

Building familiarity of the Information Sharing Schemes

Cross-sectoral family violence information sharing activity



Acknowledgements

This resource was developed by the Western Integrated Family Violence Committee (WIFVC). June 2020

The WIFVC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, the people of the Kulin Nation, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

The WIFVC is a representative, whole-of-sector reference group that provides regional leadership in service integration, planning, policy and advocacy to improve service responses to family violence in the western metropolitan region of Melbourne. We thank our key stakeholders for their contributions to this resource.

The WIFVC is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and is under the auspices of Women's Health West. To enquire about this resource please contact wifvc@whwest.org.au.

Disclaimer

The events and names used in the case scenarios contained within this document are fictitious. No identification with actual persons or events is intended or should be inferred.

This publication does not contain an extensive list of resources for the Multiagency Risk Assessment and Management Framework, Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme or Child Information Sharing Scheme but refers to some of the available resources that will assist practitioners to complete this activity. For current information on relevant resources and training please refer to the Victorian Government's website https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-schemes-and-the-maram-framework.

If you have a specific query about an information sharing request your organisation is managing and need assistance, please contact the Information Sharing Enquiry Line on 1800 549 646 or infosharing@familvsafety.vic.gov.au and childinfosharing@edumail.vic.gov.au to seek advice.

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Background

2016 Royal Commission into Family Violence

The 2016 Royal Commission into Family Violence outlined a vision for a Victoria that is free from family violence, where adults and children are safe, and where perpetrators are held to account for their actions and behaviours. The Victorian Government has committed to significant reform of the service system through implementation of the Multi-agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) and Information Sharing Schemes to ensure consistent, collaborative approaches to risk identification, assessment and management.¹

The purpose of this resource is to support prescribed workforces to build familiarity of risk relevant information held by other Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) and consider how the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) work in practice.

Information Sharing Schemes

The Royal Commission into Family Violence found that effective and appropriate sharing of information is crucial in keeping victim survivors safe and holding perpetrators to account. In response, the Victorian government has implemented three interrelated reforms that are integral to reducing family violence and promoting child wellbeing and safety.

- The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) Sets out the responsibilities of different workforces in identifying, assessing and managing family violence risk across the family violence and broader service system. (MARAM will guide information sharing under both Information Sharing Schemes wherever family violence is present).²
- The Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) Established under Part 5A of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008, enables authorised organisations and services to share information to facilitate assessment and management of family violence risk to children and adults.
- <u>The Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS)</u> Enables authorised organisations and services to share information to promote the wellbeing and safety of children and facilitate services working together to:
 - Identify needs and risks
 - Promote earlier and more effective intervention and integrated service provision
 - Improve outcomes to children and families.

Information Sharing Entities

The Royal Commission into Family Violence emphasised the need for a connected service system and that workforces that intersect with family violence must play a role in assessing and managing family violence risk.³ Under the schemes, ISEs are authorised organisations or services prescribed by regulation that can share information that is relevant to assessing and/or managing family violence risk or promoting the wellbeing and safety of children, provided:

- The information is not excluded;
- · Sharing the information does not contravene another law; and
- Applicable consent requirements have been met.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework - Foundation Knowledge Guide, Family Safety Victoria, July 2019, accessed 29 April 2020 via https://www.vic.gov.au/maram-practice-guides-and-resources

² Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework, Family Safety Victoria, June 2018, accessed 2 April 2020 via https://www.vic.gov.au/maram-practice-guides-and-resources

³ State of Victoria, Royal Commission into Family Violence: Summary and recommendations, Parl Paper No 132 (2014–16), accessed 14th March 2020 via http://rcfv.archive.royalcommission.vic.gov.au/Report-Recommendations.html

ISEs that are also prescribed as Risk Assessment Entities (RAEs) have the power to seek information from ISEs specifically for a family violence **assessment** purpose. ISEs can share information proactively with a RAE or in response to a request from a RAE.⁴

Information sharing supports the services engaging with the victim survivor or perpetrator to have the relevant and necessary information required to respond effectively in assessing and/or managing risk. The Information Sharing Schemes allow ISEs to request relevant information and share relevant information either proactively or in response to a request.

Organisations prescribed as ISEs are required to update their policies and procedures to reflect their responsibilities under the MARAM, FVISS and/or CISS. Please consult with leaders in your organisation to clarify which staff are authorised to share information on behalf of the organisation based on their functions and role.

For a list of ISEs prescribed under the MARAM, FVISS and CISS see *Appendix 1: Who can I share information with?*

Intended use of this resource

This resource is adapted from an activity developed by the Western Integrated Family Violence Committee (WIFVC) and delivered at the *Building Confidence & Creating Connections Forum*, held in July 2019, to support organisations prescribed under phase one of the schemes. This resource is designed for practitioners and can be used individually, within a team, or as a cross-sector group activity.

This activity is a collation of case scenarios that outline one family's current points of engagement with a range of services across the service system. This resource is intended to prompt ISE's to consider the kind of risk relevant information that is held by other prescribed services and to encourage engagement with MARAM and Information Sharing Schemes' tools.

This activity seeks to demonstrate the importance of utilising the Information Sharing Schemes to enable the assessment and management of risk and build familiarity with the forms of risk relevant information other ISEs may hold and could share or request under the Information Sharing Schemes. This resource is not designed as a guide for undertaking risk assessments and should not be utilised for this purpose. It is the responsibility of prescribed organisations to engage their staff with specific MARAM risk assessment training in accordance with their role and responsibilities under the MARAM Framework.

These case scenarios are an example only and do not capture all prescribed organisations that may be involved in such a scenario. Those completing the activity are encouraged to consider a broader range of prescribed organisations that may hold risk relevant information when utilising the Information Sharing Schemes.

