

**ATTACHMENT:                   QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER  
INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE  
HEARINGS**

Hon Natalie Hutchins MP

**PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE**

1. Please provide the following information with respect to housing:
  - a. The most recent figures on the number of women fleeing family violence waiting for appropriate housing.
  - b. The latest available figures on the number of women that have been put into temporary accommodation such as motels while they are waiting for housing to come through.
  - c. Whether any women have died in temporary accommodation while they have been waiting for housing.

*(Asked by Mr Morris, pages 6-7 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript)*

The Minister responsible for these questions is the Minister for Housing, however I am informed that:

- a. In the month of *May* 2018, homelessness-funded agencies (including family violence-specific services) supported 2,059 women where family violence was an identified factor at their last contact.
- b. In the 12 months to May 2018, homelessness-funded agencies (including family violence-specific services) provided temporary purchased accommodation (in hotels or motels, etc) to 3,206 women seeking assistance due to family violence.
- c. This answer was provided through the hearings.

2. Ms Pennicuik has referred to the following: budget paper 3, page 104, 'Resourcing effective implementation monitoring', and she also cites the family violence reform implementation monitor's *Report of the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor*; Richard Willingham and Erin Somerville's article 'Victorian domestic violence reforms: government told to focus on long term changes' on the ABC News in 2018; and in 2018 Emma D'Agostino's 'Urgent need' for planning to deliver change: family violence reform implementation monitor' in the Bendigo *Advertiser*. The question is:

- a. I am concerned by recent statements from the family violence reform implementation monitor about the potential for major implementation risks and what the monitor sees as a need for a 'more strategic response'. Can the minister indicate which components of the \$42.5 million in additional funding are dedicated to address these concerns?
- b. Will the whole of government response report on what this investment produces or achieves as a whole reform, rather than simply on acquitting the recommendations?

(Asked by Ms Shing on behalf of Ms Pennicuik, page 7 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript)

a. \$42.5 million in additional funding will make an important contribution to family violence reform in the following ways:

- \$13.5 million over four years to the Aboriginal 10-Year Family Violence Plan, including to support a strong, integrated Aboriginal workforce, family violence prevention and response sector to create better access, equity and choice of appropriate family violence services for Aboriginal people. These programs will also embed Aboriginal self-determination as a core principle to improve outcomes in Aboriginal people's health, wellbeing and safety.
- \$24 million to Preventing Family Violence in Victoria, behavioural change campaigns and a range of initiatives, including continued funding to support Free from Violence, Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women. Initiatives will target workplaces, diverse communities, adults, adolescents and older people. This will support women, the prevention of family violence and supports economic, social and civic participation and inclusion of all Victorians.

b. Government welcomes the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor's first report on reform progress. We are prioritising building on early reform activities to maximise the impact of this important system reform. We are focusing our efforts on inter-agency and whole-of-government partnership while working alongside victim survivors and the sector to ensure we get this important reform right.

The complexity of this work cannot be underestimated. Government understands that work of this scale requires a coordinated approach.

The 2017-18 Budget provided \$17.5 million over four years to support central agencies' oversight and monitoring of family violence reform initiatives, and to support monitoring of implementation progress.

3. **The family violence implementation monitor also noted that the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority assisted the Victorian Secretaries' Board to develop an initial interagency risk register. However, risks in the register are not being actively managed, and the monitor considers that it is not clear how accountability for risks that affect more than one agency are being managed. The question is: has a risk register been compiled, by which agency and what are the top three risks that have been identified?**

*(Asked by Ms Shing on behalf of Ms Pennicuik, page 7 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript)*

Risk registers exist for all projects contributing to the implementation of the family violence reform.

In addition, an interagency risk register covering all departments and agencies responsible for reform implementation has been developed through facilitated workshops by the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA). These workshops identified cause, event and impact statements associated with a range of risks further work is underway to develop the interagency risk register.

4. **When will the family violence outcomes framework be finalised and will its performance measures be embedded in the next budget?**

*(Asked by Ms Shing on behalf of Ms Pennicuik, page 7 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript)*

The Family Violence Outcomes Framework was developed and released as part of *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change*. Progress indicators for each outcome were developed through extensive cross sector consultation and released as part of the *Family Violence Rolling Action Plan 2017-2020*.

The Framework shapes priorities, guides actions across government and in the community, and helps us to work together and monitor our shared success.

