

**Submission
No 65**

**INQUIRY INTO CAPTURING DATA ON FAMILY VIOLENCE
PERPETRATORS IN VICTORIA**

Organisation: Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

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Submission to the Inquiry into capturing data on family violence perpetrators in Victoria

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Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

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About Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

The Sisters of Good Shepherd was established in France over 400 years ago to respond to the needs of women and girls. The first program was a refuge that offered new opportunities for women and girls who were trapped in situations of poverty and exploitation who wanted to change their lives. Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier carried forward this mission, expanding internationally. We are now the largest, longest running organisation supporting women and girls, located in 73 countries, and with consultative status on women and girls at the UN. Good Shepherd has worked in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand since 1863. We provide programs and services that support women, girls, and their families to be safe, well, strong and connected. Our clients are at the centre of what we do. We are focused on responding to their emerging needs and on providing innovative, locally tailored responses. Our services are complemented by research, advocacy, and policy development that address the underlying structural causes of injustice and inequality to pave a way for a better tomorrow. We know one sector cannot disrupt the growing hardship in the community; we are building cross-sector coalitions to pursue our aims.

Acknowledgement of Country

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters throughout Australia. We pay our respect to Elders, past and present, acknowledging their continuing relationship to land and the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across Australia. We recognise that the perspectives and voices of First Nations peoples should be at the forefront of conversations about family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia.



Executive summary

Good Shepherd welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Victorian Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into capturing data on family violence perpetrators in Victoria.

In this submission, Good Shepherd has responded to all the questions as set out by the Committee using insights from our delivery of family violence programs, and research and social policy work.

Good Shepherd collects data on individual perpetrators of family violence across its specialist family violence programs including the Orange Door. In addition, Good Shepherd co-chairs a Risk Assessment and Management Panel (RAMP) focused on perpetrators at the highest risk of family violence.¹ Our social policy and research work focuses on the prevalence, risk factors, and perpetration of family violence. Specifically, Good Shepherd has partnered with Queensland University of Technology who are piloting a population-based survey on the perpetration of domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV).

Our key recommendations therefore focus on two main areas:

- The collection, use and utility of **administrative data** (data collected by agencies providing family violence services).
- The collection, use and utility of **population-based data** (data collected through surveys of the general community).

Data collection and sharing has been enabled and improved in Victoria over recent years following implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence. We know more now about individual perpetrators from the data collected and shared between services and police through the Victorian Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) and RAMPs. We now also better understand system responses to criminal perpetration of family violence through the collation of police and court records by the Victorian Criminal Data Agency.

There remains, however, challenges in maximising the utility and access of administrative data to effect real-time sharing between relevant agencies, timely threat orchestration, and to deliver interventions for low and mid-level risk perpetrators. While visibility of perpetrators is increasing, there are still gaps in

¹ For an overview see: <https://safeandequal.org.au/working-in-family-violence/assessing-managing-risk/ramps/>.



uniform collection of administrative data and limitations on sharing that may create risk or points of failure in our responses to perpetrators.

Our knowledge about family violence perpetration is diminished due to the lack of data collected on the majority of perpetrators who will never come into contact with the criminal justice system or family violence services.

There are many opportunities to improve the use of existing data sets through investment in technology such as Application Programming Interface (API), increased database functionality and machine learning, data linkage and upskilling of the family violence workforce in data collection and research capability.

Good Shepherd is also mindful of the need to protect the privacy and safety of women and children victim/survivors of family violence. Their safety is always Good Shepherd's priority, which may constrain the use and utility of data collected about perpetrators.

We welcome the opportunity to provide further evidence to the Legal and Social Issues Committee in relation to any of the matters raised in this submission.



Recommendations

Administrative data

Recommendation 1: Provide comprehensive training to personnel on correct data collection and recording to increase accuracy and mitigate against bias and errors within administrative data.

Recommendation 2: Implement uniform data collection protocols across all agencies, including the requirement to collect data on both the sex and gender of perpetrators.

Recommendation 3: Improve interoperability between databases, such as through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), to improve real time information sharing.

Recommendation 4: Allocate resources specifically for improved database functionality and capability to analyse collected data across all capturing agencies and organisations.

Recommendation 5: Ensure administrative data collected is research ready.

Recommendation 6: Utilise data to develop targeted prevention, harm minimisation, and rehabilitation programs for people who perpetrate family violence.

Recommendation 7: Use data collected by victim survivor services to measure effectiveness of violence reduction, perpetrator interventions and rehabilitation programs.

Population-based data

Recommendation 8: Generate statewide population-based representative data and knowledge on the prevalence of perpetration of family violence through a regular survey. The results will assist to identify trends and understand risk and protective factors that can support early intervention and the reduction of family violence that victimisation data cannot provide. Collection of information must include:

- specific demographics such as sex, gender, class, First Nations, LGBTIQ+, racially and culturally marginalised communities, and people with disabilities to understand diverse experiences and needs,
- detailed information on multiple forms of family violence such as coercive control, financial abuse, psychological abuse, and other non-physical forms of violence, which are currently underreported,



- psychosocial factors such as mental health disorders and factors (for example, narcissistic traits and attachment style), substance abuse, socio-economic status, cultural, religious, and attitudinal factors to understand casual, propensity for family violence perpetration,
- history and motivations of violence, triggers, and recidivism, and
- demographic information about who they victimise.

Recommendation 9: Examine existing government data sets to identify if they are collecting data on the prevalence of family violence perpetration, relevant risk, and protective factors.

