

## Our progress in improving court responses to family violence 2015-2017

Courts are often on the front line of responding to the impact of family violence and an effective response is critical to ensure the safety of victims and accountability of perpetrators.

In 2015, we committed to a range of family violence service improvements through our *MCV Response to Family Violence 2015-17*. This report card demonstrates progress against these planned initiatives which would not have been possible without the dedication and support of our staff, judicial officers and partner agencies across the justice, legal and family violence service systems. We acknowledge your hard work and commitment in helping deliver these achievements.

Our progress has built a strong foundation for improving court responses to family violence. Our commitment to ongoing change will continue through the wider Victorian Government family violence reform.

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# Family Violence Milestones

2015

Launched new website for family violence and intervention orders. This website is a one-stop shop for information on family violence in collaboration with Victoria Police and Victoria Legal Aid



Electronic flagging of family violence criminal proceedings to ensure early identification of family violence related crime and alerting other court systems.

Intensive two-day professional development sessions for Magistrates on family violence facilitated by the Judicial College of Victoria.

Family Violence Video Conferencing Pilot in conjunction with workers from support and legal services to improve access to courts and provide alternative arrangement for victims.

Trialling capping of family violence listings at Broadmeadows Magistrates' Court and staggering family violence lists at a number of courts.

Review of the Family Violence Court Division to inform the development of Specialist Family Violence Courts across Victoria.

Fast Tracking List model developed in collaboration with Victoria Police and Victoria Legal Aid and rolled out statewide to ensure all related family violence criminal matters are heard as early as possible.

Strengthening the development program for trainee court registrars to further embed family violence content.

Rollout of gender equity training for all court staff commenced.

Dedicated family violence services expanded to all headquarter courts across the state, with Shepparton and La Trobe Valley to come. This includes specialised family violence registrars, as well as applicant and respondent practitioners.

2016



2017

Minor and major building works completed at 11 courts. This includes safe waiting areas at Dandenong, Ringwood and Heidelberg and separate discreet access at both Heidelberg and Dandenong.



Family violence lead magistrates at all headquarter courts to provide leadership and best practice for family violence.

Accredited as White Ribbon workplace to create a safer and more respectful work environment.

Online Family Violence Intervention Order form rolled out at Ringwood, Warrnambool, Portland, Hamilton, Sunshine and Werribee.

Court Integrated Services Program delivered to Warrnambool, Bendigo and Mildura, with expanded capacity at Geelong, Dandenong and Heidelberg.

Program Manager appointed to lead Koori family violence responses and initiatives.

Received \$130.3 M in the 2017/18 State Budget to continue reforming the court response to family violence.