To get the most out of this activity, it is advised that you familiarise yourself with the MARAM Framework and the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme and Child Information Sharing Scheme online training modules prior to working through the case scenarios. Key MARAM and Information Sharing resources are available on the Victorian Government website https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-schemes-and-the-maram-framework. Please refer to the *Additional Resources* on page 34 for more information.

⁴ Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines: Guidance for Information Sharing Entities, Family Safety Victoria, September 2018, accessed 28th March 2020 via https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme

List of Acronyms

AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs	
CISS	Child Information Sharing Scheme	
FVISS	Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme	
ISE	Information Sharing Entity	
IVO	Intervention Order	
L17	Victoria Police Family Violence Report Referrals	
MARAM	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management	
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme	
RAE	Risk Assessment Entity	
WIFVC	Western Integrated Family Violence Committee	

Activity Outline

This activity considers one family's current engagement points with the service system using case scenarios from the perspective of different sectors.

It is designed to be completed individually, within a team, or as a cross-sector activity. Working with the case scenarios and activity templates, use the appendices to assist you to complete this activity. Please refer to the instructions below.



HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ACTIVITY AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Part One - Your Sector

- Identify your sector in the table of contents and read the case scenario. If your sector is not listed, choose one sector as a starting point.
- Use the activity template to record the risk relevant information you hold.
- Use the prompting questions to consider the use of the Information Sharing Schemes.

Part Two - Cross-Sector

- Identify the services you would seek to request information from, or share information with, from the table of contents.
- Read their sector case scenario and complete the activity template to record the risk relevant information they hold.
- Use the prompting questions to consider the use of the Information Sharing Schemes and how it relates to information held within your own sector's case scenario.

Part Three - Reflection

• Refer to *Reflection* on page 26 and consider the questions to reflect on the outcomes of this activity and identify next steps to build your knowledge.

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ACTIVITY AS A TEAM

Part One - Assign A Sector

• Assign each team member a different sector from the table of contents and ask them to read their own case scenario.

Part Two - Relevant Information

- Ask each team member to use the activity template to record the risk relevant information they
 hold within their case scenario.
- Ask each team member to discuss with the group the risk relevant information that they have recorded.

Part Three - Information Sharing

- Reflecting on the risk relevant information that has been recorded across the team, ask the team members to identify which services they would seek to request information from, or share information with, under the Information Sharing Schemes.
- Use the prompting questions and the relevant appendices to discuss how they would consider using the Information Sharing Schemes.

Part Four - Reflection

• Refer to *Reflection* on page 26. Use the questions to reflect on and discuss the outcomes of this activity and identify next steps to build knowledge of the Information Sharing Schemes within the team.

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS ACTIVITY AS A CROSS-SECTOR GROUP

Part One - Your Sector

- Ask participants to form a group with other members of their own sector and read their relevant case scenario. For those participants that do not have their sector listed, ask them to choose a sector group they would like to join for this activity.
- Ask each group to use the activity template to discuss and record the risk relevant information they hold in their case scenario and use the prompting questions to discuss the use of the Information Sharing Schemes.

Part Two - Cross-Sector

- Ask each sector group to identify the services they would seek to request information from, or share information with, under the Information Sharing Schemes.
- Ask participants to find a participant from this different sector and discuss the risk relevant information they each hold. Use the prompting questions to discuss how they would use the Information Sharing Schemes to share information between their sectors in this scenario.
- Repeat this step again to rotate participants and prompt further discussion with a different sector.

Part Three - Reflection

 Refer to Reflection on page 26. Use the questions to reflect on and discuss the outcomes of this activity and identify next steps to enhance collaboration across these sectors and build confidence in using the Information Sharing Schemes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is my sector?

This resource is not a comprehensive list of case scenarios from all prescribed services, rather it is an example of one family's current engagement points with the service system. If your sector is not represented here, benefit can still be derived from nominating a starting point and working through the activity to identify the kinds of risk relevant information held by other sectors that your role may need to engage with under the Information Sharing Schemes.

How do I know if I've answered the questions in the activity correctly?

Using the appendices to support consideration of the questions, this activity is designed to develop practitioners' understanding of how the Information Sharing Schemes are applied in practice. If your organisation is prescribed and this activity raises further questions about the use of the Information Sharing Schemes, please raise this with your line manager to clarify staff responsibilities under the Schemes. Further guidance on the use of the Information Sharing Schemes is available on the Victorian Government website

https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-schemes-and-the-maram-framework.

Do these case scenarios depict a 'typical' response?

These case scenarios do not depict real events or persons, however WIFVC has consulted with the sectors contained within this resource to ensure the case scenarios reflect a likely experience of one family's touch points with the service system.

Details such as specific conditions on an Intervention Order demonstrate that there is no 'typical' experience of family violence or service response and is intended to prompt further enquiry. This emphasises the power of the Information Sharing Schemes in accessing risk relevant details, and the importance of ongoing information sharing between prescribed services for risk management.

How do I know what is risk relevant information?

The appendices include a list of family violence evidence-based risk factors as a reference. This activity is not designed as a guide for undertaking risk assessments and should not be used for this purpose. You should seek specific training on MARAM risk assessment as relevant to your role.

How do I know what training I need to do?

The Victorian Government website has information on what training is available for MARAM and the Information Sharing Schemes and includes a decision-making tree to assist organisations to determine which training is relevant to different staff roles. Refer to the additional resources on page 34 for more information.

What if I need specific technical advice when managing an information sharing request on behalf of my organisation?

If you have a specific query about an information sharing request your organisation is managing and need assistance, please contact the Information Sharing Enquiry Line on 1800 549 646 or infosharing@familysafety.vic.gov.au and childinfosharing@edumail.vic.gov.au to seek advice.

CASE SCENARIOS

SECTOR CASE SCENARIO: ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Lisa has self-referred to the Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD) service for support with her increasing use of alcohol.

