

Sharing information to support patients' health and wellbeing

What is the issue?

Family violence is a serious health issue. It is a **greater health risk** for women than **smoking, alcohol** or **physical inactivity**.¹



Leading health risk factor for women aged 25-44²

1 in 10 women attending GPs have experienced combined physical, sexual or emotional abuse by a partner or ex-partner. For full time GPs this is **5** women a **week**³

Women are the main victims of patterns of abuse by a partner that causes **fear, injury** and **death**⁴

Increased risk of anxiety, depression, panic disorders, suicidal thoughts, cardiovascular conditions⁵



Young children exposed to **5 or more** significant adverse experiences in the first three years of childhood are likely to experience **delays** in brain, language and/or emotional development⁶



Promoting child wellbeing includes prevention and early intervention to avoid escalation of wellbeing issues into safety concerns.¹⁴



Children abused before 15 are **3x as likely** to be victims of domestic violence as adults¹



65% of Victorian child protection substantiations were for emotional abuse⁷

Why GPs?

“ An empathetic response from a trusted doctor can be LIFESAVING⁵ ”

80% of victim survivors seek help from health services, mainly GPs⁵

#1 point of family violence disclosure (after friends & family)¹⁰



Holistic, effective early response

Children at risk come into contact with health services and child protection at the same time⁹

1 in 3 family violence victim survivors disclosed to a GP⁵

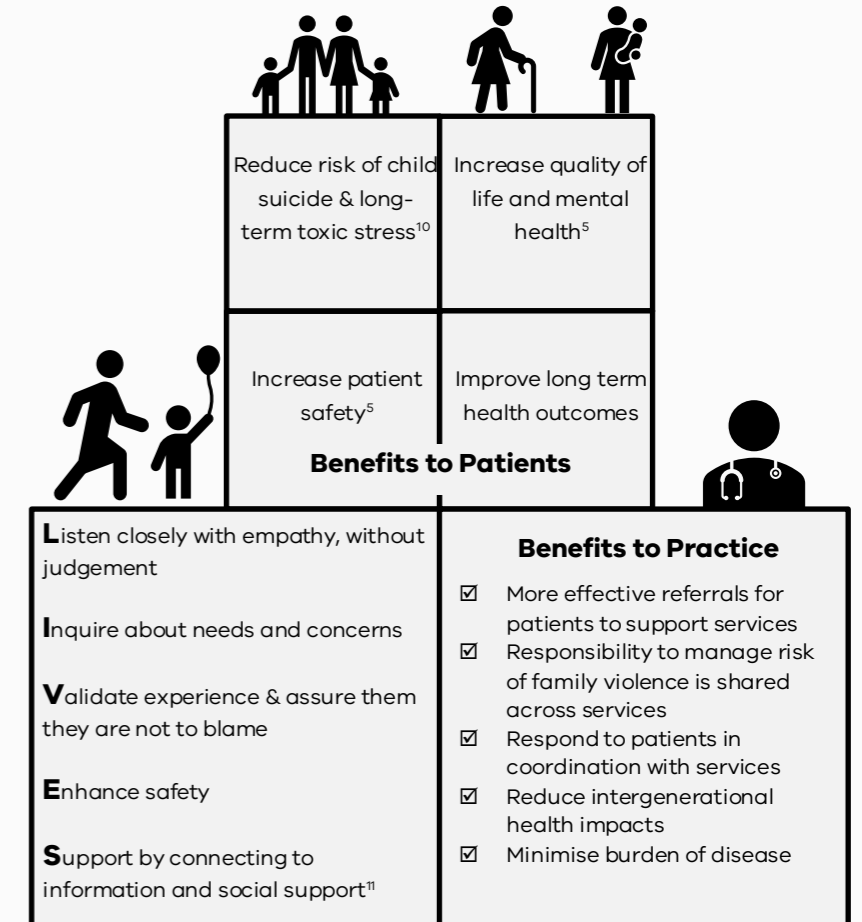
Victim survivors have a **high level of trust** in GPs and their advice⁵