Recommendation 10: Reduce barriers to access existing data sets, such as costs, and increase data linkage and access across and between jurisdictions such as the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) and the Centre for Victorian Data Linkage (CVDL).

Recommendation 11: Use population-based data to inform policy decisions through comprehensive analyses as part of making evidence-based policy and program development, for evaluation of statewide strategies and benchmarking progress.

Recommendation 12: Share findings of family violence perpetration prevalence, and use aggregated data to raise public awareness, drive community-level prevention efforts, and inform responses.

Other data collection and barriers

Recommendation 13: Enact laws that mandate and protect data collection processes and develop clear protocols. Address privacy issues through robust data protection measures. Ensure data collected is research ready.

Recommendation 14: Allocate resources specifically for improved data collection and analysis across all capturing agencies and organisations, including increased staffing levels to allow for greater capacity and uplift in skills.

Recommendation 15: Undertake an intersectional review of Victorian data collection standards and protocols to identify inherent bias.

Good Shepherd also supports the submission and recommendations provided by Catholic Social Services Victoria.



Data collection, storage and access

This section responds to the committee's questions about what perpetrator data is collected, who collects it, how it is stored, and how these processes could be improved. Specifically, the committee asked:

- What data on the profile and volume of family violence perpetrators [people using family violence] is collected in Victoria?
 - Who collects it? When and how is it collected?
 - Where is it stored? Who has access to it?
 - How could these processes be improved?

Information about the prevalence of perpetration and the characteristics of perpetrators can be found in administrative data as well as population-based survey data.

Administrative data

Who collects it? When and how is it collected?

The primary collectors of administrative data are law enforcement agencies, family violence services such as Good Shepherd, the judicial system, and correctional institutions. Data is collected during the reporting of incidents, investigations, and court proceedings. While offenders are in the correctional system, administrative data is collected during health consultations, and intake, assessment and ongoing case management for other support services. In addition, a significant amount of information is collected about perpetrators by services that support victim survivors.

Data is also collected by health service providers, specialist family violence support organizations (for people who use violence and victim survivors), and child protection.

The Flood et al (2022) *State of Knowledge* report highlighted that the way that administrative data are collected – particularly by police – means that these data may be flawed, including:

- Misidentification of victim survivors as perpetrators/primary aggressors
- Inconsistent definitions of DFSV across services, sectors, and jurisdictions
- Structural racism forming the context for the collection resulting in over representation of some groups and under representation of others, and



- Political influence determining what gets researched and which data is collected.

While administrative data can build a rich picture of perpetrators of family violence when their victims are engaged in services or they come into contact with the criminal justice system, services tend to prioritise high risk victim survivors or perpetrators. This means that the complete picture of perpetration is not available to inform policy, other responses, or to tailor interventions. Administrative data needs to be complemented with population-based surveys that a more nuanced profile and prevalence of perpetration can be determined – for all perpetration – not just events that led to service, justice system or other government engagement (such as child protection).

What data are collected?

Currently, demographic data collected on family violence perpetrators, as reported through the Crime Statistics Agency in Victoria, is predominantly collected through administrative data such as incident reports and legal outcomes and. This data often comes from police reports (L17s), court records, and correctional facilities.²

Good Shepherd collects detailed information about perpetrators from the victim survivors they support through completing the MARAM risk assessments and undertaking safety planning.

At Good Shepherd, our family violence programs (for victim survivors) collect the information about perpetrators through MARAM risk assessments. We also share and collect information about high-risk perpetrators as co-chairs of a Risk Assessment and Management Panel (RAMP). At the RAMP we participate in multi-agency risk assessments of perpetrators who pose high risk of serious harm with other key local agencies and organisations.

Table 1 details the type of data collected through the MARAM process and at RAMP.

² <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/about-the-data/how-the-data-is-collected-and-processed>.



Table 1. Overview of perpetrator demographic data fields collected in the specialist family violence program assessment (MARAM) and the RAMP program

Characteristic	MARAM	RAMP
Sex	Not collected	Possibly – this depends on the sources of information. Police L17s collect Sex
Age	Collected	Collected
Gender	Collected	Collected
Sexuality	Collected	Collected
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Status	Collected	Collected
Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) status	Collected	Collected
Disability	Collected	Collected
Rural	Collected	Collected
History of violence	Collected	Collected
Recency of violence	Collected	Collected
Type of violence perpetrated	Collected	Collected
Imminence of violence/escalation	Collected	Collected
Risk to children	Collected	Collected

Table note: RAMP = Risk Assessment and Management Panel. MARAM = Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework.

The MARAM data collected regarding factors relevant to the perpetrator are themed across general history of violent and controlling behaviours, recency, perpetrator actions, self-assessment (of risk), and imminency. There are over forty questions regarding the perpetrator’s behaviour, such as:

- shown signs of a mental health condition?
- misused alcohol, drugs or other substances?
- been obsessively jealous towards you?
- harmed or threatened to harm a pet or animal?
- has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or family members (including child/ren)
- tried to choke or strangle you?

There are additional questions relevant to addressing risks for/to specific cohorts including children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, LGBTQI+, older people, rural communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people with disabilities. Please see an example MARAM Adult Victim Survivor Comprehensive Risk Assessment Tool at Appendix 2.

