

# *A new approach* to family violence

December 2007

## **Development of a benchmark evidence base for the family violence service system in Victoria**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Family Violence Benchmark Data Collection**  
**March 3 – 16 2008**

### **Background**

For the first time, detailed family violence data is being collected for the purposes of comparison over time. The project aims to gather evidence from the police, courts and family violence services on key indicators of an integrated family violence service system. The activity will be repeated every 6 months over a 2-year period: September 2007; March and September 2008, and March 2009. As a repeated activity, the evidence will provide a mechanism for measuring and monitoring family violence reform.

Baseline information from family violence service providers was collected over a two-week period for the first time from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007. A user-friendly data collection tool was developed to collect information from family violence service providers. Training was provided to services interested in participating. Additional data were collected from the Police, Courts and IRIS databases.

### **September 2007 Benchmark Project outcomes**

All services that participated in the September 2007 data collection project should have received their own agency data summary. Reports have indicated that services are finding this data extremely useful as a measure of current practice and to provide critical information about those accessing the system. This information includes:

- Risk assessment and risk management
- Levels of safety planning
- System response to children
- Information about perpetrators
- Levels of active referrals or specialist consultation and follow-up
- Levels of shared information (with client's consent)
- Regional variation in response
- Capacity of women to remain in the home

### **March 2008 Benchmark Project**

Services wishing to participate in the project will have access to training prior to March 2008. A Helpline will also operate over the 2 week period. Information will be distributed in early January regarding training and next steps.

*A new approach* to family violence

# *A new approach* to family violence

Given the importance of as many services as possible participating in the next data collection process, for services unable to attend the training, specific regional training support will be provided where possible.

Training will provide participants with:

- access to the benchmark data tool;
- a summary of the project to date;
- a demonstration of the benchmark data tool and a “walk through” of potential data entry scenarios for service providers;
- the knowledge, tools (including a 1800 support number) and confidence required to return to their service and train others.

As occurred following the September data collection, data from the police, courts and IRIS will also be accessed and all data will be analysed to provide information relating to the key indicators of an integrated family violence service system.

The results of the analysis will be presented in a report which will be provided to all family violence services that participate in the project and will provide some comparisons with the outcomes from the September 2007 data collection period.

## **Registration and further information**

To register to participate in the project for March 2008, or to access further information. please contact either:

### **Rachael Green**

Family Violence Coordination Unit  
Department for Victorian Communities  
Phone (03) 9208 3121  
Email: Rachael.Green@dvc.vic.gov.au

### **Liz Millar**

National Health and Human Services  
Practice  
KPMG  
Phone 0423 049 513  
Email: lizmillar@kpmg.com.au