

Training options during COVID-19

On 16 March 2020, a State of Emergency was declared in Victoria to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This provides the Chief Health Officer with additional powers to issue directions to help contain the spread of coronavirus and keep Victorians safe. The State of Emergency continues to be reviewed and is currently in place until 31 May 2020.

The Victorian government has cautiously commenced easing some restrictions to allow people to look after their own, and others' health, wellbeing and social connection. These new arrangements include changes to the number of people who can gather in both indoor and outdoor settings, however directions requiring important physical distancing remain in place. The directions issued by the Chief Health Officer are available at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/state-emergency>.

With current physical distancing restrictions in place due to COVID-19, a number of training options have been postponed until further notice. However, some MARAM training options and other family violence training options, including webinars, are being offered online.

MARAM Training

Note, MARAM training is available for those prescribed in phase one only. Currently prescribed workforces are here <<https://www.vic.gov.au/about-information-sharing-schemes-and-risk-management-framework>>

Specialist Family Violence Workforce

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (DVRCV) is adapting training to an online environment and will be offering '*Comprehensive Family Violence Specialist – Renewing Practice from CRAF to MARAM*' online from June. Priority is being given to those participants who had already enrolled in face-to-face training which was cancelled due to COVID-19. This training is for experienced family violence specialists who have previously completed specialist CRAF training.

DVRCV are also developing *MARAM Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Management* for an online environment, with further information to follow. This training is suitable for new family violence specialists and/or those who have not previously completed specialist CRAF training.

<https://training.dvrcv.org.au/our-courses/>

DHHS funded phase one workforces

DHHS has funded The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (the Centre) to deliver training to funded organisations. The Centre is offering online MARAM training to support a range of other workforces to undertake their responsibilities under MARAM.

The Centre are delivering MARAM training for those practitioners who have roles that align with responsibilities at the Screening and Identification level (Care Services and Maternal and Child Health Workforces), and Brief and Intermediate level for targeted workforces (Child FIRST/ Family Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, Homelessness and Designated Mental Health workforces). Further information can be found at The Centre's website <https://www.cfecfw.asn.au/maram-training-2020/>.

MARAM Collaborative Practice Training

In coming months, it is expected that the MARAM Collaborative Practice training will be delivered online in all areas. This training is relevant to all professionals who respond to family violence in Victoria, whether they are prescribed, and focuses on collaborative practice and foundations of MARAM that enable collaboration. To find out when your area is offering training, contact the Principal Strategic Advisor in your region. You can find contact details at the Lookout website <https://www.thelookout.org.au/family-violence-workers/regional-integration>.

Identifying and Responding to Family Violence

A new accredited training short course, Course in Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk (22510VIC) has been developed by the Victorian Government in collaboration with family violence industry experts. This course delivers foundational family violence knowledge and skills, and MARAM Screening and Identification skills. Participants who successfully complete this training will receive a Statement of Attainment. This course may also be used to gain credit into the accredited course in development that will focus on skills consistent with MARAM Brief and Intermediate.

Online delivery of the new course will commence from Semester 2, 2020, through a range of registered training organisations (RTOs), including dual sector universities and TAFEs. Course participants may be able to access exemptions to eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funded training places in Skills First funded RTOs. While tuition fees may vary between RTOs, there are expected to be Government-funded places available that will have either low or no tuition fees.

Responding to Family Violence during COVID-19

Northern Integrated Family Violence Services (NIFVS) has recently widely shared their webinar Responding to Family Violence during COVID-19 which assists to identify family violence in the COVID-19 context, develop strategies to establish safety using technology, and partner with victim survivors to undertake effective safety planning. Information on the webinar can be found at NIFVS website <https://www.nifvs.org.au/event-directory/family-violence-training>.