**Government Response: The Victorian Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework 5-Year Evidence Review report**

The Victorian Government welcomes the first Victorian Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework 5-Year Evidence Review (the Review) report, undertaken by Allen & Clarke. The Review makes 17 recommendations and provides an important opportunity to ensure MARAM remains consistent with and reflects best practice in family violence risk assessment and risk management.

MARAM is an innovative and world-leading framework that aims to establish a system-wide shared understanding and response to family violence, across all communities, all family relationships and for children and young people and older people. It provides practice guidance, assessment tools and other supporting resources that professionals need to keep adults and children experiencing family violence safe, and to keep perpetrators in view and accountable. In the five years since MARAM’s commencement, approximately 380,000 professionals have been prescribed in law to apply the MARAM Framework in their work with the Victorian community.

The Review’s key findings include that the MARAM Framework:

* provides a valuable central repository of information and single source of truth to support a shared understanding of family violence
* has had a significant positive impact in promoting more integrated service responses by improving consistency and breaking down silos
* remains largely consistent with evidence of best practices including through its multi-agency approach, adoption of the structured professional judgment model and its use of a broad and consistent definition of family violence.

The report found that the family violence service system, and the evidence base to improve responses to family violence, continues to mature alongside Victoria’s reforms Royal Commission reforms since 2016. The Review found room for improvement in the MARAM Framework to reflect these changes, including improvements to:

* accessibility and useability of the MARAM practice guides and assessment tools
* narrative-based approaches to risk identification, assessment and management, to reduce victim survivors feeling they are receiving a ‘tick box’ experience
* descriptions of risk factors and identification and assessment of the range of presentations of risk, including coercive control
* guidance and resources to better reflect how family violence affects diverse communities, to recognise children and young people as victim survivors in their own right and responding to the impact of risk across the lifespan.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring the MARAM Framework continues to reflect evidence-based best practice, driving world-leading family violence reforms. The Review’s 17 recommendations will be accepted and addressed alongside the recent independent *Legislative review of family violence information sharing and risk management* (the Legislative Review) undertaken by the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor (the FVRIM).

We thank all who gave their time so generously to contribute to this review, including victim survivors, family violence practitioners, academics and those working for other specialist or universal service providers and government bodies.