



Catholic Social Services Victoria

...building a more just and compassionate society

Submission to the Inquiry into capturing data on family violence perpetrators in Victoria

Legal and Social Issues Committee, Legislative
Assembly, Parliament of Victoria

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Catholic Social Services Victoria

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Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which this document was prepared, and the sacred land and waterways of the many cultural groups of Aboriginal Peoples on which our engagement throughout Victoria takes place. CSSV recognises that the impact of family violence services and policy in First Nations communities differs from non-Indigenous communities and is committed to listening and walking with First Nations Peoples to realise true justice and flourishing for all Australians.



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1. Catholic Social Services Victoria's approach to family and domestic violence – Addressing a persistent and intersectional issue

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) is the peak body for over 43 Catholic social service organisations in Victoria who together serve more than 300,000 Victorians with 7,500 employees and 15,800 volunteers¹. See Appendix A for a list of CSSV member organisations. Many of these organisations have regular and repeated engagement with a range of people involved in both perpetrating and surviving family and domestic violence (FDV). Of the organisations that offer specialised FDV services, support is largely provided to women, children and other victim survivors. Several also have frequent contact with people who have committed violence, some who are in the criminal justice system (CJS) and others who access other services

The expertise and knowledge of our member organisations who work to prevent and respond to FDV each day informs CSSV of the difficulties faced by clients and social services and provides valuable insights into program efficacy, prevention work and systemic issues. The dedicated CSSV Domestic Violence Working Group is the main vehicle for this information sharing. Having input from organisations that serve victim survivors and those that work with perpetrators of FDV offers a nuanced understanding of instances of FDV and the parties to it, and shapes CSSV's approach to FDV as an intersectional social issue. Our members' knowledge and perspectives, some of which is captured in this submission, are worth careful consideration in this inquiry.

CSSV's three strategic areas of social policy focus are prevention of domestic violence, provision of housing and homelessness intervention/prevention and issues of justice and equity. Across all strategic areas CSSV has a particular concern for those made most vulnerable or disadvantaged by our current society, government systems and structures, as well as service system deficiencies. While each focus area has unique causes, service responses and policy solutions, they are far from disconnected. Family and domestic violence is the most cited reason for people seeking specialist homelessness services, and, across Australia, the number of females presenting to these services with experiences of homelessness is higher than the number of males². With the housing crisis at a dire point in Victoria, and the knowledge that adverse experiences such as violence and homelessness increase a person's likelihood of ending up in the CJS, addressing FDV is as important as ever in working towards both personal and family-oriented justice, as well as a just and flourishing Victorian society more broadly.

This holistic approach takes into account that FDV does not occur in a vacuum, but exists within the context of cultural norms, rigid gender roles, understanding of masculinity, economic realities, and complex social relationships. CSSV is pleased that the Legal and Social Issues Committee has convened this inquiry and welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission, given the increasing number of family violence incidents in Victoria³ in spite of ongoing prevention and response efforts.

¹ See [Faith-Hope-and-Love-Mapping-and-contextualising-the-contributions-of-Victorias-Catholic-social-services-sector.pdf \(css.org.au\)](https://www.css.org.au/faith-hope-and-love-mapping-and-contextualising-the-contributions-of-Victorias-Catholic-social-services-sector.pdf)

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2024), *Specialist homelessness services annual report 2022-23*, [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2022-23, Clients, services and outcomes - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(aihw.gov.au\)](https://www.aihw.gov.au/publications-specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report-2022-23)

³ Crime Statistics Agency (2024), *Family Incidents*, [Family Incidents | Crime Statistics Agency Victoria](https://www.csa.gov.au/family-incidents)



We cannot continue to respond only to the needs of victim survivors without engaging with those who perpetrate violence and the conditions that encourage and allow for the use of violence to continue. Entire communities must be involved in changing the damaging cultural norms that are widespread throughout Victoria, beginning with recognising that violent attitudes contain a cultural element. We know that both people who have and people who have not perpetrated acts of violence can hold violent attitudes. Jesuit Social Services' *The Man Box 2024* survey reported that over one in five men agreed with the statement "men should use violence to get respect if necessary"⁴. It is important to note that while social service agencies do and could gather information to assist in understanding perpetrators of FDV better, this information will only ever be a part of the picture as there are many who won't access the service sector.

