

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	20 21 22 23
	Establish pathways for earlier legal assistance referrals	DJCS Victoria Police CSV	20 21 22 23
	Work with Victoria Legal Aid on the continued implementation and evaluation of Specialist Family Violence Courts legal practice model	CSV	20 21 22 23
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	20 21 22 23
	Explore opportunities to continue Women's Legal Service Victoria Safer Families program	DJCS	20 21 22 23
	Commonwealth, States and Territories Attorneys-General embed family violence competency into Continuing Professional Development frameworks for legal practitioners across Australia	DJCS	20 21 22 23

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			20 21 22 23
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 from 2020 to 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 from 2020 to 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 from 2020 to 2021]			
	Begin evaluation of options to continue the use of audio-visual link for remote service delivery at court locations	DJCS	[Progress bar from 2020 to 2021]			
	Develop cohort-specific responses for alternative engagements methods, e.g. digital platforms, online referral tools, telephone etc.	DJCS	[Progress bar from 2020 to 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 from 2020 to 2021]			
	Consider options for expanding early engagement methods	CSV Victoria Police	[Progress bar from 2020 to 2021]			

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<p>Responding to consultation feedback</p> <p>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</p>	DJCS	[Progress bar]			
<p>Identify avenues to better support access to legal assistance for children and young people</p>	DJCS	[Progress bar]			
<p>Establish stronger pathways between legal services and related supports, with attention to the importance of financial counsellors</p>	DJCS	[Progress bar]			
<p>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</p>	DJCS	[Progress bar]			