

15 November 2018

**Submission via email
to: vaw@ohchr.org**

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner: Call for femicide related data and information

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to this call for femicide related data and information. This submission has been prepared by members of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre ('the Centre').

More details about our research centre and our current related research are provided in the section one of the submission and as an appendix to this submission.

Please find our submission attached to this letter.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspects of this submission or our wider research further.

Kind regards,

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1. Who we are

The Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre focuses on research examining the intersection of gender and the long-term prevention of family violence. Centre researchers work collaboratively with partners in government, social services, legal services, health and policing working to contribute to changing family violence patterns and outcomes. We identify family violence as a catastrophic and preventable social problem.

The Centre draws on local, national and international expertise as well as expertise from across the University, including social science, law, and medicine with a focus on building an evidence base to inform primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Members of the Centre have been engaged in work that includes ground breaking research, engagement with government and civil society stakeholders, and innovative education offerings. Our research is grounded in qualitative and quantitative methods, combined with a well-developed understanding of the contemporary policy landscape.

Members of the Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre are engaged in:

- **Contract research and consultancy** - including on all aspects of family violence, family violence prevention and responses to family violence;
- **Policy development** – including on perpetration interventions, risk assessment and risk management, mapping and developing linkages and collaborations between sectors and between multiple intersecting reforms and reform agendas;
- **Evaluations of programs and reforms** – including large-scale multi-sector reforms.
- **Workforce capability building** – on family violence prevention for practitioners and policy makers from a wide range of sectors; and
- **Expert lectures, seminars, industry briefings and opinions on family violence.**

2. Overview of this submission

Drawing on research projects currently being undertaken by members of the Centre, our submission focuses on intimate partner homicides in Australia to address the Special Rapporteur's request for information on:

- analysis of cases and actions undertaken in respect of a national femicide watch and/or observatory on violence against women; and
- information on related investigations, prosecutions and convictions of cases of intimate partner homicide (IPH) (section 6).

The submission also provides information on Australian administrative data on (IPH) for 2016-2018 (section 4); data on the number of women killed by their partners in Australia, collected from the Centre's current research projects (section 5); and the Centre's progress in the creation of a national femicide observatory (section 7).

3. Intimate partner homicide and femicide

Femicide is the gendered-related killing of women. Femicide can result from a range of contexts and motivations including armed conflict, dowry disputes and the pursuit of family 'honour'. In this submission, we focus on the killing of women in intimate partner homicides (IPH).

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is the most common type of violence against women internationally and the most common type of family violence. It is estimated to affect 30 percent of women worldwide (World Health Organization 2013). Intimate Partner Violence (abusive behaviour by a person within an intimate relationship including current or past marriages, domestic partnerships, familial relations, or de facto relationships) causes widespread physical, sexual, financial and/or psychological harm. IPV is one of the most serious and potentially fatal crimes worldwide. Australian studies indicate that IPV contributes to more death, disability and illness for women aged 15 to 44 than any other preventable risk factor (Webster 2016). In Australia, at least one woman is killed by a man, typically an intimate (ex)partner each week (Cussen and Bryant 2015). Intimate partner homicide is the most preventable type of homicide because histories of abuse often provide clear indicators of risk (Bugeja et al. 2013).

Intimate partner violence is a gendered form of violence, and is consistently linked to gender inequality. Femicide is seen as one of the most serious manifestations of gender inequality. However, even in countries that enjoy relatively high levels of gender equality such as Sweden, gendered violence, IPV and homicides persist (Fundamental Rights Agency 2014). The number of IPH has remained consistent in western jurisdictions and has in some cases increased (Brennan 2016 in the United Kingdom; Cussen and Bryant 2015 in Australia; Smith et al. 2014 in the United States).

There is growing acknowledgement and understanding of the costs of IPV, particularly its contribution to the injury and death of women and damage to children. It is beyond question that the risk of a woman dying at the hands of a man she knows far outweighs the risk of death from terrorism. Despite this national security priorities fail to recognise IPV as a more likely and more preventable threat to people's, particularly women's, lives, than threats such as terrorism (Walklate et al 2017).

The Global Terrorism Index (2014) reports that, between 2000 and 2013, 82% of all deaths from terrorism occurred in just five countries (Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria and Syria). That same index, in assessing the risk from terrorism in all 192 countries surveyed, placed Iraq at the top with a risk factor of 10, with Australia in 124th place with a risk factor of 0.41. There is no comparable global femicide index. It is clear, however, that, at least in western countries, the risk of IPV (sometimes referred to as intimate terrorism) is far greater than the risk of public terrorism in terms of lives lost. Outside the first 10 countries in this list, fewer than 50 people across all these countries die per year in terrorist activity. Each year in Australia then at least twice as many women are killed as a result of IPV as people killed in the entire 15 years since 2001 as a result of terrorism (see further Walklate et al 2017).

