

Fact Sheet 9 Information sharing

Information sharing is a central component of effective risk assessment and risk management. Sharing information between service providers increases the capacity to assess and manage risk for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence.

The safety of women and children experiencing family and domestic violence is central to any decision about whether information is to be shared.

Information sharing between service providers in Western Australia is currently underpinned by the following:

- *The Privacy Act 1988 (Cth);*
- *The Children and Community Services Act 2004 (WA);*
- *The Restraining Orders Act 1997 (WA);*
- *The Sentence Administration Act 2003 (WA);*
- *Bilateral Schedule between the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Western Australia Police and not for profit organisations;*
- *Memorandum of Understanding: Information Sharing between Agencies with Responsibilities for Preventing and Responding to Family and Domestic Violence in Western Australia; and*
- *Tripartite Schedule between the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Department of Corrective Services and Western Australia Police: Collaboration and Exchange of Information regarding Serious Domestic Violence Offenders.*

At the time of printing there were legislative amendments underway that have significant bearing on information sharing between agencies with regard to family and domestic violence. An updated information sharing fact sheet will be available on the Western Australian Department for Child Protection and Family Support website as guidance changes in this area.

<http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/CrisisAndEmergency/FDV/Pages/FamilyandDomesticViolence.aspx>