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**From:** Vandna Wadhawan (DGS) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 September 2024 5:07 PM  
**To:** fvpdata  
**Cc:** Jenny A Hosking (DJCS)  
**Subject:** FW: Proof transcript | Inquiry into capturing data on family violence perpetrators in Victoria

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. In regards to the request for additional information, please find below:

- The section highlighted in green – there is no further progress update available
- The sections highlighted in yellow – please find update below.

**Q: *Aboriginal data sovereignty***

**Response:** This will need further consideration by CJS.

**Q: *How is misidentification managed by the Victims of Crime Helpline (VSSR)?***

**Response:** A referred Affected Family Member (AFM) may be reassessed by the Helpline as being at risk of misidentification or potentially misidentified. This assessment can be made:

- Based on the L17 narrative alone
- Following contact with the referred person
- Based on information obtained during a statewide search of the L17 Portal
- Based on previous L17s/information sharing with The Orange Door (TOD)/other services where it was assessed that the AFM was the Predominant Aggressor, or where the identity of the Predominant Aggressor is uncertain.

The Helpline's FVPLs may also receive information from the Orange Door which has been shared voluntarily under the FVISS.

**Outgoing Voluntary Information Shares**

Where a male AFM has been reassessed by the Helpline FVPL's as at risk of misidentification or potential misidentification, this information can be shared as Alleged Perpetrator information under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme. Helpline reassessments are shared with The Orange Door (TOD) to assist the TOD in their risk assessment and to ensure that perpetrators are kept in view and offered appropriate support.

As per the Interim Operational Guidance between Hubs and Community Operations and Victims Support Agency, "COVSA" [now VSSR] and the Victim Assistance Program (VAP) will transfer male perpetrators to Hubs [Orange Door] where they are initially misclassified as male victims but VSSR or the VAP provider assess that they are in fact perpetrators of family violence. The Helpline meets this requirement through voluntary information sharing under FVISS.

Note: that the Helpline does share a reassessment with Victoria Police (the referring Police member and the station OIC and FV Liaison Officer (if applicable as per the L17)).

**Q: *Have Corrections Victoria contracted the Men's Behaviour Change Programs in Barwon and Geelong region as mentioned in the submission by Meli (previously known as Bethany services)?***

**Response:** Meli (then Bethany) was a previously contracted service provider under CV's MBCP Provider Panel between 2015 to 2018, for delivery of group-based family violence programs to men on community-based orders.

The CV MBCP Provider Panel lapsed on 31 October 2018 and was replaced with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Fairness and Families (DFFH) for the purchasing arrangement of MBCP placements and Individual Case Management through existing agreements. Meli remained a MBCP service provider with allocated CCS placements between 2018 and 2023, but were not directly contracted by CV. CV's placement purchasing arrangements with DFFH lapsed 31 December 2023 and CV no longer directly fund placements in any region, including Meli.

**Q: Is any FV information shared by Corrections with the Federal Court/Family Law Court?**

**Response:** Both FVISS and CIP have advised that they do not share information with either the Victorian Registry of the Federal Court or the Family Law Court. FVISS and CIP requests can only be made by Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) that have been declared by the Minister to be requesters. All ISEs participating in the Orange Door have been declared by the Minister to be FVISS/CIP requesters. Currently the only other CIP requesters are:

- Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPs) Coordinators
- Safe Steps
- Men's Referral Service (No to Violence)

**Q: How is YJ improving the early identification of family violence and information sharing for young people (under 18) using family violence?**

**Response:** Youth Justice has practice guidance to appropriately screen and assess young people who may be victim-survivors of family violence, in line with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework. Further to this, Youth Justice has funding for two Family Violence Practice Leads. A key focus of these roles is to provide primary and secondary consultation to support staff in identifying, assessing and managing family violence risk. Practice guidance for screening and assessing young people (under 18 years) who use family violence is currently being developed by Family Safety Victoria.

Youth Justice has strong information sharing practices in place to support the utilisation and application of the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS). This includes:

- Mandatory eLearn for staff to complete in relation to both information sharing schemes.
- The recent roll out of MARAM Working with Victim-Survivors: Intermediate Training and MARAM Working with Victim-Survivors: Identification Training, which both include clear information around the information sharing schemes.
- The Information Sharing and the L17 Family Violence Portal Frequently Asked Questions document.

The FVISS and CISS Central Office Inbox which assesses and responds to requests for information by internal business units and external organisations.

Please let myself or Jenny know if we can provide any further information. Thanks.

Warm Regards  
Vandna

**Vandna Wadhawan**

MARAM Change Manager  
MARAM (Family Violence) Implementation Team  
Corrections and Justice Services  
Department of Justice and Community Safety



We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders, past, present and future.