

Mallee Family Violence Executive Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Empowered communities and a responsive system unite to prevent family violence and build a safe, thriving Mallee for all.



Mallee Family
Violence Executive

Acknowledgement of Country

The Mallee Family Violence Executive acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways across the Mallee region, including the Latji Latji, Ngintait, Nyeri Nyeri, Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi, Wemba Wemba, and Barapa Barapa peoples. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past and present, and recognise the strength, resilience, and enduring connection of Aboriginal communities to country, culture, and community.

We acknowledge the profound impact of family violence on Aboriginal families and communities, and affirm our commitment to supporting Aboriginal self-determination, cultural safety, and leadership in shaping responses and solutions. We recognise that healing, safety, and justice are inseparable from respect for culture, truth-telling, and partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and leaders.

Acknowledgement to Lived Experience

The Mallee Family Violence Executive acknowledges and honours all victim survivors of family violence. We recognise the courage and strength of those who have experienced violence, and the ongoing impacts this has on individuals, families, and communities.

We especially acknowledge the voices of people with lived experience who contribute to shaping safer, more responsive, and accountable systems. Their insights guide our work, strengthen our strategies, and remind us that victim survivor safety and wellbeing must remain at the heart of all we do.

The MFVE acknowledges the support of Mallee Sexual Assault Unit Mallee Domestic Violence Service in the Mallee as its auspice organisation.



The MFVE acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government



Message from the Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present the **2026–2029 Strategic Plan** for the Mallee Family Violence Executive. Our Executive comprises 22 member organisations who proudly represent the Mallee community and have been guided through this process by consultant Sarah Kousal.

This Strategic Plan is the culmination of extensive consultation with our membership and the broader community. Through open and honest conversations, we heard frustration, enthusiasm and deep passion, alongside a shared and unwavering belief that there is still much work to be done – and that a community free from family violence is possible. Our collective purpose, advocacy and optimism are clear strengths that unite us.

Family violence remains a significant and persistent issue across the Mallee. This is reflected not only in evidence-based data, but also in the lived experiences shared with us and through our strong professional partnerships across the diverse Mallee region.

A strong focus on early intervention and the prevention of violence is integral to the success of this Strategic Plan. While the Plan responds to priorities specific to the Mallee, it also aligns with Family Safety Victoria's statewide FVRIC (Family Violence Regional Integration Committee's) strategic priorities, strengthening our efforts to influence policy, legislation and advocacy for the region.

This Plan clarifies how our collective leadership, integrated efforts and commitment to evidence-driven best practice will deliver meaningful change for victim survivors, families and our wider community.

I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the development of this Plan – for your energy, your care, your willingness to share personal experiences, and your commitment to genuine and lasting change.

Bec Olsen - Independent Chair
Mallee Family Violence Executive
February 2026

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Mallee Family Violence Executive Strategic Plan 2026-29

Mallee Family Violence Executive (MFVE) Overview

Purpose and Role

The Mallee Family Violence Executive (MFVE) is one of 13 Family Violence Regional Integration Committees (FVRICs) across Victoria. It exists to strengthen and improve family violence system integration in the Mallee through leadership, advocacy, partnerships, and influence.

Vision: Empowered communities and a responsive system unite to prevent family violence and build a safe, thriving Mallee for all.

MFVE provides strategic leadership and specialist expertise to ensure the local system responds effectively to **family violence**, supporting **victim survivors**, holding **people who use violence** accountable, and **embedding primary prevention** and **early intervention** across sectors.

As part of the FVRIC network, MFVE contributes to statewide reform priorities by aligning local action with Victoria’s *Ending Family Violence - 10 Year Plan for Change* and the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032*, reinforcing Victoria’s leadership in family violence reform across Australia, as reflected in the diagram below outlining the federal and state family violence influences on our work.

Figure 1: Strategic Alignment re: National & Statewide Reforms

National Plan For Change

[National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032](#)

[First Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2023-2027](#)

[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025](#)

Victoria’s Plan For Change

[Family Violence Protection Act 2008](#)

[Royal Commission to Family Violence 2016](#)

[Ending family violence - Victoria’s 10-year plan for change 2016](#)

Family Violence reform

Overarching commitments to inclusivity and representation

[Free From Violence. Victoria’s Strategy to Prevent Family Violence 2017](#)

[Family Violence Reform Rolling Action Plan 2020-2023](#)

[Building strength: 10 year industry plan for family violence prevention and response](#)

[Everybody Matters: Inclusion and equity statement 2018](#)

[Dhelk Dja. Safe our Way: Strong Culture, Strong People, Strong Families, \(Family Violence Agreement 2018-2028\)](#)

[Until every Victorian is safe: Third rolling action plan to end family and sexual violence 2025-2027](#)

