg, Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, Moorabbin, Ringwood, Shepparton and Sunshine Magistrates' courts. |
| Review the implementation approach for the remaining Specialist Family Violence Court recommendations in the context of broader court reform including recent court innovations, post coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery and infrastructure planning. | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Remote hearing services will be expanded to several additional locations across the state. Pilots will continue to inform ongoing policy around addressing the safety of victim survivors, and making it easier for people to participate in their court hearing. | I | I | C | The Remote Hearing Support Service was made available at 11 Victorian Magistrates’ Court locations in 2022, including: Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Geelong, Warrnambool, Latrobe Valley, Bairnsdale, Melbourne, Mildura, Ringwood, Sunshine, and Werribee.  |
| The Melbourne Children’s Court is exploring how court attendance safety plans previously designed to support vulnerable victim survivors physically attending proceedings at that venue can be redeveloped to promote the safety of individuals impacted by family violence participating in online hearings. | I | I | I | Court Attendance Safety Plan templates and supporting documentation to prioritise physical safety in the Melbourne Children’s Court precinct were reviewed to identify and incorporate relevant considerations for individuals participating in online and hybrid hearings.  |
| The family violence intervention order (FVIO) online form will be expanded to allow applicants to extend, vary or revoke an existing FVIO application online. This is the most commonly requested service enhancement to complete the FVIO application cycle. These changes mean that a victim survivor will not need to physically attend a court building to apply for changes to their intervention order or receive court services. | I | I | I | Development of the 'extend, vary or revoke' functionality of online FVIO applications is under way. |
| The court will work with peak organisations to develop family violence training for court interpreters, including innovative pilots, such as the VideoLink model where court interpreters are available remotely. | I | I | C | Family violence training for interpreters was delivered over four courses to 63 participants. Feedback from this training confirmed the course had increased skills and confidence of participants. |
| A strong focus on learning and development for judiciary and staff specialising in family violence. This includes multidisciplinary training which will bring workers from across the sector to share a consistent message and approach, and result in a better experience across the system. | I | I | I | Multidisciplinary engagement sessions were held prior to commencement of operations at the new seven Specialist Family Violence Courts and Bendigo court in preparation for 2023 commencement. Seven events were held at the new Specialist Family Violence Court locations with around 1,000 attendees in total participating from across the state. Feedback highlighted the importance of networking and sharing knowledge across different organisations.  |
| The court will continue to run the Delivering Culturally Safe Court Services program to provide court staff with the capability to deliver a culturally sensitive, trauma-informed service to Aboriginal court users. | I | I | C | Training on cultural safety has been delivered to all sites where the Umalek Balit program operates. Expansion of the training to other sites will be incorporated into regular operations. |
| The court will implement the Specialist Family Violence Court Capability Development Pathways to support the ongoing specialisation of the Specialist Family Violence Court staff. | I | I | I | The Specialist Family Violence Court training and development program is a key part of preparation for commencement, with training being rolled out to Bendigo and in future, Wyndham. The Specialist Family Violence Court Capability Development Pathways will inform the design and implementation of an ongoing specialist family violence learning and development program.  |
| Continue to operate the Court Mandated Counselling Order Program to keep more perpetrators accountable and in view | I | I | O | The Court Mandated Counselling Order Program continued at the Specialist Family Violence Courts, keeping more respondents to family violence intervention orders accountable and supporting them to change their behaviour, be accountable, and supporting them to change their behaviour. |
| Trial and evaluation of the Integrated Counselling and Case Management Program pilot, a new perpetrator intervention program that addresses the complex interplay between family violence, alcohol and other drugs, and/or mental health issues and provides greater opportunity to tailor responses for a wider range of perpetrators. | I | I | C | The Integrated Counselling and Case Management Program was trialled and evaluated at the Ballarat Specialist Family Violence Court. The program addresses the complex interplay between family violence, alcohol and other drugs and/or mental health issues. The program enables greater opportunities to tailor responses through integrated case management.  |
| Deliver the Koori Cultural Safety Initiative, in collaboration with an Aboriginal Controlled Organisation, to support mainstream men’s behaviour change program providers to deliver culturally safe and appropriate programs to court-ordered respondents to a family violence intervention order. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| The court will continue to implement the MARAM Framework in full across the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria and Children’s Court of Victoria and embed it into practice. | I | I | O | All Victorian Specialist Family Violence Courts have continued to implement the MARAM Framework and embed it into practice, ensuring family violence risk is better identified and managed. |
| The Family Violence Contact Centre will continue to be expanded to support additional court locations, including to all Specialist Family Violence Court locations. | I | I | O | The Family Violence Contact Centre continues to support courts across the state, including 10 of the operational Specialist Family Violence Courts across Victoria. The Family Violence Contact Centre is a centralised service that manages phone calls and emails from court users relating to family violence and personal safety intervention orders. This service alleviates call and email pressures at individual courts. It also improves accessibility of court services for people experiencing family violence. |
| Growing demand for information sharing across the family violence service sector will continue to be addressed, providing fast response through the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme. | I | I | O | The central information sharing team at Magistrates’ Court of Victoria continue to support implementation of the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme. The team triages and responds to information requests and proactively shares information as required. The team responds to an average of 120 information sharing requests per day. |
| Development and implementation of the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria Koori Family Violence Strategy will guide how the courts approach family violence in the Aboriginal community. | I | I | I | A draft strategy/framework is under development. |
| A process and outcomes evaluation of a broad suite of the Magistrates' Court-led family violence reforms, with a focus on the first tranche of Specialist Family Violence Courts. | I | I | I | The penultimate evaluation phase has been completed. Preparations have begun to support the final evaluation study - a court user-focused medium-term outcomes study - which will be delivered by September 2023. |
| Implementation of an information sharing protocol between the Magistrates’ Court, Children’s Court and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to ensure that when a parent seeks a new or amended family violence intervention order, the Magistrates’ Court and Children’s Court can seek information held by the department in relation to family violence risk. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of the Koori Family Violence Intervention Order Breaches pilot in Mildura. | I | I | C | We evaluated the implementation and effectiveness of the Koori Family Violence Intervention Order Breaches pilot in Mildura. The key findings and recommendations from the final report will inform the ongoing establishment of Family Violence Intervention Order Breaches at the Mildura Koori Court. |

##

## Dhelk Dja activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Dhelk Dja activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Finalise review and update of the Indigenous Family Violence Primary Prevention Framework aligned to Dhelk Dja. | I | I | I | Research is under way on prevention from a First Nations perspective, which will inform the refreshed Indigenous Family Violence Primary Prevention Framework. Following this project, Family Safety Victoria will undertake a procurement process to engage a Victorian Aboriginal consultancy. |
| Aboriginal Data Mapping and Data Needs project to support baseline understanding of Aboriginal family violence and build the evidence base for prevention and intervention. | I | I | O | Published in July 2022, the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Mapping Initiative mapped government-funded Aboriginal family violence prevention initiatives from 2016 to 2021. It found over $18.7 million has been invested in 251 initiatives since 2016, with over 88 per cent of this funding provided to Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations and community groups. |
| Extensive design process for the Aboriginal family violence prevention campaign. | I | I | I | A steering group has been established with the first meeting held in September 2022.  |
| Implement the Aboriginal family violence prevention campaign and education programs. | I | I | I | This activity will be completed in 2023. |
| Dhelk Dja Fund established and successful submissions funded. | NA | I | C | In 2022, we provided funding to 33 Aboriginal-led initiatives and services under the $18.2 million Dhelk Dja Family Violence Fund. The Fund supports eligible Aboriginal organisations and community groups to enable a range of Aboriginal-led tailored responses for victim survivors and people who use violence to reduce the disproportionate prevalence and impact. |
| Final service design model for Aboriginal Access Points tabled for endorsement by the Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Aboriginal Family Violence Industry Strategy endorsed by the Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| All Aboriginal Access Points established in line with The Orange Door network rollout. | I | I | I | Significant progress was made in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations towards establishing the Bayside Peninsula and Barwon Aboriginal Access Points. Due to commence operation in 2023, the Aboriginal Access Points will include service pathways within The Orange Door network for Aboriginal Victorians experiencing or using family violence. |
| Revise and expand Police and Aboriginal Community Protocols Against Family Violence to provide statewide coverage. | I | I | O | We expanded the Police and Aboriginal Community Protocols Against Family Violence to enable statewide coverage. There are currently 10 Protocol sites operating in: Dandenong, Mildura, Geelong, Warrnambool, Echuca, Swan Hill, Horsham, Latrobe, Bairnsdale and Shepparton.Seven additional sites are being established and are expected to launch in late 2023, in: Moonee Valley, Darebin, St Kilda, Hastings, Ballarat, Lilydale and Wodonga. |
| Regional action plans developed by the 11 place-based Dhelk Dja Action Groups presented to Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum and launched locally. | I | I | O | The *Dhelk Dja second three-year action plan* was endorsed by the Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum in October 2022 and regional action plans will be developed to support implementation and reviewed annually as per the *Monitoring, evaluation and accountability plan*. |
| The *Dhelk Dja 10-year investment strategy* considered by the Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum. | I | I | I | An evaluation of the *Dhelk Dja first three-year action plan* will be undertaken which will inform the proposed *10-year investment strategy* and enable key actions to be resourced adequately.  |

##

## Housing activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Housing activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| New Aboriginal-specific family violence refuges:* Constructions commenced for first Aboriginal-specific refuge (2020).
 | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020. |
| New Aboriginal-specific family violence refuges: * Location for second refuge being sourced (2020).
 | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020. |
| New Aboriginal-specific family violence refuges:* First refuge open (2021).
 | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| New Aboriginal-specific family violence refuges:* Second refuge open (2022).
 | NA | I | D | The Warrnambool refuge (second Aboriginal-specific refuge) is in the early development stage. Aboriginal services and community will guide the design and process for this refuge in line with the Victorian Government’s commitment to Aboriginal self-determination. The first refuge in Shepparton is now operational.  |
| New Aboriginal-specific family violence refuges:* Third refuge open (2022).
 | NA | I | D | Horsham is the site for the third Aboriginal-specific refuge and is the early development stage.  |
| Redevelopment of remaining family violence refuges:* Three refuges expected to be completed (2020).
 | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020. |
| Redevelopment of remaining family violence refuges:* Three more refuges expected to be completed (2021).
 | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Redevelopment of remaining family violence refuges:* Two more refuges expected to be completed (2021).
 | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Redevelopment of remaining family violence refuges:Five more refuges expected to be completed (2021). | NA | I | D | Of the sites included in the Refuge Redevelopment (20 sites), 14 sites have been completed and handed over to agencies, one is near completion and handover, with construction under way on one site. The remaining four sites are at varying planning and design stages. The program has faced delays due to factors like material shortages, trade workforce availability issues, cost escalations, disruptions from COVID-19, and the need for cultural heritage assessments. |
| Redevelopment of remaining family violence refuges:* All refuges expected to be operational (2022).
 | NA | NA | D  | As above.  |
| 1,000 new public dwellings* Building began on the first sites (2019).
 | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020. |
| 1,000 new public dwellings* Completion of first 10 homes (2020).
 | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020. |
| 1,000 new public dwellings* Majority of homes completed (2022).
 | I | I | I  | Construction began in 2019–20 and continued throughout the pandemic. At 31 October 2022, a total of 955 homes have been completed, with another 487 under construction. |
| Social Housing Growth Fund: Expected delivery of more than 780 new social housing dwellings across 25 locations in Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria. | I | I | I  | 148 new homes have been completed with a further 424 homes under way with most of the program’s homes progressing through the planning stages. Victim survivors and children affected by family violence are one of the priority cohorts who will be supported through these developments. |
| Regional Estate Revitalisation project: $30 million to redevelop out-of-date public housing in Ballarat, Bendigo and Benalla over the next 10 years. | I | I | I  | The final master plans for the Delacombe (Ballarat) and Virginia Hill (Bendigo) estates have been progressed, with public release to occur in early 2023. The draft master plan for the Benalla site has been progressed, with public release to occur in early 2023.Business cases for Big Housing Build investments at the Delacombe (Ballarat) and Virginia Hill (Bendigo) sites have been advanced by Homes Victoria. Victim survivors and children affected by family violence are one of the priority cohorts who will be supported through these developments.  |
| Real Estate Revitalisation project: Agencies who already provide social housing will be collectively funded $9.6 million to provide an additional 84 units for women in non-metropolitan areas. | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020. |

