

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

**ATTACHMENT SW-3 TO STATEMENT OF SCOTT JAMES WIDMER**

Date of document: 21 July 2015  
Filed on behalf of: State of Victoria  
Prepared by:  
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office  
Level 33  
80 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000



This is the attachment marked '**SW-3**' produced and shown to **SCOTT JAMES WIDMER** at the time of signing his Statement on 21 July 2015.

Before me:



**An Australian Legal Practitioner within  
the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)**

# Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework and Practice Guides 1-3

## Edition 2

### Overview

The second edition of the *Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework and Practice Guides 1-3* manual is now available. It comprises the original Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (the framework), the three practice guides and contextual information necessary for the effective use of the framework.

This is available in hard copy folder format, in CD, or can be downloaded off the internet.

### The revision of the manual

The original framework manual has been in use for four years. During this period there have been increases in knowledge, improvements in practice, new research and changes to the Integrated Family Violence System (IFVS). Consequently it was considered appropriate to revise and update the manual.

During 2011 consultation was undertaken with over 30 organisations and services. These included family violence specialists, subject matter experts, peak organisations and government partners.

The framework, comprising six key components, has not been revised or changed during this process.

The revision has focussed on the following aspects:

- updating information on the IFVS including service information, referral pathways, and new service provision
- updating and expanding information on specific population cohorts and vulnerable service user groups to reflect recent research and emerging good practice
- incorporating and outlining new developments and initiatives in service provision
- increasing the ease of use and reducing unnecessary duplication in the manual

- revising the templates in the three practice guides to enable the capture of additional information
- revising the case studies (now scenarios) to reflect current good practice and improved partnerships between services and sectors.

### Using the revised manual

The revised manual should replace any hard copy manuals in your organisation. Links or electronic versions on your intranet or internal filing systems can be replaced using CDs or by downloading an electronic copy.

Please notify staff in your organisation of the new manual and how to access the revised version.

For hard copies of the manual or for copies of the framework on CD, please email Malia Dewse ([malia.dewse@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:malia.dewse@dhs.vic.gov.au)) at the Office of Women's Policy with the following information:

- |                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Service Name | 6. Postcode              |
| 2. Contact Name | 7. No. Manuals requested |
| 3. Title        | 8. No. CDs requested     |
| 4. Address      | 9. Email address         |
| 5. Suburb       | 10. Contact number       |

**Please note there are a limited number of hard copy manuals available per organisation.**

The *Information Sharing in the Context of Family Violence* fact sheet has not been changed, please continue to use your existing hard copy.

The manual and the *Information Sharing in the Context of Family Violence* fact sheet can both be downloaded from the Office of Women's Policy on the Department of Human Services website:  
[www.women.vic.gov.au](http://www.women.vic.gov.au)

## Background

The framework was developed for use by a range of professionals including specialist family violence service providers, the police and the courts and practitioners working in mainstream services who encounter and work with people experiencing family violence.

The framework was based on national and international research and finalised following an extensive consultation and piloting process. Consultation was undertaken with more than 500 members of the IFVS, including staff from the Magistrates' Court, Victoria Police, community legal services and family violence specialist practitioners.

The resulting framework was launched in 2007 and comprises six key components:

- a shared understanding of risk and family violence across all service providers
- a standardised approach to assessing risk
- appropriate referral pathways and information sharing
- risk management strategies that include ongoing assessment and case management
- consistent data collection and analysis to ensure the system is responsive to changing priorities
- quality assurance strategies and measures that underpin a philosophy of continuous improvement.

A key element of the framework implementation is the delivery of statewide cross-sectoral training programs. This training, known as the common risk assessment framework (or CRAF) training, is being delivered until the end of 2013. Information on the training, the training schedule, and enrolment forms can be accessed on the Swinburne Institute of Technology website: <http://www.tafe.swinburne.edu.au/CRAF/>