During the intake process, the intake worker asked MARAM screening questions about family violence. Lisa informed the service that there is an IVO in place against her former partner, Darren, with Lisa and both children Ben (aged 14) and Tara (aged 3.5 years) listed as the affected family members. There is a condition permitting Darren to have supervised contact with the children.

Following intake, a face to face assessment is booked. The assessment worker discusses the safety plan put in place with Lisa's specialist family violence case manager. Lisa identifies that she has had issues with alcohol use in the past, however is relying on it more of late as she's unable to sleep. Last week, her son Ben told her that he saw Darren in the school car park during recess when he was returning to class. Lisa is worried Darren will attempt to take Ben out of school during the day. Ben has autism spectrum disorder and any minor disruption to his schedule can be very difficult for him to cope with. Lisa isn't sure how seriously Darren is taking their breakup and believes Darren thinks they've just had a fight and that things will go back to normal. As Darren is attending the school, Lisa is concerned that Darren will try to have unsupervised contact with Ben, despite the conditions on the IVO.

Lisa is drinking more than she used to and says she currently feels like it's the only thing that relaxes her so that she can sleep. Lisa's previous AOD treatment episode was 5 years ago when Ben was 9 and Tara wasn't born yet. The last time Lisa accessed treatment she had a standard episode of AOD counselling. Lisa discusses the previous treatment episode's circumstances, noting that she didn't realise it at the time, but Darren's controlling behaviour had made her nervous. He used to take her car keys and hide them while he was at work so she couldn't use the car, having to walk or catch the bus to get 9-year-old Ben to primary school. It was around this time that Lisa started drinking more than usual.

Compared to Lisa's alcohol use when she sought support 5 years ago, her alcohol intake has increased.

Lisa states her children are a motivating factor for her seeking support to reduce her alcohol intake. Lisa advises she is engaged with a child and family service but is hesitant for the AOD worker to make contact in case information about her treatment is shared as she is fearful of being judged as a "bad mother" due to her substance use.

Individual	Record the risk relevant information in this case scenario (refer to Appendix 2)	
Perpetrator		
Victim Survivor (adult)		
Victim Survivor (child/ young person)		
CONSIDER/DISCUSS	Reflecting on the risk relevant information above, consider or discuss the prompts below & record your responses.	
Is this service a prescribed Information Sharing Entity? (see Appendix 1)		
What is the purpose of sharing or requesting the information: - Family violence <u>risk assessment</u> or <u>risk management</u> (FVISS)? (see Appendices 3 & 4) - Child wellbeing or safety (CISS)? (see Appendix 5)		
In seeking to share or request information, what are the relevant consent thresholds that would apply in this case scenario? (see Appendix 6) Consider how you might seek the views and wishes of the adult or child victim survivor if it was appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.		
How is sharing or request	ting this information keeping the perpetrator in view?	

Based on this information, has your understanding of the level of family violence risk changed?

NEXT STEPS

Identify another sector with which you might share or request information. Read their case study and complete the activity again to build your understanding of the risk relevant information held by other sectors.

SECTOR CASE SCENARIO: CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Lisa has been engaged with the family services practitioner for the last month following an L17 referral from Victoria Police to Child First. Lisa has two children with her ex-partner, Darren, Ben aged 14 and Tara aged 3.5 years. The family services practitioner discusses the safety plan put in place to support Lisa and the children by the specialist family violence case manager and looks at how their service can help address the overall needs of the family. This conversation is particularly focussed on Ben's needs as he has autism spectrum disorder and was also directly involved in the recent family violence incident where he was deliberately locked out of the house.

Lisa recently moved rental properties within the same local government area, prioritising remaining close to Ben's school as Ben's routine relies on consistency and familiarity with his environment due to his autism spectrum disorder. Despite efforts to keep routines and remain close to familiar places, the move has been hard on Ben. Darren does not know where they live. There is a condition on the IVO only permitting Darren to have supervised contact with the children. The family services practitioner assisted Lisa to talk to the school about the change in family situation and making sure that the school was aware of the orders in place. The family services practitioner has also enquired about what support may be available through an NDIS plan.

The family services practitioner regularly observes that when Ben talks about his father, his tone changes and he becomes reserved. When Ben and Tara go to visit Darren at his grandmother's house on Sundays, Ben says that Darren asks a lot of questions about what home is like, how much time they spend at home and what days Lisa goes to work. Ben doesn't understand why Darren doesn't want him to come and visit more often.

The family services practitioner works in collaboration with the enhanced maternal child health nurse who is seeing Tara. The nurse observes that Tara at 3.5 years does not walk much during the appointments, demanding that Lisa pick her up. Lisa reports that Tara is normally very mobile, but she does not move far from her at any time. Tara is frequently observed to cling to her mother, latching on firmly with her hands wrapped around her mother's neck. Tara appears to be hypervigilant and startles easily particularly when there is a loud noise. Tara regularly buries her head in her mother's shirt and does not look up for a few minutes despite her mother's attempts to reassure her.

Tara has limited vocabulary, less than her peers at this age and stage. Lisa stated that she would like to take Tara to the local library and play group like she used to as she recognises this would be of benefit for them both, however Lisa reports that Darren knows that it was a regular activity and she's worried that Darren might try to follow her home and find out where she lives.

Individual	Record the risk relevant information in this case scenario (refer to Appendix 2)		
Perpetrator			
Victim Survivor (adult)			
Victim Survivor (child/ young person)			
CONSIDER/DISCUSS	Reflecting on the risk relevant information above, consider or discuss the prompts below & record your responses.		
Is this service a prescribed Information Sharing Entity? (see Appendix 1)			
What is the purpose of sharing or requesting the information: - Family violence <u>risk assessment</u> or <u>risk management</u> (FVISS)? (see Appendices 3 & 4) - Child wellbeing or safety (CISS)? (see Appendix 5)			
In seeking to share or request information, what are the relevant consent thresholds that would apply in this case scenario? (see Appendix 6) Consider how you might seek the views and wishes of the adult or child victim survivor if it was appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.			
How is sharing or requesting this information keeping the perpetrator in view?			
Based on this information, has your understanding of the level of family violence risk changed?			

