

**Mallee Family Violence Executive**

**Strategic Plan 2014-15**



**MALLEE FAMILY VIOLENCE EXECUTIVE**

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***“Our vision is for women and children to  
live free from violence.”***

## Introduction

In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The World Health Organization (WHO) describes the levels of violence experienced by the world's women as 'a global public health problem of epidemic proportions, requiring urgent action'.

### AUSTRALIA

In Australia, domestic, family and sexual violence is found across all cultures, ages and socio-economic groups, but the majority of those who experience these forms of violence are women. However, it is not possible to measure the true extent of the problem as most incidents of domestic, family and sexual violence go unreported.

The information available on the prevalence of domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia is principally derived from surveys. The social and economic costs of violence against women are considerable.

Government responses to domestic violence take different forms including preventive programs, support for victims/survivors and their families and law enforcement. Each jurisdiction in Australia has in place a variety of laws, programs and policies responding to, and attempting to prevent domestic violence. Each jurisdiction funds its own programs and systems, but there are also some Australian Government funded programs operating in the states and territories, particularly supported accommodation and safe houses. However, most programs and services aimed at preventing domestic violence and supporting the victims/survivors are administered by states and territories through their community service/human services and health departments along with police, attorney general and other agencies.

- **The National Plan**

Reducing violence against women has been a priority for both Coalition and Labor governments for many years. Endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2009, the **National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children** (the National Plan) set a framework for social change and proposed the introduction of sweeping changes between 2009 and 2021 to be implemented through a series of four three-year action plans over 12 years.



The First Action Plan (2010-2013) worked toward *Building a Strong Foundation*, while the Second Action Plan (2013-2016) contains five national priorities and 26 actions, which are joint areas of work that all governments agree are critical to moving ahead in reducing violence against women and their children. These are:

- ♦ National Priority One: Driving whole of community action to prevent violence
- ♦ National Priority Two: Understanding diverse experiences of violence
- ♦ National Priority Three: Supporting innovative services and integrated systems
- ♦ National Priority Four: Improving perpetrator interventions
- ♦ National Priority Five: Continuing to build the evidence base



The move towards better integrated, multi-agency responses and coordination across all levels of government through the National Plan has been received favourably by most stakeholders and is viewed as making significant progress in terms of reducing the levels of violence experienced by women in Australia.

- **Our WATCH**

The national campaign to end violence gained momentum with the organisation formerly known as the National Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and Children relaunched as "Our WATCH" by Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls, and Chair of Our Watch, Natasha Stott Despoja AM in Sydney on Friday, 5 September.

As well as its new identity, Our WATCH unveiled its strategy for the next five years, which outlines the direction the organisation will take to engage the community in taking action to prevent violence against women and children. These include initiatives such as workforce development and media campaign strategies.

## VICTORIA

Both Victorian and Commonwealth Governments pledged funding to establish the Our WATCH foundation, with the aim to inform, educate and empower our community to end violence against women and their children.

Significant Victorian policy publications include;

- 2007** Preventing Violence before it occurs – VicHealth
- 2008** Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families: Toward a safer future for indigenous families and communities – 10 year plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- 2012** Victorian Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths (First Report) – Coroner’s Court of Victoria
- 2012** Victoria’s Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women & Children: Everyone has a responsibility to act (the State Plan)



- **Victoria’s Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women and their Children (The State Plan)**

The State Plan has 6 key objectives across 3 streams ...

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Prevention</b>         | (1) educate to change attitudes and behaviours<br>(2) engage organisations and communities   |
| <b>Early Intervention</b> | (3) identify women and children at greatest risk of violence<br>(4) target interventions to those who are at risk of committing violence |
| <b>Response</b>           | (5) Protect and Empower women and children to rebuild their lives<br>(6) Get tougher on perpetrators and prevent re-offending            |

- **New Initiative - Strengthening Risk Management / RAMPs**

Recently announced funding to protect and support women and children at risk of family violence will fund a range of activities including: a Statewide expansion of the Strengthening Risk Management program, which includes Risk Assessment & Management Panels (RAMPs) that bring together police, the courts, family violence and child protection; expanded case management and practical support for women and children escaping violence; and evaluation of family violence initiatives to ensure their effectiveness.

## **Mallee Area**

In the Mallee Area, the institution of the Mallee Family Violence Executive (MFVE) is an opportunity to engage in early intervention and prevention strategies to prevent future demand for violence related services. National and State data provides information about the types of violence experienced by different gender and age groups, which could inform the development of targeted interventions for different cohorts.

The strategic response to family violence has involved developing a more integrated service response to women and children's needs.

