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| Working Together: Strengthening family and sexual violence support with multicultural communities 2025-2027 grant program  |
| Questions and Answers  |
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# Background

This document provides answers to questions received through the Working Together information sessions and through the Inclusion and Equity inbox, up until 30 October 2024.

Further information can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions document](https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/working-together-2025-2027-grants-program_faqs.docx) and [Working Together guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/working-together-2025-2027-grants-program_guidelines.docx).

## Acronyms

**MARAM Framework:** Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework

**CISS:** Child Information Sharing Scheme

**FVISS:** Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme

## Organisation search

#### How do I find out which family violence and sexual violence agencies are prescribed under MARAM?

Family and sexual assault services are prescribed under the MARAM framework and the Information Sharing Schemes (CISS/FVISS).

For a full list of specialist services, go to the [Victorian Government Information Sharing Entity List](https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-entity-list) <https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-entity-list>  scroll down to [Access the ISE list](https://www.vic.gov.au/ise-list-search). Here you can select ‘refine search’ and find prescribed organisations in the dropdown menu ‘sexual assault services’ or ‘specialist family violence services.’

Peak bodies may also provide information about their member organisations on their websites.

[Safe and Equal](https://safeandequal.org.au/find-a-service) <https://safeandequal.org.au/find-a-service> is the peak body for specialist family violence services.

[Sexual Assault Services Victoria](https://www.sasvic.org.au/), or SAS Vic https://www.sasvic.org.au/our-members is the peak body for sexual assault services.

#### How do I search which multicultural community organisations are MARAM prescribed?

For a full list of MARAM prescribed multicultural community organisations go to the [Victorian Government Information Sharing Entity List](https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-entity-list) <https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-entity-list> and scroll down to [Access the ISE list](https://www.vic.gov.au/ise-list-search). Here you can select ‘refine search’ and find prescribed organisations in the dropdown menu ‘multicultural services’.

Note, some services including [InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence](https://intouch.org.au/contact-us/), [Wellsprings for Women](https://www.wellspringsforwomen.com/) and [Australian Muslim Women’s Centre for Human Rights](https://amwchr.org.au/)  are prescribed under MARAM and CISS/FVISS and meet the criteria for both multicultural organisations and specialist family violence services.

## New and grassroots organisations

#### We are a new organisation and not MARAM prescribed, and we haven’t collaborated before. Are we eligible to apply?

If your organisation is not MARAM prescribed, you may be eligible to receive funding if your organisation joins a partnership where the lead partner is prescribed.

The partnership will need to include a multicultural community organisation and a specialist family or sexual violence service, depending of the stream of funding you are applying for. The lead applicant must be MARAM prescribed.

See question on [finding specialist family violence services](#_How_do_I) and /or a sexual assault services and [how to find a MARAM prescribed multicultural community agencies](#_How_do_I_1).

#### Can my organisation become MARAM prescribed as part of the Working Together grant or prior to submitting an application?

No. This grant program does not offer an opportunity for organisations to become prescribed under MARAM or FVISS/CISS.

There is a sperate process, led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Multicultural Affairs under established legislation which determines which organisations and agencies are prescribed under MARAM or FVISS/CISS.

We are not proposing any changes to MARAM or FVISS and CISS prescription as part of the grant program.

#### Are grassroots multicultural organisations and informal groups eligible to apply?

Yes. However, they would need to join a partnership with a multicultural community organisation and a specialist family or sexual violence service, where the lead applicant is MARAM prescribed.

Additional partners, such as small grassroots organisations, do not need to be MARAM prescribed.

## Partnerships

#### If the lead applicant is a specialist family or sexual violence service (and therefore MARAM prescribed) in partnership with a multicultural community organisation, does the multicultural community organisation need to be MARAM prescribed?

The lead applicant in a partnership must be MARAM prescribed.

If the lead organisation in a partnership is a family or sexual violence service, it is not mandatory that the multicultural organisation is also prescribed. However, we strongly encourage applications where the partnership involves a MARAM prescribed multicultural or faith-based service provider. This is to help victim survivors or people using violence from multicultural communities’ access culturally responsive, safe and tailored supports from trained and qualified staff.

If the multicultural organisation leads the partnership, they must be MARAM prescribed. We encourage partnerships led by multicultural organisations. Multicultural organisations can often build on the established trust and relationships with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. This can help improve service outcomes for victim survivors.

Where partnerships include multicultural community organisations which are not MARAM prescribed, applicants will need to provide rationale on how the partnership will deliver systemic change and workforce development. Applicants will need to outline how support services for victim survivors and/or people who use violence from multicultural communities will be improved in line with the objectives of the program.

Applicants must involve a partnership between a multicultural community organisation and a specialist family or sexual violence service.

Partnerships may include three or more partners in the application.

#### Have specialist family and sexual violence services been provided information about the Working Together program and are they open to partnerships?

Yes, information about the Working Together program has been provided to specialist family violence and sexual violence services through the peak bodies.

[Safe and Equal](https://safeandequal.org.au/) <https://safeandequal.org.au/> is the state-wide peak body for specialist family violence services in Victoria. They have distributed information about the grant program to their member agencies.

You can find your local service on their website: <https://safeandequal.org.au/find-a-service/>

[Sexual Assault Services Victoria](https://www.sasvic.org.au/) <https://www.sasvic.org.au/> is the state-wide peak body for sexual assault and harmful sexual behaviours. They have distributed information about the grant program their member agencies.