The RAMP receives all data collected through MARAM information and from other agency sources. The MARAM is a core source of information that RAMP receives



along with additional information, assessments and reports. RAMP cases are high-risk cases where risk is imminent, so information is gathered from Child Protection, Corrections, Victoria Police, Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) services, men's behaviour change programs, Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (if appropriate), Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing, The Orange Door and others. Any service that holds relevant information about risk posed by the perpetrator will have their information presented through the Specialist Family Violence Service or by being invited to attend the panel.

As noted in Table 1, sex is a key demographic factor that is not collected consistently across all agencies. Importantly, sex is not being collected in MARAM risk assessments. A person's sex, gender, and sexuality all have implications for a person's level of potential risk, likelihood of injury, and their ability to carry out physical violence (Messing, 2021). Sex and gender should not be conflated or used interchangeably for data collection on family violence (Sullivan, 2020).

Capturing sex, gender, and sexuality is relevant to assessing family violence risks. If a person identifies as a woman and has gone through male puberty, they still have a significant physical advantage over a female in muscle mass and explosive strength, particularly in the upper body (Hilton and Lundberg, 2021). The majority of intimate partner homicides in Australia have been perpetrated by a male offender (not trans men – women who identify as men) against a female intimate partner (Boxall et al. 2022).

Further, a person's sex and sexuality have implications for the likelihood of non-fatal strangulation perpetration and injuries from non-fatal strangulation. Messing et al (2021), analysing 2,207 police reports, found that non-fatal strangulation was reported at almost double the rate in different-sex couples (detected in 9.8% of reports) than in female and male same-sex couple cases (5.2% and 5.3% respectively). However, same-sex couples reported more injuries from non-fatal strangulation compared to different-sex couples.

It is critical for the protection of victims, understanding of perpetration types, risk analysis, and accurate data to inform responses and research that a person's sex, gender, and sexuality are all collected. Without information about a person's sex, gender, and sexuality a knowledge gap is created about a perpetrator that could prevent the appropriate risk level being applied and response provided.



Where is it stored? Who has access to it?

Administrative data is stored in databases managed by respective agencies and services, as varied as police departments, courts, correctional services, GP and health clinics, hospitals, and individual service providers such as Good Shepherd.

Since the Royal Commission into Family Violence, the Victorian Government has implemented three related information sharing schemes that allow Information Sharing Entities (ISEs)³ to share information to facilitate the assessment of family violence risk to children and adults through the: The Child Information Sharing Scheme,⁴ Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme,⁵ and the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM).⁶

In addition, programs, typically family violence programs, can also be registered as Risk Assessment Entities (RAEs).

There are 8,255 organisations registered as ISEs but only 208 agencies or services registered as RAEs.⁷

Good Shepherd's client programs are registered ISEs (such as our Homelessness Service, financial counselling service, and community-based youth and family services), and our family violence services are registered RAEs.

While the MARAM framework and information sharing schemes have improved cross-agency information sharing, there are still some limitations on what can be shared between differently designated entities that prevent the complete picture of any one individual's various points of contact across systems.

RAEs have greater access and powers to share information between them than ISEs. Within Good Shepherd this means that if a client is being supported by our youth services (an ISE) and family violence services (a RAE) that our family violence services may have more information about that client than the youth services team and may not be to share that information with youth services. This has implications for providing a consistent client centred response across our organisation.

³ An information sharing entity (ISE) is a service prescribed by legislation. A public register is held of prescribed organisations. See <https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-entity-list>.

⁴ <https://www.vic.gov.au/child-information-sharing-scheme>.

⁵ <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme>.

⁶ <https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-multi-agency-risk-assessment-and-management>.

⁷ <https://www.vic.gov.au/ise-list-search?rae=yes>.



Many service level databases are not interoperable or able to share data directly between them (even when enabled by legislation to do so). This can create delays and multiple potential points of failure and data loss when relying on manual transfers and entries across systems. It is also inefficient and inhibits real-time data sharing and threat orchestration to enhance timely responses and interventions. Use of technology such as application programming interfaces (APIs) can assist interoperability for real time sharing.

There is sometimes limited and disparate functionality within and across program or service level databases to extract or analyse de-identified datasets that can assist identifying and understanding trends in family violence perpetration. Investment is required to upgrade databases with these functions to improve the insights that can be gleaned from existing service level and cross sector data sets.

Only some of the data collected by government, health, police, courts, family violence service agencies etc is accessible to researchers, and require strict confidentiality agreements. Consent for individuals' data to be used for research would also need to be sought in alignment with privacy legislation, and processes implemented to appropriately remove identifying features.

Recommendations for how could these processes be improved?

Recommendation 1: Provide comprehensive training to personnel on correct data collection and recording to increase accuracy and mitigate against bias and errors within administrative data.

Recommendation 2: Implement uniform data collection protocols across all agencies, including the requirement to collect data on both the sex and gender of perpetrators.

Recommendation 3: Improve interoperability between databases, such as through APIs, to improve real time information sharing.

Recommendation 4: Allocate resources specifically for improved database functionality and capability to analyse collected data across all capturing agencies and organisations.

Recommendation 5: Ensure administrative data collected is research ready.



Population-based data

Who collects it? When and how is it collected?

Government agencies and academic institutions, such as universities, collect population-based data. Data are collected usually through interviews or large-scale surveys administered in-person or by phone, but more often now, online. Currently there is no single mechanism that explicitly collects data on the prevalence of family violence perpetration in Victoria at a population level.

What we understand from the *State of Knowledge* report is that “the vast majority of domestic, family, and sexual violence is committed by individuals who are not – and probably never will be – identified or sanctioned by the authorities” (Flood et al. 2022 p.5). For types of violence such as sexual assault, it is likely that up to 98% of perpetrators will never be identified or captured in existing data systems (Flood et al. 2022).