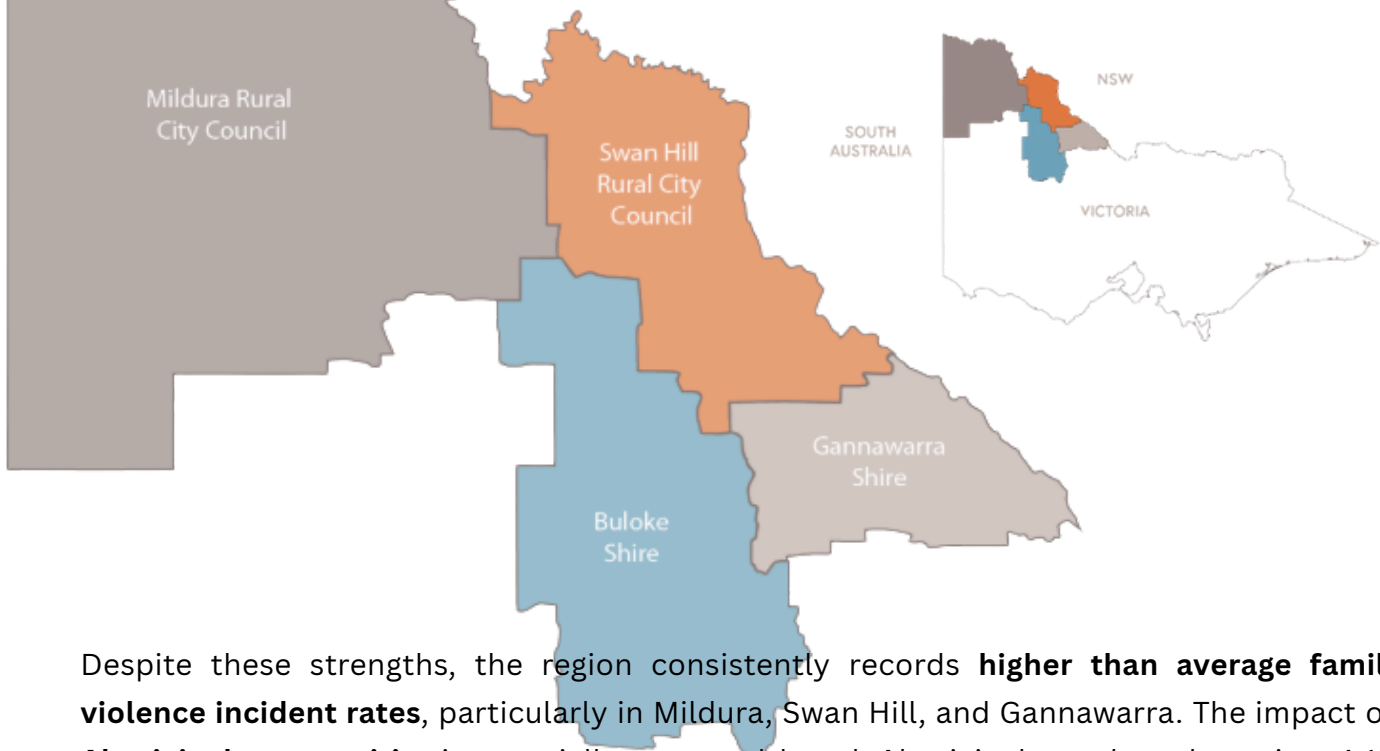
[Framing the Future: Second Rolling Action Plan](#)

Our work is also aligned to [Family Safety Victoria’s FVRIC guidelines](#) and it’s strategic priorities, along with the Statewide Family Violence Integration Advisory Committee’s (SFVIAC’s) FVRIC Collective Impact Outcomes Framework 2025

Regional Context

The MFVE covers the Mallee region of north-west Victoria, encompassing the Local Government Areas of **Mildura, Swan Hill, Buloke, and Gannawarra**. Spanning almost 40,000 square kilometres, the region is home to more than 95,000 people and is characterised by dispersed rural communities, cross-border movement, and significant cultural and demographic diversity. The Mallee is also home to a strong and resilient **Aboriginal community** with **deep cultural ties** to Country.

Figure 2: Map of the Mallee region of north-west Victoria



Despite these strengths, the region consistently records **higher than average family violence incident rates**, particularly in Mildura, Swan Hill, and Gannawarra. The impact on **Aboriginal communities** is especially **severe**: although Aboriginal people make up just 4.1% of the Mallee's population, they are affected in 29% of all family violence incidents. The incident rate is 232 per 1,000 Aboriginal people: more than **double that of any other Dhek Dja region**. Alarming, more than **one in four incidents involving children (25.9%)** had an Aboriginal child as the affected family member, and 36.4% of all clients accessing specialist family violence case management services in the region were Aboriginal.

These patterns highlight the urgency of MFVE's work to **strengthen system integration**, build workforce capability, and ensure **culturally safe, community-led prevention and early intervention initiatives** across the region.

Membership

MFVE membership brings together senior representatives from across the family violence, community, health, justice, and government sectors, each with the authority and capacity to influence their organisation's role in the system. Members commit to collaborative leadership and shared accountability in advancing a safer Mallee.

Key partners are listed in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Key partners to the Mallee Family Violence Executive

Service Type	Providers
Specialist family violence services (incl. Sexual Assault & Perpetrator Services):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallee Sexual Assault Unit / Mallee Domestic Violence Service (auspice agency) • Sunraysia Community Health Services • Djirra (Indigenous Women’s Family Violence Legal Service)
Child & Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallee Family Care • MASP • Anglicare Victoria • Child and Family Services Alliance
Government & statutory agencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Safety Victoria (The Orange Door), • Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (Child Protection, & APSS) • Department of Justice and Community Safety, • Department of Education • Victoria Police • Mallee Dhek Dja Regional Action Group
Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Local government:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mildura Rural City Council • Swan Hill Rural City Council • Buloke Shire • Gannawarra Shire
Health & community services:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haven Home Safe • Northern District Community Health • Sunraysia Community Health Services • Mildura Base Public Hospital • Women’s Health Loddon Mallee • Bendigo Health: Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
Diversity & advocacy organisations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council • Christie Centre (disability services)

This membership reflects a whole-of-system approach, bringing together specialist and mainstream services to ensure integration across prevention, early intervention, crisis response, and recovery.

