**Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM)**

**and Information Sharing**

**Policy Statement Template**

Updated December 2021

**MARAM and information sharing Policy STATEMENT**

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| **Version No.** |  |
| **Endorsement** |  |
| **Endorsement date** |  |
| **Authorisation** |  |
| **Policy oversight & responsibility** |  |
| **Review date** |  |
| **Review history** |  |
| **Relevant Legislation** | *Children Youth and Families Act (2005)**Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (The Act)**Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe**Standards) Act 2015 (Vic)**Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)**Failure to Disclose Child Sexual Abuse (2014)**Failure to Protect a Child from Sexual Abuse (2015)**Family Violence Protection Act (2008)**Privacy and Data Protection Act (2014)**The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)**The Commission for Children and Young People Act (2012)**Working with Children Act (2005) (Vic)**Children Legislation Amendment (Reportable Conduct) Act (2017)**Family Violence Protection Amendment (Information Sharing) Act (2017)* |

**related legislation, policies, frameworks and guidelines**

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| **Name** | **Location** |
| MARAM and Information Sharing Resources | [Webpage](https://www.vic.gov.au/guides-templates-tools-for-information-sharing) |
| MARAM Framework (2018) | Direct link to Framework |
| FVISS Ministerial Guidelines (April 2021) | [Direct link to Guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-04/Ministerial%20Guidelines%20-%20Family%20Violence%20Information%20Sharing%20Scheme_2.pdf) |
| CISS Ministerial Guidelines (2018) | [Direct link to Guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-01/Child%20Information%20Sharing%20Scheme%20Ministerial%20Guidlines%20-%20Guidance%20for%20information%20sharing%20entities.pdf) |
| ISE List | [Webpage](https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-entity-list) |
| Who Can Share | [Webpage](https://www.vic.gov.au/ciss-and-fviss-who-can-share-information) |
| Child Safe Standards 2018 | [Webpage](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/child-safe-standards) |
| Reportable Conduct Scheme | [Webpage](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/) |
| [Best Start Initiative](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/beststart.aspx) 2019 | [Webpage](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/beststart.aspx) |
| Best Interests Framework 2007 | [Direct link to Framework](https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2017-08/the-best-interests-framework-for-vulnerable-children-and-youth.pdf)[Webpage](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/best-interests-framework-vulnerable-children-and-youth-pdf) |

## Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM)

## and information sharing policy Statement

Executive Summary

## Scope

This policy statement relates to the Victoria Government MARAM and Information Sharing reforms in effect from 27 September, 2018; the Family Violence Multi Agency and Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) framework, the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and the Child information Sharing Scheme (CISS).

The MARAM establishes a framework and tools for a collaborative systems response in early identification and intervention of family violence. The FVISS compliments the MARAM and existing information sharing legislation allowing further opportunities to share family violence risk relevant sharing concerning family violence,

The CISS complements the MARAM and FVISS in authorising the sharing of information to promote child wellbeing and safety in relation to other broader wellbeing and safety risks when family violence is present.

The three reforms in combination establish a consistent and collaborative state-wide service response to keep family violence victim survivors safe, hold perpetrators accountable and in view and, in respect of CISS, promote a child’s safety and wellbeing.

This policy statement acts as a template to support councils in making a policy statement document to reflect MARAM and information sharing legislative requirements.

**Objectives**

The objectives of this Policy Statement are to:

* Define prescribed service roles and responsibilities for council employees at the Screening and Identification level under MARAM.
* Articulate a council policy that supports prescribed council services operating under MARAM, and that guides all procedures and practice to effectively identify, assess and manage family violence risk.
* Protect all victims and third parties while keeping perpetrators in view and accountable for their actions and behaviours.
* Ensure the broad range of experiences across the spectrum of risk are represented, including for Aboriginal communities, diverse communities, children, young people and older people, across identities, and family and relationship types.
* Support effective risk assessment and management of family violence utilising MARAM and the FVISS
* Define Information Sharing roles within prescribed services for council utilising the FVISS for family violence information sharing
* Support prescribed council services utilising the CISS to promote child wellbeing and safety

**Supporting Resources**

[Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework](https://www.vic.gov.au/maram-practice-guides-and-resources)

[Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) Ministerial Guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-04/Ministerial%20Guidelines%20-%20Family%20Violence%20Information%20Sharing%20Scheme_4.pdf)

[Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) Ministerial Guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-05/Child%20Information%20Sharing%20Scheme%20Ministerial%20Guidelines%20%E2%80%93%20Guidance%20for%20information%20sharing%20entities_0.pdf)

[MAV MARAM & Information Sharing Policy Guidance document](https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/social-community/children-youth-family/maternal-and-child-health-children-0-6-years/maternal-and-child-health-resources#maramis)

**Information Sharing Roles and Responsibilities for prescribed council services**

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| **Councillors** |  |
| **CEO** | * Ensure all council services prescribed under MARAM and Information Sharing are required to abide by the MARAM framework and FVISS and CISS ministerial guidelines, this policy, and all associated organisational procedures and practices.
* Oversee the handling and implementation of this policy and its organisational procedure across all services, establishing and delivering legislative obligations.
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| **Governance, Senior Leadership** | * Support the handling and implementation of this policy and its organisational procedure across all prescribed services.
* Ensure the policy and legislative Ministerial Guidelines are complied with.
* Ensure the schemes data recording requirements are met.
* Ensure this policy is reviewed and up to date.
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| **Prescribed service Director/ Manager/** **Team Leader** | * Oversee the handling and implementation of this policy and its organisational procedures across own service.
* Approve / Decline requests where necessary.
* Provide leadership and consultation in situations of complex decision making.
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| **Prescribed Service Coordinator/ Team Leader** | * Oversee delegation of requests and provide support in situations of complex decision making.
* Approve / decline information sharing requests.
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| **Practitioners/ Officers** | * Approve / decline information sharing requests as delegated.
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**Review**

Council alignment with the MARAM is understood as an ongoing process under the maturity model. The continuous development of the evidence-base of what constitutes good practice for MARAM and information sharing should be reflected in an annual review and amendment of this policy, in accordance with MARAM Pillar 4; Systems, outcomes and continuous improvement.