The Victorian Crime Statistics Agency collects information on reported criminal offences, demographics on perpetrators and victim survivors, and progress of family violence incident through the criminal justice system. This information is collated and publicly reported on the Family Violence Dashboard.⁸

Capturing data on and researching people who come into contact with the criminal justice and related systems (such as family violence services) for perpetrating family violence can provide useful information but it may also, unintentionally, provide a skewed understanding of ‘who’ perpetrators are.

The Australian Institute of Criminology’s detailed analysis of intimate partner homicides found there are three primary pathway trajectories⁹ of family violence perpetration that led to lethal force being used against a victim (Boxall et al. 2022). Only one of these three groups was highly visible to the criminal justice prior to committing homicide. Thus, focussing on this group as a means to understand ‘who’ perpetrators of family violence are misses two out of the three primary pathway profiles for potential lethality in family violence offending (Boxall et al. 2022).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects data on the prevalence of family violence victimisation nationally, solicited through interviews with people about

⁸ <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/family-violence-data/family-violence-dashboard>.

⁹ The three trajectories identified were ‘fixated threat pathway’, ‘persistent and disorderly pathway’ and ‘deterioration and acute stressor pathway’ (Boxall et al. 2022).



their experiences of family violence in the Personal Safety Survey (PSS) every four years.¹⁰ PSS data sets at the state level can be requested from the ABS.

Victimisation data has often been used as a proxy indicator for the prevalence of family violence perpetration, however they are not interchangeable.

Under the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has been funded to collate multiple government and administrative sources of data relating to domestic, family, and sexual violence nationally.¹¹

What is collected?

The Victorian Crime Statistics Agency collects information on reported offences, including demographic information about the perpetrator of family violence such as age, country of birth, number of incidents per unique perpetrator, rates of recidivism (Crime Statistics Agency 2023). However, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has found that police recorded data underestimates rates of family violence offending (AIHW 2024). Additionally, only violence that fits within the state's definition of a criminal offence is captured and criminal definitions differ across states and territories.

Police-recorded FDV data are an underestimate of FDV-related offences. For example, the 2016 Personal Safety Survey includes data on most recent incident of physical and/or sexual assault by a family member or intimate partner in the last 10 years. AIHW analysis of this data for female victim-survivors found that police were contacted in relation to around:

- 1 in 3 (32% or 278,000) FDV-related physical assaults by a male
- 1 in 6 (17% or 18,100) FDV-related physical assaults by a female
- 1 in 7 (14% or 50,100) FDV-related sexual assaults by a male (ABS 2017)

Good Shepherd understands that more detailed information on perpetrators may be captured through the PSS. Further research is required to examine if existing data sets to identify if they are collecting data on the prevalence of family violence perpetration, relevant risk and potential protective factors.

Collecting data on individual perpetrators from their victims (such as the PSS) can be a rich source of information. It does not yield the same results as representative sampling of the general population specifically to research the

¹⁰ <https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/personal-safety-australia-methodology/2021-22>.

¹¹ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/resources/fdsv-summary>.



prevalence of family violence by asking people about their perpetration of abusive, controlling, coercive, or violent behaviour.

Relying predominantly on victims to be the source of data about perpetrators also places a systemic burden on victim survivors to be the ones continually sharing difficult information. Regular retelling of traumatic experiences or providing information about a perpetrator can create more harm to victim survivors as well.

Data collected from victim survivors or third parties (such as neighbours) about perpetrators may also be incomplete or inaccurate. For example, some perpetrators will use false names or deliberately mislead their victims about their backgrounds and personal details.

Where is it stored? Who has access to it?

Population-based data is stored by government agencies or by the research institution who collected and owns it.

Some data is made public and easily accessible online, some data sets can be requested from the owner/custodian. For example, the Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes many results from the PSS online. The ABS can also make data sets from the PSS available to researchers or other government agencies, however the cost can be prohibitive and requires investment in training as well.

There are data linkage programs for trusted **whole-of-population de-identified linked data** at the national level, the Personal Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA)¹² and state levels, the Centre for Victorian Data Linkage (CVDL)¹³ that enable access for researchers and policymakers.

Academic research results are often published in journals, which may or may not be publicly accessible or there may be a fee involved to access them.

Recommendations for how could these processes be improved?

Recommendation 8: Generate statewide population-based representational data and knowledge on the prevalence of perpetration of family violence through a regular survey. The results will assist to identify trends and understand risk and protective factors that can support early intervention and the reduction of family

¹² <https://www.abs.gov.au/about/data-services/data-integration/integrated-data/person-level-integrated-data-asset-plida>.

¹³ About The Centre for Victorian data linkage | Victorian Agency for Health Information (vahi.vic.gov.au).



violence that victimisation data cannot provide. Collection of information must include:

- detailed information on multiple forms of family violence such as coercive control, psychological abuse, and other non-physical forms of violence, which are currently underreported,
- psychosocial factors such as mental health disorders and factors (for example, narcissistic traits and attachment style), substance abuse, socio-economic status, cultural, religious, and attitudinal factors to understand casual, propensity for family violence perpetration,
- specific demographics such as sex, gender, class, First Nations, LGBTIQ+, racially and culturally marginalised communities, and people with disabilities to understand diverse experiences and needs,
- history and motivations of violence, triggers, and recidivism, and
- demographic information about who they victimise.

