

Response to the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor's call for submissions:

Review of family violence information sharing and risk management – June to September 2022

Submission #11 – Organisation – Relationship Matters Counselling & Mediation

The Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme and Central Information Point

Please reflect on your experience in collecting, requesting, using, or disclosing confidential information in the past 3 years when responding to the following questions.

1. Are the legal requirements in the Act sufficiently clear?

In responding to this question, please consider whether you feel the Act is sufficiently clear in relation to the meanings of key terms (such as person of concern, primary person, confidential information and excluded information), the circumstances in which confidential information can be requested or disclosed, record-keeping requirements and any other matter

Yes N Unsure

If no, how do you think they could be made clearer?

2. The Act outlines principles, and requires the Minister to issue guidelines, to guide decision-making in relation to the collection, use or disclosure of confidential information.

- a) To what extent are the principles reflected in your organisation's policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools?

Fully Mostly Somewhat Not at all Unsure

How could this be improved??

- b) Do the principles and guidelines support you to make decisions under the Act?

Yes N Unsure

If no, what changes to the principles and guidelines would improve that?

3. Does the Act provide sufficient scope and authority for you to collect, request, use or disclose all information you feel is needed to effectively establish, assess, and manage risks of family violence?

Yes N Unsure

Where are the gaps?

Victim survivor contact details are not shared by VS agencies resulting in less ability to plan, manage ongoing risk and assess risk

4. Have you been able to obtain consolidated and up-to-date information from the CIP about perpetrators of family violence to support your organisation to assess and manage risks of family violence?

Yes N Unsure

If no, what were the barriers or challenges?

Not sure how to access it at this stage

5. Have you observed an increase in the level of information sharing, including:

a) information being disclosed voluntarily?

Yes N Unsure

If no, what were the barriers or challenges?

Almost always have to request it. Perhaps the agencies don't know who to share it with

b) information being disclosed on request?

Yes N Unsure

Please make any additional comments.

6. Have you observed an increase in the level of collaboration between organisations to support the delivery of coordinated services?

Yes N Unsure

Please make any additional comments.

Slight increase, should increase with Orange Door in our region

7. Have you experienced any legal barriers or challenges in:

a) collecting, requesting, using or disclosing information?

Yes N Unsure

If yes, what were the legal barriers or challenges?

Refusal to provide VS information

b) collaborating with other organisations to deliver coordinated services?

Yes N Unsure

If yes, what were the legal barriers or challenges?

Particularly Corrections and Child Protection

c) complying with the Act's requirements?

Yes N Unsure

If yes, what were the legal barriers or challenges?

8. Are you aware of any instances of the unauthorised use or disclosure of confidential information under the FVISS or CIP provisions?

Yes N Unsure

Please make any additional comments.

Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework

Please reflect on your experience in aligning your organisation's policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools with the MARAM Framework when responding to the following questions.

9. Are the legal requirements under the Act sufficiently clear, including in relation to the meaning of *framework organisation* and *section 191 agency*?

Yes N Unsure

If no, how could they be made clearer?

10. Have you observed greater consistency in organisations' approaches to family violence risk identification, assessment, and management?

Yes No Unsure

Please make any additional comments.

This hasn't changed dramatically in the last 2 years

General questions

11. Have you observed any adverse effects of the provisions for particular groups, such as children and young people, adolescents who use violence in the home, or members of the Aboriginal community?

Yes N Unsure

What types of adverse effects have you observed?

12. Do the provisions sufficiently provide for the needs and characteristics of diverse communities?

Yes N Unsure

If no, please indicate why.

13. Do you have any other comments about the operation of the provisions, including any suggestions for improvement?

Greater understanding of the role of MBCP providers and their need to contact Victim Survivors to assist with ongoing management and assessment of risk.