Victims survivors see GPs often due to health effects of violence⁵

Benefits to Patients and Practice

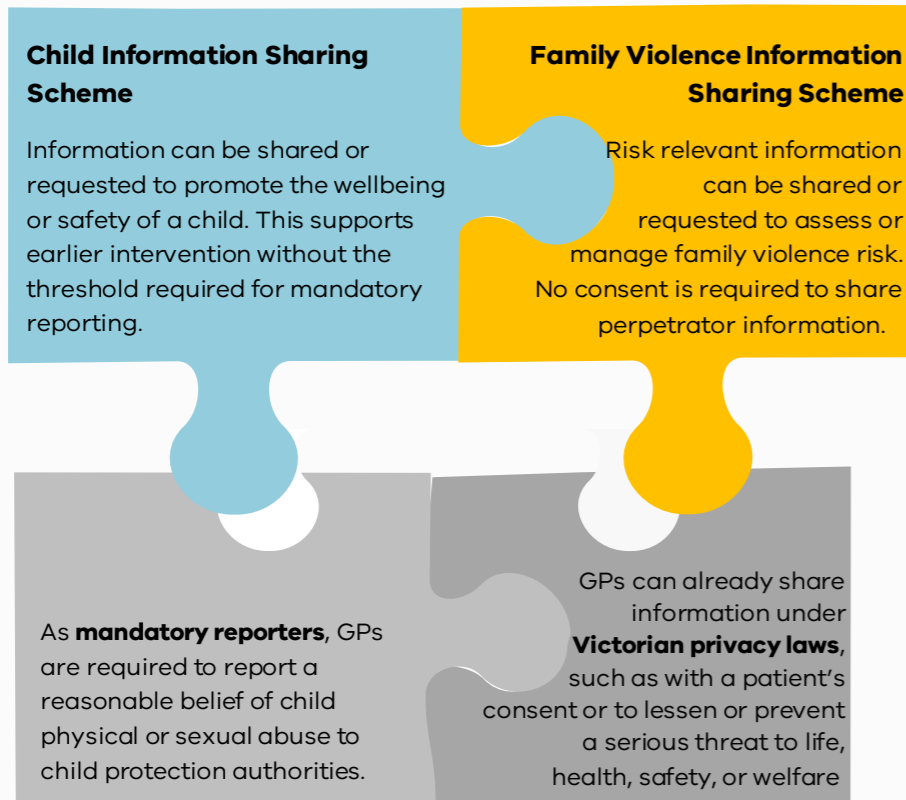
GPs are a vital part of a system working together to keep victim survivors safe and promote child wellbeing & safety.

GPs can provide an effective and early response to people experiencing family violence. GPs can identify and assist children who experience wellbeing issues or safety risks.



What is changing?

New information sharing schemes add to ways that GPs can share information to support patients who are experiencing family violence, wellbeing issues or other safety risks.



When would I use these schemes?

I think my patient is experiencing family violence
or
I think my patient is perpetrating family violence

I can use the FVIS scheme

I'm worried about a child patient's wellbeing or safety, but this hasn't met the threshold to make a report to Child Protection