Strategic Connections

MFVE's work **supports local priorities** while aligning with **Family Safety Victoria's** statewide strategic goals. The regional FVRICs, collectively the Statewide Family Violence Integration Advisory Committee (SFVIAC), developed the **FVRIC Collective Impact Outcomes Framework (2025)** to clearly articulate and measure impact across six outcome areas:

Figure 3: Outcomes from Impact (SFVIAC Collective Outcomes Framework)



These outcomes are underpinned by shared ways of working: victim-survivor centred, trauma-informed, culturally safe, evidence-based, collaborative, accountable, and guided by gender equity and a place-based lens.

MFVE's alignment with this statewide framework ensures that its **local efforts** in the Mallee contribute to the **collective impact** of all FVRICs across Victoria, strengthening advocacy, influencing policy, and evidencing system change at both local and statewide levels.

The MFVE also maintains active **strategic connections** with:

- Family Safety Victoria (including The Orange Door, Centre for Workforce Excellence, Respect Victoria)
- Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way Agreement partners
- State and national primary prevention agendas, including Change the Story and Free from Violence
- Local governance structures and alliances across child and family services, community health, and local government.

These connections ensure that the MFVE's work is locally relevant, regionally coordinated, and strategically aligned with state and national policy reform.

Family Violence and Demographic Overview - Mallee Region

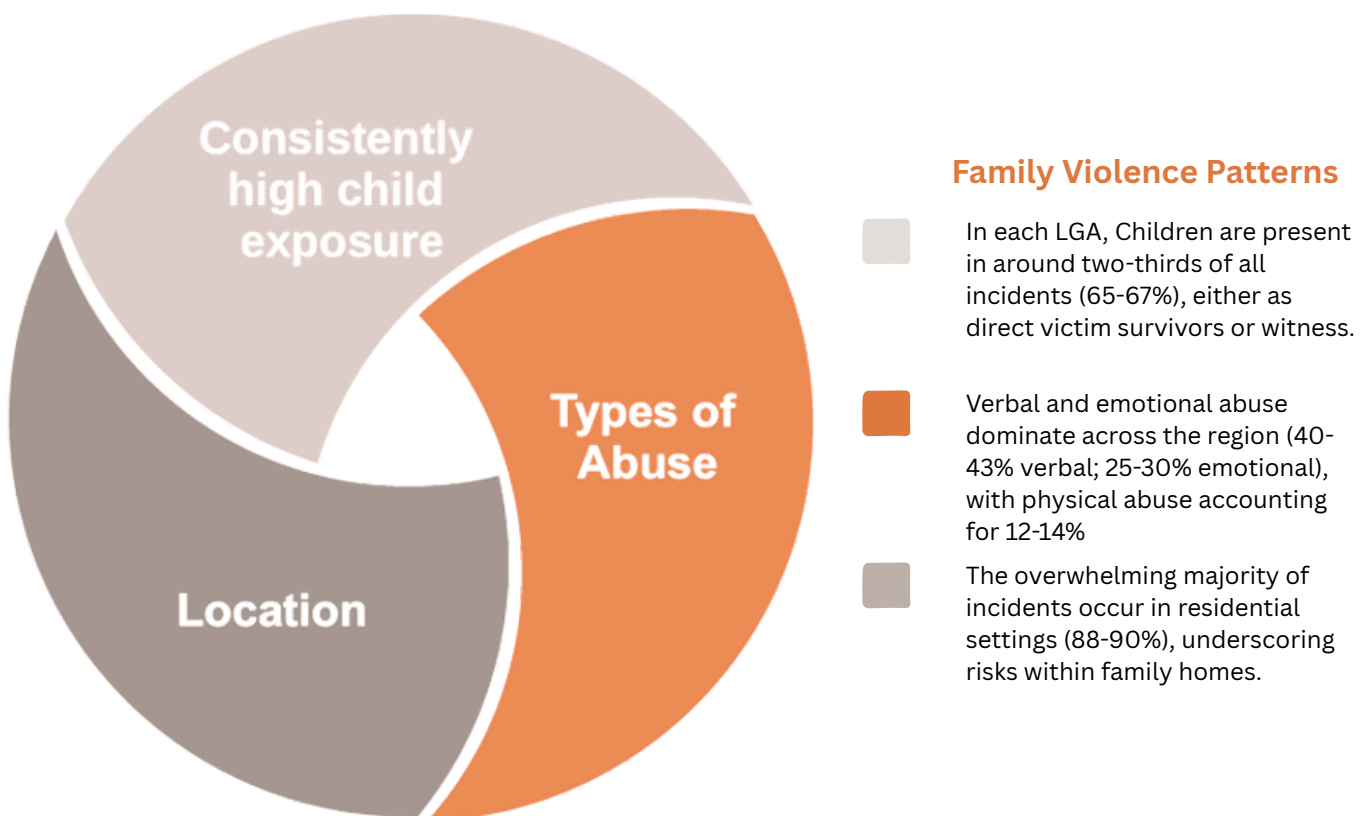
Demographic Snapshot

- The Mallee covers ~40,000 km² across Mildura, Swan Hill, Buloke, and Gannawarra, with a **population** of ~95,000.
- The population is **diverse**, with increasing numbers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, though a high proportion of victim survivors' country of birth is recorded as "unknown" in police data.
- **Geographic isolation** and **rurality** amplify barriers to timely access to services and contribute to higher visibility of family violence within small communities.

