

Good afternoon,

I have no amendments to make to the transcript, however I took two questions on notice. My response to the questions is below.

Whether the MARAM is shared with legal professionals:

The MARAM risk assessment is not shared with legal professionals. Legal assistance services are not prescribed under MARAM and therefore are not Information Sharing Entities under the scheme. It can still be vital for our lawyers to access information about a client's family violence history or other safety or risk information. This can occur during court user meetings in the morning about the matters before the Court that day; these meetings are attended by duty lawyers, police, registry staff, and applicant and respondent support practitioners. It may also be shared in during court proceedings or by the client to their lawyer.

Given how vital this information is, we also support the introduction of much wider training across all parts of the justice system on trauma, safety and risk, that also recognises the nature, gendered drivers, dynamics, and patterns of family violence. While lawyers are not risk managers, they can and do see indicators, or flags, of risks when they work with clients.

As one example, Victoria Legal Aid developed the Client Safety Framework (CSF) for our in-house legal and non-legal practice as part of our organisation-wide response to family violence. The CSF has the same evidence-base as the MARAM framework and lived experience and subject matter experts worked with us throughout the development of this training. The CSF assists lawyers and other client facing staff to:

- Identify their role in responding to family violence and suicide risk
- Recognise safety risk indicators for family violence and suicide
- For lawyers, make a professional judgment on how those safety risks contribute to a client's legal problem
- Ask appropriate questions to identify high risk matters
- Avoid collusion with violence supporting attitudes
- Refer clients to address non-legal issues that impact on safety.

The CSF is available to client facing staff in the legal sector and also includes specific modules for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clients and working with culturally and linguistically diverse clients.

Penalties for breaches of personal protection orders under the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth):


Personal protection orders can be made under s68B or s114 of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth). While the power of arrest without warrant attaches to injunctions for personal protection (see s68C and s114AA of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth)), a breach is not a criminal offence. If there is a breach of the personal protection order, the protected person is required to file a contravention application to seek enforcement of the order and possible penalties. Possible penalties (depending on the nature of the contravention or breach) include imposition of a bond or fines, or imprisonment.

Kind regards,

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 *Victoria Legal Aid acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal owners of country, recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community and pays respect to Elders past and present.*

 *Victoria Legal Aid is committed to providing safe and inclusive legal services.*

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