Faith communities are vital to many in our community, and CSSV's work context, while engaging with many faith leaders from across diverse traditions, is deeply joined with Victoria's Catholic community, which is made up of four dioceses containing 300 parishes, with 1.3 million people identifying as Catholic across the state⁵. Recently, CSSV and the Catholic Diocese of Sale worked together on a pilot program for building whole-of-Church capacity to prevent and respond to domestic violence, with the recently released evaluation report, *Shining A Light*⁶ showing the program was successful in better equipping participants with the skills to recognise and respond to FDV in their local communities. Grassroots initiatives that engage and equip local communities in understanding the causes of FDV and that act to challenge ingrained cultural norms and attitudes can then build preventative capacity.

The sector's frontline workers are reporting that people who have experienced FDV are seeking assistance through their services in increasing numbers and with more complexity, resulting in severely stretched service response capacity. We cannot accept this as the new norm in service provision. This reality also leaves the sector stretched in terms of capacity for more collaborative or deeper data gathering or analysis.

Initiatives and funding that support victim survivors such as the recently announced Federal Government's Leaving Violence Program⁷ are always welcome, but when men's attitudes to and use of violence do not seem to be improving generationally⁸, we cannot assume a safer future for women and children. The Inquiry's work to better understand perpetrators demonstrates a broader shift in work to holding those who use violence accountable, as well as acknowledgement that those who use violence need to access tailored support if change is to occur. Understanding perpetrators better, their particular patterns, histories and own experience of life and culture in Victoria is core to positive change. This information should inform programs of work for intervention and preventative activity alongside other systemic responses that ensure responsibility and accountability are taken for this violence. Both personal

⁴ Jesuit Social Services (2024), *The Man Box 2024: Re-examining what it means to be a man in*, page 11, [The-Man-Box-2024-7.1-LR.pdf \(jss.org.au\)](#)

⁵ ABS (2021), *Victoria 2021 Census All persons QuickStats*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/2>

⁶ Catholic Social Services Victoria (2023), *Shining a Light*, [CSSV-Shining-the-Light-Report-Evaluation-2023-FINAL-WEB-single-pages.pdf](#)

⁷ [Helping women leave a violent partner payment | Prime Minister of Australia \(pm.gov.au\)](#)

⁸ See [The-Man-Box-2024-7.1-LR.pdf \(jss.org.au\)](#)



and societal responsibility must be taken concurrently, and together, we need to seek positive change.

The content of this submission is informed by the broad knowledge of CSSV's member organisations, the CSSV Domestic Violence working group, and a dedicated consultation held in early May to shape our response to the Terms of Reference of this inquiry. Through this consultation, CSSV has encountered a willingness to improve the repository of data on perpetrators of FDV in the hope that this will allow for tailored responses. This includes dedicated women's services who have come to an understanding that collaborating with organisations that work with perpetrators of violence is critical for a society-wide approach to addressing FDV.

2. Inquiry Terms of Reference

That this house refers an inquiry into the mechanisms for capturing data on the profile and volume of perpetrators of family violence in Victoria and barriers to achieving a full understanding of this cohort to the Legal and Social Issues Committee for consideration and report no later than 26 November 2024.

In response to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, this submission provides information about the types of perpetrator data that are collected by Catholic social service organisations, where this data is stored, how it is and can be used by social services, what additional data would be useful to social services and the barriers organisations face in collecting data. It also discusses the barriers to achieving a full understanding of this cohort and the sector's attitude towards collecting data on perpetrators. It provides a number of recommendations to support social service organisations in collecting data with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of their work in preventing and responding to FDV.