##

## Legal assistance activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Legal assistance activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Review legal assistance recommendations from the Positive Interventions for Perpetrators of Adolescent Violence in the Home report, completed by Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) and Centre for Innovative Justice. | I | I | C | A preliminary review of the legal assistance recommendations within the Positive Interventions for Perpetrators of Adolescent Violence in the Home report has been undertaken. Recommendations related to legal assistance will be considered through the program of work led by the Department of Justice and Community Safety.  |
| Establish pathways for earlier legal assistance referrals. | D | D | C | A number of pathways for earlier legal assistance referrals have been established including the Pre- Court Engagement program, Health Justice Partnerships, Legal Services in The Orange Door, and the Specialist Family Violence Legal Practice Model (see ‘Health Justice Partnerships’ in main report for more details of these initiatives).  |
| Work with Victoria Legal Aid on the continued implementation and evaluation of Specialist Family Violence Courts legal practice model. | NA | I | C | Specialist family violence legal services are a core feature of Specialist Family Violence Courts. Significant work has been undertaken by Victorian Legal Aid, Community Legal Centres, Victoria Police and the courts to develop the Specialist Family Violence Court Legal Practice Model (the Model). The first five Specialist Family Violence Court locations have implemented the Model (Shepparton, Ballarat, Moorabbin, Heidelberg, and Frankston). |
| Working with legal services to ensure that training aligns with the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) where appropriate. While legal professionals are not prescribed under the MARAM Framework, the training is informed and guided by the MARAM principles. | D | D | I | Work with legal services is under way to align training with the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework. Evaluation of this training is continuing to ensure its usefulness. |
| Explore opportunities to continue Women’s Legal Service Victoria Safer Families program. | I | I | I | Women’s Legal Service Victoria continues to deliver the Safer Families program to Community Legal Centres. This professional development program supports community legal centre lawyers to provide effective advice and representation to clients experiencing family violence. |
| Commonwealth, States and Territories Attorneys-General embed family violence competency into Continuing Professional Development frameworks for legal practitioners across Australia. | I | I | I | Victoria has co-led an initiative with the Commonwealth, which aims to ensure family violence competency is embedded into continuing professional development frameworks for legal practitioners across Australia. This work will be further considered through the Commonwealth Family Violence Working Group which reports into the Standing Council of Attorneys-General. |
| Work continues between legal services and courts to pilot early referrals to legal services. | I | I | C | The Pre-Court Engagement project has been successfully established, with early referrals to legal services a key function. This is supported by the Family Violence Coordination Tool which facilitates real time information sharing between police, legal services, The Orange Door and courts, and streamlines administrative processes.  |
| Establish a statewide approach to the connection and coordination of legal services within The Orange Door network in every area. | NA | I | I | A significant amount of work has been progressed on this activity, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Community Safety and the legal sector. A pilot of the service model commenced in October 2022 at The Orange Door in Bayside Peninsula area. |
| Explore opportunities to expand school lawyer programs delivered by Community Legal Centres. These programs have a crime prevention focus and provide prevention and early intervention supports, including legal education on interacting with police and protective services officers, fines and consequences of getting a criminal record. | NA | I | C | The School Lawyer Program operates by embedding lawyers in schools to provide free, accessible and confidential legal assistance to students and to provide pragmatic legal education within these schools. Students accessing the School Lawyer Program who are victim survivors of family violence are offered practical family violence advice such as assistance with family violence intervention order applications and representation at court. |
| Work with Magistrates’ Court of Victoria, Victoria Police and Family Safety Victoria to explore broader referral options for perpetrator interventions. | D | D | O | The Victorian Legal Aid Duty Lawyer service continues to regularly refer respondents to Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs). Exploration of referral options for perpetrator interventions from legal settings is continuing. Victorian Legal Aid has partnered with No to Violence and Kids First Australia to provide tailored training on the interaction between legal services and MBCPs. This training has been provided to MBCP facilitators and participants, as well as lawyers. |
| Work with No To Violence men’s referral service, to establish referral pathways to legal services for men who use violence. | D | D | I | A Health Justice Partnership is being implemented by a community legal centre to increase referral options for perpetrators participating in Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs). Through the Health Justice Partnership, one-on-one support is provided to help respondents understand obligations under intervention orders, how certain behaviours will lead to a breach of their order and prepare them for possible future engagement in MBCP programs. |
| Increase legal assistance referral pathways for victim survivors. | D | D | I | The implementation of the Victims Legal Service, Pre-Court Engagement Pilot and the Legal Services in The Orange Door pilot has increased legal assistance referral pathways for victim survivors at various points within the family violence system. There is opportunity to explore additional pathways to support an increase in referral pathways for victim survivors in 2023.  |
| Develop resources for integrated service providers to increase legal referrals. | D | D | I | Further work will progress in 2023 to define the scope of integrated service providers. |
| Identify opportunities across the family violence, justice and legal assistance sectors to support improved identification of client legal risks and needs. | D | D | I | Training related to the identification of client legal risks has been planned into 2023. This includes a Victorian Legal Aid initiative to help identify migration, tenancy and infringement legal requirements where there are intersecting family violence legal needs, and the provision of foundational training to The Orange Door practitioners and legal services as part of the Legal Services in The Orange Door pilot, to better equip workers to identify clients' legal risks and needs. |
| The statewide approach to the connection and coordination of legal services is embedded across The Orange Door network. | NA | NA | I | Commencement of this activity is dependent on the completion of the legal services in The Orange Door 12-month pilot.  |
| Support Djirra to expand regional service delivery capacity. | D | D | O | In 2022, Djirra was able to enhance service delivery across metropolitan Melbourne and four new regional offices in Morwell, Echuca, Bendigo and Ballarat, bringing their total of regional offices to seven. Further consideration of broader regional expansion will occur in 2023. |
| Explore opportunities to build on the Victoria Legal Aid Legal Help Phoneline and Legal Help Chat. | D | D | I | The Victorian Legal Aid Legal Help Line and Webchat are providing legal guidance, information and referrals earlier and electronically, to support parties in feeling prepared and well informed for court. In the year to 30 June 2022, the Victorian Legal Aid Legal Help Line received over 9,000 calls. The Victorian Legal Aid Webchat has continued to provide clients with fast, easy to understand and secure legal support. |
| Explore opportunities to further embed and expand upon improved pathways from Victoria Legal Aid’s Legal Help to Duty Lawyer service for pre-court legal assistance. | D | D | C | The expansion of the Pre-Court Engagement and Resolution Program to more courts has provided greater access to pre-court assistance across the state including increased referral numbers from Victoria Legal Aid’s Legal Help to Duty Lawyer services. |
| Consider the benefits of complementing the Specialist Family Violence Courts model with remote service delivery and enhanced audiovisual link technology, the use of which has been accelerated during COVID-19. | I | I | C | The Magistrates’ Court of Victoria has designed the Remote Hearing Support Service and introduced the Online Magistrates’ Court to deliver a more efficient service. The Remote Hearing Support Service supports victim survivors to give evidence online from remote locations. The Online Magistrates’ Court has been implemented across all courts, enabling matters to be heard online with parties appearing from remote locations.  |
| Begin evaluation of options to continue the use of audiovisual link for remote service delivery at court locations. | I | I | C | This activity was completed through the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Criminal Procedure Disclosure and Other Matters) Act* *2022*, which enables the use of remote hearings in the context of family violence proceedings, and the expansion of the Remote Hearing Support Service to 10 non-court locations. |
| Develop cohort-specific responses for alternative engagements methods, e.g. digital platforms, online referral tools, telephone etc. | D | D | I | Interjurisdictional work has commenced to document what legal assistance is currently available to diverse cohorts. This will inform further work on the development of cohort-specific responses for alternative engagement methods, to commence in 2023 |
| Review and assess COVID-19 pre-court legal assistance initiatives implemented by the courts, providing information and referrals earlier and electronically. | I | I | C | An evaluation of Pre-Court Engagement and resolution service was completed in 2022. Pre-Court Engagement supports affected family members and respondents to access legal assistance to ensure they are better prepared and informed for the court hearing. This promotes informed decision making, improved risk management and oversight. |
| Consider options for expanding early engagement methods. | I | I | I | Initial planning has identified the need for interjurisdictional work on what is currently available in this space. This work will be prioritised in 2023. |
| Develop solutions to access to justice barriers, for example, perpetrators’ exploitation of legal processes, including deliberately creating conflict of interest issues to limit victim survivors’ access to legal assistance. | D | D | I | A sub-working group has been established to provide oversight and implement key access to justice issues, including an agreed pathway forward and policy solutions. The sub-working group has defined the scope of the work and undertaken problem identification to categorise a broad range of issues across the sector. Further work will continue into 2023 to focus on developing solutions to access to justice barrier issues.  |
| Identify avenues to better support access to legal assistance for children and young people. | D | D | I | Work has commenced to develop a program of work to improve the justice response to the use of family violence by adolescents, children and young people. |
| Establish stronger pathways between legal services and related supports, with attention to the importance of financial counsellors. | D | D | I | Two key pathways have been established:* Financial Counselling Services funded by Good Sheppard are co-located at Victorian Legal Aid (Bourke St) and provide email referrals, telephone conferences and in person consults one day a week.
* Consumer Affairs Victoria financial counsellors assess clients’ legal needs and identify appropriate services for referral.
 |
| Develop pre-separation legal information for victim survivors to ensure they are informed of their rights and responsibilities prior to making the decision to leave the relationship. | D | D | C | Pre-separation legal information has been embedded within the Victorian Legal Aid website, providing free, easily accessible information to support victim survivors in understanding their rights prior to leaving a relationship. Additionally, Victorian Legal Aid has launched the Screening, Triage and Referral Tool, which identifies a user’s legal needs (related to family law, family violence and child protection) and directs them to relevant legal information and referrals. The tool will be able to triage matters and suggest suitable legal services for users who may require tailored or urgent legal advice. |

## MARAM and information sharing activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **MARAM and information sharing activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Supplementary adolescents using family violence and comprehensive child risk and wellbeing MARAM practice guidance for release. | I | I | I | Commenced development of additional MARAM guidance and tools for working directly with children and young people to identify, assess and manage family violence risk and wellbeing. This includes development of a standalone children and young person practice guides and tools, anticipated for release in 2024. |
| MARAM annual reports tables in Parliament. | NA | I | O | Released the 2021-22 annual report on the implementation of the MARAM, which outlines the key activities and achievements of Victorian Government departments, sector peak bodies and prescribed organisations in aligning their policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools to MARAM. |
| Release of MARAM Practice Guides focused on how to respond to perpetrators of family violence (for practitioners outside specialist family violence perpetrator services). | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021.  |
| Release of MARAM practice guides focused on how to respond to perpetrators of family violence (for specialist services). | I | I | C | In February 2022, the perpetrator-focused MARAM practice guides and tools for specialist organisations who hold comprehensive level MARAM responsibilities were released. These practice guides and tools complement the set of perpetrator-focused MARAM resources released in July 2021 for non-specialist organisations. The guides strengthen the system’s capability to identify, assess, and manage family violence risk. |
| MARAM and FVISS 5-year review commences. | NA | NA | I | The role of the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor (FVRIM) in conducting the legislative review MARAM, Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and Central Information Point 5-year review commenced on 1 May 2022 and will conclude on 31-May-2023. The 5-year evidence base review is due for completion in December 2023. |
| Central Information Point 5-year review commences. | NA | NA | I | The role of the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor (FVRIM) in conducting the legislative review MARAM, Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and Central Information Point 5-year review commenced on 1 May 2022 and will conclude on 31-May-2023. The 5-year evidence base review is due for completion in December 2023. |
| MARAM and FVISS 5-year review scheduled for tabling in Parliament. | NA | NA | I | To meet requirements under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*, the Review will be tabled in Parliament by August 2023. |
| Central Information Point 5-year review scheduled for tabling in Parliament. | NA | NA | I | As above.  |