The Mallee Family Violence Executive has endorsed the State vision;

***"Our vision is for women and children to live free from violence".***

Mallee Family Violence Executive's **2014-2015 Strategic Plan** sets out to work within the above policy framework to;

- Build the common Family Violence story for the Mallee,
- Reduce the number of families and individuals that have repeated Family Violence presentations, and
- Support best practice in Family Violence prevention and awareness-raising activities.

The Strategic Plan 2014-15 outlined in the following pages is consistent with State and National plans in that it seeks to;

- Take action to provide consistent, coordinated and timely responses and support to women and children;
- Hold perpetrators to account;
- Provide programs to raise community awareness including the *Respectful Relationships* and *Adolescents Who Use Violence* program; and
- Provide holistic and integrated service planning for individuals and families experiencing family violence.

MFVE's membership includes;

- ♦ **Standing members of the Mallee Family Violence Executive, with full voting rights are:**
  1. Mallee Sexual Assault/ Domestic Violence Services, Chief Executive Officer
  2. Department of Justice & Regulation, Manager Justice Services Mildura
  3. MDAS/Meminar Nganng Gimba, Family Violence Advocate
  4. Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group, Chair
  5. Mallee Children Youth and Family Services Alliance, Chair
  6. Mallee District Aboriginal Services, General Manager Family and Community Services
  7. Sunraysia Community Health Services, Manager Primary Healthcare Services
  8. Victoria Police, Superintendent
  9. Women's Health Loddon Mallee, Chief Executive Officer
  10. Mildura Rural City Council, nominated representative
- ♦ **Standing members, without voting rights**
  11. DHHS Local Connections and Child Protection, Managers
- ♦ **Ex officio attendees**
  12. Mallee Family Violence Executive Coordinator
  13. Indigenous Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinator
  14. Risk Assessment Management Panel Coordinator

MFVE Strategic Plan Goals	Mallee Family Violence Executive 2015 Actions	Outcomes / Progress	Timeline	Responsibility
MFVE Strategic Plan (2014-15)	<b>ACTION 1.1 Develop Family Violence Communication Framework</b> <i>A Communication framework will be developed with the following points in mind ...</i>			
	Communication will be consistent with state wide and national messaging	Refer to 'OurWATCH' and other reputable sources as identified by MFVE	Immediate / Ongoing	Executive
	Key messages/themes will include and reference local Mallee area statistics including police statistics and statistics from the Mildura Social Indicators Report.		31/03/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
	A media spokesperson(s) will be nominated by the Executive	Person to be identified with a vote at MFVE meeting.	31/03/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
	Add MFVE content to the MSAU/MDVS website	Website development in progress	30/06/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
	All MFVE members will consider the need to use the agreed Communication Framework ( <i>see attached draft</i> )	Communication framework developed by MFVE	Immediate / Ongoing	All MVFE Members
	Key supporting documents will be available from/linked to the MFVE website for download/reference.	Refer to list of key documents (below)	30/06/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
	<b>ACTION 1.2 Develop a Common 'Mallee Area' Data Set for Family Violence</b>			
	Create a single dataset which includes comparisons e.g. with National data	A local data set will be developed using reputable data sources	31/03/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
	Make the dataset freely available from MFVE webpage	Dataset is consistently used by stakeholders and media	30/06/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
	Data will be monitored through perusal/surveillance of media/information across the Mallee Area	Veracity and relevance of data is protected	Ongoing	MFVE Coordinator & Members
	MFVE will consider service needs/gaps across the Area, to inform service provision/advocacy/funding priorities based on data analysis.	Evidence-based prioritisation of services and support.	Ongoing	MFVE Coordinator & Members
	<b>ACTION 1.3 List of Family Violence services</b>			
	A list of Family Violence services for Mallee Area will be developed/maintained	List completed, previously distributed to Executive membership	31/12/2014 & Ongoing (Maintenance)	MVFE Co-ordinator

