

What is the Regional Family Violence Partnership?

Established in 2007 as part of the state-wide family violence reforms, the RFVP is a partnership of organisations committed to working together to address family violence in the Eastern Metropolitan Region. Our goal is to build a system to support women and children's safety and agency and hold perpetrators of family violence accountable for their behaviour. The RFVP brings together representation from the human services, health and justice sectors. Our membership includes representation from Victoria Police, the Magistrates' Court, women's specialist services, men's services, child and family services, housing providers, Child Protection, Aboriginal services, disability advocates and sexual assault services. Together, we work to continually refine the integrated family violence system in our region to achieve our mission.

Regional Family Violence Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the mission and principles that guide the RFVP:

Through collective effort, the RFVP works to build a system that provides safety and justice to all women and children experiencing family violence in our region; and to build an equitable society that prevents violence against women and their children, their families and communities in all its forms. To carry out this purpose, the RFVP works with the following key principles:

1. Safety of women and children; ensuring the needs and independent rights of children who live with or experience family violence are upheld
2. Women's right to access information enabling them to make informed decisions; providing choice, control and agency over their lives and future
3. Strengthening risk management and accountability mechanisms for perpetrators
4. Acknowledgement and recognition of the distinctive rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; the importance of cultural safety and the right to work within culturally relevant frameworks
5. Recognition of the diversity of individuals and communities; promoting inclusion and cultural safety
6. Recognition of a human rights approach including a gendered analysis
7. Preventing violence before it happens; including a commitment to applying a prevention lens to all elements of our partnership's work
8. In the spirit of partnership; collaborating to achieve a coordinated response to family violence and sexual assault

The RFVP also works closely with other key state wide and regional partners including Victoria Police, Magistrates' Court, Safe Steps, and Victorian Women with Disabilities Network.

Structure of the Regional Family Violence Partnership

The RFVP consists of Partnership Members and Associate Members that participate at various levels of the work undertaken through the Strategic Plan.

Partnership Members:

Partnership Members are agencies signed on to the Memorandum of Understanding with managerial level persons participating through working groups, acting as sector representatives on the RFVP Executive Committee or elected as a Chair to a working group. They are also able to attend events, receive information on the distribution list and participate in the Annual Member & Practitioner Forum.

Associate Members:

Associate Members are the broad level of membership for all workers in family violence agencies and related sectors across the Eastern Metropolitan Region. Associate members are encouraged to participate in working groups, attend events and the Annual Members & Practitioners Forum or simply receive information via email or their representatives on the Executive Committee.

About the Executive Committee

Central to the governance of the RFVP is the Executive Committee. The RFVPEC hold the responsibility for driving and monitoring the implementation of family violence integration at a regional level. The RFVPEC provides the cross-sector leadership required to develop a strategic plan and guide its implementation through monthly meetings and advising the working groups. The monthly meetings are facilitated by an Independent Chair whose role is to maintain focus on the mission and principles and guide decision-making by consensus. The committee is comprised of persons who represent key sectors within the integrated family violence system and working group chairs.

Sector Representation:

The appointment of executive committee members as sector representatives is premised on the basis that they are able to fulfil roles that effectively represent sectors which stand to undergo the most significant change under the integration process. These representatives hold voting rights in the RFVPEC and must be managerial level decision-makers in their agencies. Currently the RFVPEC consists of the following sector representatives:

Sector	Representative
<i>Women's Specialist Sector</i>	Jenny Jackson, CEO, EDVOS
<i>Eastern Men's Behaviour Change Consortium</i>	Jim Allen, Anglicare
<i>Children's Services Sector</i>	Angela Weller, Program Manager, Child & Family Counselling Program, Australian Childhood Foundation
<i>Victoria Police Family Violence Advisor Outer East</i>	Sergeant Michele Clooney, Victoria Police
<i>Victoria Police Family Violence Advisor Inner East</i>	Sergeant Alasdair Gall, Victoria Police

<i>Ringwood Magistrates' Court</i>	David Howard, Senior Registrar, Magistrates' Court of Victoria
<i>Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group</i>	Kerry Thompson, Chair
<i>Indigenous Services Sector</i>	Rose Solomon, CEO, Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service
<i>Community Legal Representative</i>	Belinda Lo, Principle Lawyer, ECLC
<i>CALD Services Sector</i>	consultative basis & via working group structure
<i>Family Violence Crisis Accommodation Sector</i>	Kathy Russell, Manager, Women's Liberation Halfway House
<i>Inner East Integrated Family Services Alliance</i>	Louise Phelan, Divisional Manager, Eastern Community Services, Connections
<i>Outer East Integrated Family Services Alliance</i>	Gaby Thomson, Senior Services Manager, Family & Community Services East, Anglicare
<i>Department of Health & Human Services</i>	Kinsie Hope, Local Connections Manager
<i>Child Protection (Department of Health & Human Services)</i>	Stephanie Dalaklakis, A/Operations Manager, East Division
<i>Community Corrections</i>	Stam Moutsios, Operations Manager – Ringwood /Lilydale
<i>Sexual Assault</i>	Michele Goding, Associate Program Director, Eastern Health
<i>Women's Health Sector</i>	Kristine Olaris, CEO, Women's Health East
<i>Disability Sector</i>	Tricia Malowney, Systemic Advocate
<i>Homelessness</i>	Janene Evans, Manager, Crisis and Homelessness Services, Wesley Mission
<i>Mental Health & Alcohol and Other Drugs Sectors</i>	David Digapony, Coordinator, Service Planning, Evaluation & Development, EACH

Working Groups & Sub-Committees:

The RFVPEC also includes working group chairs. Working groups are defined through strategic plans. Chairs must fulfil the criteria of being from MoU signatory agencies and holding a managerial, decision-making level within their organisations. Under the current 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, the chairs on the RFVPEC represent the following working groups:

- **Cultural Partnerships Reference Group** – Chair, Shirley Slann
- **Preventing Violence Against Women Community of Practice**- Host Agency, Women’s Health East
- **Workforce Development Working Group** – Chair, Nina Levin
- **Children’s Consultative Group**-Chair, Angela Weller
- **Data Working Group** – Chair, Erika Owens
- **Safer Together Protocol**-Chair, Jelena Djurdjevic
- **Justice Reference Group**-Chair, Jelena Djurdjevic

For more information, please contact:

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