4. Administrative data on intimate partner homicide for 2016-2018

Included below are sources of Australian administrative data. Those with asterisk are known to contain Administrative data on IPH between 2016-2018.

National Homicide Monitoring Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology (Aust)

The National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) is managed by the Australian Institute of Criminology and collects data of all homicides classed as homicide by the police. Data is drawn from offence records held in each Australian state and territory, and state coronial records. The most recent report from the NHMP describes the nature and context of homicides committed in the period between 2012-13 to 2013-14, published in 2017. The recording period began in 1989.

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network (Aust)

The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network (ADFVDRN) was established in 2011 with the aim of producing national data of domestic and family violence related homicides, in line with the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and the Children 2009-2021. The most recent report (2018) provides data on domestic and family-violence homicides that occurred between 2010 and 2014. This network is an initiative of the existing state and territory death review processes and supported by all state and territory Coroners (see below):

State and territory domestic and family violence death reviews

- [Domestic Violence Death Review and Advisory Board \(Qld\)](#)*

The Domestic Violence Death Review and Advisory Board was established in 2016 and is supported by the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit (DFVDRU). The unit collates a database of all domestic and family violence deaths that have occurred in Queensland since 2006. The advisory board has released two annual reports thus far providing systematic reviews of the domestic and family violence deaths, and providing recommendations to improve practice and procedures with the aim of preventing future deaths.

- [Domestic Violence Death Review Team \(NSW\)](#)*

Established in 2010, the most recent report by the NSW DVRT concerns the reporting period of July 2015 to June 2017. The team has a database covering all domestic violence homicides from the 1 July 2000.

- [Coronial Domestic Violence Information System \(SA\)](#)*

In operation since 2015, drawing on retrospective data from 1 July 2005, the CDVIS is a part of the coronial jurisdiction. The system draws on data from the National Coronial Information System (NCIS). Note that the NCIS does not specifically record whether a homicide occurred in the context of domestic or family violence; this is deduced by the CDVIS through a process of cross-referencing.

- [Victorian Systematic Review of Family Violence Deaths \(Vic\)](#)

Housed within the Coroner's jurisdiction and established in 2009, the VSRFVD is a dedicated team that conducts in depth reviews of family violence deaths. The first report detailed trends within family violence homicides between 2000 and 2010.

Destroy the Joint (Aust)*

Destroy the Joint is an Australia-wide social media campaign that was established in response to the on-air comments of 2GB 'shock-jock' Alan Jones, who claimed that 'women are destroying the joint'. They are most commonly known for their 'counting dead women' campaign, which records and posts on a public Facebook page the number of women killed by men's violence.

[The Red Heart Campaign \(Aust\)*](#)

The Red Heart Campaign began in 2015, originally as a way for victim-survivors to share their experiences, including through their 'Why I Stayed' project. In 2018, the Red Heart Campaign is counting all homicides in Australia, and breaks this data into categories, with the view of demonstrating the scope of gendered violence in Australia. They also run an Australian Femicide and Child Death map.

[Impact \(Aust\)*](#)

Impact is a volunteer charity that draws data from a range of sources (including the Red Heart Campaign and media sources) to produce info-graphics of domestic and family violence related homicides in 2018.

[Red Rose Foundation \(Qld\)](#)

The Red Rose Foundation is a Queensland based research group, originally working under the name Domestic Violence Death Review Action Group, established in 2004. The group originally formed to advocate for the establishment of a Domestic Violence Death Review Board. Their work as the Red Rose Foundation has been focused on campaigning for a specific criminal offence of non-lethal strangulation, which is now established in law in Queensland.

5. The number of women killed by their partners

The following figures indicate the number of intimate partner homicides in Australia:

- Between 2002/3 and 2011/12 in Australia nationally 488 women were killed in intimate partner homicides (Cussen and Bryant 2015).
- Victoria Police figures indicate that in 2016-17, there were 16 family violence killings in Victoria. This represents 28% of all homicides (Mills 2017).
- According to Impact Australia 60 women were killed by men in 2018 at time of writing.
- Australia (based on 2011 data) is fifty-first in the international ranking of female homicides, with the rate of 0.6 per 100,000 in population (Waiselfisz 2015).

Our Australian Research Council funded project *Securing women's lives: Preventing intimate partner homicide* (Discovery Project 2017-2020) uses criminal court cases (specifically sentencing judgments) to count the number of women killed by intimate male partners in the 10-year period 2007-2016. In the 10-year data period 254 IPH cases were identified through state and territory superior court data bases (see state and territory breakdowns by year below). This number is an underestimate because it does not include cases where the perpetrator suicided (or was himself killed) or cases where there was no criminal prosecution, such as for example when the perpetrator was considered not fit to plead. In addition we have not yet been able to access relevant court cases from the state of Queensland.