3. Summary of recommendations

- 1. Increase support for targeted research that can expand the volume of data and understanding of the life context, experience and patterns of behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence.**
- 2. Consider the possibilities of advocating at a federal level for access to data through family law matters, including Family Relationship Centres and the Courts.**
- 3. Establish mechanisms, and provide support to organisations to establish mechanisms, for recording data on perpetrators of FDV by providing useful information, analysis, research, tools or funding resources.**
- 4. Government should make every effort that any already collected data and associated analysis, at a sector level, is made available back to the sector and**



community in an accessible format to assist with program development, organisational knowledge and building up of best practice.

- 5. Include the addition of fields in relevant Government managed information/reporting systems (such as SHIP) to collect specific information on perpetrators of FDV.**
- 6. Consider improving the collation of data collected by state and federal institutions and funded programs, where supplementary information might be stored separately, inhibiting a better understanding of FDV perpetrators.**

4. Data collection on perpetrators of FDV by Catholic social services

4.1. Attitudes towards collecting data on perpetrators of FDV

CSSV found broad support amongst Catholic social services for the collection of data on perpetrators of FDV in the case that it informs service and policy responses to the concerning level of FDV instances in Victoria and increases understanding of the drivers of perpetration and factors of desistance.

Data, coupled with good analysis, can be of value at many stages of service provision, with the potential for findings to shape prevention, intervention and response practices to FDV. Well-recorded and utilised data can bring nuance to discussions regarding perpetrators and their behaviours where it is frequently absent due to a lack of information. This nuance can be crucial in understanding where early intervention is and is not effective, pathways to offending, cultural and regional approaches and challenges, and the consequences on response based on type and frequency of violence used. Knowing who perpetrators are can also challenge myths and stereotypes that exist in the community and normalise work needed to prevent further offending and violence. For example, if we, with a high degree of certainty, know what age perpetrators commonly begin exhibiting violent or damaging behaviour, we can design tailored, early interventions before harm is done. Further, organisations that provide services to victim survivors could find aggregated, analysed data equally useful to assist in coordinating health, housing, legal and financial services and inform optimal safety planning for a given situation.

One consideration participants of the CSSV consultation noted was that perpetrators of violence need to be seen both as individual agents, acting as persons, but also as a part of our society — and therefore ethical data collection on individual persons also needs to consider their situation of life, context, experience and possible own trauma and experience of violence or violent attitudes. Concern was expressed about the biases that exist within current data fields and collection methods, and the impact this has on the possible profile of perpetrators, and corresponding policy and service development. These concerns are detailed further in [4.4 Barriers to collecting data](#).



Research conducted by Jesuit Social Services and UNSW on child sexual offending behaviours and attitudes⁹ provides evidence of the usefulness of understanding the behaviours and attitudes that often lead to perpetration. This research has assisted in planning prevention, intervention and response measures based on when, where and how perpetration takes place, in person and online. The data gathered from this research has contributed to findings such as identifying patterns of perpetration that may be detectable by financial institutions. Such knowledge, paired with appropriate information sharing, could be a powerful tool in building capacity for a whole-of-society response to violence. Equipped with extensive understanding of perpetrators and patterns of perpetration, we may better work to reduce the number of instances of FDV that reach social services, law enforcement and hospitals.

4.2. Data collected by Catholic social service organisations

As it stands, several CSSV member organisations have access to a wealth of data on perpetrators and instances of FDV, but many do not have established, systematised ways of collecting, organising or analysing this data. The nature of data collection varies greatly between organisation based on size, capacity and services provided. Typically, smaller organisations with less capacity have intimate knowledge of patterns of perpetration through disclosure and discussions with clients when developing safety plans etc., but that data, if recorded, is through a lens of keeping the victim survivor safe via a case note or similar. Other organisations, such as CatholicCare Victoria, who are active in family dispute resolution and mediation via their Family Relationship Centres (federally funded and privacy/sharing capability is carefully regulated by Federal Legislation), and the Catholic health sector, including their public hospitals, have more detailed databases of qualitative and quantitative data.

