

RESPONSIBILITY 10: COLLABORATE FOR ONGOING RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Ongoing Risk Assessment and Management

Multi-agency collaboration is the key to building a collaborative and coordinated community response to family violence. Due to the dynamic nature of family violence, family violence risk assessment and management is a continuous process, Responsibility 10 focuses on system-level collaboration and development and the role of specialist family violence services.

This responsibility requires organisations to have processes in place for collaborative practice, both with other sectors and the specialist family violence services. Working collaboratively with other services requires clear and purposeful communication and a regard for building and maintaining trust in relationships with not only these other services but clients too.

Practice Requirements

Professionals, services, and organisations have a responsibility to work jointly to address family violence risk and undertake family violence risk assessment, management, planning, and review. This should be undertaken through:

- **Established strategies** for working collaboratively with key partners within their local area to increase opportunities for engagement of perpetrators and improve outcomes for victim survivors.
- **Formal partnerships** built on a mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities and the shared goal of increased safety of victim survivors and families through working directly with people using violence.
- **Established mechanisms** that delineate referral processes and pathways.
- **Services regularly meet** to discuss how to best engage, and support people using violence and appropriately share information.
- **Membership and participation** in interagency, network meetings, community networks and partnerships.
- **Strong links** with local youth services, multicultural services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services, services that specialise in working with people with disability, as well as LGBTIQ specialist services.

The Role of Specialist Family Violence Services

Specialist family violence services lead family violence system development. Their role includes strengthening the identification of family violence; referral pathways from multiple organisations and workforces; bringing professionals and services together; and promoting a shared understanding and commitment to family violence risk assessment and management.

Specialist family violence services may also:

- Identify gaps and barriers in the family violence service system
- Support professionals and services to analyse their response to family violence from the perspective of ensuring victim survivor safety
- Support services and organisations to make changes to practice or policy to align with the MARAM Framework.