## Perpetrators and people who use violence activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Perpetrators and people who use violence activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Continue to deliver Operation Ribbon during the response to COVID-19 and the use of Specialist Family Violence Investigation Units to proactively monitor perpetrators associated with the highest risk victim survivors. | I | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Identify learnings about service adaptations made in response to COVID-19, including through the Department of Health and Human Services (now Department of Families, Fairness and Housing) rapid review of perpetrator interventions during COVID-19, to inform future service delivery approaches. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Support victim survivors to access justice and keep perpetrators in view during COVID-19, through operation of the Online Magistrates’ Court which hears family violence matters. | I | I | O | The transition to hearing matters online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic ensured continuing access to justice in relation to family violence matters. Further enhancements, such as the Remote Hearing Support Service continue to support family members affected by violence, providing greater agency regarding how they engage with court hearings. |
| Identify learnings and opportunities from implementation of initiatives that support perpetrators and people who use violence to access crisis accommodation and short-term interventions. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Addressing the men’s behaviour change backlog in Community Corrections through a combination of men's behaviour change programs and one-on-one case management. | I | I | O | Placements continue to be made for behaviour change interventions, with over 641 placements for Men’s Behaviour Change Programs and 203 Individual Case Management placements in Community Correctional Services in 2021-22.  |
| Consider options to address perpetrators’ use of coercive control. | I | I | C | Victoria contributed to the national principles on coercive control, which were endorsed in August 2022. The national principles will enable a high-level shared understanding of coercive control across jurisdictions. This will inform system responses to coercive control. |
| Consolidate the use of the redeveloped Courts Mandated Counselling Order Program across the courts, including Specialist Family Violence Courts. | I | I | O | The Court Mandated Counselling Order Program continued at the Specialist Family Violence Courts, keeping more respondents to family violence intervention orders accountable and supporting them to change their behaviour. Staff and judiciary at all new Specialist Family Violence Courts received training on the Courts Mandated Counselling Order Program, bringing the total to 12 sites that can order counselling. |
| Expand ‘Tuning into Respectful Relationships,’ a culturally inclusive program suitable for remand and short sentence prisoners, to seven additional prisons. | I | I | C | Tuning into Respectful Relationships, a culturally inclusive program suitable for remand and short sentence prisoners was expanded to nine additional prisons, with the program now available at 11 prisons. In 2021-22, Anglicare delivered over 40 programs to 206 participants including 148 men, 59 women, 2 transgender people and one gender-diverse person. |
| Consider whether family violence should be incorporated as a sentencing factor in the Sentencing Act 1991. | I | I | I | This proposal continues to be under active consideration by Government. |
| Explore options for earlier access to therapeutic programs for justice clients, including culturally appropriate programs for Aboriginal people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds. | I | I | O | Work is under way including the expansion of the Courts Mandated Counselling Order Program led by Courts Victoria and the high-risk perpetrator initiative led by Family Safety Victoria. In 2022:The Court Mandated Counselling Order Program continued at the Specialist Family Violence Courts, keeping more respondents to family violence intervention orders accountable and supporting them to change their behaviour.We designed the intensive interventions for high-risk perpetrators pilot service model (the serious-risk pilot) to increase the visibility of serious-risk perpetrators across the system and the coordination and management of responses. The pilot will provide a dedicated, coordinated response to serious-risk perpetrators and victim survivors impacted by their violence, including access to therapeutic services.  |
| Strengthen responses to perpetrators who commit multiple intervention order breaches. | I | I | I | This activity is under way.  |
| Review and expand justice interventions for perpetrators of family violence for whom a justice response is the only appropriate mechanism for managing risk. | I | I | I | The expansion of the Courts Mandated Counselling Order Program led by Courts Victoria and the High-risk Perpetrator Initiative Family Safety Victoria are developing meet the intent of this activity. In 2022: The Court Mandated Counselling Order Program continued at the Specialist Family Violence Courts, keeping more respondents to family violence intervention orders accountable and supporting them to change their behaviour.We designed the intensive interventions for high-risk perpetrators pilot service model (the serious-risk pilot) to increase the visibility of serious-risk perpetrators across the system and the coordination and management of responses. The pilot will provide a dedicated, coordinated response to serious-risk perpetrators and victim survivors impacted by their violence. |
| Ensure family violence offences are appropriately flagged on offenders’ criminal records and relevant IT systems. | I | I | I | A number of enhancements have been implemented to improve flagging of family violence related cases and links between Victoria Police, Courts and Corrections Victoria case management systems.A new Case Management System (CMS) is being developed for the Magistrates' Court of Victoria and the Children's Court of Victoria to strengthen and share appropriate information across the courts and key external parties including Victoria Police and Corrections. |
| Develop a theory of change and monitoring and evaluation framework for perpetrator interventions, aligned to the Family Violence Outcomes Framework and the Dhelk Dja Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan. | I | I | I | The development of a whole-of-Victorian Government theory of change and monitoring and evaluation framework for perpetrator interventions is under way. An evidence review has been completed which was used to inform the design of perpetrator interventions and perpetrator accountability policy. |
| Explore longer-term accommodation models for perpetrators and people who use violence, to keep them engaged and in view of the system and support victim survivors to remain safely in their own homes and communities. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Apply lessons from the evaluations of cohort- specific interventions and the broader evidence base, to inform ongoing improvement and future design and delivery of interventions for perpetrators and people who use violence. This includes people with multiple and complex needs, Aboriginal communities, people from culturally diverse communities and people who are LGBTIQ+. | NA | NA | I | This project is on track to be delivered by end 2023.Findings from evaluations of cohort-specific interventions along with the broader evidence base have informed:Development of the perpetrator-focused MARAM practice guides and tools.Design of the Medium-term Perpetrators Accommodation Service and serious-risk perpetrator program.  |
| Trial and evaluate a new perpetrator intervention program that addresses the complex interplay between family violence, alcohol and other drugs and/or mental health issues. The program will enable greater opportunity to tailor responses through integrated case management and counselling services for eligible court-mandated clients. | I | I | C | The Integrated Counselling and Case Management Program was trialled and evaluated at the Ballarat Specialist Family Violence Court. Lessons from the trial will inform future mandated counselling options. |
| Explore and implement, where appropriate, peer facilitations models for perpetrator interventions. These models involve people who have completed a program being trained in delivering the program and can be an effective way of encouraging behaviour change, as participants relate to the lived experience of the facilitator. These models can also provide employment opportunities for disadvantaged people and communities. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Continue Common Clients reform work This reform recognises that many perpetrators of family violence may interact with multiple services across mental health, drug and alcohol, child protection and the criminal justice system. It involves greater integration of these services to ensure that people with multiple and complex needs are supported in a more holistic way to avoid duplication of service delivery and ensure that the breadth of a person’s needs are met. | I | I | C | From June 2022, the Better, Connected Care reform (formerly Common Clients) has been operating statewide with the establishment of 17 Local Site Executive Committees. In 2022, Better, Connected Care also began testing new integrated, person-centred service models through the Putting Families First pilot. |
| Work with community to consider ways to document whole-of-family practice in working with people who use violence and develop holistic healing practice guidance and training for mainstream service providers, in line with Nargneit Birrang. | NA | D | I | This work is in progress, with actions in 2022 including:Djirra commenced exploratory work on women who use violence and work to support the development of an ‘Addressing Trauma and Healing Model.’Family Safety Victoria engaged Swinburne University of Technology and consortium partners, Uniting Victoria/Tasmania, and Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service to undertake development of non-accredited MARAM training for working with adults using family violence.Consultations and design activities have commenced for the development of the *Child and young person MARAM practice guides*.Aboriginal sexual assault support services trials have commenced with a focus on victim survivors with learnings to inform a whole of Victorian Government sexual assault strategy. |
| Deliver the Koori Cultural Safety Initiative, in collaboration with an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, to support mainstream Men’s Behaviour Change Program providers to deliver culturally safe and appropriate programs to court-ordered Aboriginal people who use violence. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| As part of risk-management practice improvement implement the perpetrator-focused MARAM practice guides for those who work with people who use violence. These guidelines support an intersectional, trauma-informed approach that responds to circumstances and needs to stabilise and increase motivation of perpetrators, building their capacity and readiness to change. | I | I | C | This work was completed with publication and commencement of the comprehensive Adults Using Violence MARAM Practice Guides in February 2022, to support specialist workforces responding to and working with perpetrators to identity and respond to coercive control, misidentification and manage risks of system abuse. As part of this work, the MARAM Predominant Aggressor Identification tool and practice guidance was launched to support professionals across the family violence system, including police, to accurately identify perpetrators of family violence who are claiming to be victims. |
| Implement the Everybody Matters: Inclusion and Equity Statement by developing the associated Inclusion and Equity Blueprints, which will include perpetrator intervention activities. | I | I | O | The *Everybody matters: inclusion and equity blueprint 2023–2025* has been developed and is planned for release in early 2023, along with the 10-Year Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. |
| Develop outcomes measures for the refreshed ‘perpetrator domain’ of the Family Violence Outcomes Framework. | I | I | D | Development of refreshed perpetrator domain measures will be aligned with broader work to review and improve use of the Family Violence Outcomes Framework. Family Safety Victoria has made good progress on client level outcomes measurement for perpetrator interventions including commencement of client outcomes measurement, using a structured, evidence-informed tool in the medium-term perpetrator accommodation service in 2021. |
| Build our understanding about perpetrator characteristics and service use by analysing existing data sources, and broadening the analysis with additional data sources, via the Family Violence Perpetrator Data Linkage Partnership Project. | I | I | O | The Crime Statistics Agency undertook research using linked data on service use of recorded family violence perpetrators and is exploring options for future use of this research. |
| Continue to strengthen and mature the collection and analysis of client and service use data, including waiting list data. | I | I | I | Collection of data for Men’s Behaviour Change Programs to monitor referrals, waitlist numbers and times across Victoria is continuing.  |
| Deliver a meta-evaluation for perpetrator interventions. | I | I | C | The report on the Review of Family Violence Perpetrator Interventions for Justice Clients has made a useful contribution to the design and delivery of perpetrator interventions, including the gaps in our response to perpetrators and people who use violence |
| Finalise and release the perpetrator-focused MARAM Practice Guides, tools and training. These resources will include a focus on:* trauma-informed practice
* working with fathers
* supporting culturally safe engagement
* risk factors and events that relate to a change or escalation in risk and situation- and time-based actions required in response
* system-level protocols that reinforce the MARAM Principles and Pillars, and support practitioners to understand their MARAM responsibilities and what these mean for their day-to-day practice.
 | I | I | C | This work was completed with publication and commencement of the comprehensive Adults Using Violence MARAM Practice Guides in February 2022, to support specialist workforces responding to and working with perpetrators to identity and respond to coercive control, misidentification and manage risks of system abuse. As part of this work, the MARAM Predominant Aggressor Identification tool and practice guidance was launched to support professionals across the family violence system, including police, to accurately identify perpetrators of family violence who are claiming to be victims.  |
| Align policies, practice, job descriptions, minimum standards and guidelines for perpetrator interventions with perpetrator-focused MARAM practice guidance. | NA | I | I | The comprehensive perpetrator-focused MARAM guidance and tools were finalised in February 2022. Following release, alignment work has been undertaken including implementation and planning activities, development of training to support the use of the new MARAM resources, updating perpetrator brokerage guidelines, and development of guidance for agencies providing post-participation services for men engaged in Men’s Behaviour Change Programs. Operational Guidance for The Orange Door network in relation to adults using family violence to align with the perpetrator-focused MARAM practice guidance is also under development.  |
| Develop and deliver accredited and non-accredited family violence prevention and response training to support the alignment of MARAM. | I | I | C | This work was completed in 2022. Example activities include:Family violence training and resources aligned to the MARAM Framework were developed for public maternity services.The *Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk* models *(22510VIC)* continue to be delivered through the TAFE and training system. This free TAFE course, targeted to broader universal services, delivers foundational family violence knowledge and skills to undertake MARAM screening and identification. |
| Implement mandatory minimum qualifications for specialist family violence practitioners, including men’s services (other than men’s behaviour change programs), with development and delivery of a vocational education and training Graduate Certificate in Family Violence as a minimum qualification option that provides training for working in the men’s services sector. | I | I | C | The Mandatory Minimum Qualifications Policy commenced in July 2021 and is in its five-year transition period. The policy states that new specialist family violence practitioners must hold a minimum of a social work degree or equivalent qualification or be working towards meeting these requirements via one of the available pathways. |
| Continued rollout of the attraction and recruitment campaign for specialist family violence and primary prevention roles, including professionals who work with perpetrators. This will include tailored messages and materials to attract students and graduates, people from Aboriginal, culturally diverse, LGBTIQ+ and rural and regional communities and people with disabilities. | NA | I | O | Attraction and recruitment campaigns for the specialist family violence and primary prevention sectors continue. Two family violence-specific campaigns were run in 2022. These focused on filling roles within The Orange Door (including men’s family violence roles) in June and a graduate program campaign to encourage graduates to take up a graduate role across the sector, including in perpetrator services.The Jobs that Matter campaign, which is a broader community services campaign, was launched in August and will continue to run on and off over the next few years.A suite of ‘Day in the Life of…’ videos showcasing specific roles in the sector, including perpetrator services were also developed. Once finalised, these will be shared across government, the sector and used in paid advertising.  |
| Explore opportunities to strengthen practice leadership to foster consistency, integration and safety in the delivery of perpetrator interventions and enhance workforce capability across the sector. | I | I | C | The Orange Door network has funded ongoing positions of Advanced Family Violence Practice Leader in each site across the state. This role supports integration, quality, consistency and drives best practice in relation to working with adults using family violence. To support the Practice Leaders, No To Violence has established a practice leadership forum for practitioners delivering the Medium-term Perpetrator Accommodation Service and has also been funded for a Practice Lead position to support MARAM sector implementation. |
| Perpetrator-focused MARAM practice guidance, tools and training to include time and situation-based actions required to respond to change/escalation in risk and opportunities to engage around behaviour change. | I | I | C | This was completed as part of the release of theperpetrator-focused Comprehensive MARAM Practice Guides and tools released in February 2022 |
| Continue to embed the family violence and child information sharing and MARAM reforms, with a view to the rollout of Phase 2, to commence in April 2021. | I | I | I | This work is continuing, with Family Safety Victoria working with government departments to monitor implementation plans.   Monitoring templates and proposals are being developed for stronger oversight, with active consideration to ongoing, sustainable support to service providers. |
| Identify barriers to risk coordination, local practices that are working well and opportunities to strengthen current approaches to improve perpetrator engagement and accountability. | I | I | I | Work is under way to design a new program that provides intensive interventions for serious-risk adults using family violence. Consultation on the preliminary service model has begun, including a proposal to strengthen cross-system coordination and collaboration. The Orange Door network is actively engaging with Victoria Police to strengthen the response to the misidentification of the predominant aggressor/perpetrator.Family Violence Regional Integrated Committees provide local support to agencies to strengthen MARAM collaborative practice. |

