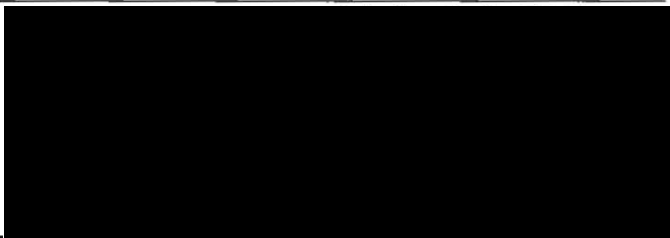


**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

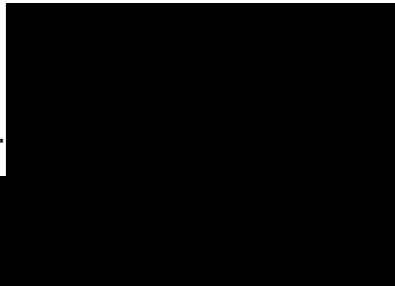
ATTACHMENT WS-4 TO STATEMENT OF WENDY MAREE STEENDAM

Date of document: 9 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 **'WS-4'** produced and shown to **WENDY MAREE STEENDAM** at the time of signing her Statement on 9 July 2015.

Before me: ..



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

Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence

Terms of Reference

In the context of the whole-of-government *Women's Safety Strategy* and the *Victoria Police Violence Against Women Strategy: A Way Forward*, the Committee will:

1. Provide advice on how to improve the responses of police, courts and all relevant service providers to family violence in Victoria.
2. Provide advice on the development of an integrated response to family violence in Victoria. This includes advising on:
 - a. How to improve pathways and linkages between agencies;
 - b. Appropriate models for an integrated response to family violence, building on work in Australian and overseas jurisdictions;
 - c. How to ensure effective implementation at a local level.
3. Provide advice in relation to the ongoing implementation of an integrated response to family violence, including how to monitor and evaluate progress.

Commander Leigh Gassner, Victoria Police and Sue Hamilton, Director, Office of Women's Policy will jointly chair the Committee.

The Committee will report directly to Chief Commissioner of Police and to other Government Departments via the Women's Safety Co-ordinating Committee. It will have strong links with the work occurring in the Departments of Justice, Human Services and key non-government agencies at the local level.

Background information:

- *Victoria Police Violence Against Women Strategy: A Way Forward*
- The Victorian *Women's Safety Strategy*.

Version 3 – 10/10/02

Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence

Terms of Reference

Recognising that family violence must be addressed through a whole-of-community whole-of-government approach, and in the context of the *Women's Safety Strategy* and the *Victoria Police Violence Against Women Strategy: A Way Forward*, the Committee will improve the safety of Victorian women and children by:

1. Providing advice on how to improve the responses of police, courts, and all relevant service providers to family violence.
 2. Providing advice on the development of an integrated response to family violence. This includes advising on:
 - a. How to improve pathways and linkages between agencies;
 - b. Appropriate models for an integrated response to family violence, building on work in Australian and overseas jurisdictions;
 - c. How to ensure effective implementation at a local level.
 3. Providing advice in relation to the ongoing implementation of an integrated response to family violence, including how to monitor and evaluate progress.
 4. Providing advice to improve prevention, education and early intervention in relation to family violence.
-

Note: *Family violence includes violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships. This encompasses not only physical injury but direct or indirect threats, sexual assault, emotional and psychological torment, economic control, property damage, social isolation and behaviour which causes a person to live in fear.*

While child abuse and family violence are generally considered separately, it is important to acknowledge the inter-relationship between family violence and child abuse and that there are many benefits of these sectors working more closely together. Child abuse and family violence often co-exist, with violence being directed towards both women and children. It is also a form of psychological child abuse, if a child hears or witnesses violence directed towards their mother or a sibling, even if that child is not a primary victim.

Family violence is predominantly, but not exclusively, perpetrated by men against women and children. However, family violence can be perpetrated by any member of a family against any other member. Violence can occur in any kind of relationship, including lesbian, gay and transgendered relationships and against people who are elderly or disabled.

Family Violence Statewide Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

The Statewide Family Violence Advisory Committee recognises that family violence must be addressed through a whole-of-community whole-of-government approach, and in the context of the *Women's Safety Strategy* and *Changing Lives: the new approach to family violence in Victoria*.

The Committee will provide current and timely advice to Government through the Family Violence Interdepartmental Committee on issues that relate to the development of policies, programs and services that impact on family violence issues.

The Committee will assist in the development of policies, programs and services that impact on family violence issues by:

- Providing advice to government on the implementation of the new approach to family violence in Victoria in line with reform directions
- Providing advice on the evaluation and monitoring of the integrated response across the State to achieve consistent outcomes
- Promote linkages and support the development of necessary relationships across programs/complementary systems
- Providing advice to improve prevention, education and early intervention in relation to family violence
- Providing advice on current and emerging issues and concerns of importance in relation to family violence, as identified by the Committee

The Committee will have formal tenure for 2 years, after which time it will be reviewed.