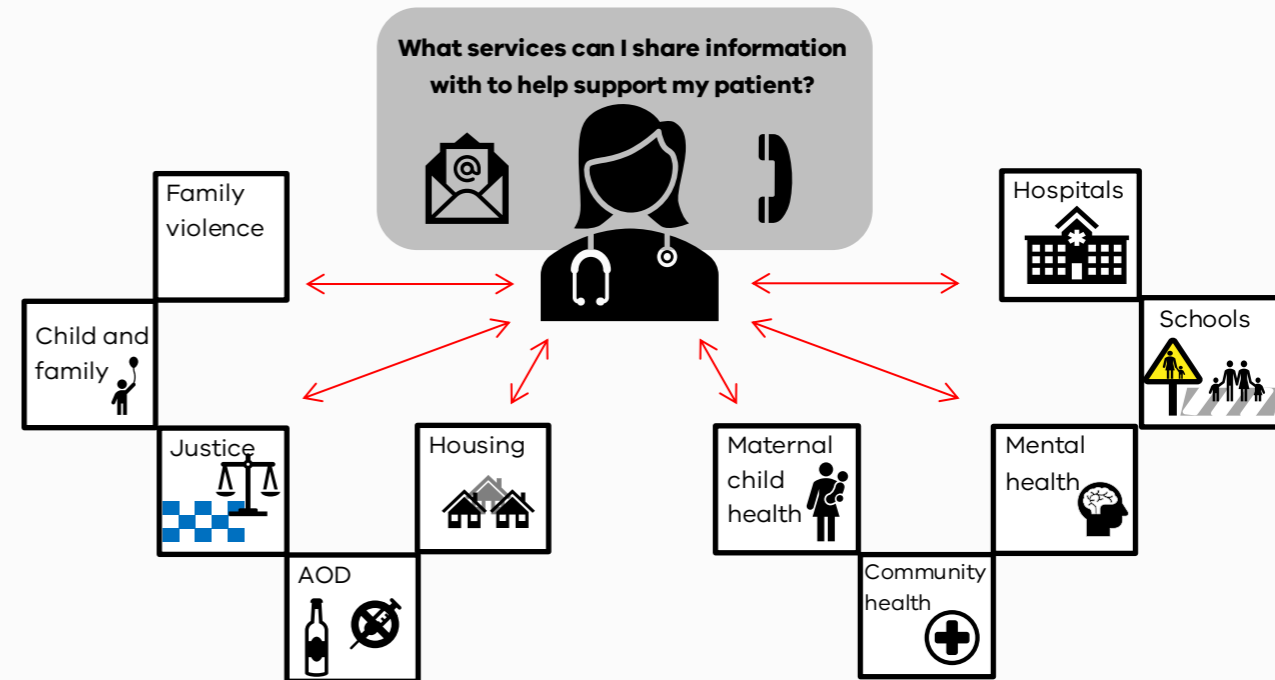
I can use the CIS Scheme

GPs will be able to use these scheme if they have concerns about a patient.

These schemes complement each other and can be used together.

How does this work in practice?

GPs will be able to use these schemes to share information with other services to support their patients.¹²



Who can I consult with or refer to?



You can seek secondary consultation or referral to services such as:

- Specialist family violence services
- Men's Referral Service
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations
- Child FIRST
- Maternal and Child Health Services
- Services providing support to people from diverse communities
- 1800RESPECT



Resources to assist

- MARAM practice guides
- The Lookout
- RACGP's resources such as 'The White Book'
- Children at Risk Learning portal



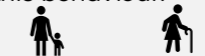
For immediate help

- Victoria Police - **000**
- Safe Steps Crisis Response Service - **1800 015 188**
- After Hours Child Protection - **13 12 78**

Definitions

Family violence

behaviour by a family member that controls you or makes you afraid. It includes if a child hears, sees or is aware of this behaviour.¹³



Family member

a partner, ex-partner, parent or child, another relative or anyone else who you think of as part of your family.¹³



Child Wellbeing

supporting good health, positive relationships with adults, children & community, & age-appropriate learning and development.¹⁴



Child Safety

risk of harm or incidents of harm, such as bullying, self-harm, sexual abuse, family violence.¹⁴



More Information



Short video on the reforms
Introduction: www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-multi-agency-risk-assessment-and-management



Phone: 1800 549 646



Information Sharing Schemes GP FAQs: providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-sharing
elearn modules: elearn.childlink.com.au/login/index.php
Visit www.infosharing.vic.gov.au for further resources on family violence, child wellbeing and safety.