Incidence and Trends

Family violence remains a significant and persistent issue across the Mallee. All four Local Government Areas (LGAs) - Mildura, Swan Hill, Gannawarra, and Buloke, record incident rates above or close to the state average. Key patterns include:

Figure 4: Patterns of Family Violence in the Mallee¹



¹ The Orange Door Sector Report 2023-2024

Trends:

- **Mildura** records the **highest volume**, with 3,610 incidents in 2023-24, up **7.7%** on the previous year.
- **Swan Hill** saw a **20.6% increase in incidents** in 2023-24 (698 incidents).
- **Gannawarra** recorded **steady growth**, up 12.2% in 2023-24.
- **Buloke** recorded 85 incidents (↑51.8%) in 2023-24 which is the **sharpest rise** in recent years.

Victim Survivors and Persons Using Violence

- **Gendered patterns: Women** are **disproportionately affected**, particularly those aged 25-44, while men of the same age group are the predominant person using violence.
- **Justice outcomes:** Police responses **favour arrests and summonses**, with very low use of cautions (<1% across most LGAs). Family Violence Safety Notices are also issued at low rates (10-21%), indicating either limited early intervention use or the implementation of a Family Violence Order or other mechanism.
- **Service demand:** Thousands of people across the Mallee access specialist family violence and homelessness services annually. Health services are also impacted, with hundreds of Emergency Department presentations each year due to family violence.

Aboriginal Communities

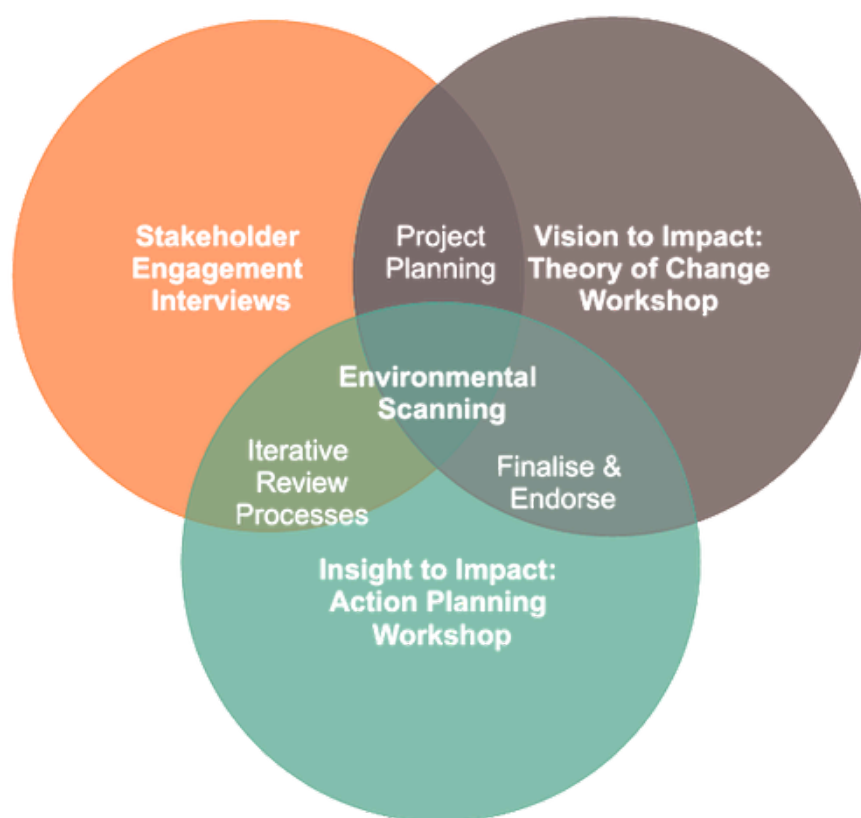
Family violence involving Aboriginal people in the Mallee is at crisis levels:

- 29% of all incidents involve **Aboriginal affected family members**, despite Aboriginal people comprising only 4.1% of the population.
- **Aboriginal children** are more than **twice as likely** to be recorded as **victim survivors** compared to statewide averages.
- 36.4% of clients in **specialist family violence case management** are Aboriginal (vs 11.9% statewide).
- The Orange Door in Mallee reports that 28.4% of its clients are Aboriginal (compared to 8.9% statewide).
- These figures reflect both **disproportionate risk and strong service engagement**, underscoring the importance of culturally safe, Aboriginal-led responses.

Process for Developing the Strategic Plan

The development of the Mallee Family Violence Executive (MFVE) Strategic Plan (2026-2029) was facilitated by an external consultant, engaged to design an independent, inclusive, and evidence-informed process. The approach was deliberately structured to align with the **Family Violence Regional Integration Committee (FVRIC) Guidelines** and the **Collective Outcomes Framework**, while also embedding local expertise and regional data throughout.

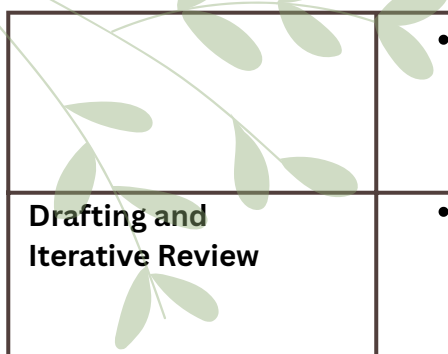
Figure 6: Strategic Planning Consultation process



Phased and Structured Methodology

The planning process was organised into a series of interconnected phases (see table below), supported by a detailed project work plan and Gantt chart:

