

Information sharing schemes and MARAM

The Victorian government is progressing three interrelated reforms that are integral to reducing family violence and promoting child wellbeing or safety. Community Housing Organisations have an important role to play in implementing the reforms and keeping Victorians safe.

What are the information sharing schemes?

There are three interrelated reforms in Victoria - the [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework \(MARAM\)](#), the [Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme \(FVISS\)](#), and the [Child Information Sharing Scheme \(CISS\)](#).

The information sharing schemes were introduced in Victoria following enquiries and Royal Commissions, including the 2015 Royal Commission into Family Violence.

They enable prescribed Information Sharing Entities (ISE) to promote child wellbeing and safety and to identify and manage family violence risk.

An ISE is an organisation or service that has been identified in legislation as having the legal right to request and share information through the information sharing schemes. Community Housing Organisations are an ISE. If you are employed by an ISE, act in good faith and with reasonable care when sharing information under the schemes, the sharing of information is safeguarded.

You can search here www.vic.gov.au/ise/list to see if your organisation is on the ISE list.

Why are the information sharing schemes important?

In the past it has been difficult for organisations to share information because of privacy laws and other legislation. Maintaining a person's privacy is important, but at times these barriers prevented organisations working together and more importantly, prevented workers from sharing information that may have helped keep children and adult victim survivors safe.

The CISS ensures that professionals working with children can gain a complete view of the children they work with, making it easier to identify wellbeing or safety needs earlier, and to act on them sooner.

Does this mean I can share information with everyone now?

No. The CISS and FVISS only allow workers to share information with another ISE or Risk Assessment Entities (RAEs), and only if it relates to:

- The wellbeing or safety of a child or children ([CISS](#));
- Keeping family violence perpetrators accountable and promoting the safety of victim survivors ([FVISS/MARAM](#)).

Who in my organisation is allowed to share information?

If you work in a community housing organisation, ISEs are prescribed to share information with other ISEs. Under CISS and FVISS any worker can provide or share information if it relates to their work. Examples of when and how you might provide this information are available here ([link to case studies](#)).

If you are unsure however, speak to your manager first.

Am I legally obliged to share this information?

Yes. If it is relevant to a child/children wellbeing or safety, or managing family violence risk, you must share this information either when asked, or voluntarily, to a relevant ISE.

Is training available to help me use the Information Sharing Schemes?

For information on training options click here www.vic.gov.au/training-for-information-sharing-and-maram.

Further information

- Information Sharing and MARAM Enquiry Line: **1800 549 646**
- Find more information on the Victorian Information Sharing Schemes here www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-schemes-and-the-maram-framework
- For more information on who can share information click here www.vic.gov.au/ciss-and-fviss-who-can-share-information
- Frequently asked questions on the Information Sharing Schemes www.vic.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions-about-information-sharing-and-maram



Further assistance

Should you have any questions or comments in relation to the information in this resource please email leadingpractice@chiavic.com.au.

This resource will be periodically reviewed and continually updated based on sector feedback.