Recommendation 9: Examine existing government data sets to identify if they are collecting data on the prevalence of family violence perpetration, relevant risk and protective factors.

Recommendation 10: Reduce barriers to access existing data sets, such as costs, and increase data linkage and access across and between jurisdictions such as the PLIDA and the CVDL.



Data use and purpose

This section responds to the committee's questions about the use and intended purpose of data collected on family violence perpetrators. Specifically:

- How is the current data on the profile and volume of family violence perpetrators [people using family violence] used in Victoria?
 - What is the purpose of the data collection?
 - How could the way this data is used be improved?

Administrative data

How is the data used?

The data is primarily used for legal proceedings, risk assessment, developing intervention programs, and reporting to funding agencies. It can support identifying high-risk individuals and tailoring support services.

Current data collected is also used to inform policymaking and resource allocation for victim support services. In the recent past, the limited visibility of state and federal governments of individual services' data and aggregate data on perpetrators has implications for demand led state and the federal government funding to address the scale of the family violence perpetration.

What is the purpose of the data collection?

Good Shepherd's purposes for collecting data on family violence perpetrators are:

- safety planning for victims,
- collecting evidence for legal proceedings,
- identifying risk factors,
- developing effective prevention and intervention strategies,
- monitoring the effectiveness of policies and programs aimed at reducing family violence.

There is an intention for this data to ensure justice for victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and inform prevention and intervention strategies. However, lived experience and rates of attrition across justice systems from reports to charges, to convictions and sentencing, as collected in the by the Victorian Crime Statistics Agency in the Progress of Family Violence Incidents through the Justice System Dashboard (2023), demonstrate that this is rarely achieved.



Recommendations for how could the way this data is used be improved?

Much of the data collected by Good Shepherd is used to provide relevant services and support to our clients, predominantly women and children who are the victims of family violence. We hold large amounts of detailed information about perpetrators that is currently underutilised for the prevention and reduction of family violence perpetration, except at the highest risk levels.

With the right investment, the data Good Shepherd holds could be drawn upon to improve interventions for lower risk perpetrators, reducing crime and the impact on victims sooner and increasing the ability of women, girls, and families living full and dignified lives.

Recommendation 6: Utilise data to develop targeted prevention, harm minimisation, and rehabilitation programs for people who perpetrate family violence.

Recommendation 7: Use data collected by victim survivor services to measure effectiveness of violence reduction, perpetrator interventions and rehabilitation programs.

Population-based data

How is the data used?

Population-based data collection on family violence in Australia is used for several critical purposes, including policy and program development, monitoring and evaluation.

Findings and insights from population-based data improve our understanding of trends, risk factors and efficacy of interventions. This data helps monitor the incidence and prevalence of family violence over time. They are also used to raise public awareness of family violence, education and training.

Governments also use this data allocate resources and funding of services such as legal aid, refuges, and counselling, for legislative reform, as well as supporting national and international reporting obligations.

What is the purpose of the data collection?

The purpose of population-based data collection on perpetrators of family violence is similar to its current uses. It is also intended for the development of solutions related to family violence and to aid in clinical research aimed at developing therapeutic interventions for both victims and perpetrators.



Advocacy groups may commission or use existing population-based data to provide a factual basis to push for better protection and support for victims and accountability for perpetrators, raising public awareness and advocating for changes in laws and societal attitudes.

Globally, population-based data is also used for benchmarking and comparisons between different regions or countries helping to identify best practice and learn from the successes and failures of others.

Overall, population-based data collection on family violence perpetration is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the issue and for developing effective strategies to address it.

Recommendations for how could the way this data is used be improved?

Recommendation 11: Use population-based data to inform policy decisions through comprehensive analyses as part of making evidence-based policy and program development, for evaluation of statewide strategies and benchmarking progress.

Recommendation 12: Share findings of family violence perpetration prevalence and use aggregated data to raise public awareness, drive community-level prevention efforts, and inform responses.

Collecting additional data and barriers

We have included what additional data and barriers exist for Good Shepherd's collection of administrative data and work with population-based data throughout this submission.

The below section addresses what other data and barriers we think are important to be considered outside the purview of our own collection and research experience, specifically:

- What additional data on the profile and volume of family violence perpetrators [people using family violence] should be collected in Victoria?
 - How will it help to achieve a full understanding of this cohort?
 - What are the barriers to collecting it? How can these be overcome?
 - What data cannot be collected?



What additional data on the profile and volume of family violence perpetrators [people using family violence] should be collected in Victoria?

Longitudinal studies on people who use family violence need to be given greater priority to track changes over time and the long-term impact of interventions. Evaluations of interventions of men's behaviour change programs are useful, however they provide a moment in time understanding of the outcomes of the program. Longitudinal studies that follow the lifepath of perpetrators may provide valuable understanding of the pathways into and out of perpetration to support both prevention and rehabilitative efforts to reduce family violence.

Recent surveys on asking people about their perpetration of other forms gendered violence such as child sexual abuse (Salter et al. 2023) and technology facilitated workplace sexual harassment (Flynn et al. 2024) have proven to provide verifiable evidence on patterns of perpetration, key information about who perpetrates these forms of violence, and their motivations. Studies such as the Man Box have started to find correlation, if not causal, relationships between attitudinal factors and men's use of violence (The Men's Project 2024).

These are important lines of inquiry if we are to understand the perpetration of family violence in order to prevent and reduce it effectively.

How will it help to achieve a full understanding of this cohort?

