

RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE 2015 - 2017

Vision

Increase the safety of women and children by ensuring a consistent service across the state, delivered with greater sensitivity, ensuring co-ordination and efficiency in the management of cases, and the ability to refer victims and offenders to services.

Demand

FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ORDER APPLICATIONS FINALISED 2013/14 (INCLUDING INTERIM ORDERS)

50,208

↑49% SINCE 2008/09

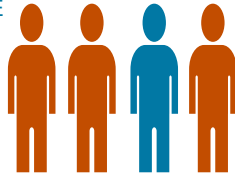


15,073

↑58%

SINCE 2008/09

FAMILY VIOLENCE INTERIM INTERVENTION ORDERS MADE 2013/14



NUMBER OF CONTRAVENTION OF INTERVENTION ORDER CHARGES 2013/14

15,016

↑284%

SINCE 2008/09

99,868

TOTAL INTERVENTION ORDER LISTINGS 2013/14

INTERVENTION ORDER APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY AFTER HOURS SERVICE 2013/14

11,448

Strategic Priorities

Expansion of Family Violence Services

Video Conferencing Pilot

Fast Tracking Listing Model

Professional Development

Online Engagement

Improved use of technology and information sharing

Objective

Improve and encourage state wide consistency and best practice in the Court's response to family violence.

Enhance the safety and security of applicants by enabling them to appear at court via video conferencing from remote locations.

Improve perpetrator accountability and enhance the safety of victims by having criminal matters dealt with as early as possible.

Ensure that staff and magistrates receive appropriate professional development in family violence.

Make information relating to the intervention order process easily accessible and understood.

Promote consistent information sharing across the state with other government agencies and family violence stakeholders.

Actions

- Dedicated Family Violence services to be expanded to all head quarter courts across the state; this includes specialised Family Violence Registrars, applicant support workers and respondent support workers, providing assistance to all court regions
- Implemented expansion in a staged roll-out, with stage one to commence in early 2015.
- Expansion of CISP program to additional courts.
- Improved waiting areas in courts for applicants and children to increase safety.
- Improved responses to Koori and CALD clients.

- Develop a Family Violence Video Conferencing Pilot in conjunction with workers from support and legal services to improve access to courts and provide alternative arrangements for victims and witnesses to give evidence in family violence matters.
- Pilot to be conducted in Heidelberg and Melbourne and to commence in February 2015.
- Evaluate the outcomes of the pilot and explore possibilities for the further expansion of the approach.
- Ensure affected family member will have access to legal and support services from the remote location.

- The Court has worked closely with Victoria Police and Victoria Legal Aid to develop a listing model that will see Family Violence related criminal charges, including contraventions of intervention orders listed before a court within set time frames.
- The model will be rolled out across the state through a staged implementation, with the first stage commencing at the Magistrates' Court at Dandenong in December 2014.

- Commencing in 2015, all magistrates will be provided with an intensive 2-day session on family violence, facilitated by the Judicial College of Victoria.
- Family violence registrars will receive education on family violence risk factors and risk management, and a professional development plan will be implemented for all Applicant and Respondent Support Workers.
- All Trainee Court Registrars will receive extensive and specialised family violence training, which will be undertaken both in the classroom and the workplace.

- Develop a new website specifically for information relating to family violence intervention orders. The website will be a 'one-stop' shop for information on intervention orders including written content, videos and helpful links to existing family violence resources.
- Collaborate with Victoria Legal Aid and other stakeholders on content for the site.
- New website will be available for use by March 2015.

- Improved identification of criminal proceedings involving family violence.
- Work with Victoria Police to further develop the electronic interface between Courtlink and LEAP to ensure timely and accurate information exchange regarding intervention orders.
- Continue to work closely with stakeholders to improve information sharing processes.