



Media release

Legal and Social Issues Committee

Putting the spotlight on people who use family violence

The Victorian Government, researchers, service providers, and policymakers should continue to work collaboratively to transform the collection and use of data on people who use family violence, a report tabled in the Legislative Assembly today has recommended.

The Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee's final report, *Building the evidence base: Inquiry into capturing data on people using family violence in Victoria*, follows an extensive consultation with organisations, authorities and experts in the sector.

The Committee found that collecting family violence data, including about those who use family violence, is complex. Data on people using family violence is held in multiple places, by multiple organisations, and is often not comprehensive enough to provide a complete picture.

"We need to move beyond fragmented, inconsistent, and limited datasets about people using family violence to a coordinated, robust, and evidence-informed approach that enhances prevention, early intervention, and accountability," said Committee Chair Ella George.

The Committee has made 61 recommendations and 71 findings.

Some key areas of opportunity identified by the Committee are: Indigenous Data Sovereignty, rectification processes to correct misidentification, learning what programs work for people using family violence and a population-based survey to determine the prevalence of family violence perpetration.

The report identifies key challenges in the current system, including fragmented and inconsistent datasets, limited understanding of people who use family violence, and barriers to effective data sharing. It recommends a holistic and systemic approach to data collection to improve understanding of people using family violence, including:

- Establishing a whole-of-system family violence oversight and continuous improvement mechanism.
- Creating a system-wide process to correct misidentification.
- Expanding data capture to include a broader cross-section of people who use family violence, including those not engaged with services.
- Supporting a national population-based survey and qualitative, longitudinal, and multi-method research to address gaps in understanding perpetration trends, risk factors, and intervention outcomes.

The Committee also highlighted the importance of addressing specific areas such as elder abuse and the distinct needs of children and young people who experience or use family violence. These recommendations aim to refine data systems and improve service responses to better support these groups.

“This report underscores the collective responsibility we all share in minimising, addressing, and preventing family violence,” Ms. George said.

“By adopting a strategic and whole-of-system approach, Victoria can continue to lead the way in building an evidence base that informs meaningful change and long-term prevention efforts.”

A copy of the final report is available on the Committee’s [website](#).

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