Additional data that improves our visibility and understanding of the pathways into and out of the perpetration of family violence, as well as people's motivation for using family violence, will provide a greater insight into the underlying causes, risks of and protective factors against family violence, enabling more effective prevention and intervention strategies.

What are the barriers to collecting it?

There are many potential concerns and barriers to collecting sensitive information. Much of these are address through human ethics and protections under privacy laws, such as balancing the tension between data collection and privacy rights, especially as family violence involves criminal acts and often personal trauma.

Resourcing constraints are also a barrier to greater and improved data collection and analysis. There is limited research funding and less for upskilling family violence personnel for comprehensive data collection. The cost of upgrading databases and implementing new technologies to improve analysis of data is



often left up to individual organisations who are not funded for these significant infrastructure investments.

There are inherent bias within systems and data collection that can skew what data is collected and how it is interpreted. This can have harmful unintended consequences for particular community groups who may be stereotyped as a result of these biases, or it may result in allocation of funding in the wrong places or interventions. For a fuller discussion on bias within and the limitations of administrative data, please see Flood et al, 2022 *Who uses domestic, family, and sexual violence, how, and why? The State of Knowledge Report on Violence Perpetration*.

Recommendations for how can these be overcome?

Recommendation 13: Enact laws that mandate and protect data collection processes and develop clear protocols. Address privacy issues through robust data protection measures. Ensure data collected is research ready.

Recommendation 14: Allocate resources specifically for improved data collection and analysis across all capturing agencies and organisations, including increased staffing levels to allow for greater capacity and uplift in skills.

Recommendation 15: Undertake an intersectional review of Victorian data collection standards and protocols to identify inherent bias.

In conclusion, improving data collection and utilisation on family violence perpetrators is essential for effective violence prevention and intervention in Victoria.



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Appendix 1. Terms of reference

On 21 March 2024, the Legislative Assembly agreed to the following motion:

That this house refers an inquiry into the mechanisms for capturing data on the profile and volume of perpetrators of family violence in Victoria and barriers to achieving a full understanding of this cohort to the Legal and Social Issues Committee for consideration and report no later than 26 November 2024.

Inquiry question prompts

As part of your submission, the Committee would appreciate your input on some or all of the below questions, as well as any other information specific to the Inquiry's terms of reference:

- What data on the profile and volume of family violence perpetrators [people using family violence] is collected in Victoria?
 - Who collects it? When and how is it collected?
 - Where is it stored? Who has access to it?
 - How could these processes be improved?
- How is the current data on the profile and volume of family violence perpetrators [people using family violence] used in Victoria?
 - What is the purpose of the data collection?
 - How could the way this data is used be improved?
- What additional data on the profile and volume of family violence perpetrators [people using family violence] should be collected in Victoria?
 - How will it help to achieve a full understanding of this cohort?
 - What are the barriers to collecting it? How can these be overcome?
 - What data cannot be collected?



Appendix 2. MARAM Adult Victim Survivor Comprehensive Risk Assessment Tool

Victim Survivor Details	
Full Name:	Alias:
Date of Birth:	Also known as:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Primary address:	Current Location:
Contact number:	Comments:
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known
Country of birth:	Year of arrival in Australia:
Bridging or Temporary Visa?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, what type):
Language mainly spoken at home:	Service provider client ID:
Emergency contact:	Name:
Relationship to victim survivor:	Contact Number:

Perpetrator Details	
Full Name:	Alias:
Date of Birth:	Also known as:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Primary address:	Current Location:
Relationship to victim survivor:	Service provider client ID:



Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known
Further details	

Child 1 Details#	#Separate risk assessment must be completed
Full Name:	Alias:
Date of Birth:	Also known as:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Primary address:	Current Location:
Contact number:	Comments:
Relationship to victim survivor:	Relationship to perpetrator:
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known
Child 2 Details#	#Separate risk assessment must be completed
Full Name:	Alias:
Date of Birth:	Also known as:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Primary address:	Current Location:
Contact number:	Comments:
Relationship to victim survivor:	Relationship to perpetrator:
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander	CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known



<input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known
Child 3 Details# #Separate risk assessment must be completed	
Full Name:	Alias:
Date of Birth:	Also known as:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Primary address:	Current Location:
Contact number:	Comments:
Relationship to victim survivor:	Relationship to perpetrator:
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known

Has the adult victim survivor been asked screening questions? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<i>If yes, please indicate if any of the following risk factors were identified in the screening assessment.</i>			
Factors relevant to adult victim survivor <input type="checkbox"/> Self-assessed level of risk Factors relevant to perpetrator <input type="checkbox"/> Has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or family members (including child/ren)	Factors relevant to perpetrator (continued) <input type="checkbox"/> Controlling behaviours* <input type="checkbox"/> Physical harm <input type="checkbox"/> History of family violence <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse		
<i>If no, please ask the following questions about the perpetrator, in addition to the set of questions below.</i>			
Question	Y e s	N o	Comments (or not known)
Have they controlled your day-to-day activities (e.g. who you see, where you go) or put you down?*			
Have they physically hurt you in any way? (hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physically hurt you)			

Question	Y e s	N o	Comments (or not known)
Is more than one person making you feel afraid? (Are there multiple perpetrators)			
<i>The following risk related questions refer to the perpetrator:</i>			
RECENTY	Are they currently unemployed?*		
	<i>Have they recently...</i>		
	shown signs of a mental health condition?		



