

Western Integrated Family Violence Committee

Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Overview

The Western Integrated Family Violence Committee (WIFVC) is a regional governance structure that provides strategic leadership to drive effective responses to family violence across the local service system and support implementation of Victoria’s family violence reforms in the western metropolitan region.

WIFVC is one of 13 regional committees across Victoria funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for the Brimbank Melton and Western Melbourne region. GenWest is contracted as the auspice organisation for funds and the employment of staff. WIFVC has over 70 organisational members, representing the following sectors across the western metropolitan region:

- Specialist family violence services
- Perpetrator services
- Child and family services
- The Orange Door
- Sexual assault services
- Victoria Police
- Child Protection
- Court services and community legal services
- Aboriginal community-controlled organisations
- Housing and homelessness services
- Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug (AoD) services
- Community and women’s health services
- State and local government

The WIFVC Governance Group oversees the work of the Committee. The WIFVC Governance Group membership is elected for a two-year term and is composed of the following:

Member positions:	Standing members:
1 x Victim Survivor Service	1 x Independent Chair
1 x Perpetrator Service	1 x Auspice Agency CEO
1 x Child & Family Service	1 x Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing
2 x Services targeted specifically to diverse communities	1 x ACCO
	1 x Sexual Assault Service
4 x Open positions (Community Legal Services, Mental Health, AOD, Housing and Community Health)	1 x The Orange Door Hub Manager
	1 x Victoria Police

Western metropolitan region

Western metropolitan Melbourne is a rapidly growing multi-cultural region with 17.5% of Victoria’s population living across the 7 Local Government Areas (LGAs). All seven LGAs in the western metropolitan region have a higher proportion of people who were born overseas than the Victorian state average of

28.4%, with Wyndham (47.3%) and Brimbank (55.6%) with the largest populations born overseas of the LGAs outside of Melbourne¹.

As of March 2022, the western metropolitan region represented 16.7% of all family violence incidents in Victoria, a 32.3% increase of family violence incidents reported by police in the western metropolitan region since 2018. Since 2018, the rate of family violence incidents has increased in all seven LGAs, most significantly in Wyndham by 56%, Melton by 42% and Melbourne by 32%. Maribyrnong saw an increase of 24%, Moonee Valley 18%, Brimbank 15% and Hobsons Bay 6%².

The western metropolitan region has the following state funded family violence responses:

- 2x The Orange Doors (Sunshine and Werribee)
- 1x Multidisciplinary Centre
- 2x Specialist Family Violence Courts
- 6x Family violence case management providers
- 3x Family violence refuge providers
- 4x Men's behaviour change program providers and
- 2x providers for people who use violence
- 1x Adolescent family violence program provider
- 4x Therapeutic family violence service providers

Planning process

The planning process was led by Cath Smith, ChangeSmith Consulting. This plan was developed alongside Family Safety Victoria's development of the Family Violence Regional Integration Committee Guidelines. The plan was informed by the following activities:

- A workshop with WIFVC members held in August 2021
- A workshop with the WIFVC Governance Group in September 2021
- One of one interviews with key stakeholders, including Western Metropolitan Dhek Dja Regional Coordinator, Auspice CEO, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Family Safety Victoria (western metro implementation team for The Orange Door) and Family Safety Victoria (central).
- Follow up discussion of the draft plan with WIFVC members in March 2022.

The WIFVC Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 aligns with:

- The Family Violence Regional Integration Committee Guidelines (2022)
- The Victorian Government's "[Ending Family Violence - Victoria's 10-year plan for change](#)" Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023.
- The Victorian Government's "[Building from Strength: 10 Year Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response](#)" and [Strengthening the Foundations: First Rolling Action Plan 2019-22](#).
- The Victorian Government's "[Everybody Matters: Inclusion and Equity Statement](#)"

Principles

The following principles inform the Committee's strategic plan.

- **System focussed** – commitment to system leadership for family violence to realise the intent of the Victorian family violence reform agenda, and to **advocate** as a strong voice to improve outcomes for victim-survivors of family violence in the western metropolitan region, including children and young people.

¹ Source: 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA24650>

² Source: Crime Statistics Victoria: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/family-violence-data-portal/download-data-tables>.

- **Effecting system change** – cross-sector workforce development and capacity building role to bring about whole-of-system change
- **Embedding Aboriginal self-determination**, including collaboration with the Western Metropolitan Region Dhelk Dja action group.
- **Intersectional approach**, taking a stand for an inclusive service system in the west, that recognises the impact of multiple intersectional barriers.
- **Collaborative** - WIFVC members are committed to working together to strengthen the family violence system.
- **Transparent** – decision making and review processes for strategic work by the Committee are open and inclusive.
- **Informed by regional needs** – a regional lens is applied to the current family violence reform environment and priorities are tailored to local needs.

Statewide Strategic Priorities

WIFVC fulfils its role in strategic leadership and system development by undertaking activities to contribute to the five state-wide strategic in the Family Violence Regional Integration Committee Guidelines (2022):

1. Leading initiatives that support service integration and system improvements;
2. Supporting implementation, monitoring and evaluation of family violence reform initiatives;
3. Developing an evidence base to inform planning, prioritisation of system improvement initiatives and advocacy for system change;
4. Building workforce capacity and capability;
5. Effective cross-sectoral governance for system leadership.