		The list of Family Violence services will be added to MFVE website	The list will be published on MFVE website	30/06/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
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MFVE Strategic Plan Goals		Mallee Family Violence Executive 2015 Actions	Outcomes / Progress	Timeline	Responsibility
MFVE Strategic Plan (2014-15)	Reduce the number of families and individuals with repeated Family Violence presentations	<b>ACTION 2.1 Collaborative Practice</b>			
		Funded services will encourage staff to adopt collaborative practices	Collective Impact training and practices will be promoted	30/09/2015	All MFVE Members
		Services will report back to the Executive about strategies used to enhance collaborative practice		Quarterly	Each MFVE Member
		Each Agency will be able to evidence collaborative practice through joint-service or multi-agency work.	Evidence of collaborative practice are to be raised at local MFVE working group meetings. Co-ordinator to develop reporting template for Agency completion.	30/03/2015	MVFE Co-ordinator
		<b>ACTION 2.2 Promotion of Best Practice in the field of Family Violence across all sectors</b>			
		MFVE will promote the provision of training & education sessions across the Mallee Area	Sector staff have opportunity to share in and develop leading practice.	Ongoing	All MFVE Members
		<b>ACTION 2.3 Family Violence specific workforce development</b>			
		MFVE will contribute to the development of a skilled workforce by supporting and promoting targeted training, enhancing contemporary understanding of FV issues & approaches. <i>E.g. Mildura &amp; Swan Hill LMTAS forums</i>	A stable and committed workforce actively sharing knowledge with colleagues and professionals.		
		<b>ACTION 2.4 RAMP – Risk Assessment Management Panels</b>			
The MFVE will support the implementation of RAMP.	On hold pending establishment of RAMP.	Immediate & Ongoing	MVFE Chairperson		

MFVE Strategic Plan Goals		Mallee Family Violence Executive 2015 Actions	Outcomes / Progress	Timeline	Responsibility	
MFVE Strategic Plan (2014-15)	Support best practice in Family Violence prevention and awareness-raising activities	<b>ACTION 3.1 Support Prevention/Awareness Activities</b>				
		MFVE will promote the work of the IFVRAG and Community Initiative Fund activities in the Mallee Area	Support may include attendance at events. Recruiting others to attend, media promotion, Executive support within Agencies, linking with NMCP, SMPCP, and Robinvale Early Years Network.	Ongoing	All MFVE Members	
		MFVE will promote/support other family violence related initiatives, e.g. White Ribbon Events, Bullying Prevention, the Eliminating Violence Against Women Media Awards, CRAF training.		Ongoing	All MFVE Members	
		Promote VicHealth Framework in prevention activities of WHLM, e.g. 'Loddon Mallee Takes A Stand' (LMTAS)		Ongoing	All MFVE Members	
		MFVE will support prevention capability development through leadership, training and development.	Membership of Regional Action Plan for Prevention of Violence Against Women Run forums and workshops and provide support to sector, community and organisations.		MFVE Coordinator and/or designated member	
		<b>ACTION 3.2 Develop Family Violence Service Networks in Mildura, Swan Hill, and Robinvale and others when identified</b>				
		MFVE will provide support to the MFVE Coordinator & the Indigenous FV Regional Coordinator in supporting the development of the networks and their activities	Regular scheduled meetings in all locations	30/06/2015	MFVE Coordinator and Indigenous Family Violence Coordinator	
		MFVE Strategic direction will be clearly articulated in each network	The strategic plan and other relevant updates are disseminated to networks.	Ongoing	MFVE Coordinator	
		A report will be provided to the MFVE about each of the Networks	Minutes of networks' meetings will be shared with MFVE members.	Each two months	MFVE Coordinator	

### Key Reference Documents:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan (2013-2016: Moving Ahead) of the National Plan to reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2010-2022)** (The National Plan)
- **Victoria's Action Plan (2012-2015) to Address Violence Against Women & Children: Everyone has a responsibility to act** (The State Plan)
- Prevention Framework
- **MFVE Communications Framework**

- OurWATCH site/materials
- Final Report of J Hocking
- **MFVE Terms of Reference**

## **(Draft) MFVE Communications Framework**

<b>Communication Type</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Key Messages and Data</b>	<b>Person(s) Authorised</b>
<b>Executive Correspondence</b> <i>(Communication within the Executive)</i>	<i>Inwards:</i> e.g. Request to participate/partner		Chairperson
	<i>Outward:</i> e.g. Correspondence		Chairperson or nominated delegate
	<i>Operational:</i> e.g. Agenda, Minutes		MFVE Coordinator
<b>Media Contact</b>	<i>e.g. Radio, TV, Printmedia</i>	Authorised persons can rely on MFVE endorsed local statistics Key messages to be endorsed by MFVE e.g. collaborative practice.	Chairperson, Deputy Chair or nominated delegate
<b>MFVE Logo</b>	<i>e.g. Use on event promotional material</i>		Strictly as endorsed by MFVE
<b>Community Service Organisations</b> <i>OR FV Sector</i>	<i>e.g. Speaking on behalf of the MFVE, at a public event</i>	Strong commitment to joint work Refer to and use consistent local MFVE endorsed data	MFVE Chairperson, Deputy Chair or nominated delegate
<b>Government</b>	<i>e.g. Advocacy for legislative/funding change</i>		MFVE Chairperson or nominated delegate
	<i>e.g. Liaison concerning interdepartmental collaboration</i>		Chairperson/delegate, or via Government representatives on MFVE