NEXT STEPS

SECTOR CASE SCENARIO: HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING SERVICES

Darren presented at a local access point for housing support and met with the intake worker. Darren reported he was initially sleeping rough for a few days following a relationship breakdown with his partner, Lisa, but he is now sleeping on a friend's couch. Darren and Lisa have two children, Ben aged 14 and Tara aged 3.5 years. The children are currently living with their mother.

Darren's intake worker assisted him with a housing application. Darren told the intake worker that his housing needs were only temporary as he'll be moving back in with Lisa shortly. He told them Lisa just needed time to cool off and realise she can't take care of the kids without him. The intake worker knows Darren's temporary address and that he doesn't have a vehicle and so relies on public transport for appointments.

During the application process, Darren became frustrated when the intake worker asked standard questions about his source of income for the purposes of the housing application. Darren disclosed that earlier this week he was let go from his job and made comments about everything being Lisa's fault after she kicked him out of the house.

Following the questions about income, Darren became disruptive and argumentative with the intake worker and surrounding staff during the appointment. The manager needed to have a word with Darren to address his behaviour. Darren didn't seem to understand why his behaviour was inappropriate and left without finalising the application.

Individual	Record the risk relevant information in this case scenario (refer to Appendix 2)		
Perpetrator			
Victim Survivor (adult)			
Victim Survivor (child/ young person)			
CONSIDER/DISCUSS Reflecting on the risk relevant information above, consider or discuss the prompts below & record your responses.			
Is this service a prescribed Information Sharing Entity? (see Appendix 1)			
What is the purpose of sharing or requesting the information: - Family violence <u>risk assessment</u> or <u>risk management</u> (FVISS)? (see Appendices 3 & 4) - Child wellbeing or safety (CISS)? (see Appendix 5)			
In seeking to share or request information, what are the relevant consent thresholds that would apply in this case scenario? (see Appendix 6) Consider how you might seek the views and wishes of the adult or child victim survivor if it was appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.			
How is sharing or requesting this information keeping the perpetrator in view?			

Based on this information, has your understanding of the level of family violence risk changed?

NEXT STEPS

SECTOR CASE SCENARIO: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The hospital's Mental Health Unit has records of a referral for Lisa from 6 months ago, following Lisa presenting to the emergency department with her daughter Tara who was 3-years-old at the time.

Lisa had reported to emergency department staff that Tara hadn't been eating or drinking, and she was concerned about dehydration, malnutrition and lack of weight gain. Lisa said she had run out of options and wanted Tara to be admitted to the paediatric ward.

Lisa presented as visibly exhausted and had some dark circles/bruising around her eyes. When staff enquired about this, she stated that it was because she hadn't slept and was so tired she fell over putting the washing out the day before. Staff offered for Lisa to speak to the social worker, but during this discussion Lisa's partner, Darren, arrived at the emergency department. Darren started to take over the narrative of Tara's wellbeing, dismissing Lisa's concerns to staff and stating he did not feel that Tara needed to be admitted. Lisa did not participate in the conversation from that point.

The paediatrician that reviewed Tara determined that she had a fever due to an infection and provided a prescription for medication. He noted Tara's weight was tracking ok. The paediatrician recommended that Lisa use the Maternal and Child Health drop-in service at the local council if she wanted to keep an eye on Tara's weight. He did not believe there was any need to admit Tara to the paediatric ward as he felt happy that the medication would address Tara's symptoms.

Lisa appeared unhappy with the paediatrician's response. Darren thanked the paediatrician profusely and apologised that Lisa had wasted everyone's time, making a joke with staff that she still hadn't figured out how to parent even though this is their second child, referencing Tara's 14-year-old brother, Ben.

On exiting the emergency department, the social worker referred Lisa to the hospital's Mental Health Unit as she was concerned for possible depression and anxiety due to Lisa's appearance, level of concern/preoccupation regarding Tara's weight, and Lisa's insistence that Tara needs to be admitted to hospital, despite reassurance by the paediatrician that the symptoms will be addressed.

Lisa has not followed up to seek mental health support following this referral.

Individual	Record the risk relevant information in this case scenario (refer to Appendix 2)		
Perpetrator			
Victim Survivor (adult)			
Victim Survivor (child/ young person)			
CONSIDER/DISCUSS	Reflecting on the risk relevant information above, consider or discuss the prompts below & record your responses.		
Is this service a prescribed Information Sharing Entity? (see Appendix 1)			
What is the purpose of sharing or requesting the information: - Family violence <u>risk assessment</u> or <u>risk management</u> (FVISS)? (see Appendices 3 & 4) - Child wellbeing or safety (CISS)? (see Appendix 5)			
In seeking to share or request information, what are the relevant consent thresholds that would apply in this case scenario? (see Appendix 6) Consider how you might seek the views and wishes of the adult or child victim survivor if it was appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.			
How is sharing or requesting this information keeping the perpetrator in view?			
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Based on this information	n, has your understanding of the level of family violence risk changed?		

NEXT STEPS

SECTOR CASE SCENARIO: PERPETRATOR INTERVENTION SERVICES

Darren self-referred to the Men's Behaviour Change Program following a recommendation from a Magistrates Court IVO hearing in which he was listed as the respondent. A full IVO was granted for his former partner, Lisa, and their children Ben (aged 14) and Tara (aged 3.5 years) listed as the affected family members. There is a condition on the IVO permitting Darren to have supervised contact with the children. At intake, the worker explained the limits of confidentiality and that information may be shared with other services if it relates to safety or risk to himself or other people, or to the wellbeing of a child.

