



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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BAC-CO-57675

Kate Sanderson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson

I refer to your correspondence of 1 August 2025 attaching the Form 38 issued to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department), requiring a written response to the recommendations made by former State Coroner Judge Cain in the Finding into Death Without Inquest (Finding) into the death of William Heddergott (ref COR 2020 00625).

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Mr Heddergott.

The Coroner's recommendations

The former State Coroner Judge Cain made three recommendations in his Findings, of which the first was directed at the department:

1. *That the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing engage with the Commonwealth Government in relation to the prescription of Commonwealth Government entities such as the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission as Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and in respect of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM).*

Response to recommendation one

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) are both independent Commonwealth Government agencies. The Victorian Government does not have the authority to prescribe either organisation under the Victorian Family Violence Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM Framework) or Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS). However, the Victorian Government will continue to engage with the Commonwealth on options to prescribe NDIS providers that are delivering services in Victoria in future.

Current operation of the MARAM Framework and FVISS and implementation with disability services

The MARAM Framework and FVISS are established under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic). The MARAM Framework sets the shared understanding of family violence, consistent and collaborative practice and clear responsibilities to identify and respond to family violence statewide. This aims to create a service system that has the same understanding of family violence and that responds in the same way.

Organisations and services are authorised as ‘framework organisations’ under the MARAM Framework, meaning they are required to align their policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools with the MARAM Framework and supporting practice resources. FVISS supports effective assessment and management of family violence risk by authorising services to share risk relevant information. As the MARAM and FVISS are established under Victorian law, all prescribed organisations operate in Victoria, either wholly or in part.

The department is currently undertaking a program of work with the NDIA to support the identification of and response to family and sexual violence for Victorian providers. This includes enhancing planning process for NDIS participants to ensure appropriate supports are in place and improving the agency’s response to family and sexual violence for NDIS participants. The department will continue to engage with the Commonwealth on opportunities to align Victorian-based National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service providers with the MARAM Framework.

National projects to support family and domestic violence risk assessment, risk management and information sharing

As a commitment of a National Cabinet meeting on gender-based violence in May 2024, the Victorian Government is currently co-leading multiple projects with the Commonwealth Government to improve victim safety and perpetrator accountability by supporting service systems within and across jurisdictions to consistently assess and manage risk. These projects include:

- Best-practice family and domestic violence information sharing guidance – This project has seen the development of best practice guidance to support jurisdictions to improve their existing family and domestic violence information sharing practices.
- National family and domestic violence risk assessment principles – This project supports the development of national family and domestic violence risk assessment principles, risk factors and a model framework to support greater national consistency for family violence risk assessment and management.

Should you have any queries, please contact Melanie Heenan, Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. McCammon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peta McCammon
Secretary

30/10/2025