

Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023

Priority area

Activities

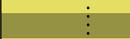
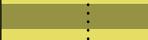
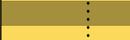
Responsible entity

Timeline

20 21 22 23

Legal Assistance

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Priority area	Activities	Responsible entity	Timeline
			20 21 22 23
Earlier access to legal assistance	Review legal assistance recommendations from the Positive Interventions for Perpetrators of Adolescent Violence in the Home report, completed by Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and Centre for Innovative Justice	DJCS	
	Establish pathways for earlier legal assistance referrals	DJCS Victoria Police CSV	
	Work with Victoria Legal Aid on the continued implementation and evaluation of Specialist Family Violence Courts legal practice model	CSV	
Workforce capability	Working with legal services to ensure that training aligns with the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) where appropriate While legal professionals are not prescribed under the MARAM Framework, the training is informed and guided by the MARAM principles	DJCS	
	Explore opportunities to continue Women's Legal Service Victoria Safer Families program	DJCS	
	Commonwealth, States and Territories Attorneys-General embed family violence competency into Continuing Professional Development frameworks for legal practitioners across Australia	DJCS	

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Improved service delivery and integration	Work continues between legal services and courts to pilot early referrals to legal services	CSV	■
	Establish a statewide approach to the connection and coordination of legal services within The Orange Door network in every area	DJCS FSV	■
	Explore opportunities to expand school lawyer programs delivered by Community Legal Centres These programs have a crime prevention focus and provide prevention and early intervention supports, including legal education on interacting with police and protective services officers, fines and consequences of getting a criminal record	DJCS DET	■
	Work with Magistrates' Court of Victoria, Victoria Police and Family Safety Victoria to explore broader referral options for perpetrator interventions	DJCS	■
	Work with No To Violence men's referral service, to establish referral pathways to legal services for men who use violence	DJCS	■
	Increase legal assistance referral pathways for victim survivors	DJCS	■
	Develop resources for integrated service providers to increase legal referrals	DJCS	■
	Identify opportunities across the family violence, justice and legal assistance sectors to support improved identification of client legal risks and needs	DJCS	■
	The statewide approach to the connection and coordination of legal services is embedded across The Orange Door network	DJCS FSV	■
	Support Djirra to expand regional service delivery capacity	DJCS	■

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Initiatives and projects in response to coronavirus (COVID-19)	Activities	Responsible entity	Timeline			
			20	21	22	23
Initiatives and projects in response to coronavirus (COVID-19)	Explore opportunities to build on the Victoria Legal Aid Legal Help Phonenumber and Legal Help Chat	DJCS	[Progress bar spanning 2020-2021]			
	Explore opportunities to further embed and expand upon improved pathways from Victoria Legal Aid's Legal Help to Duty Lawyer service for pre-court legal assistance	DJCS	[Progress bar spanning 2020-2021]			
	Consider the benefits of complementing the Specialist Family Violence Courts model with remote service delivery and enhanced Audio-Visual Link technology, the use of which has been accelerated during COVID-19	CSV DJCS	[Progress bar spanning 2020-2021]			
	Begin evaluation of options to continue the use of audio-visual link for remote service delivery at court locations	DJCS	[Progress bar spanning 2020-2021]			
	Develop cohort-specific responses for alternative engagements methods, e.g. digital platforms, online referral tools, telephone etc.	DJCS	[Progress bar spanning 2020-2021]			
	Review and assess COVID-19 pre-court legal assistance initiatives implemented by the courts, providing information and referrals earlier and electronically	DJCS CSV	[Progress bar spanning 2020-2021]			
	Consider options for expanding early engagement methods	CSV Victoria Police	[Progress bar spanning 2020-2021]			

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DJCS	Develop solutions to access to justice barriers, for example, perpetrators' exploitation of legal processes, including deliberately creating conflict of interest issues to limit victim survivors' access to legal assistance				
DJCS	Identify avenues to better support access to legal assistance for children and young people				
DJCS	Establish stronger pathways between legal services and related supports, with attention to the importance of financial counsellors				
DJCS	Develop pre-separation legal information for victim-survivors to ensure they are informed of their rights and responsibilities prior to making the decision to leave the relationship				