

# Family Violence Regional Integration

Driving greater integration of regional family violence responses

## Recognised by the Royal Commission

The Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV) acknowledged the inherent value of regional integration. Report recommendation 193 recognised that Family Violence Regional Integration Committees (FVRICs), supported by Regional Integration Coordinators, should be part of the governance structure ‘for implementing the Commission’s recommendations and overseeing systemic improvements in family violence policy’ (RCFV Summary, 2016, p.97).



### The commission articulated the role of FVRICs is to:

- > ‘guide, implement and report on workforce development at the regional level
- > support and report on implementation of data system reforms, data collection and analysis
- > extend engagement with systems advocates to all forms of family violence
- > create common platforms to support the integration of the Support and Safety Hubs into the regional family violence systems, as well as implementation of the Risk Management Panels, and engagement with services associated with other risk factors - such as alcohol and drug services, disability services, and universal service
- > provide feedback to government on regional implementation of the Statewide Family Violence Action Plan to support intended systems outcomes
- > ensure mutually supportive working relationships with regional primary prevention leaders and collaboratively determine appropriate regional governance arrangements’

(RCFV VOLUME VI, 2016, P.124)

## Regional Integration Committees



Family Violence Regional Integration Committees ‘identify and prioritise local regional issues within the state-wide reform framework and develop an agreed Strategic Plan and Action Plan focusing on and leading regional work to achieve its priorities to drive greater integration of family violence services’ (Guiding Integrated Family Violence Service Reform 2006-2009).

of Justice and Regulation (including courts), Department of Health and Human Services’ Child Protection and Local Connections. These agencies and alliances are some of the major players in the current family violence reforms.

The reach of regional integration work is broad. Committees may also include mental health, alcohol and other drug services, housing and homelessness services, sexual assault services, community legal services, disability services, community and women’s health services, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse services and relevant government departments (including education).

*Footnote: in some areas Regional Integration Committees are known by other names for example Family Violence Executive Committees and Family Violence Integration Partnerships. For the purpose of this document they will be referred to as Regional Integration Committees.*

Committees bring together specialist family violence agencies (working with victim/survivors, perpetrators and primary prevention), child and family services alliances (which include Child First and Integrated Family Services), Victoria Police, Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups, Department

## Principal Strategic Advisors/ Regional Integration Coordinators

Family Violence Principal Strategic Advisors and Regional Integration Coordinators (PSAs/ RICS) are a feature of the integrated family violence system in Victoria.



Fourteen PSAs/ RICS across the state provide a key strategic leadership role for the family violence system including:

- > Strategic leadership and advice
- > Service integration, partnership and collaboration
- > Capacity building and workforce development
- > Statewide and area based representation
- > Area based consultation for sector reforms
- > Information conduit between the sector, local areas, peak bodies, government and other regional governance structures
- > Governance and operational support to Regional Integration Committees

Funded by the Victorian State government these roles have been a key component of the family violence sector for over 10 years. PSAs/RICs bring a wealth of practice and leadership experience.

*Footnote: In many areas Regional Integration Coordinators are now known as Principal Strategic Advisors in recognition of the development of the role since its inception. For the purposes of this document they will be referred to as PSAs/RICs.*

## What PSAs/ RICS provide

Independent conveners for regional family violence conversations and change in Victoria.



- > Drive the local implementation of key family violence reforms
- > Inform all family violence stakeholders of the progress of the reforms
- > Act as a mechanism for the delivery of area based capacity building initiatives
- > Build on extensive cross sector partnerships
- > Lead transparent regional co-design and consultation processes
- > Provide insight into area specific operations, functions, issues and opportunities.

## Contact:

Visit [www.thelookout.org.au](http://www.thelookout.org.au) for contact details.

Contact [admin@dvvic.org.au](mailto:admin@dvvic.org.au) to present or consult at a bi-monthly PSA/ RIC meeting.