

RESPONSIBILITY 9: CONTRIBUTE TO COORDINATED RISK MANAGEMENT

Coordinated Risk Management

Coordinated risk management requires a professional to actively work with others to manage risk as an integral part of responding to family violence. Under Responsibility 9, services and organisations are required to identify and embed processes and procedures for effective multi-agency collaboration and risk management. This responsibility supports a shared and consistent understanding of family violence risk and enables for proactive and timely interventions across the service system.

Practice Requirements

- **Maintain contact with the person using family violence** – It can be unsafe and inappropriate to share with the person using violence that a professional is involved with collaborative and coordinated risk assessment and management. This is the case as, the person using violence can interpret this as ‘evidence that the system is against them’, disengage from services, and increase methods of coercive control increasing risk and isolation.
- **Maintain perpetrator visibility and action interventions** – Supervision and monitoring of the person using violence’s behaviours occurs through proactive and regular information sharing, coordinated risk management processes, and their ongoing engagement with health and social services and specialist perpetrator interventions, such as behaviour change programs.
- **Monitor risk and notifications** – Risk assessment should be undertaken as part of any coordinated risk management approach. This involves collating and analysing information from various services or sources. The outcome of the risk assessment will inform the risk management strategies that are developed and actioned.
- **Maintain contact with victim survivor** – When safe, reasonable, and appropriate, the professional should inform the victim survivor that they are involved with a coordinated collaborative risk assessment and management process, including what services are involved.
- **Develop and monitor the actions of a Risk Management Plan and Safety Plan** – Safety planning with the person using violence aims to promote personal accountability for their use of family violence and provide support for needs and safety for themselves. It involves mobilising resources and understanding the person’s needs and circumstances that relate to family violence to support stabilisation, increase their awareness of when and how their behaviours escalate, build skills in de-escalation, and encourage help seeking.

Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMP)

The Risk Assessment and Management Panel (RAMP) program is a multi-agency coordinated response to family violence that increases the collective capacity and effectiveness of the service system to identify and respond to people using violence, and to hold them responsible and accountable for their violence and abuse.

RAMP is a victim survivor and child-centred approach that focuses on ensuring that the person using violence is held solely responsible and accountable for their abusive and violent behaviour. It is an initiative to improve responses to serious threats to victim survivors, and normal services cannot mitigate the risk from the person using violence.

Referring to a RAMP

Cases referred to a RAMP must involve an adult or child victim survivor of family violence experiencing a serious threat / serious risk of being killed or seriously injured.

Any professional working with a service user (whether victim survivor, person using violence, or person using violence who identifies as a victim survivor) at serious risk from a serious threat of being killed or seriously injured can contact their local specialist family violence service to provide information to support a RAMP referral.

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Practice Tips

- There may be times where it is appropriate and safe to inform the person using violence that there will be a collaborative and coordinated service system response, such as where coordination is used as a result of known referrals or joint support provided by professionals. In these cases, professionals should support the referral process as outlined in Responsibility 5.
- Actions include ensuring that the person using violence is aware of and complies with the conditions of intervention orders, and they continue to address any issues, needs and circumstances that contribute to their use of family violence and risk.
- Each coordination meeting should include sharing relevant information to assess the level of risk. This includes:
 - Information about the assessed level of risk of the person using violence.
 - Any specific threats or issues.
 - Emerging or changed patterns of coercive controlling behaviour.
 - Changes to the person using violence's needs or circumstances.
 - Change in risk to themselves.
 - Change in description of the impact to victim survivors' safety, wellbeing, and functioning.
- Professionals should ask the victim survivor about any issues, concerns, or scenarios where risk might escalate and seek consent to share information with other professionals about the possibility of risk escalating.
- Safety planning can be performed by several professionals or services working together. Where appropriate to a professional's role and responsibility, this should be developed openly with the person using violence. There may also be times where a professional will be engaging in conversations related to safety planning, but the person using violence may not be aware of the professional's intention. For further guidance on this, refer to Responsibility 4.