



## Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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Dear Ms Sanderson

### Investigation into the death of Ms GY – COR 2022 006944

I write in response to the findings made by State Coroner Judge Cain on 28 July 2025 into the passing of Ms GY and recommendations made to Respect Victoria and Family Safety Victoria (FSV). FSV is a division of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department).

First, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Ms GY's family and friends for the pain and loss they are having to endure.

With respect to State Coroner Judge Cain's recommendations, and on behalf of Respect Victoria, please find below the department's response.

**Recommendation 1: that Respect Victoria invest in researching possible interventions with the 'fixated threat' cohort of intimate partner homicide offenders, with a focus on identifying opportunities for primary prevention and early intervention. This research should consider the role of trauma on the decision to use family violence and explore opportunities to strengthen system capacity to engage, where appropriate, with 'fixated threat' individuals in addressing and dismantling the choice to use violence. Research into early intervention with this cohort should explore the health settings as a point of intervention with these individuals and how to mobilise health settings to identify and respond to these individuals.**

An alternative to the Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.

The department supports the intent of this recommendation and its premise that family violence sits across a spectrum of risk, requiring a diversity of responses.

The Changing Ways serious risk pilot program, which provides intensive, coordinated responses to serious risk adult perpetrators of family violence and the victim survivor(s) they impact, including intensive and individualised engagement with those who present with 'fixated threat' behaviours, has been extended for an additional two years (2025-26 and 2026-27). The Changing Ways program is currently being independently evaluated, with the evaluation report expected at the end of 2025. The program evaluation will inform continuous improvement in program design and delivery, and support continuous improvement of other programs and responses for high-risk family violence cases. This includes the Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPs),

which coordinate innovative responses to the state's most at risk family violence cases. A program of work is in progress to support improved practice, consistency and outcomes from the RAMP program across the state, which will incorporate relevant findings and evidence from the Changing Ways evaluation.

The Changing Ways evaluation included a strong focus on the effectiveness of the program model in intervening where there is a risk of serious harm including a risk of family violence homicide. Preliminary findings of the evaluation note the benefits of providing agile and flexible responses to people using violence and the importance of, and challenges associated with, ensuring programs focusing on the most serious family violence risks are embedded in and complemented by the broader system responses.

The evaluation findings will also be incorporated into training programs being delivered to support the release of the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) practice guides for professionals working with adults using family violence.

As part of the Strengthening Women's Safety Package, the department is also co-leading, with the Department of Justice and Community Safety, an initiative to deliver a Landmark Perpetrator Study (the study). The study will explore the latest evidence on behaviours and motivations of people using family violence, with a view to improving interventions across the justice system and community-based responses. The study will help to ensure Victoria's suite of interventions is contemporary, effective and accessible to people who use violence from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and across the spectrum of risk.

**Recommendation 2: that Family Safety Victoria review avenues to rectify delays in specialist family violence services contacting people who use violence and implement any appropriate strategies to improve same.**

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

The department accepts that, where safe, appropriate and reasonable to do so, timely service responses to adults using family violence increase accountability and support victim survivor safety. The department notes that demand for services is one factor that impacts upon the capacity of specialist family violence services to provide timely service responses to adults using family violence. The department will continue to identify options for how this recommendation can be implemented in line with appropriate resourcing, prioritization, and in line with Victoria's MARAM Framework.

When direct contact with an adult using family violence is assessed as not safe, appropriate or reasonable, MARAM also promotes a coordinated service system response to be undertaken, to assess and manage family violence risk that the adult using family violence poses to victim survivor/s. A service system response includes information sharing that contributes to a system view of the adult using family violence, and shared risk management across prescribed

organisations. The Orange Door, as a prescribed MARAM organisation, has statewide operational guidance that outlines these requirements, aligned to best practice and centering of victim survivor safety.

If you require further information, please contact Melanie Heenan, Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria at [Melanie.Heenan@familysafety.vic.gov.au](mailto:Melanie.Heenan@familysafety.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Peta McCammon**  
Secretary

26/11/2025