Many of CSSV's member women-only services have deep and thorough conversations with victim survivors in refuges regarding the person who used violence against them, and thus are a repository of qualitative knowledge on perpetrator behaviour and patterns of perpetration. However, in many cases this data is not collected or recorded in a way that centres the perpetrator, but rather is oriented toward the service user and informed from their perspective. Multiple organisations report this information as stored in individual case note files, either online or on paper, and thus not readily or necessarily easily accessible without significant resource. It is possible that much information could be extracted from records, but that may require significant commitments of time, effort and structural change – and in some cases careful understanding of privacy obligations under both state and federal legislation. The actual data gathered changes from organisation to organisation, but some details or profile of perpetrators are commonly recorded.

The MARAM Framework is used by several larger Catholic organisations and provides a well-outlined systematic approach for data collection and identification of victim survivors and people using violence. It is particularly powerful due to its information sharing capacity and has proved useful to the organisations that have implemented it, though would not be appropriate for all social services, particularly the smallest organisations. The organisations that use the MARAM

⁹ See [Identifying-and-understanding-child-sexual-offending-behaviour-and-attitudes-among-Australian-men_web.pdf \(jss.org.au\)](https://www.jss.org.au/identifying-and-understanding-child-sexual-offending-behaviour-and-attitudes-among-australian-men-web.pdf)



Framework have thorough data repositories that are frequently reviewed to enhance their understanding of perpetration patterns. Several CSSV member organisations are part of The Orange Door network and collect data as required by The Orange Door and MARAM. Consultation participants noted some frustration at feeling data was being 'swallowed' by this system and a lack of information, assistance or analysis was given in return to improve individual organisations' understanding of broader trends to inform their own service practices.

Organisations that provide Family Dispute Resolution services also hold detailed accounts of people that may be or are parties to FDV and information about any acts of violence that are reported. These are recorded as determined by the confidentiality and other requirements of the Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975*¹⁰.

While few organisations actively gather data from men on their attitudes to and history of perpetration of violence, Jesuit Social Services' 'The Man Box' research¹¹ is an exception which surveys Australian men as part of their broader suite of services and prevention work within 'The Men's Project'¹². Surveys can be an effective way to gather quantitative data which might be less available through conventional social service data collection methods, allowing a wider sample to be captured. In their research, Jesuit Social Services has been able to collect information from men in the community who may otherwise not be in contact with any social service or other organisation that collects data on FDV. A variety of CSSV member organisations work with perpetrators or men concerned with their own thoughts and behaviours, but reported that data is not always collected in the same way or in a systematic way.

A widespread concern expressed in consultation was that data on perpetrators of FDV that is collected and recorded by organisations is not well used. There are various reasons for this, including a lack of defined interaction with perpetrators within organisations that work with victim survivors, lack of capacity to extract, analyse or develop data, the underdeveloped nature of this area of research, and concerns about legal and ethical implications when using and sharing data.

Given the nature of services in working primarily with victim survivors, perpetrator details are often provided by their victims or other family members. These perspectives are crucial in data collection as the most common source of information, noting they contain one perspective and accompanied bias within the collection method. Ensuring data comes from a variety of sources would be an important consideration to increase data accuracy and create a more detailed understanding of perpetrators. Member organisations also made clear that seeking information from victim survivors on the perpetrator of their violence should be part of a process of assistance, and not increase hardship or trauma through having to recount details of abuse.

4.2.1. List: Types of data collected by Catholic social services

¹⁰ Australian Government (2024), *Family Law Act 1975*, [Federal Register of Legislation - Family Law Act 1975](#)

¹¹ See [The Man Box-2024-7.1-LR.pdf \(jss.org.au\)](#)

¹² See [The Men's Project - Jesuit Social Services \(jss.org.au\)](#)



The following data pertaining to perpetrators was reported as collected by some member organisations during consultation. This data is not collected by all CSSV member organisations or all organisations that provide FDV services.

