

Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023

Priority area

Activities

Responsible entity

Timeline

20 21 22 23

Courts

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Victim Survivors, vulnerable children and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive

The court will establish Specialist Family Violence Courts at four further locations, Heidelberg (2021), Frankston (2021), Bendigo (2023) and Wyndham (TBC)

The Specialist Family Violence Court at Wyndham is part of a new investment in Law Courts for Wyndham announced in the 2020/21 State Budget

CSV

20 21 22 23

Review the implementation approach for the remaining Specialist Family Violence Court recommendations in the context of broader court reform including recent court innovations, post coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery and infrastructure planning

**DJCS
CSV**

Remote hearing services will be expanded to several additional locations across the state

Pilots will continue to inform ongoing policy around addressing the safety of victim survivors, and making it easier for people to participate in their court hearing

CSV

Court attendance safety plans are under development at the Melbourne Children's Court to prioritise the safety of victim survivors, including children

This may include the arrangement of remote witness facilities, staggered departure times, and appropriate support when entering court rooms and participating in proceedings

CSV

The Family Violence Intervention Order (FVIO) online form will be expanded to allow applicants to extend, vary or revoke an existing FVIO application online

This is the most commonly requested service enhancement to complete the FVIO application cycle

These changes mean that a victim survivor will not need to physically attend a court building to apply for changes to their intervention order or receive court services

CSV

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		20	21	22	23	
<p>Victim Survivors, vulnerable children and families are safe and supported to recover and thrive continued</p>	<p>The court will work with peak organisations to develop family violence training for court interpreters, including innovative pilots, such as the VideoLink model where court interpreters are available remotely</p>	CSV				
	<p>A strong focus on learning and development for judiciary and staff specialising in family violence. This includes multi-disciplinary training which will bring workers from across the sector to share a consistent message and approach, and result in a better experience across the system</p>	CSV				
	<p>The court will continue to run the Delivering Culturally Safe Court Services program to provide court staff with the capability to deliver a culturally sensitive, trauma-informed service to Aboriginal court users</p>	CSV				
	<p>The court will implement the Specialist Family Violence Court Capability Development Pathways to support the ongoing specialisation of the Specialist Family Violence Court staff</p>	CSV				
<p>Perpetrators are held accountable, connected and take responsibility for stopping their violence</p>	<p>Continue to operate the Court Mandated Counselling Order Program to keep more perpetrators accountable and in view</p>	CSV				
	<p>Trial an evaluation of the Integrated Counselling and Case Management Program pilot, a new perpetrator intervention program that addresses the complex interplay between family violence, alcohol and other drugs, and/or mental health issues and provides greater opportunity to tailor responses for a wider range of perpetrators</p>	CSV				
	<p>Deliver the Koori Cultural Safety Initiative, in collaboration with an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, to support mainstream men's behaviour change program providers to deliver culturally safe and appropriate programs to court-ordered Aboriginal people who use violence</p>	CSV				

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Preventing and responding to family violence is systemic and enduring

The court will continue to implement the MARAM Framework in full across the Magistrates' Court of Victoria and Children's Court of Victoria and embed it into practice

CSV

The Family Violence Contact Centre will continue to be expanded to support additional court locations, including to all specialist family violence court locations

CSV

Growing demand for information sharing across the family violence service sector will continue to be addressed, providing fast response through the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme

CSV

Development and implementation of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria Koori Family Violence Strategy will guide how the courts approach family violence in the Aboriginal community

CSV

All-encompassing process and outcome evaluation of the Magistrates' Court led family violence reforms, with a focus on the implementation and effectiveness of the Specialist Family Violence Courts and associated reforms

CSV

Implementation of an information sharing protocol between the Magistrates' Court, Children's Court and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to ensure that when a parent seeks a new or amended family violence intervention order, the Magistrates' and Children's Court can seek information held by DHHS in relation to family violence risk

CSV

Evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of the Koori Family Violence Intervention Order Breaches pilot in Mildura

CSV