Phase	Description
Project Planning and Environmental Scan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial activities focused on reviewing state and national policy frameworks, strategic documents, and regional data. This environmental scan established the broader reform context and identified emerging challenges, opportunities, and policy directions relevant to the Mallee.
Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multi-layered engagement strategy was implemented, including one-to-one consultations, targeted interviews, and facilitated workshops. Engagement extended to MFVE members, regional partners and peak bodies, ensuring the perspectives of both service providers and those directly impacted by family violence were integrated.
Facilitated Workshops	<p>Two workshops structured the collaborative design process:</p> <p>Workshop 1: Strategic framing and Theory of Change development with MFVE leadership</p> <p>Workshop 2: Strategic objective setting and refinement.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These workshops employed co-design and evidence-informed facilitation methods to ensure safety, inclusivity, and practical alignment with regional needs.
Drafting and Iterative Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs from the workshops informed the first draft of the Strategic Plan and Theory of Change. Feedback loops were embedded through structured review sessions with Leadership, allowing iterative refinement and ensuring broad ownership of the plan.
Finalisation and Endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revised draft was tabled for endorsement by the MFVE, incorporating stakeholder feedback, alignment with the statewide Outcomes Framework, and a clear set of deliverables supported by a Theory of Change.
Principles and Approach	<p>The process was underpinned by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agile and iterative design - allowing adaptation to stakeholder input and emerging themes. • Evidence-informed practice - grounding priorities in regional data, state reform directions, and sector research. • Inclusive facilitation - ensuring the meaningful involvement of diverse voices, guided by the guiding principles identified within the Collective Outcomes Framework. • Systems thinking - recognising the interdependencies across services, sectors, and governance structures, and embedding collective accountability for system improvement.

Overview of the Local System

Family Violence Response Services

The Mallee region has a specialist service platform led by the **Mallee Sexual Assault Unit / Mallee Domestic Violence Service (MSAU/MDVS)**, which also auspices the MFVE. These services provide crisis intervention, case management, counselling, outreach support and therapeutic services to victim survivors of family and sexual violence. They work closely with **Victoria Police** and **Child Protection (DFFH)**, who play central roles in statutory response, safety planning, and justice system interventions.

Other key specialist responses include:

- **The Orange Door (Family Safety Victoria - Mallee Hub):** providing intake, assessment, and service coordination for victim survivors, children, and families, as well as people who use violence.
- **Men’s Specialist family violence services:** delivered primarily through **Sunraysia Community Health Services**, offering men’s behaviour change programs and related interventions.

- **Specialist Aboriginal services and networks:** **Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS)** and the **Mallee Dhelk Dja Action Group** deliver Aboriginal-led responses, prioritising cultural safety, community governance, and holistic family supports.

Related Services and Cross-Sector Connections

Family violence services in the Mallee are interconnected with a wide range of allied and mainstream service systems:

- **Child and family services:** including **Mallee Family Care**, **MASP**, **Anglicare Victoria**, and the **Child and Family Services Alliance**, which provide family services, out-of-home care, and family support programs.
- **Housing and homelessness:** **Haven Home Safe** and related providers support victim survivors experiencing housing instability or crisis.
- **Health services:** including **Mildura Base Public Hospital**, **Sunraysia Community Health Services**, and **Northern District Community Health**, which provide medical, mental health, and alcohol and other drug (AoD) services.
- **Justice and legal services:** **Department of Justice and Community Safety** and **Djirra (Indigenous Women’s Family Violence Legal Service)** and **Mallee Family Care Community Legal Service** provide justice pathways, victim assistance, and culturally safe legal support.
- **Education and local government:** Local councils (Mildura, Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Buloke) and the **Department of Education** play roles in prevention, early intervention, and community wellbeing initiatives.
- **Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) services:** **Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC)** provides support to migrant and refugee communities, ensuring family violence responses are accessible and inclusive.

Prevention and Early Intervention

The Mallee region is active in **primary prevention and early intervention**, with initiatives often embedded within broader health promotion, community development, and education programs.

- **Women’s Health Loddon Mallee** leads regional prevention strategies, including campaigns that address gender inequality, respectful relationships, and community awareness of family violence.
- Local councils and community organisations drive **place-based prevention initiatives**, implementing campaigns that advance gender equality, foster respectful relationships, and strengthen community understanding of family violence.
- **Department of Education support** school-based respectful relationships education.
- Aboriginal-led prevention efforts are guided by **Dhelk Dja priorities**, focusing on strengthening culture, self-determination, and family wellbeing as protective factors against violence.

System Integration and Collective Effort

The local service system is characterised by **cross-sector collaboration** through the MFVE, which brings together leaders from family violence, child and family services, Aboriginal organisations, health, justice, education, and local government. This collective approach ensures that services operate not in isolation, but as part of a coordinated system committed to victim survivor safety, perpetrator accountability, and community prevention.

Systems leadership and collaboration are led at a local level by the people and groups across the family violence system outlined in Table 2, below.

Person/Group	Role
Statewide Family Violence Integration Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation for Regional Committees • SFVIAC is made up of all the Principal Strategic Advisors (PSAs) from each of the 13 Family Violence Regional Integration Committees (FVRICs). • Its purpose is to provide a mechanism for these regional bodies to raise issues that are systemic (i.e. occurring across multiple regions), and ensure their voices are heard at the state level. • Functions include the vertical integration of feedback, systemic issue identification and prioritisation, coordination and knowledge exchange and representation at state-wide forums.
Principal Strategic Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated statewide-funded position that provides leadership, coordination, and strategic oversight for the MFVE. The role supports integration across the family violence, community services, justice, housing, and health sectors by identifying systemic issues, facilitating collaboration, and strengthening local governance. • PSAs act as a conduit between regional practice and state policy: they ensure regional experiences inform statewide reform, while also supporting consistent implementation of government priorities and reforms within their region.
Independent Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides neutral, strategic leadership to guide the Executive's work. Their role is to convene and