- Details/profile of perpetrator
- Types of violence used, including:
 - Physical violence
 - Sexual violence
 - Emotional violence
 - Financial violence
 - Social violence
 - Spiritual violence
 - Technological violence
 - Psychological violence
- Patterns of violence
- Reoffending behaviours
- Number of victims/parties to an incident
- Location of incidents
- Behaviours indicative of offending
- Male attitudes towards violence
- Male use of violence

4.2.2. List: Where data is stored by Catholic social services

- Family Dispute Resolution records (limited capacity for information sharing as Family Dispute Resolution practitioners have strict requirements around recording and sharing information to protect confidentiality of participants of dispute resolution as regulated by the Family Law Act 1975)
- Forms that record information about perpetrators and acts of perpetration (some of which utilise the MARAM Framework) - primarily software-based
- Software-based and paper records of individual case notes
- Surveys

4.3. Data that would be beneficial to Catholic social services

The following were identified as gaps in organisations' and governments' data and research, or data which, if collected more accurately and widely, could be used to improve service provision for victim survivors, prevention strategies for perpetrators and potential perpetrators, and advance efforts to curb FDV.

- Prevalence of offending
- Type of violence used, including prevalence of each:
 - Physical violence



- Sexual violence
- Emotional violence
- Financial violence
- Social violence
- Spiritual violence
- Technological violence
- Psychological violence
- Nature of offending
- Detail and background of perpetrators, including:
 - Adverse childhood experiences
 - Social attitudes
 - Social relationships
 - Substance use
 - Employment
 - Financial patterns
 - Previous involvement with and completion of social and family service programs such as behaviour change programs
 - Demographics (we however, urge caution with knowledge that profiling certain cultural and other groups can be damaging in society and to violence prevention efforts)
- Measures effective in keeping perpetrators away from women in their home
- Effectiveness of prevention/response strategies to perpetration such as men's behaviour change programs
- Measures that are effective in preventing people who have used violence from re-offending
- Instances of the modern slavey practices of forced marriage and domestic servitude, which are acts of family violence classified as slavery-like offences under Division 270 of the *Criminal Code Act 1975*¹³.

4.4. Barriers to collecting data on and understanding perpetrators of FDV

There are a number of logistical, legal and social barriers currently preventing social service organisations from capturing certain data on perpetrators of FDV that may inhibit reaching a full understanding of this cohort. While the sector acknowledges the value in understanding this cohort, the following barriers were expressed as constraints on several organisations' ability and willingness to collect, record and use such data, and on the wider society's understanding of perpetrators of FDV through the data.

1. The capacity of social service organisations to capture, record and analyse data in a meaningful way is limited due to resource constraints. Organisations often do not have the funding to deliver the volume of services in demand from the community, let alone the ability for systematic data collection and analysis. At current capacity, the data that is being collected by our member organisations is the limit of their capability and they are

¹³ Australian Government (2024), *Criminal Code Act 1975*, [Federal Register of Legislation - Criminal Code Act 1995](#)



unable to do much further without significant structural changes or dedicated resourcing.

