

# RESPONSIBILITY 6: CONTRIBUTE TO INFORMATION SHARING

## The Information Sharing Schemes

The Information Sharing Schemes (FVISS and CISS) build on existing information sharing and privacy legislation to expand the capability of prescribed organisations in Victoria to collect and share crucial information to effectively assess and manage family violence, and to promote children's safety and/or wellbeing. Information sharing and service collaboration are vital for the early identification of risk and in facilitating early and appropriately targeted support.

The Reforms authorise Child and Family Services to:

- Contribute to a consistent, system-wide sharing of responsibility to identify, screen, assess and manage family violence.
- Respond to requests for information to promote child wellbeing or safety, and/or assess and manage risk of family violence.
- Request information to promote child wellbeing or safety and/or manage risk of family violence.
- Proactively share information to promote child wellbeing or safety and/or manage risk of family violence.

## Practice Requirements

- **Importance of information sharing** – Risk is dynamic and can change over time. Professionals with responsibilities for ongoing risk assessment should continue to share information to support updating risk management and safety plans for the person using violence, as well as safety planning undertaken with victim survivors.
- **Sharing risk-relevant information** – Family violence risk relevant information refers to information that is relevant to assessing and managing family violence risk, which differs based on the pattern of coercive control. This includes risk of harm from past and present family violence, and future risk of family violence occurring. You can combine your professional judgement with the MARAM practice guidance and tools to determine this.
- **Record keeping responsibilities** – All information requested and shared, whether proactively or in response to a request, must be documented, including any complaints about information sharing. You are also legally required to keep accurate records of all information shared as well as information that you refuse to share and the reasons why it was refused. Organisations and services can determine their own policies and procedures for record keeping as long as the minimum requirements are met, as set out by the legislation. [More information.](#)
- **Consider legal permissions** – Secondary consultations should be considered in line with authorisations to share information. Consent is not required to share information as part of secondary consultation about a person using violence, nor for any other assessment or management purpose, as long as it is shared appropriately under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme, or in accordance with another legislative authorisation.

### Professionals should consider the following when sharing information about a person using violence:

- Gather and share risk factors present and/or observed, patterns of behaviour, beliefs and attitudes, static and dynamic risks, protective factors, and information that supports stabilisation of risk.
- Contextualise and analyse what a person using violence discloses and your observations of narratives and/or behaviours they use.
- Monitor change of their risk and patterns of behaviours (including working collaboratively with the other services).
- Identify key sources of information and other services that are responding to presenting needs or circumstance.
- Risk is dynamic. If changes to the person's narratives, behaviours, needs or circumstances indicate an escalation of risk in terms of frequency and/or severity, you should consider proactively sharing and/or requesting information with other relevant services regarding risk assessment and management plans

Please see [here](#) for the full Practice Guides, including key examples. For more information on putting the Practice Guides into practice, please see the [PUV Training provided by No to Violence](#).

More information: <https://www.vic.gov.au/maram-practice-guides-and-resources>