You can find your local service on their website:  https://www.sasvic.org.au/our-members

Specialist services may be open to partnerships. You would need to contact the individual service to confirm.

You may wish to reach out to either Safe and Equal or Sexual Assault Services Victoria, to seek their support to contact their members.

#### Can multiple organisations apply under a partnership for Working Together?

Yes. Multiple organisations can apply.

At a minimum, a partnership must include a multicultural community organisation and a specialist family or sexual violence service. The lead applicant must be prescribed under MARAM and FVISS/CISS.

It is not a requirement for partnerships to include more than two organisations.

#### Can my organisation be a partner in more than one grant application?

Yes. Your organisation can apply as part of a partnership in more than one application.

You can only be the lead organisation in one application, per stream.

You can apply under both streams as the lead organisation. So, you can apply as the lead organisation (if your organisation is prescribed under MARAM and FVISS/CISS) for Stream One: Family Violence and Stream Two: Sexual Violence.

You can also join partnerships led by other lead organisations.

#### Can we partner with Police or Child Protection?

Yes. You can choose to partner with Victoria Police or DFFH Child Protection. However, they are not considered a specialist family violence or sexual violence service. Your partnership would need to include a specialist family or sexual violence service and a multicultural community organisation, and the lead organisation must be prescribed under MARAM and CISS/FVISS. Any partnership with Victoria Police or DFFH Child Protection would need to be agreed in writing and provided as an attachment to the grant application.

#### What is the partnership requirement for organisations that are considered both specialist family or sexual violence services and multicultural community organisations?

The intention of the Working Together program is to support collaboration between specialist family violence or sexual violence services and multicultural community organisations.

At least two organisations must be included in the partnership, with the application submitted by a lead organisation. We encourage projects to work with smaller community-led multicultural, ethno-specific and faith-based organisations.

If your organisation is both a specialist family or sexual violence service and a multicultural organisation, you could consider partnering with another family violence or sexual violence specialist organisation, or with one or more multicultural, ethno-specific and faith-based organisations.

## Program design

#### Under this grant program, are prevention of violence activities eligible?

Working Together is not a primary prevention program.

Applications must focus on response to family or sexual violence that has already occurred, promoting how to access services and supporting the provision of safe, culturally appropriate service systems.

Prevention activities that are already in place may complement existing initiatives that are working with multicultural communities to raise awareness of family and sexual violence and seeking to prevent it. However, applications focused on addressing the drivers of family and/or sexual violence, such as projects promoting gender equality and challenging harmful gender norms, are not eligible for funding through this grant program.

Family Safety Victoria oversees a separate grant program focused on primary prevention of violence in multicultural communities.

Under Steam Two: Sexual Violence, a component of projects may be about early intervention and awareness raising about sexual violence and sexual assault within targeted communities. This may include awareness of, and how to seek support through the sexual assault, legal or justice systems. Please refer to the [program guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/working-together-grants) for list of examples of project elements that will be funded and those which will not be funded.   for list of examples of project elements that will be funded and those which will not be funded.

#### What does ‘system integration’ entail?

System integration refers to better coordination and collaboration between specialist family violence or sexual violence services and multicultural community organisations to improve outcomes for victim survivors from multicultural communities. Under this grant program, we will support projects that enhance coordination between partner organisations.

Service integration approaches may include co-location and co-case management approaches, strengthened referral pathways, enhanced casework practices and improving access to culturally safe support for victim survivors. We are seeking projects which support enduring change in the system beyond the life of the program.

Refer to the [program guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/working-together-grants) for more detailed information about the program goals and what we want to achieve.  want to achieve.

#### Will Phase One projects be shared to other partnerships applying to avoid duplication?

Project workplans from Phase One will not be shared with other partnerships during the application phase.

The [program guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/working-together-grants) include examples based on successful projects from Phase One. projects from Phase One.

The Working Together program aims to support system change and innovative practice that supports victim survivors from multicultural communities. Duplication of approaches is not prohibited if the practice is tailored to the community context, location and local service system.

#### Are there different questions for Stream One and Stream Two applications?

The application forms contain the same questions for both Steam One and Stream Two.  However, there is an additional question for the Stream Two application about how the approach will raise awareness of sexual violence within multicultural communities.

If you are applying for both streams you must complete a separate each.

While the questions are the same for each application, your response should reflect the program priorities of each stream. These are outlined in the [Program Guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/working-together-grants). .

Does **multicultural mean Aboriginal inclusive? We are a**n **Aboriginal Health service and have a Family Violence program and are looking for further funding to support the local Aboriginal community.**

The Working Together program is targeted to improving response and access to services by Victoria's migrant and refugee communities and is not focused on Aboriginal communities.

DFFH has a range of other programs in partnership with Aboriginal communities including those administered by the [Aboriginal Initiatives Unit at FSV](https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-family-violence-reform) under the [Dhelk Dja Partnership agreement](https://www.vic.gov.au/dhelk-dja-partnership-forum) with Aboriginal communities.

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| To receive this document in another format, email Family Safety Victoria <inclusionandequity@familysafety.vic.gov.au>.Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, November 2024.Available at Grants Victoria: [Working together: Strengthening family and sexual violence support with multicultural communities](https://www.vic.gov.au/working-together-grants) [<https://www.vic.gov.au/working-together-grants>](https://www.vic.gov.au/working-together-grants)In this document, ‘Aboriginal’ refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ‘Indigenous’ or ‘Koori/Koorie’ is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation. |