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## Primary prevention activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Primary prevention activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Gender Equality Act 2020* comes into effect to address gender inequality in Victorian public sector and local government workplaces. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021.  |
| First gender equality action plans due from required entities. The Plans will include strategies and measures to improve gender equality in each workplace, based on a gender audit of that workplace. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| *Free from violence second action plan* developed. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| *Free from violence second action plan* implemented. | NA | NA | I | The *Free from violence: second action plan 2022–2025* was released late 2021 and implementation is under way, with 47 of the 57 deliverables on track as of December 2022. In 2021-22, we funded 22 prevention programs under this plan, totalling 137 individual prevention initiatives. |
| Establish a new governance group to advise government, comprising key community organisations working in prevention of family violence. | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020.  |
| Prevention system architecture is strengthened – continuing to build and better coordinate statewide, regional and local grassroots activities and underpin work across a wider range of settings and sectors through sustained investment. | I | I | I | Initial consultation is under way to strengthen the prevention system architecture and improve coordination and planning. Progress towards building a coordinated prevention system includes: the strategic framework for workforce development (*Family violence industry plan*), new governance forums for the Victorian Government to work closely with the sector, continued investment in regional and local level leadership and partnership through Women's Health Services, and development of a primary prevention model for local government. |
| Community organisations targeting men and boys delivering grassroots programs that are designed to promote healthier masculinities, gender equality, building relationship skills, and social connections. | I | I | I | In partnership with Jesuit Social Services, an early intervention project targeting at-risk boys and young men is under development. The project will be delivered in a range of settings including non-mainstream schools, youth centres, residential settings, and community recreational settings from 2023. |
| Local government whole-of-setting primary prevention model developed, providing evidence- based guidance to councils on how to embed prevention in the range of services they deliver and through leadership in the community. | I | I | I | The *Local government guide to preventing family violence and all forms of violence against women* is in the final stages of consultation and is due to be released by January 2023. The guide was developed in consultation with Victorian councils and key stakeholders. An accompanying grant program, the Free from Violence Local Government Grant Program 2022–2025 was launched in April 2022. This program provides funding to 15 regional, rural, and metro councils to implement the guide in their workplaces and services. |
| First phase of up to 15 councils selected to implement the local government primary prevention model. | I | I | I | The Free from Violence Local Government Grant Program 2022–2025 supports the *Local government guide to preventing family violence and all forms of violence against women* model (above activity) and was launched in April 2022. 15 councils from regional, rural and metropolitan Melbourne have been funded to implement the model in their workplaces and deliver a range of activities to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.  |
| All government schools are signed onto Respectful Relationships. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Develop TAFE whole of institution prevention model to support TAFEs to build an environment where staff and students feel safe, respected and valued, including tools, resources and evaluation report. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Develop strategic partnership arrangements between Respect Victoria and key bodies in and across multiple sectors to extend and embed primary prevention efforts in the Victorian community. | NA | I | I | Respect Victoria is establishing a multi-partner alliance that will act as a leadership and coordination body to support delivery of evidence-based prevention practice across Victoria. The alliance will bring together key organisations to focus on strengthening the prevention system and support evidence-based practice across settings/sectors.  |
| Support local, regional and sector partnerships, including those led by Women’s Health Services, to drive collective community action on prevention. | I | I | I | There are two key programs progressing this work:The 2022 Grassroots initiative, led by Safe and Equal, aims to connect and build capacity in community organisations and local councils to engage with the Respect Women campaign. In 2022, 67 grants ($1,500) and 14 consortium grants ($5,000) were awarded, with 10% of the $1,500 grants allocated to Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations. The Victorian Government provided $9.1 million towards the Women's Health Services Capacity Building Program, including $4.3 million from the *State Budget 2022–23* and multi-year funding. The funding will enable Women's Health Services to strengthen local, regional and sector partnerships, a key pillar of the prevention system. Multi-year funding also enables Women's Health Services to provide longer-term job security for primary prevention specialist workers. |
| Grant funding to ethno-specific, multicultural and faith-based organisations to design and deliver family violence prevention and early intervention activities, delivering on a $9.7 million commitment over four years in the *State Budget 2020–21*. | NA | I | I | Through the ‘Supporting Multicultural and Faith Communities to Prevent Family Violence’ grant program, 33 funded organisations successfully completed their first year of implementation. A suite of awareness raising and early intervention projects were delivered to over 27 multicultural communities and five faith groups across all Melbourne metropolitan regions and regional/rural areas of Victoria including Geelong, Shepparton, Wodonga, and Loddon Mallee region. |
| Finalise a medium-term primary prevention campaign strategy. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Deliver a portfolio of campaigns for all Victorians, including culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal Victorians. | I | I | I | Respect Victoria ran 2022 campaigns including:* The Pride, Respect, Equality (LGBTIQ+) campaign in February/March 2022, which was seen by 2.52 million Victorians.
* Respect Women: 'Call It Out' (Respect Is) campaign for 16 Days of Activism was launched on 30 October 2022 and concluded on 11 December 2022.
* The Respect Older People campaign in May/June 2022

Additional campaign scoping work will be undertaken across 2022/23 and will include intersectional and diverse representation. |
| A plan for supporting the current and growing primary prevention workforce is developed in consultation with stakeholders, including ways to engage with broader workforces to help in prevention efforts. This plan will complement the Industry Plan for workforce development. | I | I | I | A plan for supporting the development of the primary prevention workforce will be integrated with the Family Violence Industry Plan Second Rolling Action Plan, rather than as standalone document. Findings from Respect Victoria’s Three-year Report to Parliament, the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor’s Primary Prevention System Architecture Report, and the Primary Prevention Strategic Workforce Approach project commissioned by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, will inform the Family Violence Industry Plan Second Rolling Action Plan. |
| Work with the emergency management sector to embed a framework for planning for primary prevention of family violence in diverse communities in disaster management training to ensure preparedness and build capacity. | I | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Produce resources to assist the primary prevention sector to better monitor and proactively plan for response to potential ‘backlash’ and ‘resistance' (ranging from denial, inaction to more aggressive opposition) to gender equality and to challenge violence- supportive attitudes (in conjunction with Our Watch). | I | I | C | The 'Understanding, monitoring and responding to resistance and backlash' report was published on Respect Victoria's website in August 2022. The report seeks to advance our understanding of this issue and define practical approaches to monitoring, assessing and responding to backlash and resistance that emerges in organisational settings.The report will be used to inform the development of Respect Victoria's program design and delivery standards (formerly referred to as the 'Assessment and Endorsement Model') to ensure planning for backlash and resistance is embedded as part of program design and delivery. |
| Primary Prevention Research Agenda established.  | I | I | C | This activity has been amended (and will not be delivered as a standalone research agenda), as the Victorian Government released the *Family violence research agenda 2021–2024* in February 2022, which includes ‘prevention’ as one of its priorities. Respect Victoria progressed several primary prevention research projects under the research agenda in 2022.  |
| Respect Victoria primary prevention research forums held. | I | I | O | In March 2022, Respect Victoria facilitated a research forum as part of the series ‘Building the evidence to stop violence before it starts’. The *No more excuses* report was released following this forum. The report explores the extent and nature of violence against women with disability in Australia, and what works to prevent it from happening in the first place. |
| Scale up community-based primary prevention activity with LGBTIQ+ communities and prevention organisations to continue to build evidence of what works. | I | I | I | Rainbow Health Australia (RHA) is leading community-led initiatives to prevent family violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ communities through the LGBTIQ+ Family Violence Primary Prevention Project, funded by the Victorian Government. In 2022, RHA developed and published a new LGBTIQ+ prevention resource - Pride in Prevention Partnership Guide: a guide to primary prevention of family violence experienced by LGBTIQ+ communities. RHA works with Safe and Equal to roll out the training modules to support the workforces in the LGBTIQ+ sector and primary prevention sector to prevent family violence against LGBTIQ+ people. |
| Respect Victoria will develop a Theory of Change, describing how changes to attitudes, behaviours and social norms will happen in the short, medium and long term to reduce and prevent family violence and violence against women. This will support well targeted approaches to the prevention of all forms of family violence, building on *Change the Story*, which is focused on the prevention of men’s violence against women. | I | I | I | Respect Victoria is leading work to develop a system-wide Theory of Change that will link short- and medium-term outcomes with longer-term impact, detailing the conditions and assumptions required to sustain that change. This work is planned to be finalised in 2023. |
| Launch the Prevention of Family Violence Data Platform, developed by Respect Victoria and the Crime Statistics Agency. | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Prevention of Family Violence Primary Prevention Data Platform: Build on initial datasets and support effective use of the platform. | I | I | O | Annual updates have been completed for the 2021-22 financial year. Twelve existing datasets were updated, with three new data sources added. |
| Deliver *Free from violence monitoring and evaluation strategic framework* for primary prevention, and commence implementation. | I | I | I | Respect Victoria delivered the Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit in 2022, which helps primary prevention practitioners to monitor and evaluate projects, including those funded under *Free from violence*. Work on the thematic evaluation and theory of change are under way, and expected to be delivered in early 2023. |
| Deliver the first three-yearly report on progress in primary prevention to Parliament under the Prevention of Family Violence Act 2018. | NA | I | C | Respect Victoria's first Three-yearly Report to Parliament, *Progress on Preventing Family Violence and Violence Against Women in Victoria* was tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 21 September 2022 and shared with a range of sector and government stakeholders. |
| Develop standards for program design and delivery, and promote their uptake across settings and sectors. | I | I | I | Scoping work for this activity is due to commence in early 2023. The scope of this work will be around standards to support the effective design and delivery of prevention programs, which can also be used to support government funding decisions. |