Darren attended three group sessions before he abruptly stopped attending. During the sessions he did attend, the worker noted that he initially showed awareness of his behaviour and the impact on Lisa and his children.

For the first two sessions Darren was very engaged in group, speaking often and presenting as reflecting on his actions. He identified goals of wanting to spend 'quality time' with Ben by teaching him how to play cricket during his next scheduled visit. Ben has autism spectrum disorder and it was important to Darren that he knows how to play more sports so that he "fits in".

However, the last session Darren attended he presented as agitated and absent. The worker asked if he wanted to contribute anything to the discussion and he responded that he was sick of everything. When discussing his behaviour, he minimised his use of violence, referring to it as it "taking two to argue", yet he is the one that was kicked out of the house. He expressed anger that Lisa was stopping him from being a good dad and that he should just be allowed to move back in.

The worker reiterated the importance of respecting and adhering to the conditions of the IVO and that this is part of his goal of being "a good dad". The worker discussed ways of negotiating with Lisa to have more supervised time with Ben.

Darren has not attended any further sessions. The worker relayed this information to the Men's Behaviour Change Program family safety contact worker who has been engaged with Lisa.

Individual	Record the risk relevant information in this case scenario (refer to Appendix 2)		
Perpetrator			
Victim Survivor (adult)			
Victim Survivor (child/ young person)			
CONSIDER/DISCUSS Reflecting on the risk relevant information above, consider or discuss the prompts below & record your responses.			
Is this service a prescribed Information Sharing Entity? (see Appendix 1)			
What is the purpose of sharing or requesting the information: - Family violence <u>risk assessment</u> or <u>risk management</u> (FVISS)? (see Appendices 3 & 4) - Child wellbeing or safety (CISS)? (see Appendix 5)			
In seeking to share or request information, what are the relevant consent thresholds that would apply in this case scenario? (see Appendix 6) Consider how you might seek the views and wishes of the adult or child victim survivor if it was appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.			
How is sharing or requesting this information keeping the perpetrator in view?			

Based on this information, has your understanding of the level of family violence risk changed?

NEXT STEPS

Identify another sector with which you might share or request information. Read their case study and complete the activity again to build your understanding of the risk relevant information held by other sectors.

SECTOR CASE SCENARIO: SPECIALIST FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

Following an L17 referral from Victoria Police, Lisa is seeking support from the specialist family violence service. Lisa has two children with her ex-partner, Darren, Ben aged 14 and Tara aged 3.5-years-old.

During the intake process, the intake worker completed a comprehensive risk assessment and discussed a safety plan with Lisa which included considerations for each child. Darren has a history of perpetrating family violence against Lisa, although police hadn't previously been involved until now, with incidents of family violence also occurring 6 months and 4 years ago (before Tara was born). The specialist family violence case manager discusses these historic incidents in detail along with the most recent incident of violence where Darren had locked Ben outside of the house while it was raining heavily to teach him a lesson about his 'attitude'. Darren had pushed Lisa forcefully against the wall when she tried to get past him to unlock the door and get Ben, who has autism spectrum disorder, back inside the house. Lisa had extensive bruising on her arm and her shoulder as a result of being pushed, and Ben was extremely distressed by the experience. A concerned neighbour had called police and a full IVO with Lisa and both children listed as the affected family members was applied for. Following advocacy from the specialist family violence case manager and other practitioners involved, the Magistrate granted an IVO condition that only permits Darren to have supervised contact with the children.

Darren has made it clear that he intends to reconcile the relationship with Lisa, and in an attempt to make it clear that the separation was final, Lisa recently moved into a new rental property within the same local government area, remaining close to Ben's school. Due to the autism spectrum disorder, Ben requires strict routines and to be in a familiar environment in order to feel comfortable, and the move has been hard on him. Darren does not know their new address and Lisa does not want him to know where they live. Darren has supervised contact with Ben and Tara every Sunday at the paternal grandmother's house. Ben had been enjoying the visits with his father, but Darren has abruptly cancelled the last two weekend visits which has greatly upset Ben.

Lisa has reported that needing to move rental properties has made her feel significant financial pressure. When Lisa and Darren first separated, Darren had agreed to make payments into the bank account set up for Ben to assist with Ben's basketball fees. Since the IVO has been put in place, Darren got annoyed with Lisa and stopped making deposits, knowing Lisa would be unable to cover Ben's basketball fees alone. As a consequence of Darren's behaviour, Ben becomes angry with his mother for not letting him play basketball, which is damaging their relationship. Ben has been having frequent outbursts lately and has started to replicate some of Darren words about Lisa as a "useless woman" or "useless mother". Darren sent a text to Lisa saying that he wouldn't need to make payments for basketball fees anymore as Ben told him he wanted to stay with him. Darren told Lisa that she should remove the IVO because it seems like she's really struggling, and that Darren has no choice but to step up and provide for Ben.

Individual	Record the risk relevant information in this case scenario (refer to Appendix 2)		
Perpetrator			
Victim Survivor (adult)			
Victim Survivor (child/ young person)			
CONSIDER/DISCUSS	Reflecting on the risk relevant information above, consider or discuss the prompts below & record your responses.		
Is this service a prescribe	d Information Sharing Entity? (see Appendix 1)		
What is the purpose of sharing or requesting the information: - Family violence <u>risk assessment</u> or <u>risk management</u> (FVISS)? (see Appendices 3 & 4) - Child wellbeing or safety (CISS)? (see Appendix 5)			
In seeking to share or request information, what are the relevant consent thresholds that would apply in this case scenario? (see Appendix 6) Consider how you might seek the views and wishes of the adult or child victim survivor if it was appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.			
How is sharing or requesting this information keeping the perpetrator in view?			
Based on this information	n, has your understanding of the level of family violence risk changed?		

