



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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BAC-CO-55880

Kate Sanderson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson

I refer to your correspondence of 19 May 2025 attaching the Form 38 issued to the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, requiring a written response to the recommendations made in Coroner Judge Cain's Finding into Death Without Inquest (Finding) into the death of [REDACTED] (ref COR 2021 006564).

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of [REDACTED].

The Coroner's recommendations

Coroner Judge Cain made two recommendations in his Findings:

1. *That the Victorian Government work with the Commonwealth Government to expand the MARAM Framework to include NDIS service providers in Victoria and make them MARAM-prescribed entities.*
2. *That Victoria Police update its bail decision making policies/guidelines to note that the presence of an intervention order is not automatically considered a mitigating factor when deciding whether to bail an offender, particularly where there is a history of breaching intervention orders, bail and/or court orders. The decision-maker should consider the party's history of compliance with the order and/or bail as part of the decision-making process.*

As recommendation one refers to matters that primarily sit with the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department, DFFH), it has been referred to me for my consideration and response.

Recommendation two is directed to Victoria Police.

Response to recommendation one: That the Victorian Government work with the Commonwealth Government to expand the MARAM Framework to include NDIS service providers in Victoria and make them MARAM-prescribed entities.

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

The department recognises that when disability services are engaged with people with disability and their families, this can present an opportunity to support their safety and wellbeing if family violence is present.

The Department will engage with the Commonwealth on opportunities to align Victorian based NDIS service providers to the MARAM Framework including the support needed for development of any MARAM-aligned workforce development resources. Implementation of alignment work will ultimately require necessary resourcing.

In order to inform this engagement, the department can examine options for prescribing classes of individuals as MARAM Framework organisations to the extent that it is applicable to them in their professional capacity.

Current operation of the MARAM Framework

The MARAM Framework was established under Part 11 of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic) (the Act). It provides a system-wide shared understanding of family violence and establishes responsibilities for assessing and managing family violence risk.

Section 190 of the Act places an obligation on prescribed MARAM Framework organisations to align their relevant policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools with the MARAM Framework. Framework organisations are prescribed under Schedule 3 of the Family Violence Protection (Information Sharing and Risk Management) Regulations 2018.

Prescription of disability services as MARAM Framework organisations

A small proportion of Victorian-funded and delivered specialist disability services are prescribed as MARAM Framework organisations. This includes those engaged under a state contract to provide specialist forensic disability accommodation services and services provided by DFFH under the *Human Services (Complex Needs) Act 2009* (Vic) and the *Disability Act 2006* (Vic).

The Commonwealth Government has assumed responsibility for the regulation of much of the disability sector with the development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). NDIS service providers are regulated by the Commonwealth NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. Victoria has no regulatory oversight of these providers; as such, NDIS providers are not prescribed under regulation as MARAM Framework organisations. While these service providers are not required by law to align with MARAM Framework, they can choose to voluntarily align. Individuals can access for-free MARAM aligned, accredited family violence training through Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), TAFEs and dual sector universities.

We understand that a large portion of NDIS service providers are sole traders, however, independent contractors and sole traders cannot currently be prescribed as MARAM Framework organisations. The department can examine options for prescribing classes of individuals as MARAM Framework organisations to the extent that it is applicable to them in their professional capacity.

The Victorian Government is currently collaborating on national projects relating to family and domestic violence risk assessment, risk management and information sharing

Victoria is currently collaborating with the Commonwealth Government in relation to multiple workstreams that aim to support jurisdictions' response to family violence. Examples of this work include:

- Developing new national best practice family and domestic violence risk assessment principles and risk factors and a model framework to support greater national consistency and more effective identification, assessment and ongoing management of risks posed by family violence perpetrators across jurisdictions; and
- Preparing a Family and Domestic Violence Information Sharing Guide to support jurisdictions to develop and potentially uplift their own family and domestic violence information sharing functions.

The Victorian Government is continuing to work with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to develop new approaches to provide greater clarity and consideration of family and sexual violence risk for participants and the services supporting them; improve escalation processes in urgent situations; and support workforce capability to address family and sexual violence experienced by people with disability.

If you require further information or to discuss the material provided, please contact Melanie Heenan, Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Peta McCammon
Secretary

18 / 08 / 2025