	<p>facilitate meetings, ensure inclusive participation across sectors, and maintain a focus on the committee’s purpose of driving integration within the family violence system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an independent party (not representing a specific agency), the Chair helps balance diverse perspectives, build consensus, and keep discussions focused on systemic issues rather than individual organisational interests. They also play a key governance role by supporting accountability, endorsing priorities, and ensuring the committee’s work aligns with statewide reforms and local needs.
Leadership Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprises the Principal Strategic Advisor, Independent Chair, Deputy Chair, and the Auspice organisation. • Provides strategic leadership, ensures sound governance practices, and is responsible for overseeing the MFVE’s budget and delivery of the Strategic Plan and annual work plans.
Mallee Family Violence Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings together key agencies and leaders across the region to strengthen collaboration, integration, and accountability in the family violence system. • Provides strategic direction, oversees regional priorities, and drives initiatives that improve safety, access, and outcomes for victim survivors while supporting consistent practice and service coordination across the Mallee.



Strategic Documentation

Figure 6: Strategic documentation for the MFVE



Purpose and Connection of the Theory of Change

The **MFVE Theory of Change** provides the foundation for our Strategic Plan by setting out the pathway from our shared activities to outcomes we aim to achieve. It clarifies how our **collective leadership, integration efforts, and evidence-driven practice** will bring about meaningful change for victim survivors, families, and communities in the Mallee. The visuals included illustrate the **sequence of change**: beginning with the actions we take together, progressing through the immediate shifts in practice and relationships, and leading to systemic reform and improved outcomes. By **aligning the Strategic Plan with the Theory of Change**, the MFVE ensures that our priorities are not only aspirational but also grounded in a clear logic for how change will be delivered, measured, and sustained across the region.

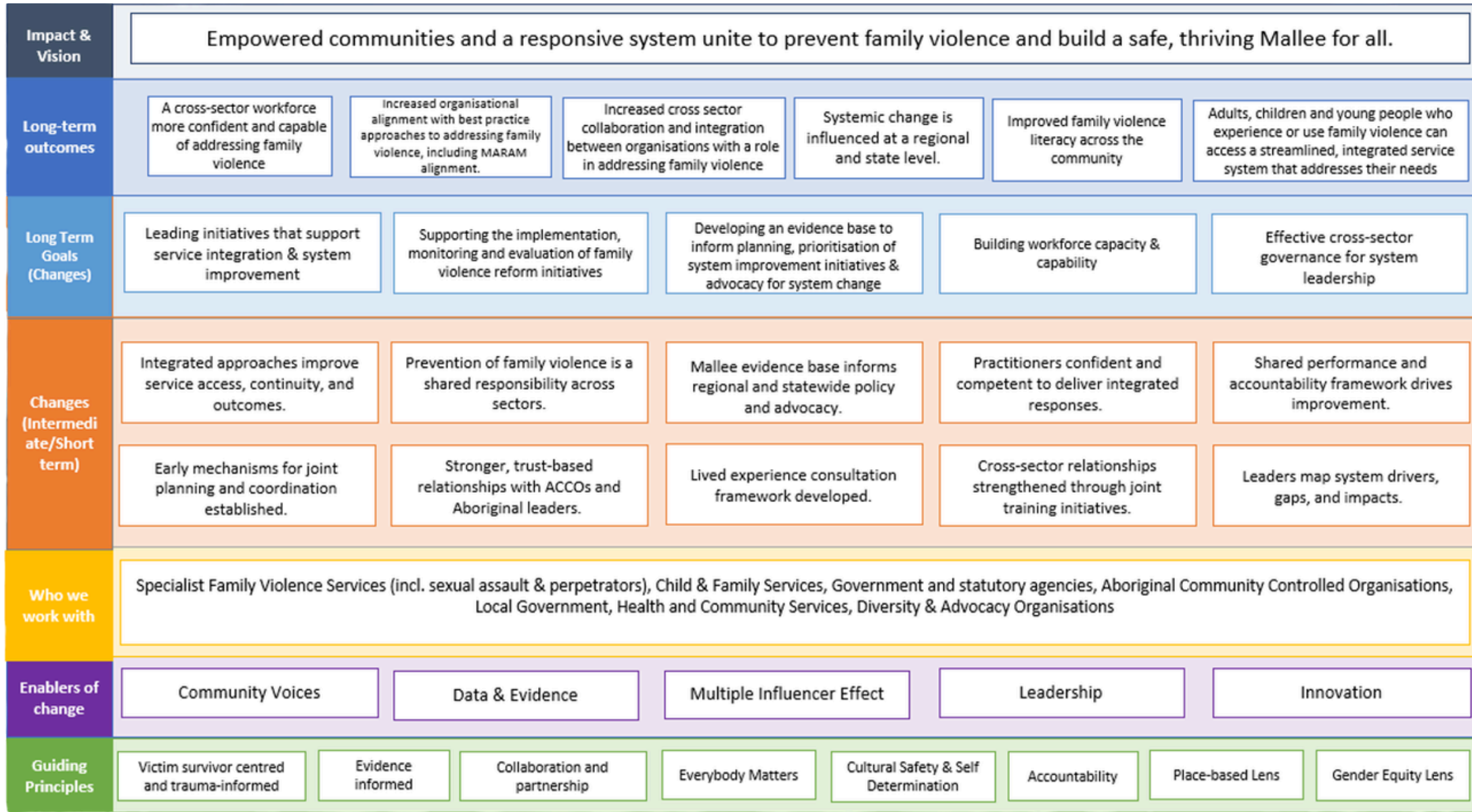
Purpose and Connection of the Strategic Plan