Indicators have been developed for three domains:

- *Family violence and gender inequality are not tolerated*
- *Victim survivors, vulnerable children and families are safe and support to recover and thrive*
- *Perpetrators are held to account, engaged and connected.*

Work is underway to support the next stage of development of the Family Violence Outcomes Framework which includes selecting measures for the identified indicators. It is anticipated that an initial set of outcomes measures will be completed by the end of this year.

Further testing and refining of measures would be required to ensure that they are robust, fit for purpose and appropriate, before being considered for incorporation into the budget.

The Family Violence Outcomes Framework is consistent with, and complements those developed in *Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy* and *Free from Violence: Victoria's Strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women*.

5. **It has been reported that Manningham City Council checks books for gender modelling and diversity. Are you aware of this?**

*(Asked by Mr Morris, pages 9-10 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript) No.*

This is not an initiative of the Victorian Government.

6. **With respect to the implementation of the 227 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, please provide a complete list of agencies involved and an indication of how many full time employees this equates to.**

*(Asked by Mr Morris, page 15 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript)*

The Victorian Government is committed to implementing all of the recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

This involves the whole of government and any precise EFT figure would be hypothetical.

7. From some of the discussions I've had with family violence organisations in north metro — in particular, I'd like to acknowledge the Whittlesea Community Connections family violence project, who have identified a huge need for practical casework support amongst culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

Aside from the language barriers, there are significant structural barriers to engaging with information and services, particularly for new arrivals.

Women escaping violence often have difficulty in accessing the private rental market because, in many cases, they have only one income and they have no rental history.

Of course, we know how important it is that they find housing in their area so they can stay connected to their community and the kids don't have to change schools.

Within the department's service delivery (paper 3, page 226) and the industry plan (paper 3, page 73), can you provide information on some of the programs that provide practical casework support for people with a CALD background and perhaps a breakdown of funding if available?

*(Asked by Ms Shing on behalf of Ms Patten, page 16 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript)*

Casework support for victim survivors of family violence sits within the Minister for Children and Families portfolio, however I am told that:

- Mainstream specialist family violence services are available to people experiencing family violence from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. From 2016-17 family violence case management services received a boost in funding. These services and clients can access language services to assist in the delivery of family violence services for people from non-English speaking backgrounds.
- In addition, in 2017-18 the Department of Health and Human Services provided inTouch with \$2.596 million of case management funding for the delivery of case management services to over 1,200 people from CALD communities experiencing family violence. inTouch are a statewide service that provide specialist family violence support to CALD communities. The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights also received \$102,000 for the delivery of telephone case management services to CALD women experiencing family violence.
- Flexible support packages are available to all family violence services providing case management support. inTouch received \$612,000 in 2018-19 for flexible support packages that have been provided to CALD victim-survivors for a variety of needs, including accessing housing.

Building from Strength: 10-Year Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response (Building from Strength) aims to sustainably shift the way we prevent and respond to family violence and violence against women, through the development of a workforce that is supported, valued, skilled and diverse. The provision of casework is not within the scope of Building from Strength

8. **'Behavioural change programs' in the *Free from Violence* action plan that was released last year and has continued spending in this budget (paper 3, page 82). If you could possibly outline some of those programs, specifically ones that empower culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to engage with and contribute to behavioural change initiatives for their communities. How do these programs ensure that information is culturally and linguistically relevant and targeted and also responds to the experiences of new arrivals to the community?**

*(Asked by Ms Shiny on behalf of Ms Patten, page 16 of the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio transcript)*

The Victorian Government has invested in a number of programs that promote gender equality and the prevention of family violence for culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD). These programs are delivered by organisations with expertise in working and supporting CALD communities.

Funded initiatives through the 2017-18 State Budget

- The Free from Violence fund supports innovative prevention practice across Victoria. Of the 21 funded projects, five target specific CALD groups.