	threatened or attempted suicide or self harm?*			
	misused alcohol, drugs or other substances?*(specify substance)			
	followed you, repeatedly harassed or messaged/emailed you?*			
	been obsessively jealous towards you?*			
	has any violence increased in severity or frequency?*(what and how)			
PERPETRATOR ACTIONS	<i>Have they ever...</i>			
	controlled your access to money, or had a negative impact on your financial situation?			
	seriously harmed you?*(identify type of harm)			
	assaulted you when you were pregnant?*			
	threatened to kill you?*			
	threatened or used a weapon against you?*			
	tried to choke or strangle you?*			
	forced you to have sex or participate in sexual acts when you did not wish to do so?*			
	been reported to police by you or anyone else for family violence?			
	breached or broken the conditions of an intervention order or a court order?			
	had a history of violent behaviour to previous partners, other family members or non-family members?(specify details)			
	harmed or threatened to harm a pet or animal?*			
	been arrested for violent or other related behaviour?			
	been to court or been convicted of a violent crime or other related behaviour?(specify details)			
	Do they have access to weapons?*			

*May indicate an increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed.

SELF-ASSESSMENT	Do you believe it is possible they could kill or seriously harm you?*			
	Do you believe it is possible they could kill or seriously harm children or other family members?*			
	From 1 (not afraid) to 5 (extremely afraid) how afraid of them are you now?(enter number in space provided)			
	Do you have any immediate concerns about the safety of your children or someone else in your family?			
	Do you feel safe when you leave here today?			
	Would you engage with police if you felt unsafe?(If no, discuss barriers to why not)			
IMMINENCE	Have you recently separated from your partner?*			
	Do you have pending family court matters?			
	Are they about to be, or have they recently been, released from jail or another facility?(Specify when)			



	Has a crime been committed? (Not to be asked directly of victim survivors. Criminal offences include physical abuse, sexual assault, threats, pet abuse, property damage, stalking and breaching IVOs)			
--	---	--	--	--

*May indicate an increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed

RISK TO CHILDREN

Question	Yes	No	Comments (or not known)
Have they ever threatened to harm the child/children?*((identify which children)			
Have they ever harmed the child/children?*			
Have children ever been present during/exposed to family violence incidents?			
Are there child/children in the family who are aged under 1 year?*			
A separate risk assessment must be completed for each child discussed in this assessment.			

*May indicate an increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

Question	Yes	No	Comments (or not known)
Are you able to get support from your family and community?			
Are you concerned that other people in the community or other family members will find out what is occurring?			
Are you concerned about further violence from other family members or the community?			
Have you ever been made to go or stay somewhere you didn't want to be?			
Have you been deprived access to your culture? (including language, community events, sorry business)			

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, INTERSEX, QUEER (LGBTIQ)

Question	Yes	No	Comments (or not known)
Have they undermined or refused to accept your identity, including in public and with other family members? (sexual orientation and gender identity)			
Are you concerned that other people in the community or other family members will find out what is occurring?			
Have they outed you or threatened to do so, when you did not want them to?			



If affirming your gender, have they stopped you from taking steps to do so?			
Have they ever stopped you from accessing medication? (e.g. Hormones, HIV medication)			
OLDER PEOPLE			
Question	Yes	No	Comments (or not known)
Are you dependent on them to meet your daily needs?			
Are they dependent on you or are you dependent on them financially?			
Have they threatened to relocate you or make you stay somewhere you do not want to go? (e.g. forced into care, forced to downsize home)			
Do you feel isolated / lonely or not have the level of contact with other people that you would like?			
If on medication, do you manage your medication on your own?			
RURAL			
Question	Yes	No	Comments (or not known)
Do you have mobile reception where you live?			
Do you have people close by to help you should you need practical assistance?			
Are you concerned that other people in the community or other family members will find out what is occurring?			
Is your closest police station located far from your property or is it open only limited hours?			
Do you have access to transport?			

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES			
Question	Yes	No	Comments (or not known)
If you are not a citizen or permanent resident, have they threatened your immigration status or made			



threats to send you or your children overseas, or threatened to or taken away your passport?			
If you were thinking about separating from your partner would your family or friends be supportive? (Exploration of other risks in relation to this question, such as honour killings)			
Are you concerned that other people in the community or other family members will find out what is occurring?			
Are you dependent on them for financial needs? (consider ineligible for Centrelink or work rights in Australia, access to own bank account)			
Are you restricted from having contact with your family, friends and community in Australia or overseas? (including children)			
Did you have a choice about being married? (Only applicable if married)			
Are there any cultural or religious beliefs that would prevent you from leaving the relationship?			

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Question	Yes	No	Comments (or not known)
Does anyone in your family use your disability against you? (consider whether they, or any other family member, withheld, misused or delayed needed supports, or stopped the victim survivor from accessing therapy, aids, equipment, medication, or control disability support payment or NDIS funding (if relevant)?)			
Do you have access to support from services and/or your community?			
If supported by the person using violence, do you fear they will stop supporting you?			
Does anyone in your family control your daily activities, such as your engagement with family, friends, services or the community?			
To be safe, are there more support services that you need? (this question is relevant to considering what supports a person with disability might need when supports relating to their disability were being provided by a family member but are no longer being provided by them - or is there a new support they might need to be safe)			

Further details



--

RISK SUMMARY
Protective factors
Risk level assessment and rationale
<input type="checkbox"/> Serious risk (<input type="checkbox"/> and requires immediate protection) <input type="checkbox"/> Elevated risk