2. There is little system support accessible to all CSSV's member organisations to capture and input the data they have access to. Without established mechanisms to assist all organisations in recording such data, organisations would have to undertake significant work to create their own processes and databases for recording and storing information. Resourcing for software and associated training that allows for clear and easy analysis could combat this issue.
3. Social service organisations provide a lot of data to government, and there is little feedback or transparency in the way that data is analysed or utilised. Any learnings and broader analysis is not often made available back to the sector in a way services can use to refine or develop themselves. Data collection and provision by organisations should be incentivised by a response that is beneficial to the work our organisations do on the ground. Information sharing should be a reciprocal process where useable information is provided back to social service organisations. It must be seen that the data collected on FDV perpetrators contributes to a body of work which ultimately aims to change culture, prevent violence and enhance service provision to perpetrators and victim survivors.
4. Social, legal and ethical risks can prevent data collection and research on perpetrators in some contexts. If there is any concern that collecting or using data may jeopardise an organisation's work, clients or staff, organisations in the consultation stated they would generally opt not to do so. Systems and processes should be developed to ensure researchers and organisations are given the confidence to undertake data collection on perpetrators, with clear risk management consideration within a guideline framework.
5. Similar to above, organisations that offer Family Dispute Resolution services have well-founded concerns about the sharing of information as regulated by the Family Law Act 1975 and due to strong principles of client confidentiality. CSSV acknowledges that recent amendments to the act facilitate the ability to share child abuse, neglect and family violence risk information between the Courts, child welfare agencies and the police¹⁴, but do not necessarily increase access to data for all governments or agencies as the process remains highly regulated.
6. Administrative data is shaped by the biases ingrained in recording methods, fields recorded, and the people recording. The required fields in data collection systems often lend to a demographic bias which can negatively impacts perceptions of people whose data is being collected, examples of First Nations and CALD communities in particular, were brought up in consultations, regardless of the intention behind data collation. Additional fields that are less frequently captured but would be useful for Catholic social services to better understand perpetrators and improve prevention efforts and funding allocation are detailed in [4.3 Data that would be beneficial to Catholic social services](#). An additional concern raised in consultation was that the data captured in refuges and

¹⁴ Australian Government (2023), *Family Law Amendment (Information Sharing) Act 2023*, [Federal Register of Legislation - Family Law Amendment \(Information Sharing\) Act 2023](#)



women's services is CSSV members' most abundant source, and is most often captured within the context and lens of assisting the victim survivor.

7. Currently, there is insufficient linkage between state and federal levels of data to assist in the understanding of perpetrators with involvement across different service systems or jurisdictions. Data recorded at a federal level, such as by the Federal Circuit and Family Court or Family Dispute Resolution, and data recorded at a state level, such as by Victoria Police and Victorian social service organisations, can be supplementary, and amalgamating relevant information may help to identify individual's involvement across institutions which may not share one data collection tool. The Victorian Government's FDV data solution in the MARAM Framework is productive, however, cross-jurisdiction collaboration is necessary to build a more comprehensive dataset. The Personal Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) could be a useful data accumulation initiative, albeit strict requirements exist to extract data from the system – another barrier to building an understanding of this cohort. Additional and careful input from experts would be required before changes to data access or sharing occurs.
8. Accurately contextualising and profiling people who use violence becomes difficult when considering that those who come into contact with services, hospitals and the police are only a portion of violence users. Research that can be conducted beyond these domains has the potential to increase understanding of levels of violence within the community more broadly – knowledge necessary to improve prevention and early intervention programs. There are examples of such data collection¹⁵, but it is narrow in scope and investing more into men's and perpetrators' attitudes and behaviour research broadly would improve understanding of this cohort, in addition to data the service sector could potentially provide.
9. It is difficult to ascertain and measure family violence perpetration given the complexity of many instances of FDV and perpetrator behaviours. FDV includes a range of behaviours that can make defining a perpetrator challenging, such as forced marriage, where a person's entire family or community may be complicit in the act of violence. The task of capturing data on perpetrators can be complicated when the understanding and recording of 'perpetrator' can differ between person and organisation.
10. CSSV's members who have programs dedicated to assisting women and children gather some quantitative and a substantial amount of qualitative data on perpetrators, but this data is often not systematically collected in an accessible way for the purpose of understanding perpetrators. Due to the focus of their services, resources are primarily allocated to enhancing understanding of and support for victim survivors, where perpetrator data might be recorded incidentally.

