

Information Sharing Schemes and MARAM Update

November 2020

Dear Sector Colleague

The purpose of this update is to provide you with information about the commencement of Phase Two of the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM). You are likely already aware that your organisation will be included in Phase Two.

The Victorian Government has established three interrelated reforms integral to reducing family violence and promoting child wellbeing and safety:

- The Information Sharing Schemes which enable authorised organisations to share information with other authorised professionals to promote the wellbeing or safety of children, and to assess and manage the risk of family violence, respectively.
- MARAM which supports consistent and collaborative practice across all organisations and services that work with children and families to identify and respond to family violence.

In May 2020, the commencement of Phase Two of the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS), the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and MARAM was delayed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This delay to Phase Two was intended to support the critical role universal health services play in Victoria during the pandemic.

We can now confirm that Phase Two of the reforms will commence on **19 April 2021**. Phase Two of the reforms reinforce the vision of the Royal Commission's into Family Violence regarding health and education workforces being authorised to share information to facilitate assessment and management of family violence risk to children and adults.

Department of Health and Human Services workforces that will be prescribed as part of Phase Two include:

- Ambulance Victoria
- Bush Nursing Centres
- Community Health services
- Community-managed mental health services
- Victorian Disability Worker Commission (not prescribed for MARAM)
- Early Parenting Centres
- Forensic disability
- General practice nurses (not prescribed for MARAM)
- General practitioners (not prescribed for MARAM)
- Hospitals
- Homelessness (all remaining services)
- Multiple and Complex Needs Initiative (MACNI)
- Refugee Minor Program
- Registered community housing associations or registered housing provider
- State funded Aged Care services
- Supported Playgroups (DHHS funded)

OFFICIAL

Responses will be sent shortly to those organisations, services and individuals who made submissions to the public consultation on the Family Violence Protection (Information Sharing and Risk Management) Amendment Regulations 2020, Child Wellbeing and Safety (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulations 2020 and Regulatory Impact Statements and a Statement of Reasons will be published online on the Engage Victoria website following the making of the Regulations, in response to issues raised in public consultation.

Existing legislative frameworks for appropriate information sharing remain in place in cases where there are concerns for the safety of children and victim survivors of family violence. Mandatory reporting also remains in place where there are concerns for the safety of children.

We will continue to update you as we prepare for commencement. A range of supports, such as resources, eLearn modules and guides are available to support organisations in the lead up to April 2021.

If you have specific questions about CISS, please contact the Department of Education and Training (childinfosharing@edumail.vic.gov.au). If you have specific questions about FVISS, please contact Family Safety Victoria (infosharing@familysafety.vic.gov.au). For further information about the Information Sharing Schemes and MARAM and how they apply to your organisation email infosharing@dhhs.vic.gov.au.