<input type="checkbox"/> At risk
Rationale:
NEEDS AND SAFETY
Needs assessment
Safety plan has been completed? (see separate template)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known

Child 4 Details#	#Separate risk assessment must be completed
Full Name:	Alias:
Date of Birth:	Also known as:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Primary address:	Current Location:
Contact number:	Comments:
Relationship to victim survivor:	Relationship to perpetrator:



Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known		CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	
Child 5 Details#		#Separate risk assessment must be completed	
Full Name:		Alias:	
Date of Birth:		Also known as:	
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Primary address:		Current Location:	
Contact number:		Comments:	
Relationship to victim survivor:		Relationship to perpetrator:	
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known		CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	
Child 6 Details#		#Separate risk assessment must be completed	
Full Name:		Alias:	
Date of Birth:		Also known as:	
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Woman/Girl <input type="checkbox"/> Man/Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Self-described (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		Intersex: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Transgender: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		Sexuality: <input type="checkbox"/> Same sex/gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/other gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-gender attracted <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Primary address:		Current Location:	
Contact number:		Comments:	
Relationship to victim survivor:		Relationship to perpetrator:	
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Client preferred not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not known		CALD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known LGBTIQ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not known	



Child victim survivor assessment Tool – if assessing with an adult victim survivor

If assessing a child victim survivor through an adult victim survivor, demographic details for a child victim survivor may be captured in the adult victim survivor's assessment.

Child 1:	Child 2:
Child 3:	Child 4:
Person answering on behalf of the child/ren:	

Was a parent/guardian/adult assessed using the adult victim survivor form prior to this assessment? Yes
No

If yes, please indicate which of the following risk factors were identified in the adult victim survivor assessment:

Factors relevant to adult victim survivor

- Physical assault while pregnant/following new birth*
- Isolation
- Self-assessed level of risk

Factors relevant to adult victim survivor and perpetrator's relationship

- Planning to leave or recent separation*
- Escalation – increase in severity and/or frequency of violence*
- Financial difficulties
- Imminence

Factors relevant to perpetrator

- Use of weapon in most recent event*
- Access to weapons*
- Has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or family members (including child/ren)
- 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*

Factors relevant to perpetrator (continued)

- Has ever threatened or tried to self-harm or commit suicide*
- Stalking of victim*
- Sexual assault of victim*
- Previous or current breach of intervention order
- Drug and/or alcohol misuse/abuse*
- Obsession/jealous behaviour toward victim*
- Controlling behaviours*
- Unemployed/Disengaged from education*
- Depression/mental health issue
- History of violent behaviour (not family violence)
- Physical harm
- History of family violence
- Emotional abuse
- Property damage

*May indicate an increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed (serious risk factors)

REMEMBER

You may use a variety of sources to answer questions and inform this assessment. Possible sources include:

- Using information obtained from external sources (external agencies, L17 data, or other relevant sources)
- Using information the adult victim shares about the children during their own adult victim assessment by asking the adult victim appropriate questions about the child victim survivor, or



- By asking the child victim survivor questions directly, when appropriate.
 Questions are divided into two sections (appropriate questions to ask children / appropriate questions to ask an adult). However, the decision on what source of information informs this assessment is based on professional judgement.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHILD VICTIM SURVIVOR

The following questions can be asked directly of a child victim survivor where it is assessed as safe, appropriate and reasonable to do so considering: their age and capacity; their level of maturity; and, their ability to understand the question. Please use your professional judgement to decide on how to frame the questions and whether they should be asked directly of the child victim survivor, an adult, or answered through information received from external sources.
 Consider your possible legal or policy obligations to report concerns for children's safety and/or wellbeing.

Question	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Child 4
Has the child been exposed to or participated in violence in the home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known):</u>				
Has the child telephoned for emergency assistance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has the child ever been removed from parental care against their will?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has the child witnessed either parent being arrested?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has the child been asked to monitor you by the other parent?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has the child intervened in any incidents of physical violence?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has the child had contact with the perpetrator post-separation and is it supervised?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has Child Protection ever been involved with the family or other children in the home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has the child ever accessed counselling or support services?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Do you have possession of the family's passports? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				
Has a crime been committed? (Not to be asked of victim survivor. Criminal offenses include physical abuse, sexual assault, threats, pet abuse, property damage, stalking and breaching Intervention Orders) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
<u>Comments (or not known)</u>				

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHILD VICTIM SURVIVOR				
Questions that may be appropriate to ask younger children that may be unable to complete detailed questions. Consider your possible legal or policy obligations to report concerns for children's safety and/or wellbeing.				
Question	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Child 4
Are you scared of either of your parents/caregivers or anyone else in the home? (From 1 (not afraid) to 5 (extremely afraid) how afraid of them are you now?) ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known):</u>				
Have you ever been physically hurt by either of your parents/caregivers or anyone else in the home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known):</u>				
Have you ever tried to stop your parents/caregivers from fighting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known):</u>				
Has your parent/caregiver said bad things to you about your other parent/caregiver?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known):</u>				
Have you ever had to protect or be protected by a sibling or other child in the home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Comments (or not known):</u>				

¹This scale is not used to assess level of risk. It is an indicator of fear and may indicate the impact on the child.



Further details

RISK SUMMARY

Protective factors

Risk level assessment and rationale



- Serious risk (and requires immediate protection)
- Elevated risk
- At risk

Rationale:

Needs assessment

Safety plan has been completed? (see separate template) Yes No Not known