WIFVC Local Strategic Objectives 2022-25

WIFVC seeks to achieve the statewide strategic priorities through work undertaken in the following local strategic objectives:

1. To enhance outcomes for victim-survivors, we will ensure the **voices of victim survivor advocates** inform the work of western region services responding to family violence.
2. The lens of the WIFVC is on monitoring, identifying and responding to where service system issues are impacting inequitably or where there are gaps. This requires a focus on **identifying challenges with system demand and advocating for change**.
3. As an aim of the reforms is a fully inclusive, intersectional service response, WIFVC will seize the opportunities created by system-wide reform for **The Orange Door** and **MARAM/ Information Sharing Schemes** to strengthen the western metropolitan family violence service system.

Appendix 1 outlines how the three local strategic objectives within the WIFVC Strategic Plan 2022-2025 contribute to the five statewide strategic priorities outlined in the Family Violence Regional Integration Committee guidelines (2022).

Review

The WIFVC Chair will lead a formal review of the WIFVC Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 with the WIFVC Governance Group in February 2025 in the process of developing the next Strategic P

APPENDIX 1: WIFVC Strategic Plan 2022-25

Local Strategic Objective: 1				Relevant State-wide Strategic Priorities #: 1, 2, 3			
Objective	Action/s or Initiative/s	Timeline	Key Stakeholders	Data/Evidence	Desired outcome/s	Impact indicator/s	State-wide Policy/Reform
1.Ensure the voices of victim survivor advocates inform the work of western region services responding to family violence.	Identify victim survivor advocate individuals/groups and appropriate mechanisms for engagement	Year 1	Victim survivor advocates, local consumer groups, specialist family violence services, The Orange Door, services specifically targeting diverse communities, local governance structures (eg WLASN, Dhelk Dja Action Group, etc), SFVIAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local consumer groups - Local services embedding lived experience into organisational policy and practice - Safe and Equal Advisory Group 	A greater understanding of local service responses from the perspective of victim survivors	Our work is informed by lived experienced perspectives of victim survivor advocates on system response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Violence Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023 focus areas: Intersectionality, Lived experience - Everybody matters Priority 1: Building knowledge
	Identify mechanisms for victim survivor advocate input	Year 2					
	Analysis of effectiveness of victim survivor pathways	Year 3					
Local Strategic Objective: 2				Relevant State-wide Strategic Priorities #: 1, 3, 5			
Objective	Action/s or Initiative/s	Timeline	Key Stakeholders	Data/Evidence	Desired Outcomes	Impact indicator/s	State-wide Policy/Reform
2. Identifying challenges with system demand and workforce issues and advocating for change.	Increase access to and capacity to analyse system data to build a shared understanding of system demand in the west.	Year 1	The Orange Door, Department of Families, Fairness & Housing, Western Region Women & Children’s Family Violence Partnership, Sexual assault services, West LASN, Dhelk Dja Action Group, Child and Family Services Alliances, Victoria Police, Family Violence, Mental Health and AOD ABIC, Courts and legal services, Health services, SFVIAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Orange Door -RICKIE report -Crime Statistics Agency -WIFVC Family Violence Secondary Consultation Project -Local governance structures (eg WLASN, Dhelk Dja Action Group, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved capacity to access and analyse data - Strengthened interfaces between services - Increase key stakeholder awareness of state of system demand in the western metropolitan region and proposed solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased access to relevant data - Collaborative agreements between regional cross sector governance structures to better identify opportunities for cross sector collaboration - Advocacy to address system demand in the western metropolitan region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Violence Rolling Action Plan 2020-23 focus areas: Perpetrators and people who use violence, Research and Evaluation - Strengthening the Foundations: First Rolling Action Plan 2019-22 focus area 7: Working in a connected and cohesive system - Everybody matters Priority 3: Strengthening targeted services
	Consider how we better co-ordinate the interfaces between services to respond more effectively to system demand	Year 2					
	Advocate for funding and other systemic improvements to respond to system demand	Year 3					

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Local Strategic Objective: 3			Relevant State-wide Strategic Priorities #: 1, 2, 3, 4				
Strategic Objective	Action/s or Initiative/s	Timeline	Key Stakeholders	Data/Evidence	Desired Outcomes	Impact indicator/s	State-wide Policy/Reform Objectives
3.Support the system-wide reform for The Orange Door and MARAM/ Information Sharing Schemes.	Support the implementation of MARAM and the Information Sharing Schemes	Year 1	WIFVC Family Violence Secondary Consultation Project Advisory Group, WIFVC MARAM & Information Sharing Working Group, The Orange Door, specialist family violence services,	- WIFVC Family Violence Secondary Consultation Project - The Orange Door - Family Violence Workforce Census - MARAM and Information Sharing Legislative Review - Family Violence Capability Framework Review - Crime Statistics Agency - Census	- Increased cross sector collaborative practice and strengthened referral pathways. - Progressed status of implementation of MARAM and Information Sharing Schemes across the system - Increased awareness of service barriers and areas of development for the service system	- Increased understanding and use of family violence secondary consultation - Increased practitioner knowledge of collaborative practice and foundational aspects of MARAM - Increased awareness of cohorts that are not showing up in the data that the system needs to pay more attention to for more effective services responses. - Increased understanding of available resources. - Increased access to relevant training and capacity building initiatives	- Family Violence Rolling Action Plan 2020-23 focus areas: MARAM & Information Sharing, Workforce development, The Orange Door - Strengthening the Foundations: First Rolling Action Plan 2019-22 focus area 6: Building sector and organisational capability - Everybody Matters Priority 2: Building capacity and capability
	Increase capability of service responses working with perpetrators, people who use violence and children & young people.	Year 2	sexual assault services, perpetrator services, child and family services, services specifically targeting diverse communities, AOD services, mental health services, health services, local government, relevant peak bodies				
	Assess service accessibility in the western metropolitan region.	Year 3					