NEXT STEPS

SECTOR CASE SCENARIO: VICTORIA POLICE

Victoria Police members recently responded to a call regarding an assault at a property owned by Darren's friend Wayne. Wayne reported that Darren had been staying at the property on and off for the past week and they had gotten into an argument about Darren's treatment of Wayne's dog. Wayne reported that Darren was taunting his dog with food and then hitting the dog with a tree branch. Warren yelled at Darren to stop, then pushed him away and told him to leave the property. Darren punched Wayne in the face twice and then kicked Wayne in the stomach. Police obtained a statement from Wayne and will be pursuing assault charges against Darren.

Darren had recent contact with Victoria Police approximately one month ago when they attended his previous residence for a family violence incident. At that time Darren was living with his expartner, Lisa, and his two children Ben aged 14 and Tara aged 3.5-years. Police had attended the property following a call from a concerned neighbour.

It was reported that Darren had locked Ben outside of the house while it was raining heavily because he was fed up with Ben's "attitude". Darren pushed Lisa forcefully against the wall when she tried to get past him to unlock the door and get Ben inside the house. Police observed that Lisa had extensive bruising on her arm and her shoulder as a result of being pushed. Ben was extremely distressed from being locked outside of the house in the rain. Tara was in the bedroom asleep at the time of the incident.

An L17 report was completed in relation to this incident and Lisa and the children were referred to the Specialist Family Violence Service and Child First. Police sought a full IVO with Lisa and both children listed as the affected family members. The resulting IVO also has a condition only permitting Darren to have supervised contact with the children.

Individual	Record the risk relevant information in this case scenario (refer to Appendix 2)		
Perpetrator			
Victim Survivor (adult)			
Victim Survivor (child/ young person)			
CONSIDER/DISCUSS	Reflecting on the risk relevant information above, consider or discuss the prompts below & record your responses.		
Is this service a prescribed Information Sharing Entity? (see Appendix 1)			
What is the purpose of sharing or requesting the information: - Family violence <u>risk assessment</u> or <u>risk management</u> (FVISS)? (see Appendices 3 & 4) - Child wellbeing or safety (CISS)? (see Appendix 5)			
In seeking to share or request information, what are the relevant consent thresholds that would apply in this case scenario? (see Appendix 6) Consider how you might seek the views and wishes of the adult or child victim survivor if it was appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.			
How is sharing or requesting this information keeping the perpetrator in view?			
Based on this information, has your understanding of the level of family violence risk changed?			

NEXT STEPS

Reflection

Following this activity, has your understanding of the kinds of risk relevant information that might be held by other ISEs changed?
Following this activity, what might you consider doing differently in your practice in the following areas:
Building my understanding of family violence?
Enhancing my collaborative work with other services?
• Using the Information Sharing Schemes to enable more effective support for my client?
What actions will you be taking to further develop your understanding of MARAM and the Information Sharing Schemes?

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Who can I share information with?

Who can I share information with?

Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes

This resource aim to help Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) identify who they can share information with under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS). From 27 September 2018, the following list of organisations and services will be prescribed as ISEs1:

CISS, FVISS and MARAM - all reforms

- · Alcohol and other drugs services
- · Child protection
- Department of Health and Human Services Housing
- · Designated Mental Health Services
- · Homelessness services²
- · Justice Health
- Justice Health funded or contracted services³
- · Maternal and Child Health Services
- Multi-agency Panels to Prevent Youth Offending
- · Out-of-Home care services
- · Perpetrator interventions, including trials under the Family Violence Perpetrator Intervention grants
- · Registered community-based child and family services (including Child FIRST)
- · Risk Assessment and Management Panels
- · Sexual assault support services
- · Sexually abusive behaviour treatment services
- · Specialist family violence services4
- · Support and Safety Hubs
- · Victims Assistance Program services
- · Victims of Crime Helpline
- · Victoria Police
- · Youth Justice
- · Youth Justice funded community support services or programs
- Youth Parole Board (Secretariat)

CISS and FVIS only

- · Commission for Children and Young People
- · Disability Services Commissioner

CISS only

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

FVISS and MARAM only

- · Adult Parole Board
- Children's Court⁵
- · Corrections Victoria funded or contracted rehabilitation and reintegration services or programs, prisoner services or programs and clinical services or programs for offender rehabilitation
- · Corrections Victoria, including Community Correctional Services and privately operated prisons
- · Court-ordered family violence counselling
- · Family Violence Restorative Justice Service
- · Justice Health funded or contracted services for adults
- Magistrates' Court⁶
- · State Funded Financial Counselling Program
- Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program

Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines: Guidance for Information Sharing Entities, Family Safety Victoria, September 2018, https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme

¹ ISEs in the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme are prescribed by the Family Violence Protection (Information Sharing and Risk Management) Regulations 2018. ISEs in the Child Information Sharing Scheme are prescribed by the Child Wellbeing and Safety (Information Sharing) Regulations 2018. In the Child Information Sharing Scheme are prescribed by the Child Wellbeing and Safety (Inform

2 Selected services.

3 For people under 18 years only.

4 Including family violence counselling and therapeutic programs.

5 May be prescribed under the Child Information Sharing Scheme pending legislative amendment.

6 May be prescribed under the Child Information Sharing Scheme pending legislative amendment.

Appendix 2: Evidence Based Risk Factors

Evidence Based Risk Factors

- Risk factors relevant to adult victim circumstances
 - · Physical assault whilst pregnant/following new birth
 - · Self-assessed level of risk
 - · Planning to leave or recent separation
 - Escalation increase in severity and/or frequency of violence
 - · Financial abuse/difficulties
 - Imminence
- Risk factors specific to children caused by perpetrator behaviours
 - · Exposure to family violence
 - Sexualised behaviours towards a child by the perpetrator
 - · Child intervention in violence
 - · Behaviour indicating non-return of child
 - · Undermining the child-parent relationship
 - · Professional and statutory intervention
 - Risk factors specific to children's circumstances
 - History of professional involvement and/or statutory intervention
 - · Change in behaviour not explained by other causes
 - · Child as victim in other forms of harm

