



Free from Violence Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic Framework

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why has the Free from Violence Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic Framework (Framework) been developed?

After the Royal Commission into Family Violence, the Victorian Government committed to investing in the monitoring and evaluation of its family violence reform agenda. This includes the state's primary prevention strategy: *Free from Violence* (FFV).

The first of its kind in Australia, the Framework is a core element of this reform agenda. Its purpose is to establish a strategic, robust and transparent approach to assessing individual and collective progress towards achieving FFV outcomes and objectives. Over the longer term the Framework will support enhanced data collection and contribute to the evolving evidence base on what works to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.

The Framework is underpinned by the Family Violence and Free from Violence Outcomes Frameworks and aims to contribute to implementing Royal Commission recommendation 203: advising the Victorian Government to work with organisations it funds to improve evaluation standards.

2. When was the Framework released?

The Framework was released in July 2021.

3. What does the Framework do?

The Framework outlines an overarching strategy for evaluating primary prevention initiatives delivered under the FFV Strategy in Victoria. It sets the 'big picture' for monitoring and evaluation and clarifies how we assess performance of FFV and its successive action plans. In this way, it supports the Victorian Government and our communities to determine the success of our collective primary prevention efforts.

The Framework aims to foster a shared understanding of our monitoring and evaluation language, principles and immediate priorities. It outlines an approach to the collection of robust and reliable data to assess FFV's performance, value and impact. The Framework will also support governance of evaluation activity undertaken in relation to FFV funded activity.

4. Who is the Framework for?

The Framework will guide organisations involved in managing FFV initiatives. This includes government agencies and other fund administrators, government program managers and evaluators.

Practitioners delivering primary prevention initiatives will be supported by government program managers or fund administrators to align their project planning, monitoring and evaluation practice with the principles of the Framework.

5. Who is responsible for implementing the Framework?

Funding agencies under FFV will take responsibility for applying the Framework, including Respect Victoria, the Department of Fairness Families and Housing (DFFH) and other government agencies.

Under the Framework DFFH, and other fund administrators and government program managers will continue to oversee and deliver funding and coordination of initiatives under the FFV strategy. This means fund administrators and government program managers will have responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of FFV initiatives they oversee.

Respect Victoria will have overarching responsibility for FFV strategy-level evaluations and reviews including the commissioning, implementation and reporting of strategy-level findings. The first review and meta-evaluation is scheduled to commence in the second half of 2021.

6. I'm a family violence / primary prevention practitioner – how does the new Framework impact me?

The Framework provides principles-based guidance for FFV fund administrators and government program managers to facilitate a strategic and transparent approach to assessing progress towards its objectives and outcomes.

This means practitioners funded under FFV after the release of the Framework will be supported by fund administrators and program managers to develop a monitoring and evaluation approach that aligns with the principles of the Framework.

Both fund administrators and practitioners funded under the FFV Strategy will also be invited to consult on the development of the Framework's practice guidance and resources as they are developed in the coming months. Funded organisations will be supported by Respect Victoria to apply the practice guidance and resources, after their development in the second half of 2021.

Although developed specifically to guide the monitoring and evaluation of FFV funded activity, the Framework will also be of interest to practitioners involved in prevention efforts outside of the FFV Strategy who are seeking to understand the broader context for their work.

7. I'm a government program manager / fund administrator – how does the new Framework impact me?

Fund administrators or government program managers overseeing FFV initiatives after the release of the Framework will work with practitioners to advise of any changes to the monitoring and evaluation requirements of the program.

Administrators and managers will be supported by Respect Victoria and DFFH to apply principles from the Framework to future agreed evaluation activity.

After the Framework's release, practice guidance and resources will be developed to support the formal implementation of the Framework. Fund administrators, program managers and practitioners will be invited to participate in consultations on the development of the Framework's practice guidance and resources as they are progressed in the coming months.

Fund administrators and government program managers overseeing contracts with practitioners will retain responsibility for their contracts and project plans with organisations delivering initiatives and their initiative level monitoring and evaluation approaches.

8. From when and to what projects will the Framework apply?

The Framework will inform monitoring and evaluation approaches for projects funded under the FFV strategy that commence after the Framework is released.