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## Research and evaluation activities

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |

| **Research and evaluation activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Publish the first Family Violence Outcomes Framework report, with yearly reporting. Thereafter, the department will lead this activity, supported by relevant government entities. | NA | I | O | Reporting on the Family Violence Outcomes Framework was first published in the 2021 Ending family violence annual report and will be updated annually. |
| Refine the Family Violence Outcomes Framework, including the development of further measures across all domains. | I | I | O | Work is underway to refine the Family Violence Outcomes Framework. This year, four new measures were added to the Ending Family Violence Report.  |
| Develop and implement client outcomes measurement and monitoring for family violence therapeutic interventions. | NA | I | I | A set of ‘core’ pilot questions have been developed to measure client outcomes for family violence therapeutic interventions as well as a “bank” of draft questions. Work is under way to explore further opportunities to implement client outcomes measurement and monitoring across specialist family violence services.  |
| Develop and implement client outcomes measurement and monitoring for family violence therapeutic interventions and perpetrator interventions. | NA | I | I | Good progress has been made on client level outcomes measurement for perpetrator interventions. Family Safety Victoria commenced client outcomes measurement in 2021, using a structured, evidence-informed tool in the medium-term perpetrator accommodation service. This outcomes tool was reviewed and adjusted in 2022. Implementation of outcomes measurement across men’s behaviour change programs and other perpetrator services is planned to commence from 2023. |
| Deliver a whole of Victorian Government family violence research agenda. | I | I | C | Victoria’s Family Violence Research Agenda 2021-2024 was released in February 2022.  |
| Develop a Victorian Family Violence Research Program that complements and builds on existing research activities across government, universities and the sector FSV is leading this activity, supported by relevant government entities. | I | I | C | Through Phase 1 of the Family Violence Research Grants Program, funding was provided to 13 initiatives across seven subject areas:* Children and young people as victim survivors in their own right
* Family violence as experienced by Aboriginal people and communities
* Family violence as experienced by people from diverse communities
* Sexual violence and harm
* Adolescent family violence
* Perpetrators and people who use violence
* System lens

The Research will be used to support practice improvement, service innovation, better policy outcomes and long-lasting change for both victim survivors and those who use violence. |
| Completion of the Harmony Study, a partnership between Latrobe University and inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, that is working with primary care clinicians to increase identification and early intervention for family violence among migrant and refugee communities. | I | I | C | The Harmony Study was completed in June 2022. The study was a partnership between Latrobe University and inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence working with primary care clinicians to increase identification and early intervention for family violence among migrant and refugee communities. |
| **Targeted research projects on COVID-19 and family violence in Victoria including:**– Family Safety Victoria is commissioning research to better understand the impact of the pandemic on family violence presentation, risk, intensity and responses, including the effectiveness of service changes during COVID-19. | I | I | C | We established two research collaborations that delivered important insights into how the COVID-19 pandemic affected family violence and associated service responses in Victoria and how we can strengthen future responses. The projects are:* *Future-proofing safety: surfacing inequity and building service capacity for crisis-ready responses*. This study uses a system lens to understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on family violence and sector responses. It was delivered by the [Centre for Family Research and Evaluation](https://cfre.org.au/future-proofing-safety/) <https://cfre.org.au/future-proofing-safety/> at Drummond Street Services, RMIT University for Centre for Innovative Justice and the Australian Institute of Family Studies.
* *Responsive pandemic practice: LGBTIQ+ family violence service innovation in Victoria during COVID-19.* This was delivered by the Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society based at Latrobe University and Thorne Harbour Health.
 |
| **Targeted research projects on COVID-19 and family violence in Victoria including:**– Respect Victoria is commissioning research to better understand the impact of the pandemic on key populations, and on the work, support and resourcing requirements of primary prevention practitioners.These research projects include a procurement approach that encourages collaboration and multidisciplinary research practice across government, academia and the service sector. | I | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Systematic review of published literature on family violence program and initiative effectiveness. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Progress research under the primary prevention research agenda to build a more comprehensive understanding of the intersectional drivers and contributing factors of family violence for diverse and priority populations, and of effective approaches to primary prevention across a variety of sectors and settings. | I | I | C | Primary prevention of family violence and violence against women is a priority under the Family Violence Research Agenda. Under the Research Agenda, Respect Victoria progressed the following research projects:* The [*No More Excuses report*](https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/no-more-excuses-primary-prevention-violence-against-women-disability) <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/no-more-excuses-primary-prevention-violence-against-women-disability> was launched in March 2022. The report explores the extent and nature of violence against women with disability in Australia, and 'what works' to prevent it from happening in the first place.
* The Aboriginal Family Violence Primary Prevention Research Project is being implemented by Urbis Consulting in partnership with Yorta Yorta researcher and community development expert Karen Milward.
* Work progressed on the Migrant and Refugee Women and Girls Research Project.
* The Evidence Synthesis Review Project provided thematic reviews of evidence designed to understand the similarities and differences in what drives different forms of family violence and violence against women.
 |
| Continue to support and work with Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety Limited (ANROWS) through to the end of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022. | I | I | C | Base funding was provided to Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) through to the end of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2010-2022. |
| Evaluation of the Safer Stronger Communities pilot. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Complete mid-term review of *Free from violence strategy*. | NA | I | C | The midterm review of the *Free from violence strategy: first action plan* was delivered by Respect Victoria in July 2022. The midterm review evaluated the collective work delivered, including program implementation across the five priority areas.  |
| Evaluation report: Maternal and Child Health Family Violence Initiatives. | I | I | C | An evaluation of the implementation of the maternal child health family violence initiatives was completed in October 2022. The report details strengths of the maternal child health family violence initiatives. It also reports on enablers for good service delivery and positive outcomes for families, as well as challenges and barriers to these. |
| Evaluation of the Risk Assessment and Management Panels. | NA | I | C | An evaluation of the Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPs) was completed in August 2022. A set of themed recommendations and next steps from the Final Report will inform future directions of RAMPs. |
| Evaluation of Rainbow Tick and HOW2 program. | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Multicultural COVID-19 Family Violence program evaluation. | NA | I | I | A process and outcome evaluation of the implementation of the Multicultural COVID-19 Family Violence program was undertaken, which included measurement of short-term outcomes. The evaluation is planned for release in mid-2023.  |
| Aboriginal-led evaluation of capacity- building for the Preventing the Cycle of Violence Aboriginal Fund and the Aboriginal Community Initiatives Fund. | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Implementation of the Dhelk Dja Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan. | I | I | C | The [Dhelk Dja Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan](https://www.vic.gov.au/dhelk-dja-monitoring-evaluation-and-accountability-plan) was implemented <https://www.vic.gov.au/dhelk-dja-monitoring-evaluation-and-accountability-plan>. The Plan was prepared by the Dhelk Dja Partnership Forum to accompany *Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way – Strong Cultures, Strong Peoples, Strong Families*.  |
| Develop a 10-year Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the Everybody Matters, Inclusion and Equity Statement. | NA | I | I | A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Everybody Matters, Inclusion and Equity Statement has been developed. The Monitoring Framework provides three, six and ten-year outcomes, to align with each of the three blueprints and will be published alongside the Second Blueprint in early 2023. |
| Complete evaluation of selected activities within Strengthening the Foundations. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Completion of the Building Family Violence Evaluation Capacity Project. | I | I | I | An evaluation plan for the legal services in The Orange Door network pilot was completed in 2022. A process evaluation will commence in 2023.  |
| Consider ways to share evaluation capability uplift resources with the broader family violence sector. | I | I | O | A range of evaluation capability uplift resources and programs have been developed. These include engaging in webinars, presenting new research and the development of consultation guidelines on incorporating lived experience into family violence program evaluation. |
| Develop consultation guidelines on incorporating lived experience into family violence program evaluations. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Routine reporting on key family violence data. | I | I | O | The Family Violence Data Portal continues to be updated every quarter. Since its creation, there have been several modifications to include new data items. Sexual violence related data was added for the first time on 1 December 2021. |
| Incorporation of sexual assault data into the Family Violence Data Portal. | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Develop and implement Family Violence and Sexual Assault Data Dictionary to establish data standards and improve data quality, including for key cohorts and diverse communities. | I | I | D | A data dictionary has been prepared for The Orange Door CRM. Further work is planned to finalise the broader elements of the dictionary. This additional work delayed due to reallocation of resources during COVID-19. |

##

## The Orange Door network activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| The Orange Door network activities | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | 2022 progress update |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Orange Door in Loddon commences. | C | NA | NA | This activity was completed in 2020. |
| The Orange Door network implementation plan released. | NA | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Commence operations in Goulburn, Melbourne’s South and Inner-East, Ovens Murray, Wimmera South-West, Hume Moreland, Outer Gippsland. | NA | I | C | Five new The Orange Doors sites were opened in Brimbank Melton, Wimmera, Outer Eastern Melbourne, Hume Moreland and Western Melbourne (Werribee). This completed the statewide Orange Door network across Victoria in all 17 DFFH Areas. |
| The Orange Door operational in all areas statewide. | NA | NA | C | The Orange Door network became operational statewide in 2022. |
| Commence implementation of the Aboriginal Inclusion Action Plan. | I | I | C | Implementation of the Aboriginal Inclusion Action Plan commenced. The Action Plan is a 3-year plan to embed inclusion, access and equity in The Orange Door. |
| Commence strengthening cultural safety, including cultural safety training, in The Orange Door network. | I | I | C | The Strengthening Cultural Safety Training Program was implemented in all The Orange Door locations where there is a partnership in place with a local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. The program encourages employment of Cultural Safety Project Leaders to facilitate cultural safety self-assessments and action planning. It also includes foundational training to The Orange Door staff.  |
| Plan developed for the transition of The Orange Door network to deliver the full statewide concept. | NA | I | I | Significant progress was made in 2022 to develop the full statewide concept for The Orange Door.  |
| Development of agreed and consistent service connections with legal, housing and homelessness and financial services. | I | I | I | Service connections with legal services is completed. There have been delays in relation to housing and homelessness services due to resourcing and competing priorities. |
| The Orange Door partnership performance Framework finalised and implemented and commence monitoring against The Framework | I | I | C | The first phase of The Orange Door performance framework was finalised and monitoring has commenced. |
| Statewide Demand Management approach finalised. | I | I | I | The Orange Door Demand Management strategy will be refreshed in early 2023 to reflect best practice approaches across Victoria. The refresh will contribute to building an intersecting family violence and children and families demand management framework.  |
| Data Strategy for The Orange Door network completed. | I | I | I | The Data Strategy is expected to be completed by June 2023.  |
| Ongoing upgrades to Client Relationship Management system. | I | I | I | Enhancements are being designed and implemented in line with operational and strategic priorities, focused on improved usability of the system and improved collection of quality data.  |
| Commence implementation of the Inclusion Action Plan. | I | I | I | The Orange Door network is being supported to implement the Inclusion Action Plan, which sets out how The Orange Door network will ensure services are accessible for all clients and offer supports tailored to individual needs and experiences. With statewide establishment of The Orange Door network, ongoing implementation of the *Inclusion action plan* will continue to support the network in responding to Victorian communities and meeting diverse cultural and social needs. |
| Refresh of induction training completed. | NA | I | C | Induction training has been refreshed. The new ‘working with clients’ package has been created and is being piloted for full delivery in 2023. |
| Second evaluation of The Orange Door completed. | I | I | I | As part of the implementation of the Lived Experience Strategy, Family Safety Victoria commenced the second evaluation of The Orange Door network. The evaluation considered client experience of The Orange Door and was designed and delivered in collaboration with peer evaluators who have lived experience of family violence or the child and family services system. The evaluation is due to be delivered in October 2023. |
| Revised Interim Integrated Practice Framework completed. | I | I | I | The review of the integrated practice framework has commenced, with foundational scoping complete and consultation with the Victim Survivors Advisory Council (VSAC) undertaken. Peak organisations have been engaged to undertake work to inform the review of the framework and guidance, identifying good practice in integrated/multidisciplinary approaches.  |
| Consistent approach to assessment of children and young people established. | I | I | C | A new child wellbeing assessment tool has undergone consultation with The Orange Door practice leads (including Aboriginal Leads) and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. The tool is now in final draft stage. It will be tested by The Orange Door in early 2023 and completed alongside practice guidance and guidelines for Engaging with Children and Young Persons for released by June 2023. |
| Work with the sector to develop practice development support and training activities. | D | D | C | Specialist training was revised to better link training to working within The Orange Door context, including alignment to integrated practice. The training supports increased capabilities of staff to work towards common client goals, as they commence working in The Orange Door. |
| Third evaluation of The Orange Door commences. | NA | NA | I | This work is in early planning stages. |