- Risk factors for adult or child victims caused by perpetrator behaviours
 - · Controlling behaviours
 - · Access to weapons
 - · Use of weapon in most recent event
 - Has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or family members
 - · Has ever tried to strangle or choke the victim
 - · Has ever threatened to kill victim
 - Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill pets or other animals
 - Has ever threatened or tried to self harm or commit suicide
 - Stalking of victim
 - · Sexual assault of victim
 - Previous or current breach of court orders/ Intervention Order
 - · History of family violence
 - · History of violent behaviour (not family violence)
 - · Obsession/jealous behaviour towards victim
 - · Unemployed/ Disengaged from education
 - · Drug and/or alcohol misuse/abuse
 - · Mental illness/Depression
 - Isolation
 - · Physical harm
 - · Emotional abuse
 - Property damage

Note: bold text denote increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed. Risk assessment tools are designed from these evidence-based factors. using structured professional judgement to determine seriousness of presenting risk

The evidence-based risk factors here were adapted from the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework - Foundation Knowledge Guide, Family Safety Victoria, July 2019, https://www.vic.gov.au/maram-practice-guides-and-resources by the Northern Integrated Family Violence Partnership for the purpose of the MARAM Collaborative Practice Training Module.

Appendix 3: Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme - Purpose of Sharing

	Family violence assessment purpose		Family violence protection purpose
Assessing risk and establishing whether risk does in fact exist	 Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) can voluntarily share information with Risk Assessment Entities (RAEs) RAEs can request information from ISEs 	Scope	 ISEs can voluntarily share information with other ISEs ISEs can request information from other ISEs
	RAEs can request, collect, use and disclose information for a family violence assessment purpose (establishing and assessing risk)	Purpose	ISEs can request, collect, use and disclose information for a family violence protection purpose (managing risk) once risk has been established
	A perpetrator, an alleged perpetrator, a victim survivor including adults and children, a third party	Can share information about	A perpetrator, a victim survivor including adults and children, a third party
	If an RAE makes a request to any ISE, the responding entity must share relevant information, provided: - the information is not excluded - applicable consent requirements have been met	Obligatory Sharing	If an ISE makes a request to another ISE, the responding entity must share relevant information, provided: - the responding entity reasonably believes that the disclosure of relevant information is necessary for a protection purpose. This is intended as a safeguard to prevent unnecessary or irrelevant information from being shared - the information is not excluded - applicable consent requirements have been met
	An ISE is permitted to share information with an RAE on a voluntary basis (i.e. without a request) for the purpose of risk assessment, provided: - the information is not excluded - applicable consent requirements have been met	Voluntary Sharing	An ISE is permitted to share information with another prescribed ISE on a voluntary basis (i.e. without a request) for a protection purpose, provided: - the information is not excluded - applicable consent requirements have been met

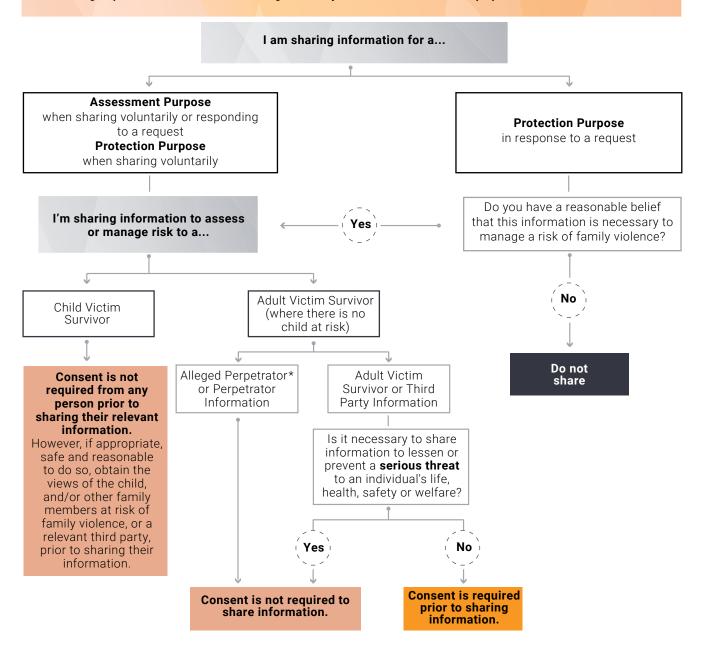
Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines: Guidance for Information Sharing Entities, Family Safety Victoria, September 2018, https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme

Appendix 4: A Guide for ISEs on how to share information

Information sharing helps keep victim survivors safe and hold perpetrators to account.

This is a guide for ISEs on how to share information that is relevant to assessing and managing risk of family violence.

ISEs should give precedence to victim survivors' right to safety and are authorised to share perpetrator information without consent.



^{*} Note that alleged perpetrator information can only be shared for an assessment purpose.

YOU CANNOT SHARE EXCLUDED INFORMATION

such as any information that could reasonably be expected to endanger a person's life or result in physical injury, prejudice legal proceedings or a coronial inquest or inquiry, or disclose privileged information. For a complete list of excluded information see the legislation.

A guide for organisations on how to share information, Family Safety Victoria, 2019 https://www.vic.gov.au/guide-organisations-how-share-information

Appendix 5: Child Information Sharing Scheme Summary

Child Information Sharing Scheme summary



Who can share information

If the scheme's threshold is met, prescribed information sharing entities can request and disclose confidential information about any person with each other.*

Why

Threshold part 1: Promoting child wellbeing or safety

An information sharing entity can **request** or **disclose** information about any person for the purpose of promoting the wellbeing or safety of a child or group of children.

