



# The Maternal and Child Health Response to Family Violence

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**Development**  
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# Victorian Family Violence Strategy

- **2002 Women's Safety Strategy**
  - Whole of government strategy to reduce the level and fear of violence against women
  - Community and government partnership to develop a multi agency response to family violence
- **2005/6 \$35.1m over four years**
  - to link police and legal response with increased services to victims and more accountability for perpetrators

- **Common risk assessment framework**
  - a consistent approach to measuring risk and increasing safety of women and children experiencing family violence
- **Primary Health Platform**
  - MCH trial of the risk assessment framework on the MCH platform
- **2007/8 additional \$2m over two years**
  - to implement the common risk assessment and risk management framework across police courts and support services, including health and education

# Maternal and Child Health

## **The Maternal and Child Health Service is:**

- a universal primary health care service for Victorian families with children aged birth to school age
- Funded by state and local government, and is free for all families

## Vision:

All Victorian children and their families will have the opportunity to optimise their health, development, and wellbeing during the period of a child's life from birth to school age

## Key Components of the Service

- **Universal Service:**
  - 10 Key Ages and Stages visits for all children from birth to 3 ½ years
  - Additional support for families
- **Enhanced Service:**
  - Targets 10% of population at risk of poor outcomes
- **MCH Line:**
  - 24 hour line with 80,000 calls per year

# MCH Service Activity Framework

- Further progress the implementation of the Future Directions for Victorian Maternal and Child Health service (2004)
- Realign the universal MCH service activities framework in accordance with current evidence
- Strengthen the clinical role of the MCH nurse
- Identify and measure outcomes of the work being undertaken

# Framework Components

- **Assessment**
  - Physical, developmental, maternal wellbeing, hearing risk factors, MIST (vision) screen
- **Promotion of Health & Development**
  - Safe Sleeping, Literacy, Injury Prevention
- **Interventions**
  - QUIT, Domestic Violence, Oral Health

*Note:* This framework is intended to be complemented by opportunistic activity by MCH nurses.

# Family Violence Risk Assessment & Risk Management:

- **Ask** – conversational
- **Assess** – conversational
- **Protect** – safety plan
- **Record** – after contact
- **Appraise** – review/refer

## Trigger Questions

- Are you in anyway worried about the safety of your children?
- Are you ever afraid of someone in your family?
- Has someone in your household ever pushed, hit, kicked, punched or otherwise hurt you?
- Has someone in your household ever threatened you?
- Would you like any help with this now?

## Safety Plan

- What is domestic violence?
- What if I decided to leave
- What is a crisis service?
- What to take with me?
- What about my children?
- What about my pets?
- What other services can assist me?
- When you have left your partner think about...
- Where can I get information about child contact?
- What support is available for men?

# Preliminary Results

	*No. women seen	ASK Family Violence	%	FV Counselling prior to project	Safety Plan Developed
Shire of Yarra Ranges	1462	966	66%	4%	8%
Wodonga	457	279	61%	4%	6%
Wyndham	1410	888	63%	5%	N/A
Bayside	744	629	85%	7%	N/A
Total	4073	2762	68%		
June -October 2007					

## Statewide Rollout

- Training to commence next week for 890 nurses statewide
- Through risk assessment and intervention we are addressing the violence and increasing safety within families

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