



## Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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BAC-CO-55802

State Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Registrar

### **Finding without inquest into the death of Shirley Annette Kidd (COR 2022 002885)**

I write in response to the finding and recommendation made by State Coroner Judge Cain on 23 May 2025 in relation to the death of Shirley Annette Kidd.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) acknowledges the tragic death of Ms Kidd, and I offer my sincere condolences to Ms Kidd's family and friends.

The Coroner made one recommendation which falls within the responsibilities of the department. The department provides the following response to the recommendation.

#### **Recommendation**

The Family Safety Victoria work with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to review and adequately resource statewide programs for recovery from family violence, including ensuring accessible programs tailored to the specific needs of young people.

#### **Response**

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

#### **Supporting commentary**

The Victorian Government is firmly committed to addressing the needs of children and young people experiencing or at risk of family violence and supporting their recovery and healing.

Children and young people remain a key priority for the next phase of Victoria's family violence reforms, as set out in *Strong Foundations: Building on Victoria's work to end family violence* and in the forthcoming the third *Family Violence Rolling Action Plan* (RAP3) under *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's 10-Year Plan for Change*, which is due to be released later in 2025. Outlined below are initiatives relevant to the recommendation that have either been implemented or are currently underway.

The Orange Door, established in response to a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, provides an accessible statewide entry point for information and support for people of all ages, including children and young people, experiencing family violence, and families seeking parenting and wellbeing support. It brings together partner organisations from Family Violence, Child and Family Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to provide an integrated intake and assessment point.

The Orange Door supports children and young people to get the support they need by individually assessing their needs and risks so they can be connected to relevant services for longer term support. Children and young people represented over 43 per cent of all people provided with a service response from The Orange Door in 2023-24.

Specialist family violence case management is the core service response for victim survivors of family violence, including children and young people. Case management is used to assess and manage family violence risk, plan for safety and to establish stability in the child or young person's life.

The Victorian Government is aware that providing support early when children experience violence is vital to addressing the impacts of trauma and breaking cycles of violence. There are a range of statewide therapeutic interventions available for people who have experienced or are at risk of family violence, with 40 per cent of funding dedicated to children and young people. These programs focus on healing and recovery, including through child-parent attachment therapy for under-five year olds, and play, art, or music therapies. The Strengthening Women's Safety Package, announced in May 2024, boosted funding to existing therapeutic services in regions so that more children and young people who have experienced family violence or sexual assault can access the support they need.

Underpinning Victoria's family violence system is the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework, which provides a shared understanding and system wide approach to the identification, assessment, and management of family violence risk.

The Victorian Government is developing child and young person-focused practice guidance and tools under the MARAM Framework. This new guidance will support workforces to engage directly with children and young people as victim survivors in their own right to identify, assess and manage their family violence risk and well being needs.

The new guidance will also support workforces to identify, assess and manage family violence risk and wellbeing needs when working with young people using violence within their families. Following publication of the practice guidance and tools, a range of implementation activities will commence, including developing training and resources for

professionals to support young people to engage in the assessment and safety planning process.

The department notes the Coroner's reference to the importance of primary prevention of family violence, and that Mr Kidd's experience of family violence as a child had direct and enduring impacts on his life, including his mental health.

Victoria's 10-year *Free from Violence* strategy seeks to achieve generational change by shifting the underlying attitudes and behaviours that drive violence. This strategy focuses on intervening at pivotal stages of life and in all the places where Victorians live, work, learn and socialise. It includes the Respectful Relationships education program, now implemented in 2,000 Victorian public, Catholic and independent schools. Evidence-based primary prevention will remain a core part of Victoria's efforts to prevent family and sexual violence.

Once again, I would like to express my condolences to Ms Kidd's family and offer assurances to them that we remain committed to improving available supports for children and young people experiencing family violence.

I trust this information is of assistance. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Colleen Carey, Managing Principal Solicitor, Public Law, Litigation and Inquiries, Legal Services Branch at the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing via

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peta', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

**Peta McCammon**  
Secretary

15 / 08 / 2025