What

Threshold part 2: Sharing to assist another information sharing entity

The **disclosing** information sharing entity must reasonably believe that sharing the information may assist the receiving information sharing entity to carry out one or more of the following activities:

- i. making a decision, an assessment or a plan relating to a child or group of children
- ii. initiating or conducting an investigation relating to a child or group of children
- iii. providing a service relating to a child or group of children
- iv. managing any risk to a child or group of children.

Threshold part 3: Excluded information

The information being **disclosed** or **requested** is not known to be 'excluded information' under Part 6A of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (and is not restricted from sharing by another law).

When

When should information be shared

If the threshold of the scheme is met, an information sharing entity:

- · can share proactively with other information sharing entities
- · can request information from another information sharing entity
- must respond to requests for information from another information sharing entity and provide relevant information.

Principles

Legisla

Legislative principles to guide sharing

- 1. Give precedence to the wellbeing and safety of a child or group of children over the right to privacy.
- 2. Seek to preserve and promote positive relationships between a child and the child's family members and people significant in the child's life.
- 3. Seek to maintain constructive and respectful engagement with children and their families.
- Be respectful of and have regard to a child's social, individual and cultural identity, the child's strengths and abilities and any vulnerability relevant to the child's safety or wellbeing.
- 5. Promote the cultural safety and recognise the cultural rights and familial and community connections of children who are Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both.
- 6. Seek and take into account the views of the child and the child's relevant family members, if it is appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.
- 7. Take all reasonable steps to plan for the safety of all family members believed to be at risk from family violence.
- 8. Only share confidential information to the extent necessary to promote the wellbeing or safety of a child or group of children, consistent with the best interests of that child or those children.
- 9. Work collaboratively in a manner that respects the functions and expertise of each information sharing entity.

Child Information Sharing Scheme Summary, State of Victoria, September 2018 https://www.vic.gov.au/quides-templates-tools-for-information-sharing

Appendix 6: Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme - Consent

WHO CAN SHARE

Information sharing entities (ISEs) are authorised to share information. These ISEs are:

Prescribed by regulations

WHY THEY CAN SHARE

Relevant information about a person (adult or child) who is a victim survivor, perpetrator or a third party can be shared for the purpose of:

Establishing and assessing risk

Managing risk

WHEN CAN THEY SHARE

ISEs can share information:

Voluntarily with other ISEs

In response to a request from another ISE

WHAT CANNOT BE SHARED

Excluded information (including but not limited to) if sharing the information might endanger a person's life or result in physical injury, prejudice legal proceedings or a police investigation, contravene a court order, or is subject to legal professional privilege

ISEs cannot share information that would contravene another law that has not been specifically overridden by the scheme

All ISEs must respond to information requests unless an exemption applies

A good faith defence protects individuals who share information in good faith and with reasonable care

The scheme will be reviewed after 2 years, and then again after 5 years

Complaints about privacy breaches can be made to the Victorian Information Commissioner or the **Health Complaints** Commissioner

Adult Victim Survivor

An ISE reasonably believes that there is a risk that the person may be subjected to family violence

Child Victim Survivor

An ISE reasonably believes that there is a risk that the person (under the age of 18 years) may be subjected to family violence

Perpetrator

An ISE reasonably believes that there is a risk that the person may commit family violence

Alleged Perpetrator

A person who is alleged to pose a risk of family violence

Note: information about an alleged perpetrator can only be shared in the risk assessment phase

Third Party

A person whose information is relevant to assessing or managing a risk of family violence

CONSENT REQUIRED

from the adult victim survivor prior to sharing their information unless there is a serious threat or the information

relates to assessing or managing a risk to a child victim survivor (no consent - see below)

NO CONSENT REQUIRED

from any person

if their information is relevant to assessing or managing risk of family violence to a child victim survivor

NO CONSENT REQUIRED

from the perpetrator

prior to sharing their information to assess or manage risk of committing family violence

NO CONSENT REQUIRED

from the alleged perpetrator prior to sharing their information to establish or assess risk of committing family violence

CONSENT REQUIRED

from the third party

prior to sharing their information unless there is a serious threat or the information relates to assessing or managing a risk to a child victim survivor (no consent - see above).

Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines: Guidance for Information Sharing Entities, Family Safety Victoria, September 2018, https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme

Additional Resources

Visit the Victorian Government website https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-schemes-and-the-maram-framework for up to date resources and training information. Some of these resources are listed below.

Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme

- Family Violence Information Sharing Ministerial Guidelines
- A guide for ISEs on how to share information
- How to request information under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme
- Information sharing process checklist when making a request
- Information sharing process checklist when responding to a request
- Example record keeping form
- Tips for conversations with adult victim survivors about consenting to information sharing
- Tips for a conversation with a child victim survivor or parent who is not a perpetrator
- Information sharing consent form

Child Information Sharing Scheme

- · Child Information Sharing Ministerial Guidelines
- Child Information Sharing Scheme summary
- Child Information Sharing Scheme pathway
- Example record keeping form

Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme and Child Information Sharing Scheme

- Information Sharing Entity List https://iselist.www.vic.gov.au/ise/list/
- Fact Sheet: How do the Information Sharing Schemes Work Together?
- Organisational readiness checklist for the family violence and child information sharing schemes
- Tips for information sharing record keeping under the family violence and child information sharing schemes
- Tips for a conversation with a child and/or parent about information sharing under the family violence and child information sharing schemes

Multiagency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM)

- MARAM Framework
- MARAM Victim Survivor Practice Guides
- MARAM Organisational Embedding Guide

In development at the time of this resource being published:

• MARAM Perpetrator Practice Guide

Training

- MARAM training overview
- MARAM decision making tree
- Information Sharing Schemes online modules

Visit the WIFVC website www.wifvc.org.au for resources and information on regional capacity building opportunities for the MARAM and Information Sharing Schemes in the western metropolitan region.



