



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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BAC-CO-58299

Kate Sanderson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson

I refer to your correspondence of 11 August 2025 attaching the Form 38 issued to Family Safety Victoria (FSV) requiring a written response to the recommendation made by former State Coroner, Judge Cain, in the Finding into Death Without Inquest (Finding) relating to [REDACTED] (ref COR 2022 002405).

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of [REDACTED]

Coroner's recommendation

His Honour Judge Cain made the following recommendation in the Finding:

That Victoria Police fully implement recommendation 5 of the FVRIM December 2021 report, Monitoring Victoria's family violence reforms: Accurate identification of the predominant aggressor, specifically to "Trial a review process, involving the specialist family violence sector, for any Family Violence Report where a woman is identified as a respondent (and possible for other targeted cohorts) before it is committed to Victoria Police's LEAP database." The review of Family Violence Reports should occur by police and members of the specialist family violence sector together. Victoria Police should work with Family Safety Victoria to implement this recommendation.

Response to recommendation

The recommendation is being implemented.

Work is underway to address the actions outlined in the FVRIM report as part of the Predominant Aggressor Working Group's (Working Group) workplan. In 2024, the Working Group was re-established as an internal-to-government group to improve systems to effectively identify the predominant aggressor, and enable rectification where misidentification is found to have occurred.

The Working Group is co-chaired by FSV and the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) and includes representatives from Victoria Police. At this stage, the Working Group will operate until mid-2027 to align with the timeframe for the third Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan (RAP). To address the concerns of the FVRIM and His Honour Judge Cain, the Working Group, will respond to the actions outlined in the FVRIM report, including exploring their viability, or where appropriate, identifying alternative proposals to address the intent of the actions.

In addition to the response to the FVRIM recommendation on implementing a predominant aggressor assessment across the state, the Working Group has captured in its policy, risks and issues register the related recommendation on time thresholds for LEAP uploads, raised by Her Honour Coroner Giles in the Findings into Death Without Inquest for Ms HRZ.

MARAM Accurate Identification of the Predominant Aggressor Tool

The MARAM Predominant Aggressor Tool and practice guidance was released in 2022. The statewide roll out of training commenced in 2024. This means that Risk Assessment Entities, prescribed under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme, including specialist family violence services and Victoria Police, are authorised and are being trained to share information and work collaboratively to undertake the MARAM Predominant Aggressor Assessment, to accurately identify the parties and rectify misidentification.

In 2025, the Victoria Police Manual was updated to include guidance on misidentification and working with specialist services to assess the parties. The Orange Door (TOD) has also undertaken a trial of the MARAM Predominant Aggressor Tool and is finalising operational guidance on its use across the state. The Tool has also been built into TOD's Tools for Risk Assessment and Management online platform, as well as the Specialist Homelessness Information Platform, used by specialist family violence services.

These Guides and tools are provided directly to specialist services. They are not published online due to the risk of the content being publicly available, and perpetrators potentially using the information to further harm victim survivors. This is the first tool developed for state-wide use in Australia, and was developed in consultation with Victoria Police, the Magistrates' Court, Victims of Crime Helpline, the Victim Survivor Advisory Council, specialist perpetrator and victim survivor services, and legal services.

L17 Portal

When a family violence incident occurs, a member of Victoria Police completes a Family Violence Report (FVR), which is also commonly referred to by its former name, an L17 Report. This FVR is then submitted to their supervisor and simultaneously sent to TOD via the L17 Portal, for a TOD practitioner to manage and make appropriate referrals.

FSV is currently in the planning stages of making the L17 Portal accessible to specialist family violence services, so they can be aware of L17 reports at the same time TOD receives them. This would enable them to identify misidentification in a timely manner. Onboarding for agencies is expected to commence in early 2026.

If you require further information or to discuss the material provided, please contact Melanie Heenan, Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Peta McCammon
Secretary

07/11/2025