##

## Workforce development activities

| In progress (I) | Delayed (D) | Complete (C) | Ongoing (O) | Not applicable (NA) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| **Workforce development activities** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2022 progress update** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Accredited family violence prevention and response courses for the specialist family violence workforce and broader workforces that intersect with family violence:* identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk is delivered
* intermediate Risk Assessment and Management of Family Violence Risk is delivered
* comprehensive Risk Assessment and Management course to be developed
* primary Prevention Contributors and Practitioners courses to be developed.
 | I | I | I | In 2022, over 1,700 individuals completed the Course in Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk (22510VIC) delivered through the TAFE and training system. This builds on more than 500 people who completed the training in the previous year. The course is targeted to broader universal services workers.  |
| Minimum qualifications introduced for the Specialist Family Violence Response workforce:* begin five-year transition period for existing specialist family violence workforce to upskill where required
* support officer and grants available to support transition
* Pathway Graduate Certificate course developed to provide a training-based pathway to minimum qualifications with delivery to commence in 2024.
 | NA | I | I | In July 2021, the Mandatory Minimum Qualifications Policy commenced with a five-year transition period. Under the policy, new specialist family violence practitioners must hold a minimum of a social work degree or equivalent qualification or be working towards meeting these requirements via one of the available pathways. Almost $2 million in adjustment funding was distributed across 78 organisations. In partnership with 22 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, the Victorian Government delivered a Scholarship Program for 33 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees to support their education and training needs to meet the Mandatory Minimum Qualifications Policy.  |
| Fast Track Professional Development Program to support the rapid development of practitioners in prevention and response roles:* early 2021 – delivery of first round of prevention and response programs
* mid-late 2021 – delivery of second round of prevention and response programs
* mid-2022 – delivery of third round of prevention and response programs, and program continues.
 | NA | I | O | We delivered the Fast Track Program, supporting 127 mid-career and senior practitioners in 2021-22 to develop skills and capabilities in family violence prevention and response. This program is continuing as part of the Commonwealth National Partnerships Agreement, aiming to reach up to 177 further participants by June 2024.  |
| Building the family violence and sexual assault workforce by supporting training pathways with funding to support up to 240 traineeships across the state. | I | I | I | The Family Violence and Sexual Assault Traineeships Program was established, with 312 trainee places funded across 31 family violence, sexual assault, primary prevention and community services organisations to support workers at any career stage undertake further education and training while working. |
| Analysis of 2019 Workforces Census* 2020 – publication of census findings for primary prevention workforce
* 2021 – publication of census findings for specialist and broader workforces.
 | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021.  |
| Deliver a new Best Practice Education model that:* provides an evidence base to inform the delivery of high-quality family violence accredited training
* supports expert-informed high-quality and safe training practices
* provides professional development for existing trainers
* supports the growth in supply of trainers across the TAFE system developed in collaboration with the family violence sector and Aboriginal workforce experts, ensuring Aboriginal cultural safety and contemporary family violence expertise sits at the heart of accredited family violence training.
 | C | C | NA | This activity was completed in 2021. |
| Job role design:* undertake research in job role design in the specialist sectors
* develop options for current and future system requirements.

The research may inform a range of products that support future specialist family violence job-role enhancements. Insights will be critical to informing innovative approaches to organisational performance in the specialist family violence sector, potentially providing the basis for: workforce planning, organisation design, health, safety and wellbeing, and career and succession.  | I | I | C | This work is in its final stages of completion with a range of products developed including:* Workforce Forecast Model
* Core Functions Framework
* Future Directions Report – identifying areas and actions for workforce development
* data collection on the current state of the workforce via Workforce Pulse Survey.
 |
| Prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of the workforce and develop the Family Violence Health, Safety and Wellbeing program. This program is for specialist family violence organisations to provide positive and supportive work environments. | I | I | I | The [*Family violence workforce health, safety and wellbeing guide*](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-workforce-wellbeing-guide) <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-workforce-wellbeing-guide> was published in July 2022. The guide provides evidence-based tools and guidance that recognise the health, safety and wellbeing impacts experienced by the family violence workforce. It supports promoting and protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of employees in the workplace and enables practitioners and organisations to become advocates for workplace health, safety and wellbeing. |
| Implement the monitoring and evaluation framework for Strengthening the Foundations. | I | I | C | This activity was completed in 2022 with delivery of final report on the evaluation of key reforms under *Strengthening the foundations:* *first* *rolling action plan under the 10-year family violence industry plan*). |

# Appendix B: Explanatory notes

## Domain 1: Prevention, Family violence and gender inequality are not tolerated

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors change in Victorians attitudes and beliefs that reject gender inequality and family violence

#### Measure: Victorian mean score on the Understanding of Violence Against Women Scale (UVAWS)

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Increased awareness of what constitutes violence |
| Source  | National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS), 2021 |
| Definition  | Numerator – Mean composite scores for Victorian population, generated from a range of questions about respondents’ understanding of different forms of violence against women (physical and non-physical).Denominator – UVAWS maximum score of 100 (100 representing the highest level of understanding of violence against women, i.e. a higher score is more desirable). |
| Time period  | Data captures survey results from 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2021. |
| Data details  | The NCAS asks a representative sample of the Australian population aged 16 years and over a range of questions which generate information on community attitudes towards violence against women and its drivers (gender inequality and other forms of discrimination). The UVAWS is a composite measure generated from respondents’ answers to a range of statements about the multiple forms of violence against women. |
| Data quality and caveats  | The data is the Victorian population sample. In 2021, 6,143 Victorians took part in the survey. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Partial data is included in this report. The full set of ideal measures against the indicator (‘Increased awareness of what constitutes violence’) would seek to measure understanding of all forms of violence against women and family violence; the UVAWS focuses on understanding of violence against women. However, it is a reliable and comprehensive measure of understanding what constitutes violence against women. |

#### Measure: Victorian mean score on the Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Scale (AVAWS)

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Decrease in attitudes that justify, excuse, minimise, hide or shift blame for violence |
| Source  | National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS), 2021 |
| Definition  | Numerator – Mean composite scores for Victorian population, generated from a range of questions about respondents’ attitudes that are supportive of violence against women against three themes: minimising violence against women and shifting blame, mistrust of women’s reports of violence and objectifying women or disregarding the need for consent. Denominator – AVAWS maximum score of 100 (100 representing the highest rejection of violence against women, i.e. a higher score is more desirable). |
| Time period  | Data captures survey results from 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2021. |
| Data details  | The NCAS asks a representative sample of the Australian population aged 16 years and over a range of questions that generate information on community attitudes towards violence against women and its drivers (gender inequality and other forms of discrimination). The AVAWS is a composite measure generated from respondents’ answers to a range of statements focused on problematic attitudes towards violence against women.  |
| Data quality and caveats  | The data presented is the Victorian population sample. In 2021, 6,143 Victorians took part in the survey. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Partial data is included in this report. The full set of ideal measures against the indicator (‘Increased awareness of what constitutes violence’) would seek to measure support for all forms of violence against women and family violence; the AVAWS focuses on understanding of violence against women rather than other forms of family violence. However, it is a reliable and comprehensive measure of community attitudes supportive of violence against women.  |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors change in Victorians actively challenging attitudes and behaviours that enable violence

#### Measure: Victorian mean score on the Attitudes towards Gender Inequality Scale (AGIS) Scale

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Decrease in sexist and discriminatory attitudes and behaviours |
| Source  | National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS), 2021 |
| Definition  | Numerator – Mean composite scores for overall Victorian population, generated from a range of questions about respondents’ problematic attitudes towards gender inequality against the following themes: reinforcing rigid gender roles, undermining women’s leadership, limiting women’s autonomy, normalising sexism and denying gender inequality is a problem.Denominator – AGIS maximum score of 100 (100 representing the highest level of attitudinal rejection of gender inequality, i.e. a higher score is more desirable). |
| Time period  | Data captures survey results from 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2021. |
| Data details  | The NCAS asks a representative sample of the Australian population aged 16 years and over a range of questions that generate information on community attitudes towards violence against women and its drivers (gender inequality and other forms of discrimination). The AGIS is a composite measure generated from respondents’ answers to a range of statements focused on views about gender inequality. |
| Data quality and caveats  | The data presented is the Victorian population sample.In 2021, 6,143 Victorians took part in the survey. |
| Full / Partial / Proxy / Ideal  | Partial data is included in this report. The full set of ideal measures against the relevant indicator (‘Decrease in sexist and discriminatory attitudes’) would seek to measure community attitudes with regards to broader sexist views other forms of discrimination. However, the AGIS is a reliable and comprehensive measure of community attitudinal rejection of gender inequality, and the particular themes examined align with the drivers of violence against women as articulated in Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of women and their children (Our Watch, 2015).  |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors change in how Victorians live and practise confident and respectful relationships

#### Measure: Proportion of Victorian women aged 18 years and over who have experienced sexual harassment (in any setting) in the last 12 months

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Decrease in prevalence of reported workplace and everyday sexism, sexual harassment and gender discrimination |
| Source  | Personal Safety Survey (PSS), ABS |
| Definition  | Numerator – Victorian women aged 18 years and over who have experienced one or more incidences of sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey.Denominator – Victorian female population aged 18 years and over. |
| Time period  | Data captures survey results from 2005, 2012, 2016, and 2021–22. |
| Data details  | The PSS asks a representative sample of the Australian population aged 18 years and over a range of questions focused on safety and experiences of different forms of violence. In the PSS, sexual harassment can occur in any setting (including but not limited to the workplace). In this instrument, sexual harassment ‘is considered to have occurred when a person has experienced or been subject to behaviours which made them feel uncomfortable and were offensive due to their sexual nature.’ Note sexual assault is measured separately in the PSS.  |
| Data quality and caveats  | The data is the Victorian population sample. New sexual harassment behaviours were added into the 2016 PSS in order to accurately capture emerging trends in experiences of sexual harassment (such as the use of information and communications technology). Although these behaviours may have previously been reported within other categories, this should be considered when comparing sexual harassment prevalence rates between the 2012 and 2016 cycles. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Partial data is included in this report. The full set of ideal measures against the relevant indicator (‘Decrease in the prevalence of reported sexism, sexual harassment and gendered bullying’) would seek to measure the extent of people’s experiences of not only sexual harassment, but sexism and gendered bullying. However, this measure is a reliable measure of the prevalence of recent experiences of sexual harassment. |

## Domain 2: Victim survivors, vulnerable children and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors the system’s ability to keep families safe and strong

#### Measure: Number/proportion of unique affected family members who are children

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Reduction in children and young people who experience family violence |
| Source  | Data in this measure comes from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) data collected by the Crime Statistics Agency. |
| Definition  | Numerator – Number of unique affected family members identified in L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Reports who experienced at least one family violence incident within a year, and who were 17 years old or younger.Denominator – Number of unique affected family members identified in L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Reports who experienced at least one family violence incident.  |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.  |
| Data details  | Children are classified as people aged 0–17 years. Number of incidents counts the number of incidents recorded within one financial year. These tables include all affected family members within a family incident. Where a family incident involves multiple affected family members, this will be represented in the data multiple times.Data was extracted from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) on 18 July 2022 and is subject to change.For information contained within these data tables concerning age, individuals with a recorded age > 110 were classified as age unknown.Data.This data is disaggregated by recorded Aboriginal status.Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status for affected family members and other parties are based on the most frequent recording of the Indigenous status. Under this counting rule, a person has either a yes or no response to the Standard Indigenous Question (SIQ) on their record, then the most frequent recorded response is taken as correct. If the person only has one meaningful response, then that response stands across all records. If a person appears in the dataset two different times with a ‘yes’ and a ‘no’ in the records, a ‘yes’ response is taken over a ‘no’ response. For the purposes of the presentation of these data the term Aboriginal refers to the most frequent response a person has provided to Victoria Police when the SIQ was asked (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status). |
| Data quality and caveats  | The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on the number of affected family members who are children is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.In July April, Victoria Police launched a new statewide L17 Risk Assessment form. Changes to the way information is captured on this form may impact data collected from this time and onwards.During the COVID-19 pandemic, Victoria Police launched several responsive initiatives, including Operation Ribbon, which was designed to target high-risk family violence offenders. Changes in the data during the pandemic may be impacted by such initiatives, as well as other community changes taking place during the pandemic. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full data |