Upon its release, Fund administrators and government program managers will work closely with funding recipients to ensure their monitoring and evaluation approach aligns with the Framework.

9. How does the Framework apply to lapsed projects or those nearing completion?

Basic monitoring activity and associated reporting activity that is already in place will continue to apply to initiatives funded under the FFV Strategy.

The Framework and supporting practice guidelines and resources are not intended to be applied retrospectively to program evaluations that are substantially underway or concluded. The Framework and associated resources are future-focused, applying to FFV activity funded post its release.

Where applicable, Respect Victoria will work with fund administrators and government program managers to enhance data collection and reporting processes of projects that are currently underway or completed for the purposes of informing meta-evaluation or FFV reviews.

10. How will the Framework be implemented in future Free form Violence programs and what guidance or resources will be developed to support implementation?

Implementation of the Framework will apply to monitoring and evaluation of initiatives funded under the FFV Strategy after its release. The Framework is intended to be refreshed at regular intervals to leverage learnings from the first wave of evaluations and to address the evaluation needs relating to activities progressed in the second and subsequent FFV action plans.

Practice guidance and resources will be developed to support consistent implementation of the Framework and will reflect monitoring and reporting requirements for funded agencies under their respective funding agreements. They will be designed to support funded agencies to align their project planning, monitoring and evaluation practices to the Framework going forward. These resources will be developed in consultation with stakeholders in the second half of 2021.

Following the development and publication of these resources, Respect Victoria will work closely with fund administrators and government program managers to support their application across FFV initiatives.

11. I am managing prevention programs that are currently underway. Will the Framework affect my reporting responsibilities?

The Framework and its supporting practice guidelines and resources are future focussed.

Respect Victoria will work with government program managers and fund administrators to support enhanced data collection and reporting processes to enable programs to provide inputs to the FFV mid-term review.

Respect Victoria will also oversee strategy-wide reviews or meta-evaluations which will use consolidated findings from all data sources (individual project level evaluations, analysis of population-level data, additional primary data) to provide a consolidated picture of how the FFV strategy is tracking.

12. The Framework doesn't have a complete theory of change – when and how will this work be done?

More detailed conceptual frameworks such as a comprehensive theory of change will be developed in partnership with sector stakeholders, as an immediate priority in mid-late 2021. This will be designed to be iterated and refined as knowledge and evidence increases.

A theory of change is a critical tool to guide evaluation activity. By outlining a sequence of cause and effect pathways towards desired impacts, a theory of change for the Framework will provide the foundation for measuring the future impacts of individual projects and programs under FFV.

Theories of change are not static, however. They evolve as prevention theories and interventions are tested and the evidence on what works comes to light.

13. How can I contribute to the Framework?

Input from community organisations will be critical to how we use this Framework to monitor and evaluate FFV. Like other strategic resources developed for family violence reform, this Framework will be adapted and refined over time as knowledge, capability and systems improve.

To this end, the Prevention Sector Strategic Reference Group, established under the Family Violence Reform Advisory Group, will play an advisory role to inform the development of the Framework's supporting practice guidance and resources, and the Framework itself, over time as we gain a greater understanding of the drivers of violence and violence against women. The Group will consult with funded organisations and the broader primary prevention sector on this task.

14. What is Respect Victoria's role in relation to this Framework?

In December 2020, Respect Victoria assumed responsibility for finalisation and implementation of the Framework. Prior to this, responsibility for this function was held by the Office for Women at Fairer Victoria, within DPC.

DFFH which now includes the functions formerly undertaken by Fairer Victoria, is Respect Victoria's key policy partner in the development and implementation of this Framework.

DFFH will continue to oversee and deliver funding and coordination of FFV initiatives under the FFV Strategy. This means they will retain responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of FFV funded initiatives to ensure data measurement and evaluation approaches are robust and consistent with the Framework.

Respect Victoria and DFFH will work closely with government program managers and fund administrators at DFFH and other departments, including the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Health and Human Services, who are also responsible for implementation of FFV activities to support the adoption and implementation of the Framework's principles.

Respect Victoria and DFFH are working together to progress and implement the Framework. They will also work closely with funded agencies to co-develop the Framework's Practice Guidelines and resources.