Organisation name	Project Name and Description	Funding	LGA area
AMES Australia	Use existing program model to build the capacity in Sudanese communities to take action to prevent violence against women	\$97,625	Multiple metro LGAs
Australian Vietnamese Women's Association Inc	A Fairer, Safer and Better Life For Vietnamese Victorian Women and Children. Utilise Vietnamese media, cultural public events, social support groups & information sessions to help change the underlying causes of inequality and violence	\$75,000	Multiple
In Touch Multicultural Centre Against Family	Test and evaluate innovative approaches to building the capacity of ethno-specific/culturally and linguistically diverse organisations to undertake primary prevention of family violence and gender equality initiatives in faith-based and/or arts settings	\$109,835	City of Greater Dandenong and neighbourin
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	Scale up the work-place based model developed from 'Equality@Work' through replication and adaptation of the model to two new geographic locations, engaging migrant women working in the aged care sector.	\$113,300	Multiple LGAs in Melbourne
Health West	The Momentum: engaging young male students from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds at Victoria University in prevention of violence against women	\$140,602	City of Brimbank

- The Victorian Government invested \$10.5 million to help culturally diverse Victorians escape family violence through a range of community-led prevention programs and specialist support services. Included in these programs is the Safer and Stronger Communities project, which uses tailored approaches to family violence in CALD communities by creating links between five established organisations experienced in working with migrant and refugee communities and focuses on initiatives that change attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that lead to family violence. It will operate out of three metropolitan (North, South and West Melbourne) and two regional locations (Barwon and Goulburn Valley regions).

Funded initiatives through the 2016-17 State Budget

- The Community Partnerships for Primary Prevention Grants Program supported local organisations, businesses, and culturally diverse community groups to challenge social norms, structures and practices that lead to family violence. Of the 34 grants, eight were for projects targeting specific CALD groups.

Community Partnerships for Primary Prevention grants 2017-18			
Lead	Project Name and Description	Funding	Local Government Area
AMES Australia	The Respect and Responsibility Preventing Violence Against Women Program will contribute to the prevention of violence against women in culturally and linguistically diverse communities with specific focus on prevention of violence against women in new and emerging communities. The Program will address some of the main drivers of violence against women via the adoption of multi method, mutually reinforcing strategies developed in conjunction with current and new Program partners and culturally and linguistically diverse community leaders.	\$100,000	All 79 Local Government Areas
Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health	United We Stand - The Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health will expand their United We Stand project, collaborating with eight South Asian community organisations to expand prevention of family violence efforts in South Asian communities across Victoria.	\$49,000	City of Melbourne, City of Greater Dandenong
Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights	Setting the Foundation: the better families initiative for Australian Muslims - The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights and their project partners will undertake a range of activities seeking to prevent family violence in Victoria's Muslim community.	\$100,000	City of Casey, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Greater Shepparton
inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence	Settlement to Safety and Equality: New Beginnings for Multicultural Communities -The project is focused on developing a shared understanding of the drivers and enablers of gender inequality. The project seeks to establish a network of ethnic and cultural organisations in Melbourne's South East to stand as leaders and role models for gender equality and respectful relationships in the community.	\$130,000	City of Greater Dandenong
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	Equality at Work will build on an existing relationship with Southern Cross Care Victoria. Workers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are a growing cohort within the Australian aged care workforce and this project aims to develop and implement a culturally and linguistically diverse-specific workplace- based model to prevent family violence and other forms of violence against women.	000	\$140. Manningham Dandenong, City of Melbourne, City of Kingston, City of

New Hope Foundation MiCare	Promoting Family Safety Partnership Project: an African communities Family Violence primary prevention initiative - Develop a partnership with several other organisations around Victoria including Victoria Police, Victoria Legal Aid and Link Health and Community, to work with African communities to address family violence prevention in south east Melbourne. The project will focus on addressing primary prevention through peer-to-peer training with small groups of community representatives, awareness-raising activities at local events, as well as a Youth and Families Camp, which will involve workshops focused on encouraging local young people to become leaders for gender equality and primary prevention and role models for their peers.	\$50,000	City of Kingston, City of Monash, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Frankston
Women's Health Grampians	Diversity and Inclusion — Partnerships for Prevention Central Highlands will engage new cohorts in PVAW action under the recently created Grampian prevention foundation, Communities of Respect and Equality Regional Plan in the Central Highlands region. The focus will be on engaging with sporting clubs and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.	\$140,000	Ararat Rural City, City of Ballarat, Golden Plains City, Hepburn City, Moorabool City, Pyrenees Shire Council
Wyndham City Council	The Ready Steady Together Partnership will develop a primary prevention program to address family violence by improving access to information and support for expecting and new parents from the South Sudanese and Indian communities, and the communities of Burma. Wyndham City Council will partner with Wyndham Community Education Centre and Drummond Street Services.	\$120,000	City of Wyndham

- The Multicultural and Social Cohesion Capacity Building and Participation Program included a family violence stream and provided grant funding to build the knowledge and skills of multicultural communities in the prevention of family violence. I ask the member to refer this question to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.