#### Measure: Number/proportion of family violence incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth’ is recorded

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Reduction in family violence among women who are pregnant or have a newborn |
| Source  | Data in this measure comes from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) data collected by the Crime Statistics Agency. |
| Definition  | Numerator – Number of incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth’ was recorded as a risk factor on the L17 Risk Assessment form.Denominator – Number of family incidents reported to and/or attended by police. |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. |
| Data details  | Data was extracted from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) on 18 July 2022 and is subject to change. |
| Data quality and caveats  | The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on the number of family violence incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth’ is recorded is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.In April 2019, Victoria Police launched a new statewide L17 Risk Assessment form. Changes to the way information is captured on this form may impact data collected from this time and onwards.During the COVID-19 pandemic Victoria Police launched several responsive initiatives, including Operation Ribbon, which was designed to target high-risk family violence offenders. Changes in the data during the pandemic may be impacted by such initiatives, as well as other community changes taking place during the pandemic. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full data |

#### Measure: Number/proportion of family violence incidents where ‘recent separation’ is recorded on L17 form

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Reduction in level of risk for victim survivors immediately post-separation |
| Source  | Data in this measure comes from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) data collected by the Crime Statistics Agency. |
| Definition  | Numerator – Number of incidents where ‘recent or imminent separation’ was recorded as a risk factor on the L17 Risk Assessment form.Denominator – Number of family incidents reported to and/or attended by police. |
| Time period  | Due to recording practice changes, data covers three financial years, 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. |
| Data details  | Data was extracted from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) on 18 July 2022 and is subject to change. |
| Data quality and caveats  | The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on the number of family violence incidents where ‘pregnancy or new birth’ is recorded is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.In April 2019, Victoria Police launched a new statewide L17 Risk Assessment form. Changes to the way information is captured on this form may impact data collected from this time and onwards.During the COVID-19 pandemic Victoria Police launched several responsive initiatives, including Operation Ribbon, which was designed to target high-risk family violence offenders. Changes in the data during the pandemic may be impacted by such initiatives, as well as other community changes taking place during the pandemic. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full data |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors victim survivor’s safety

#### Measure: Number of family violence-related deaths

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Decrease family violence deaths |
| Source  | Data in this measure is from Coroners Court of Victoria data extracted from the Victorian Homicide Register by the Crime Statistics Agency.  |
| Definition  | Numerator – All homicides reported to the Coroners Court of Victoria, indicating where homicides were family violence related.Denominator – Total number of reported homicides. |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.  |
| Data details  | A homicide incident is an incident of violence from which single or multiple deaths may have resulted. The date of the homicide incident may be different to the date of a death in circumstances where injuries were inflicted upon a person during a homicide incident, but the death occurred as a result of those injuries at a later date.A family violence related homicide is defined as one which occurred in circumstances where there was a familial relationship between the homicide offender and the homicide victim, as defined by the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic), whether or not there was an identified history of family violence prior to the homicide. This may include current or former intimate partners or kinship relationships as defined by the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Taskforce (2003).The Victorian Homicide Registry is a live database and historical records may be updated over time. Data used in this report was extracted on 2 August 2022 and is subject to change.For information contained within these data tables concerning age, individuals with a recorded age > 110 were classified as age unknown. |
| Data quality and caveats  | It is difficult to assess changes in the number of family violence homicides over time, in part due to the small number of incidents. There may be large fluctuations over time that are not statistically significant.Data in most recent years: Perpetrators of a homicide may be unknown, particularly in cases where criminal or coronial investigations are ongoing. A file with an unknown perpetrator is unable to be flagged definitely as either family violence or not family violence related, and in the tables above these cases are classified as 'unknown'. Comparing family violence data from the most recent financial years with prior years is not recommended, as newer cases are more likely to be ongoing investigations, and therefore may fail to identify all family violence homicides.Homicide deceased: Homicide deceased is a count of all people who have died at a homicide incident. This count may include a small number of perpetrators of family violence homicides in incidents where the perpetrator also died. As homicide incidents may record more than one deceased, the total number of deceased may exceed the number of incidents. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full data |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors victim survivors being heard and in control

#### Measure: Number and proportion of self-referrals to The Orange Door by victim survivors

| Item | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator  | Increase in self-referrals to family violence support services. |
| Source  | The Orange Door Client Relationship Management system (CRM). |
| Definition  | Numerator – The number of self-referrals to The Orange Door by victim survivors for each financial year.Denominator – Total number of referrals to The Orange Door by victim survivors for each financial year. |
| Time period  | Data captures four financial years, 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. |
| Data details  | Referrals by victim survivors are a subset of total referrals received by The Orange Door.Data includes ‘FV cases’ based on ‘client role’ in cases in the CRM. Client roles included are ‘victims/survivors.’Care needs to be taken when interpreting increases in numbers overtime. Increases in numbers over time must be considered alongside the gradual opening of The Orange Door network between 2018 and 2022. |
| Data quality and caveats  | n/a |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full |

#### Measure: Number and proportion of victim survivors who self-refer to specialist family violence services external to The Orange Door

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator  | Increase in self-referrals to family violence support services |
| Outcome | Victim survivors are heard and in control. |
| Source  | Homelessness Data Collection (HDC). |
| Definition  | Numerator – The number of cases created by specialist family violence services external to The Orange Door where the referral source is 'No formal referral (self-referred)' for presenting unit heads (self) for each financial year.Denominator – Total number of cases created by specialist family violence services external to The Orange Door for presenting unit heads (self) for each financial year. |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.  |
| Data details  | Specialist family violence services external to The Orange Door include Family violence case management, Safe Steps and refuge services. Cases with unknown referral sources are excluded from calculation.Data is reported by household cases. A household case is where the lead family member (presenting unit head) is 16 years old or over. There are data quality issues associated with this definition outlined below. The measure relates to cases opened during the reference period and may be open or closed at the end of the reference period. |
| Data quality and caveats  | Primary data quality statement: From 2017–18 to 2018–19, there was a 10 per cent decrease in family violence clients following years of steady increases in these figures. The decrease was primarily due to a practice correction in how some family violence agencies were recording clients. In addition, during 2018–19, a phased process to shift family violence intake to non- Specialist Homelessness Services (The Orange Door) began that may have resulted in an overall decrease in the number of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) family violence clients over the coming years. Caution should be used when comparing HDC family violence client/case numbers over recent years.* There are several caveats around this data due to historical issues with data quality. In particular, the inflated number of case records created after police referrals distorts both numerator and denominator for this measure – 2016–17 and 2017–18 in particular. This inflation was due to poor practice at some agencies, where workers would open a support period for an affected person (victim survivor) as soon as they received an L17 referral from police. This practice was largely ceased by the end of 2017–18.
* The measure relates to cases opened across the seven financial years listed in the reference period.
* This data counts households (cases), as stated above. Some agencies have incorrectly reported children as the head of their own household, separate to their accompanying adult/s. Due to this issue, and as some teenagers will be legitimately presenting alone, households were not counted if the lead family member was under 16 years.
 |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors victim survivors to rebuild their lives and thrive

#### Measure: Number/proportion of victim survivors who are homeless/without a permanent place to live

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator  | Increase in victim survivors who have safe, secure, stable and affordable housing |
| Source  | Homelessness Data Collection (HDC) |
| Definition  | Numerator – The number of cases where homelessness was indicated at first presentation for each financial year.Denominator – The total number of cases for each financial year (excluding cases with unknown housing status). |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. |
| Data details  | Data is reported by household cases. A household case is where the lead family member (presenting unit head) is 16 years old or over. There are data quality issues associated with this definition outlined below. The measure relates to cases opened during the reference period. Clients were considered to be homeless if they were living in any of the following circumstances on presentation (at start of the case):* no shelter or improvised dwelling – includes where dwelling type is no dwelling/street/park/in the open, motor vehicle, improvised building/dwelling, caravan, cabin, boat or tent; or tenure type is renting or living rent free in a caravan park
* short-term temporary accommodation – dwelling type is boarding/rooming house, emergency accommodation, hotel/motel/bed and breakfast; or tenure type is renting or living rent free in boarding/rooming house, renting or living rent free in emergency accommodation or transitional housing
* house, townhouse or flat (couch surfing or with no tenure): tenure type is no tenure; or conditions of occupancy are living with relatives fee free, couch surfing.
 |
| Data quality and caveats  | Primary data quality statement: From 2017–18 to 2018–19, there was a 10 per cent decrease in family violence clients following years of steady increases in these figures. The decrease was primarily due to a practice correction in how some family violence agencies were recording clients. In addition, during 2018–19, a phased process to shift family violence intake to non-SHS services (The Orange Door) began that may have resulted in an overall decrease in the number of SHS family violence clients over the coming years. Caution should be used when comparing HDC family violence client/case numbers over recent years.1. There are several caveats around this data due to historical issues with data quality. In particular, the inflated number of case records created after police referrals distorts both numerator and denominator for this measure – 2016–17 and 2017–18 in particular. This inflation was due to poor practice at some agencies, where workers would open a support period for an affected person (victim survivor) as soon as they received an L17 referral from police. This practice was largely ceased by the end of 2017–18.
2. Women’s and children’s counselling services have not been included in this measure as the Integrated Reports & Information System (IRIS) used by the relevant services does not reliably record if a client is homeless.
3. This data is not a representative sample of victim survivors experiencing homelessness. This is both because service delivery reported through IRIS is not included due to data quality issues and because a significant proportion of clients reporting through the HDC do not have housing status recorded and so have been excluded.
4. The measure relates to cases closed during the seven financial years listed in the reference period.
5. This data counts households (cases), as above. Some households have incorrectly included children as the head of their own household, separate to their accompanying adult/s. Due to this issue, and as some teenagers will be legitimately presenting alone, households not counted if the lead family member was under 16 years.
 |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Proxy – measure assumes a causal link between homelessness and family violence |

#### Measure: Number/proportion of victim survivors who experience an improvement in their housing situation after receiving a service

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Increase in victim survivors who have safe, secure, stable and affordable housing |
| Source  | Homelessness Data Collection (HDC) |
| Definition  | Numerator – The number of cases where homelessness indicated at first presentation and no longer homeless at end of support period for each financial year.Denominator – The number of cases where homelessness indicated at first presentation for each financial year. |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.  |
| Data details  | Data is reported by household cases. A household case is where the lead family member (presenting unit head) is 16 years old or over. There are data quality issues associated with this definition outlined below. Cases with unknown housing status are excluded from calculation.The measure relates to cases closed during the reference period. Clients are considered to not be homeless if they were living in any of the following circumstances at the open or close of the case:* public or community housing (renter or rent free): dwelling type is house/townhouse/flat and tenure type is renter or rent-free public housing, renter or rent-free community housing
* private or other housing (renter, rent-free or owner): dwelling type is house/townhouse/flat and tenure type is renter-private housing, life tenure scheme, owner–shared equity or rent/buy scheme, owner-being purchased/with mortgage, owner-fully owned, rent-free private/other housing
* institutional settings: dwelling type is aged care
* living in other circumstances with long-term tenure (not couch surfer).
 |
| Data quality and caveats  | Primary data quality statement: From 2017–18 to 2018–19, there was a 10 per cent decrease in family violence clients following years of steady increases in these figures. The decrease was primarily due to a practice correction in how some family violence agencies were recording clients. In addition, during 2018–19, a phased process to shift family violence intake to non-SHS services (The Orange Door) began that may have resulted in an overall decrease in the number of SHS family violence clients over the coming years. Caution should be used when comparing HDC family violence client/case numbers over recent years.1. There are several caveats around this data due to historical issues with data quality. In particular, the inflated number of case records created after police referrals distorts both numerator and denominator for this measure – 2016–17 and 2017–18 in particular. This inflation was due to poor practice at some agencies, where workers would open a support period for an affected person (victim survivor) as soon as they received an L17 referral from police. This practice was largely ceased by the end of 2017–18.
2. Women’s and children’s counselling services have not been included in this measure as the Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS) used by the relevant services does not reliably record if a client is homeless.
3. This data is not a representative sample of victim survivors experiencing homelessness. This is both because service delivery reported through IRIS is not included due to data quality issues and because a significant proportion of clients reporting through the HDC do not have housing status recorded and so have been excluded.
4. The measure relates to cases closed during the seven financial years listed in the reference period.
5. This data counts households (cases), as above. Some households have incorrectly included children as the head of their own household, separate to their accompanying adult/s. Due to this issue, and as some teenagers will be legitimately presenting alone, households are not counted if the lead family member was under 16 years.
6. Nearly 1,500 cases are not included that recorded ‘Don’t know’ for housing situation at end of support for this measure.
 |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Proxy data – homelessness status is used as a proxy for improvements in housing status. |

