

## Reform Implementation Community of Practice



On Wednesday 11 September the Regional Family Violence Partnership held the second Reform Implementation Community of Practice. There was a wide representation from practitioners, team leaders and peak bodies working in the Specialist Family Violence, Sexual Assault, AOD, Mental Health, Maternal and Child Health, Integrated Family Services, Justice, Housing/Homelessness and Community Health sectors.

### Participants answered whether they have completed the following training:



### Key challenges in reform implementation: for participants:

- Understanding MARAM
- Challenge working in large services with multiple programs with different responsibilities under MARAM
- Difficult to align and embed MARAM consistently and in timely way
- Capturing data - for example asking questions around gender and sexuality when data systems can't hold the information
- Integration of MARAM across non specialist family violence services
- Time poor, no capacity to attend trainings and implement reforms
- Inconsistent information and processes (training), don't know where everything fits in
- Siloed thinking of services
- Lack of knowledge of other sectors
- Lack of resources
- Integrating MARAM into existing policies and procedures
- Understanding the type of information we want to request that is relevant to the work we do
- Working safely with perpetrators when you're not a specialist
- Challenge for legal services not being prescribed under information sharing schemes but working with victims and perpetrators of family violence.

### Family Safety Victoria: key learnings

#### Feedback on what has been working:

- Bringing the whole system together in cross sector training has built the understanding that there is a shared responsibility to respond to family violence and child wellbeing

- Resources on FSV Website
- Dedicated email
- Information being shared about perpetrators to manage safety
- Easier pathway for requesting information on IVOs from Courts, Corrections and Police

#### Key learnings:

- Understanding who is an Information Sharing Entity
- Rollout of MARAM with short lead time and delay in resources caused issues
- Concerns about overly formalised process. There is no requirement that formal request be written, but for some services forms/templates help when there is a large volume of requests (such as Courts) or when it is not clear what information is needed.
- Resources need to be tailored for particular sectors. Now have sector grants program for capacity building officers.
- Challenges for workforce in attending training while covering service delivery. Face to face training is good for collaborating but hard to get to and workforce who don't have capacity. Doing e-learns now to assist with this, but need to get balance right going forward.
- Reforms take time, on top of the work services are already doing, and there was not much lead time for ISS initial tranche. FSV have tried to take this on board for the next phase coming in September 2020.
- Evaluation of CISS and FVISS results will be tabled in parliament and available to read, any initial findings will be implement before final report to value add to phase 2 roll out.

#### Challenges anticipated for phase 2 (phase 2 organisations will be confirmed in April 2020 following consultation period in November 2019):

- Hard to have clarity who is prescribed under the scheme. Organisations currently prescribed will be key for implementation for phase 2.
- Family violence literacy is not as high in universal services.
- Understanding the service system and where you would go for information, knowing who you can share information with and what information services hold.
- FSV is working on a resource now for phase 1 organisations to clarify who holds what information.
- Developing the capacity of services around working with children and the intersection between child wellbeing and safety and risk of family violence

#### Case Study

The group worked through a case study involving a women with children experiencing family violence. The group were asked to identify relevant risk factors, information they would want to seek or share, and considerations around consent. Some key point were:

- Information Sharing Scheme requirements should be explained to clients upfront.
- Consent from a victim survivor is not required to seek information relating to the perpetrator but it is best practice to inform her.
- Although legal services aren't prescribed ISEs information they hold may also be held by the Police, Corrections or Courts who can share information.