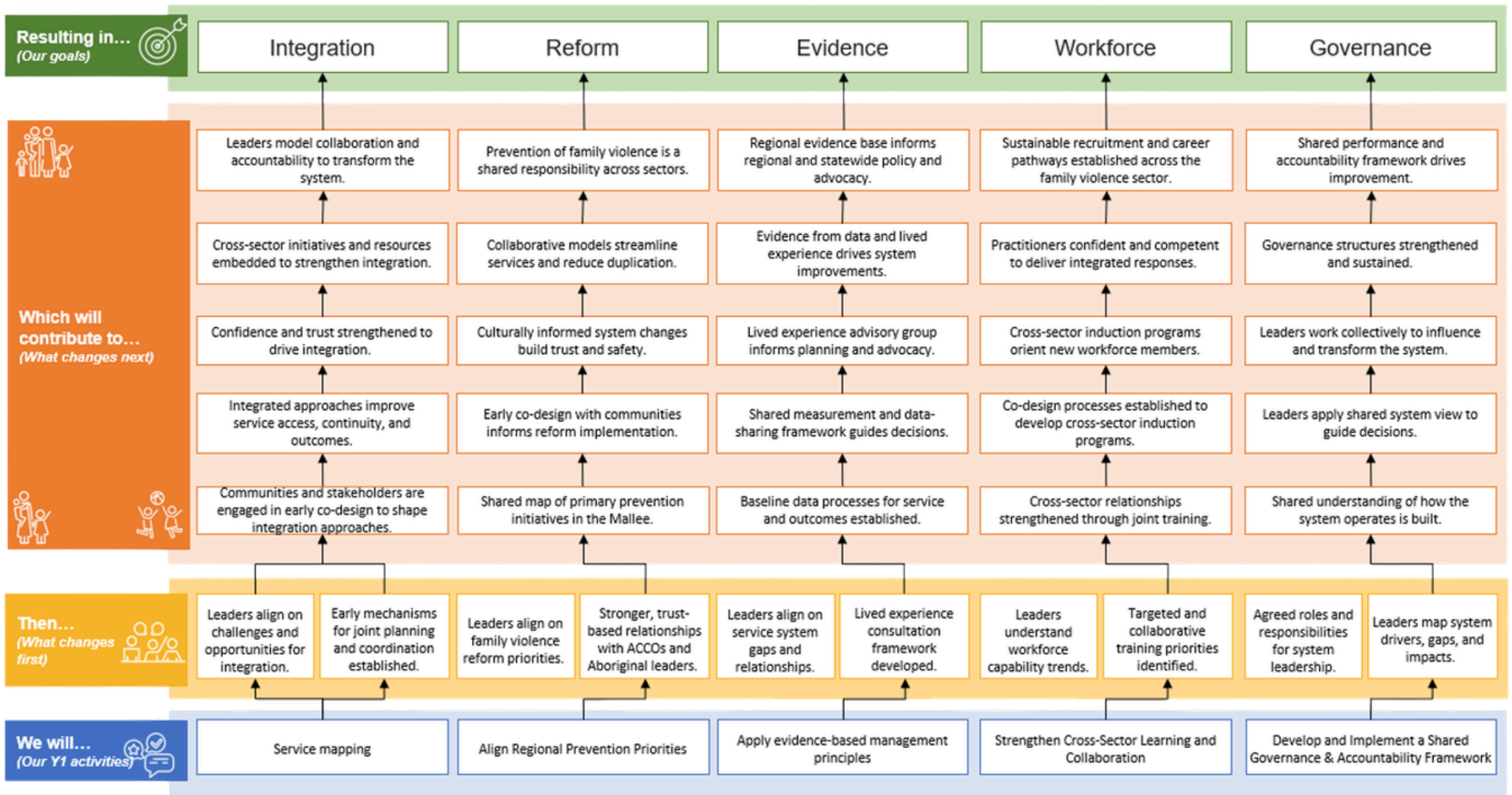
The **MFVE Strategic Plan** sets out our **collective vision, priorities, and actions** to strengthen the family violence system across the Mallee. It provides a clear framework for collaboration, guiding how we **align local strengths, address system gaps, and respond to the needs of victim survivors, persons using violence (PUV), families, and communities**. The Plan builds directly on the Theory of Change, ensuring that our strategic priorities are **anchored in evidence** and a shared logic for how change will occur. By doing so, it connects day-to-day practice with long-term system reform, enabling the MFVE to monitor progress, remain accountable, and adapt as new challenges and opportunities emerge

Purpose and Connection of the Yearly Action Plan

The MFVE Year 1 Action Plan translates the Strategic Plan and Theory of Change into practical steps for the year ahead. It identifies the specific initiatives, responsibilities, and measures of progress that will move our strategic priorities forward in a coordinated and accountable way. By linking annual actions to the broader outcomes we seek, the Action Plan ensures that our collective effort is both purposeful and measurable. It also provides a flexible framework for responding to emerging needs and opportunities while keeping the MFVE focused on achieving long-term system reform and improved outcomes for the Mallee community.

Theory of Change





Strategic Priorities



Priority 1. Service **INTEGRATION** and system improvement

This priority supports MFVE to contribute to integrated service responses by identifying opportunities for system improvement. This includes building a shared understanding of the service system and establishing baseline analyses through service mapping, improved coordination and access to services, strengthened early intervention approaches, and enhanced collaboration.