## Domain 3: Perpetrators are held accountable, connected and take responsibility for stopping their violence

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors progress towards stopping family violence behaviours

#### Measure: Number/proportion of individuals identified as the respondent in an L17 report who receive a subsequent L17 report within [12 months]

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator  | Reduction in all family violence behaviours |
| Source  | Data in this measure comes from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) data collected by the Crime Statistics Agency. |
| Definition  | Numerator – Number of unique people identified as the other party on an L17 form during the reference period, who were previously identified as the other party in an L17 report up to 365 days prior.Denominator – Number of people identified as the other party in an L17 report during the reference period.This data is disaggregated by recorded sex (male/female), age and Aboriginal status.Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status for affected family members and other parties are based on the most frequent recording of the Indigenous status. Under this counting rule, a person has either a yes or no response to the Standard Indigenous Question (SIQ) on their record, then the most frequent recorded response is taken as correct. If the person only has one meaningful response, then that response stands across all records. If a person appears in the dataset two different times with a ‘yes’ and a ‘no’ in the records, a ‘yes’ response is taken over a ‘no’ response. For the purposes of the presentation of these data the term Aboriginal refers to the most frequent response a person has provided to Victoria Police when the SIQ was asked (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status). |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.  |
| Data details  | A family violence incident is defined as another incident where a L17 report was completed.Recidivism rate is calculated using the last day of a committed offence within a financial year and checking to see whether similar offence had also taken up to 365 days prior to it. In cases where the recorded incidents take place on the same date, they are not counted as re-offence, e.g., if respondent (other individual who involved in a family violence incident) engages in five different counts of family violence on the same day, they will not be considered as a re-offence.Prior contact with the police is calculated by taking the latest incident date in a financial year. Only incidents taken place within 365 days prior are flagged to the exclusion of those beyond this period bracket.Data was extracted from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) on 18 July 2022 and is subject to change.For information contained within these data tables concerning age, individuals with a recorded age > 110 were classified as age unknown. |
| Data quality and caveats  | The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on the number of respondents who are re-offenders is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.In July 2019, Victoria Police launched a new L17 Risk Assessment form Statewide. Changes to the way information is captured on this form may impact data collected from this time and onwards.During the COVID-19 pandemic Victoria Police launched several responsive initiatives, including Operation Ribbon, which was designed to target high-risk family violence offenders. Changes in the data during the pandemic may be impacted by such initiatives, as well as other community changes taking place during the pandemic.Note: The number of recidivist offenders is lowest in 2020–21 because many of these offenders have not yet had a full 365 day window to commit a subsequent incident. For this reason, it is recommended that numbers from 2020–21 are omitted from analysis. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full data |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors progress towards holding perpetrators accountable

#### Measure: Number/proportion of reported contraventions of family violence orders

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Source  | Data in this measure comes from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) data collected by the Crime Statistics Agency  |
| Definition  | Numerator – Total number of people who breached a family violence order one or more times for each financial year.Denominator – The number of people on active family violence protection orders recorded for each financial year. |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. |
| Data details  | The figures in this measure refer to people on orders including a family violence intervention order, interim family violence intervention order and/or a family violence safety notice. A person can be on more than one active order within the reference period.Data was extracted from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) on 18 July 2022 and is subject to change. |
| Data quality and caveats  | The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on breaches of family violence protection orders is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.In July 2019, Victoria Police launched a new L17 Risk Assessment form Statewide. Changes to the way information is captured on this form may impact data collected from this time and onwards.During the COVID-19 pandemic Victoria Police launched several responsive initiatives, including Operation Ribbon, which was designed to target high-risk family violence offenders. Changes in the data during the pandemic may be impacted by such initiatives, as well as other community changes taking place during the pandemic. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full data |

## Domain 4: Preventing and responding to family violence is systemic and enduring

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors early intervention to identify and respond to family violence to prevent escalation

#### Measure: Number and proportion of unique family violence clients who engaged with The Orange Door network following one or more police referrals

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator  | Increase in people receiving help and support following first disclosure |
| Source  | The Orange Door Client Relationship Management system (CRM) |
| Definition  | Numerator – The number of unique clients who engaged with The Orange Door network following one or more referrals from police for each financial year. Denominator – Total number of unique clients referred to The Orange Door network following one or more referrals from police for each financial year, excluding clients where contact wasn’t appropriate or safe. |
| Time period  | Data captures four financial years, 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. |
| Data details  | A client is regarded to have engaged with The Orange Door network if they had a case closure reason of one of the following:* needs met by The Orange Door
* engaged with the service system
* service no longer required.

The case closure reason ‘Service no longer required’ includes situations where the client engages and an Orange Door Network practitioner works with them, but at some point it is determined the service is no longer needed or required.The total number of family violence clients referred following a police incident excludes clients where contact by an Orange Door Network practitioner was not appropriate or safe. Specifically, clients with the following case closure reasons were removed from the denominator of this measure: * case created in error
* client deceased
* contact deemed unsafe/inappropriate
* transferred to another area.

Data includes ‘family violence cases’ based on ‘client role’ in cases in the CRM. Client roles included are ‘victims/survivors’ and ‘perpetrators.’A unique client may be counted more than once in certain situations where they have more than one case over the reporting period and their engagement with The Orange Door network differs from one case to the next. For the purposes of this measure, a unique client is deemed to have engaged with The Orange Door if they take up the offer of a service from The Orange Door at least once throughout the reference year, even if at another point throughout the year they chose not to engage. Care needs to be taken when interpreting increases in numbers overtime. Increases in numbers over time must be considered alongside the gradual opening of The Orange Door network between 2018 and 2022. |
| Data quality and caveats  | n/a |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full |

#### Measure: Number and proportion of unique affected family members (AFMs) who had more than one family violence incident

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator | Decrease in people experiencing family violence who were previously in contact with services or police. |
| Source  | Data in this measure comes from the Victoria Police Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) data collected by the Crime Statistics Agency.  |
| Definition  | Numerator – Number of unique affected family members identified in L17 Risk Assessment and Risk Management Reports who experienced at least one family violence incident within a year.Denominator – Number of family incidents reported to and/or attended by police. |
| Time period  | Data captures seven financial years, 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.  |
| Data details  | Number of incidents counts the number of incidents recorded within one financial year. Data was extracted from the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) on 18 July 2022 and is subject to change. |
| Data quality and caveats  | The quantity and accuracy of the data collected by Victoria Police on unique affected family members who had more than one family violence incident is dependent upon the recording of information by police members at the time of the incident.In April, Victoria Police launched a new L17 Risk Assessment form Statewide. Changes to the way information is captured on this form may impact data collected from this time and onwards.During the COVID-19 pandemic Victoria Police launched several responsive initiatives, including Operation Ribbon, which was designed to target high-risk family violence offenders. Changes in the data during the pandemic may be impacted by such initiatives, as well as other community changes taking place during the pandemic. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Full data |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors system integration

#### Measure: Number of Central Information Point reports provided to services

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator  | Increased sharing or information to assess and respond to needs and risks |
| Source  | Data for this measure is collected from The Orange Door record of Central Information Point (CIP) |
| Definition  | Counting rule:CIP requests – From CIP requests data, Distinct count of request number based on request create date, disaggregate by financial year.CIP reports – From CIP requests delivered data, Distinct count of request number based on Coordinator delivered date, disaggregate by financial year. |
| Time period  | Data covers four financial years: 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2022 through to 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.  |
| Data details  | The Central Information Point (CIP) consolidates information about a perpetrator of family violence into a single report.The figures in this measure refer to the number of Central Information Point requests created, and reports delivered each yearThe figure includes CIP requests and reports from all services that have access to the CIP, including The Orange Door network and Risk Assessment and Management Panels.The difference between the number of requests received and reports delivered is due to a number of administrative processes. These include the request being cancelled or withdrawn. This may occur if a Central Information Point report has recently been delivered for the same perpetrator, and the practitioner already has access to that information. A request may also be withdrawn or cancelled if it is incomplete or inaccurate and a new request is submitted.  |
| Data quality and caveats  | n/a  |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  |  Full data |

### How the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework* monitors the family violence workforce

#### Measure: Number/proportion of workforce who identify as from a priority community

| Item | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Indicator  | Increase workforce diversity |
| Source  | Workforce Survey 2022 |
| Definition  | Numerator – The number of respondents reporting a particular priority group identity.Denominator – Total number respondents who answered the question. |
| Time period  | The included data is from the 2022 Workforce Survey.  |
| Data details  | Specialist family violence workforce includes: those who work directly with victim survivors, perpetrators, or cases of family violence as a family violence response specialistthose who work directly with family violence response specialists as a manager, supervisor or trainer; or in a capacity building, policy or practice development role. Example roles: family violence or justice case manager, family violence outreach, refuge worker, counsellor / phone support, crisis worker, men’s behaviour change practitioner or case manager, RAMP Coordinator, intake or enhanced intake, sexual assault worker, family violence court practitioner or court registrar, etc.  |
| Data quality and caveats  | Results may not be representative for the entire statewide population of Family Violence workers. Estimated response rate is 34 per cent of estimated population of workers.A survey was also undertaken in 2019, however many of the survey questions had changed and were not comparable. |
| Full / Partial /  Proxy / Ideal  | Partial – data reported is reflective only of the family violence workforce who participated in the Family Violence Workforce Census and responded to the relevant question reflected in this data.  |

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10. European Commission 2010, *Factors at play in the perpetration of violence against women, violence against children and sexual orientation violence: A multi-level interactive model*. European Commission, Brussels. https://www.humanconsultancy.com/assets/factor-model-en/index.html [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
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12. Note that the wording of this scale in the NCAS has changed since the publication of the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework implementation strategy*, and the measure here has been adjusted to reflect this. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
13. United Nations Women 2011, *In pursuit of justice: progress of the world’s women*. UN Women, New York. https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2011/1/progress-of-the-worlds-women-in-pursuit-of-justice#:~:text=Progress%20of%20the%20World's%20Women%20shows%20that%20well%2Dfunctioning%20legal,and%20by%20creating%20new%20norms [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
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15. Note that the wording of this scale in the NCAS has changed since the publication of the *Family Violence Outcomes Framework implementation strategy*, and the measure here has been adjusted to reflect this. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
16. Campo M 2015, *Children’s exposure to domestic and family violence: Key issues and responses*, CFCA paper no. 36, Australian Institute of Family Studies, p. 5. https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/childrens-exposure-domestic-and-family-violence [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
17. This figure is likely to change as more ‘yet to be determined’ homicides are finalised by investigations and the Coroner. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
18. Other referral pathways include Victoria Police, Safe Steps and professional services. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
19. The figures in this measure refer to people on orders including a family violence intervention order, interim family violence intervention order and/or a family violence safety notice. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
20. Client roles included are ‘victims/survivors’ and ‘perpetrators’. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
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22. Note: As many of the survey questions had changed, the results from previous years were not comparable. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)