¹⁵ See [The-Man-Box-2024-7.1-LR.pdf \(jss.org.au\)](#)



5. Recommendations to improve data collection practices and use

1. Increase support for targeted research that can expand the volume of data and research on perpetrators of domestic violence. Ensure that institutions undertaking this research such as ANROWS¹⁶, Queensland University of Technology¹⁷ and Jesuit Social Services are adequately supported in their efforts, as well as considering supporting the addition of institutions and research in related fields. These institutions are essential in developing the data collected by social service organisations and providing useful recommendations in response.
2. Consider the possibilities of advocating at a federal level for access to data through family law matters. Examples of where this may be possible include:
 - a. Family Dispute Resolution facilitated at Family Relationship Centres, with consideration of additional mandatory fields in data collection required by the Department of Social Services – noting that this may be restricted by the current confidentiality requirements of the *Family Law Act 1975*
 - b. Data available through the Family Law Court or the Federal Circuit Court regarding prevalence and perpetration of violence.
3. That Government establish mechanisms, and provide support to organisations to establish mechanisms, to gather information on perpetrators of FDV. Social service organisations contribute a great deal to data collection despite significant capacity constraints, and would be far better equipped to undertake this work if more information, analysis, research, tools and funding were provided to them.
4. That Government make every effort that analysis of any already collected data and associated analysis, at a sector level, is made available back to the sector in an accessible format to assist with program development, organisational knowledge and building up of best practice.
5. Include the addition of fields in relevant Government managed information/reporting systems (such as SHIP) to collect specific information on perpetrators of FDV. Additional fields should intend to collect data useful to building best practice FDV services. This may include fields of data listed in 4.3. [Data that would be beneficial to Catholic social services.](#)
6. Consider mechanisms to improve the collation of data collected by state and federal institutions and funded programs (such as the courts, law enforcement bodies, Family Dispute Resolution and social services), where supplementary information might be stored separately, inhibiting a better understanding of FDV perpetrators.

¹⁶ See [ANROWS](#)

¹⁷ See QUT research [Who uses domestic, family, and sexual violence, how, and why? \(qut.edu.au\)](#)



6. Conclusion

CSSV appreciates the committee's focus and determination to better understand perpetrators of family violence as a cohort necessary in combatting the concerning level of FDV in our community. This initial inquiry assists in contributing to a broader cultural shift to bring focus and accountability onto the perpetrator of violence rather than the victim survivor, whose lives so often have to be disrupted in order to be safe.

Recognising and understanding the people behind the use of violence has the potential to shape service provision, policy and other preventative and responsive tools to violence. While some effort and significant commitment to data collection and research is required, the Catholic social services consulted on in this submission are willing and able to work with Government, the courts, healthcare, education, and the CJS to increase focus on the people using FDV in an attempt to address and prevent violent behaviours. CSSV believes that these efforts can form a key part of Victoria's FDV response, and thanks the committee for its consideration of this submission.



Appendix A – Catholic Social Services Victoria Member Organisations

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry	Missionary Sisters of Service – Highways and Byways
Assisi Centre	Nazareth House – Sisters of Nazareth
Australian Catholic religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	Olympic Village Exodus Community
Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project	Order of Malta (Vic)
Cabrini Outreach	Pregnancy Assistance Frankston
CatholicCare Victoria	Rosie's Oblate Youth Mission
CatholicCare Victoria Housing	Sacred Heart Mission
Catholic Womens League Victoria and Wagga Wagga	Saltbush Balnarring Beach
Corazon Centre	St John of God ACCORD
Don Bosco Youth Centre & Hostel	St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre
Edmund Rice Camps Victoria	St Joseph's Home for the Aged - Little Sisters of the Poor
Edmund Rice Refugee and Community Services	St Mary's House of Welcome
Edmund Rice Services – Mt Atkinson	St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria
Good Samaritan Inn	Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance Network
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand	Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH)
House of Welcome Ballarat	VincentCare Victoria
Jesuit Social Services	Wellsprings for Women
JoCare	Xavier Social Justice Network
John Pierce Centre for Deaf Ministry	
Joseph's Corner	
Keysborough Learning Centre	
Links and Consolidation Network (LinCoN)	
MacKillop Family Services	
Mary Aikenhead Ministries	
McAuley	

Appendix B – Catholic Social Services Victoria: Who we are

