

Family Violence Vision Statement



Family Violence Vision Statement

Our vision

An integrated and specialist court system that is accessible and responsive to the needs of those experiencing family violence.

Our purpose

We aim to enhance the court response to ensure those experiencing family violence have equal access to justice responses for a safer experience and perpetrators are held accountable for their behaviour.

Our principles

The guiding principles to deliver this vision are:

- victim survivors receive timely and appropriate legal protection and have access to support services
- service delivery is specialised and responds to the diverse needs of the Victorian community
- perpetrators are held accountable and connected to interventions and therapeutic programs
- a court system that is technologically enabled and accessible.

Our way forward

Key priorities

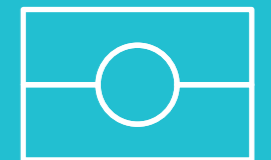
We are focused on delivering a service-driven response that is user-centred and integrated.

Our seven key priority areas:

- providing specialist and therapeutic approaches
- delivering an accessible and technology-enabled court system
- strengthening culturally appropriate responses
- reviewing the family law jurisdiction
- building safe, secure and sustainable courts
- developing workforce capacity and capability
- collaborating with other service systems.

160,000

Estimated no. people to have experienced family violence in Victoria between 2015-16



INDIGENOUS WOMEN

34x

more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family violence

21,274

contravention of intervention order charges in 2015-16

400% INCREASE SINCE 08-09



18,857

INTERVENTION ORDERS in 2015-16



\$5.3b

estimated cost of family violence in Victoria (2015-16)



37.5%

women accessing domestic violence support services are of non-English speaking backgrounds

Strategies

Providing specialist and therapeutic approaches for family violence

- All family violence matters will be heard and determined within Specialist Family Violence Courts
- Specialised, multidisciplinary teams who are proficient in family violence
- Perpetrators will be connected and directed to attend appropriate interventions such as Men's Change Behaviour Programs
- Therapeutic and problem-solving approaches to improve victim and perpetrator experiences and outcomes

Delivering an accessible and technology-enabled court system

- Establishment of a Family Violence Contact Centre to provide immediate assistance for victims
- New audio and video evidencing technology to increase the efficiency and safety of family violence hearings, particularly for remote locations
- Rollout of an online Family Violence Intervention Order form
- Develop digital capabilities to improve accessibility and responsiveness, particularly cross-agency information sharing

Strengthening culturally appropriate responses

- Reinstatement of the Koori Family Violence Victim Support Program to connect the Aboriginal community to vital primary services
- Expansion of the Koori Court jurisdiction to hear Family Violence Intervention Order contraventions
- Provision of culturally appropriate services and related support material

Reviewing the family law jurisdiction

- Identify opportunities to reduce fragmentation for families experiencing both family violence and family law issues
- Enhance understanding of family law processes including improved information sharing between the Magistrates', Children's and the Family Courts

Building safe, secure and sustainable courts

- Upgrading infrastructure to ensure courts are safe, secure and designed according to the needs of court users
- Delivery and responsible management of high quality and appropriate security assets across urban and regional communities
- Reorganisation of service delivery model for civil, non-criminal and low level cases such as mediation and tenancy matters to enable magistrates to focus on family violence matters

Developing workforce capacity and capability

- Building a highly skilled and dedicated workforce to support increasing demand and drive organisational change
- Comprehensive family violence training for judicial officers and court staff to build a responsive court response

Collaborating with broader service system

- Facilitating information sharing to support a fully integrated system response to family violence, including participating in the Central Information Point
- Supporting the establishment of Support and Safety Hubs to connect and coordinate access to services across the family violence system and better manage risk through flexible, immediate responses
- Building stronger linkages to support systems and services for victims and perpetrators of family violence
- Working closely with other agencies to implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence

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