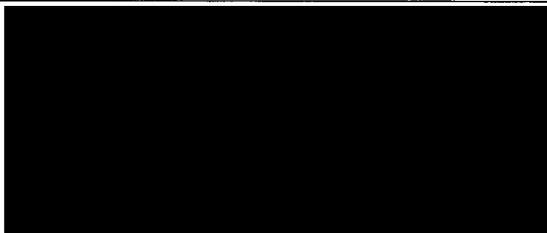


**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

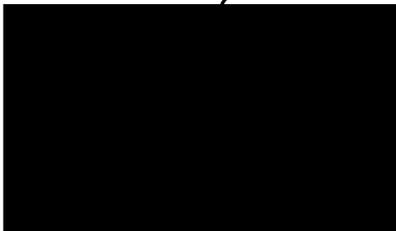
**ATTACHMENT SW-18 TO STATEMENT OF SCOTT JAMES WIDMER**

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-18**' 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)**


 human  
services

## Integrated Family Violence - Strengthening Risk Management Demonstration Projects

The Client Services & Programs branch within the Housing & Community Building Division is announcing the establishment of two integrated family violence strengthening risk management demonstration projects.

### What are the projects?

The demonstration projects will test the implementation and delivery of coordinated multi agency approaches to strengthen family violence risk management. The demonstration projects will trial new integrated governance arrangements and new roles and responsibilities as well as ways of working collaboratively to ensure an integrated response to the needs and situations of women and children.

The projects will be funded from May 2011 until 30 June 2013. Positions funded include a project coordinator, a women's case manager, a children's case manager and a case manager to work with men to challenge their use of family violence.

The two projects align with whole-of-government priorities to improve responses to women and children who experience family violence and to men who use violence against family members. The projects will implement a multi agency approach to strengthen risk management as further detailed in the strengthening risk management framework and practice guidelines currently being developed by KPMG in consultation with the specialist sector and stakeholders of the integrated family violence system (IFVS). The framework and practice guidelines are due for broader release in the second half of 2011.

### What is the background to the projects?

The Victorian family violence reforms, overseen by the Family Violence Interdepartmental Committee, have supported the IFVS to develop new ways to better identify and respond effectively to family violence and to those at risk of family violence. While the IFVS is working in a more coordinated and consistent way, situations still occur where women and children are at increased risk of (further) harm or lethality. This highlights the need to continue to evolve a system which provides for consistent and timely responses when assessing, planning and responding to the needs of a woman and her children regardless of her circumstances or where she may enter the family violence system. To achieve this goal, strengthening family violence risk management across the service system has been a key focus of the family violence reforms over the past two years.

### Who will run the projects?

The projects will be conducted by:

- Berry Street Victoria in the City of Hume (North & West Metropolitan region)
- Bethany Community Support in the City of Greater Geelong (Barwon South Western region)

## Why were those locations and funded agencies selected?

There are a number of reasons why the two areas and funded agencies were selected. Both areas have high rates of family violence attendances by Police and high numbers of applications for Intervention Orders. Neither area currently hosts a specialist response to family violence in the Magistrates' Court. In addition, both agencies have a proven track record in delivering innovative multi agency approaches to improve safety outcomes for women and children.

## How are the projects funded?

The projects are funded by the Victorian Government in partnership with the Commonwealth Government Service Integration Projects initiative.

## How will the projects be managed?

At the local level the demonstration projects will introduce regular risk assessment and management panel (RAMP) meetings. The RAMP meetings will provide an ongoing forum for effective risk assessment, risk management and case coordination. The RAMP meetings will monitor cases and ensure that all relevant details are tabled to enable consistent information sharing on the status of relevant cases with clearly defined actions, responsibilities and timelines developed for each case plan.

In negotiation and by agreement with local agencies, core members of the RAMP meetings are likely to include:

- a senior representative from all specialist family violence providers
- Police
- legal services
- Child Protection, Child FIRST and family support agencies.

Provision is to be made for non-core members to attend RAMP meetings or provide information on a case by case basis, for example:

- homelessness and housing agencies
- Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA)
- Victims Assistance and Counselling Program (VACP)
- mental health and drug and alcohol services
- disability services
- Aboriginal agencies
- CALD agencies
- health services
- education providers.

At a statewide level, a reference group will be established to provide project governance and oversight. Membership of the reference group will consist of representatives from all Government jurisdictions involved in the RAMP and integrated family violence reforms, Berry Street Victoria and Bethany Community Support in addition to other specialist family violence representatives including the peak bodies.

## How can I get more information?

For further details, please contact Dianne Godfrey, Manager, Homelessness, Family Violence and Families by email: [dianne.godfrey@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:dianne.godfrey@dhs.vic.gov.au) or telephone: (03) 9096 8944.