Committee Membership – Role and Responsibilities

In the context of the implementation of an agreed work plan:

Government senior representatives will consult and provide information on:

- Government policy directions as they relate to family violence
- Current program and sector arrangements and approaches to improve the police, courts, justice and service system responses with regard to family violence
- Opportunities for addressing emerging issues

Non-government community representatives will:

- Provide advice on the implementation of the family violence reforms
- Advise on current and emerging issues and trends with regard to family violence reform in Victoria
- Inform and seek advice from their constituents on government policy directions as agreed with the Co-Chairs.

Family Violence Statewide Advisory Committee Operating Procedures

1. The Committee will provide advice on family violence matters to government through the Family Violence Interdepartmental Committee.
2. Key principles that will underpin the operation of the Committee include:
 - The Committee shall operate in a way that facilitates honest and open communication between all parties;
 - The voice and opinion of all members will be respected and heard; and
 - If disputes arise members will continue working together to seek resolution. Dispute resolution will be guided by a commitment to continued collaboration and recognition of the constraints and roles of members.
3. The Committee will respect the constraints and roles of members, including their responsibilities to represent and communicate with their constituents and/or organisations.
4. When requesting advice from members, the Chairs will clearly communicate whether this is being sought from members in the context of their individual expertise (such as where there is a time limitation on advice required), or as part of their role in representing their constituents.
5. Government will endeavour to ensure adequate time is provided to enable representatives to collect feedback from their constituents if required.
6. Where agreed, matters will remain in-confidence to the Committee as requested by the Chairs (such as where material has cabinet-in-confidence status).
7. In situations where specific advice is formally tabled by non-government members, a formal response to the Committee will be provided by the co-chairs.
8. Whilst the Committee cannot formally comment publicly on Government policy development or implementation, non-government members retain the opportunity to take up issues as individuals, or on behalf of their organisations, separate from the Committee.
9. Where Committee members identify a policy or practice development in the family violence arena that is outside State Government responsibilities, such as the Commonwealth, the Committee may agree to ask the Chairs to pass the Committee's comments on this matter to the coordinating Minister and/or appropriate portfolio Minister/portfolio area for consideration and possible action.

Endorsed July 2007

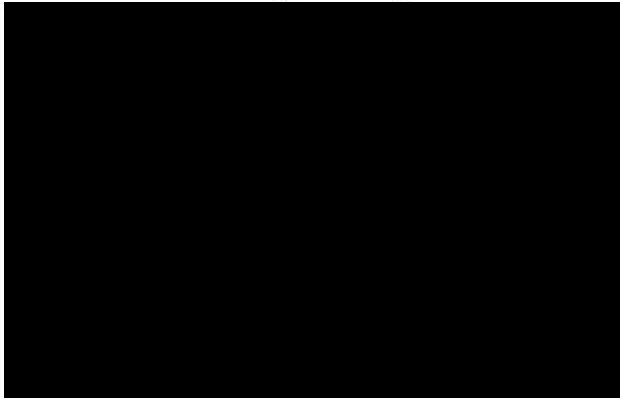
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Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures 3

Statewide Steering Committee To Reduce Family Violence

Members of Committee

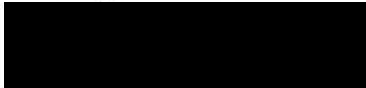
✓ Mary AMIRIDIS
Victorian Community Council Against Violence



✓ Billie CLARKE
Victorian Women's Refuges & Associated Domestic Violence Service

✓ Rhonda CUMBERLAND
Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service Victoria

✓ Libby ELTRINGHAM
Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre

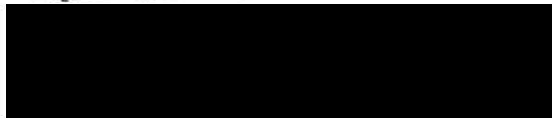


✓ Leigh GASSNER
Commander
Victoria Police

✓ Anne GOLDSBOROUGH
Chief Magistrate
Sunshine Magistrates Court

✓ Sue HAMILTON
Office of Women's Policy

✓ Sevgi KILIC
Women's & Multicultural Policy Coordinator
Department of Justice



✓ Kathryn LAMB
DHS Nominee

✓ Pam MATTHEWS
Family Violence Networker
Colac Community Health Service

✓ Carolyn WORTH
South East CASA
Monash Medical Centre

✓ Daphne YARRAM
Indigenous FV Task Force

Also Attending

✓ Angela CANNON
Director of Projects
Department of Justice

✓ Penny DRYSDALE
Department of Premier & Cabinet



✓ Wendy STEENDAM
Acting Inspector
Victoria Police