Solutions include the development of a shared, cross-sector service directory to support coordinated referrals, collaboration, and improved access to services; the implementation of early intervention protocols for children and young people engaging with the service system; and initiatives to improve community awareness, accessibility, and connection.

For our Strategic Plan 2026-2029, MFVE will:

Strengthen cross-sector integration to ensure coordinated, transparent and accessible family violence responses for victim survivors, persons using violence, children and young people.

Priority 2. Supporting family violence **REFORM** initiatives

This strategic priority focuses on building a coordinated, culturally responsive and community-led prevention system that aligns reform efforts across sectors and strengthens local leadership. Through system alignment, shared governance and place-based approaches, this priority supports long-term cultural and structural change to prevent family and sexual violence across the Mallee.

Solutions include strengthening system alignment through regional leadership and shared prevention priorities, embedding cultural responsiveness and Aboriginal self-determination in governance and decision-making, and expanding community-driven, place-based prevention initiatives. These actions are supported by building workforce capability, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and using evidence and evaluation to guide continuous improvement, ensuring prevention of family and sexual violence is coordinated, culturally safe and community-led across the Mallee.

For our Strategic Plan 2026-2029, MFVE will:

Strengthen prevention, cultural responsiveness and community leadership to reduce family and sexual violence through coordinated, evidence-informed and locally driven initiatives across the Mallee.

Strategic Priorities *continued*

Priority 3. Developing an **EVIDENCE** base to inform our work

This priority supports the MFVE's focus on strengthening how data, lived experience and evidence-based practice are used to inform decision-making, collaboration and continuous improvement across the Mallee Family Violence system. By improving data consistency and governance, amplifying the voice of inclusion, and strengthening collaboration and accountability, the MFVE will apply evidence-based management principles, embed voice of lived experience, and establish transparent mechanisms for sharing regional data and insights with partners and communities.

The outcomes of this work will include alignment of leaders on service system gaps and strengthened relationships, the establishment of baseline data and shared measurement frameworks, the embedding of voices of lived and living experience in governance, and the use of regional evidence from both data and lived experience to drive continuous system improvement and inform policy and advocacy at regional and state levels.

For our Strategic Plan 2026-2029, MFVE will:

Strengthen the use of data, lived experience, and evidence-based practice to inform decision-making, collaboration and continuous improvement across the Mallee Family Violence system.

Priority 4. Building **WORKFORCE** capacity and capability

This priority supports the MFVE to develop initiatives that address workforce capacity challenges and strengthen workforce capability across the Mallee.

Workforce development activities include training, professional development opportunities, and communities of practice. Professional development is targeted to practitioners and sector leaders, with a strong focus on strengthening shared understandings of family violence and promoting consistent, high-quality practice across the service system.

Solutions include enhancing workforce integration and connection, building capability, promoting practice quality and safety through policy and reform, and supporting recruitment and long-term system sustainability.

Activities to achieve this priority include fostering cross-sector learning and collaboration, implementing secondary consultation pathways, building expertise in person-using-violence interventions, strengthening MARAM capability and alignment, and developing a sustainable cross-sector workforce pipeline.

For our Strategic Plan 2026-2029, MFVE will:

Build a confident, skilled and well-supported family violence workforce through targeted training, cross-sector collaboration and access to specialist expertise, with a focus on person using family violence interventions and referral pathways.

Strategic Priorities *continued*

Priority 5. Cross-sector **GOVERNANCE** for systems leadership

This priority supports the MFVE to ensure there are effective structures, governance arrangements, and processes in place to enable strong communication and information exchange across the family violence system and intersecting systems.

It strengthens system accountability, alignment, transparency, and engagement, while also supporting regional leadership and influence. Through coordinated communication and clear governance, this priority aims to enhance collaboration, improve shared decision-making, and ensure a more connected and responsive service system.

For our Strategic Plan 2026-2029, MFVE will:

Strengthen collective leadership, accountability and communication to ensure the Mallee Family Violence Executive provides clear direction, promotes collaboration and drives system improvement across the region.

MFVE Year 1 Action Plan summary 2026-2027

In Year 1 of our 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, the Mallee Family Violence Executive (MFVE) is taking focused action to strengthen the family violence system across the Mallee. Our work is grounded in collaboration, evidence, and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for victim survivors, children and families.

Strengthening Service Integration

We will map the family violence service system to better understand gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for improved coordination. This will help ensure individuals and families can access the right support at the right time. We will also co-design a Child and Young Person–Focused Early Intervention Protocol to improve coordination, accountability, and safety for children, young people, and families experiencing family violence.

Aligning Prevention Across the Region

MFVE will bring together key partners to align family and sexual violence prevention priorities, map existing initiatives, and strengthen coordinated, community-led prevention efforts across the Mallee.

Building a Stronger Evidence Base

We will establish shared data standards and reporting processes to improve how we understand trends, measure impact, and inform decision-making. This will strengthen transparency, accountability, and evidence-informed decision-making.

Strengthening the Workforce

We will invest in cross-sector learning through communities of practice and regional forums to strengthen collaboration and shared understanding of client pathways.

We will also begin developing a sustainable cross-sector workforce pipeline, including shared induction and workforce attraction strategies to support recruitment and retention across the region.

Strengthening Governance and Leadership

MFVE will implement a Shared Governance and Accountability Framework to clarify roles, strengthen collective leadership, and enhance system influence at both regional and statewide levels.

Together, our first-year actions lay the foundation for stronger integration, improved coordination, strengthened prevention, and a confident, connected workforce – reinforcing system leadership and working towards safer communities across the Mallee.