Table 1: Total intimate partner homicides identified in each state and territory, by year between 2007 and 2016

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total by state
Victoria	5	11	9	7	11	3	5	2	6	2	61
Australian Capital Territory	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Northern Territory	2	6	2	4	1	2	0	3	3	0	23
South Australia	1	1	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	19
Tasmania	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Western Australia	2	5	11	4	4	0	4	10	8	3	51
New South Wales	8	12	12	11	8	6	6	10	10	11	94
Total by year	18	35	38	29	27	14	16	29	30	18	254

6. Analysis of cases and actions undertaken, and information on related investigations, prosecutions and convictions of cases of intimate partner homicides

The Centre is currently undertaking two projects examining cases of intimate partner homicide (Project 1 and Project 2) and the killing of women by men more broadly (Project 2).

6.1 Current project 1 – Securing women’s lives: Preventing intimate partner homicides

This project aims to develop a framework for a new systematic preventive approach to IPH. The project reviews a decade of intimate partner homicides sentenced in Australia to identify potential points of intervention that might have provided opportunities to prevent such killings. This new knowledge will inform and assist in developing a more risk sensitive preventive approach to IPH in Australia and overseas.

6.1.1 Project aims

This project seeks to develop a national framework for a new integrated whole systems preventive approach to IPH by:

- Identifying the context and complex circumstances within which intimate partner homicides occur in Australia with a view to revealing potential points of intervention that could be mobilised towards effective prevention.
- Documenting international and national best practice approaches to reducing the risk of repeat intimate partner violence and intimate partner homicides.
- Creating a comprehensive knowledge base for an effective multi-system framework focused on risk assessment and prevention of intimate partner homicides.

This project aspires to enhance women’s security and address the significant health, social and economic costs linked to intimate partner violence, particularly intimate partner homicides. It aims to create new knowledge about the circumstances and patterns of behaviour that typically form the

background to IPH in order to develop innovative preventive approaches targeted at reducing the risk of IPHs.

6.1.2 Project details

Using a mixed methods approach, the project examines ten years of national data on IPH. The project aims to produce a framework detailing the key components necessary for assessing and preventing IPH. Project outcomes will support systematic long-term effective action to reduce the risk of intimate partner violence and IPH in Australia.

The project aims to create a firm evidence platform for a prevention framework that embeds effective and systematic practices of risk assessment and prevention in the realm of intimate partner violence as a form of gendered violence.

6.1.3 Progress to date

Data from 2007-2016 has been collected from all Australian states and territories except Queensland and is currently being analysed. See section 5 for further information about data collected from the project to date.

Data from the sentencing remarks is analysed and categorised in a spreadsheet that incorporates 171 categories that are grouped in the following themed clusters:

1. Basic case details including year, state, date of sentence, date of homicide, sentence, offence category and sentencing judge;
2. Victim/perpetrator details;
3. Circumstances of the homicide;
4. Points of intervention (incorporating previous family violence allegations and convictions) as well as perpetrator interventions such as violence restraining orders, men's behavioural change programs, custodial sentences and community correction orders;
5. Service engagement – perpetrator (including hospital, GP, education, police and legal engagement);
6. Service engagement – victim (as above);
7. Bystander knowledge (including family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, online community);
8. Any other relevant history;
9. Statements about perpetrator intervention by the judge;
10. Dowry related abuse/arranged marriage.

6.2 Current project 2 – The killing of women in Victoria: Examining risks of violence and points of intervention

This project is funded by the Victorian Women's Trust and aims to enhance current understandings of the risks of violence and points of intervention in the killing of women and girls in Victoria (Australia).

6.2.1 Project aims

The project has four key aims:

1. To identify and analyse all homicide cases involving a female victim finalised in the Supreme Court of Victoria between January 2000 and December 2015;
2. To achieve a better understanding of the contexts within which Victorian women become victims of lethal violence and how this differs according to the relationship between the victim and perpetrator;
3. To document the risks and points of intervention in the killing of women in Victoria, including those specific to high-risk populations; and
4. To engage relevant stakeholders and practitioners in determining how a better understanding of the risks and points of intervention can be used to reduce lethal violence against women by informing and improving Victorian support and prevention practices

6.2.2 Project details

This project combines case analysis and in-depth interviews to examine risks of violence and points of intervention in the killing of women by male perpetrators in Victoria. To do so, the project adopts a mixed methods approach across three research stages:

Research Stage 1: Case identification: Data from Victorian legal databases will be used to identify all homicide cases involving a female victim sentenced in the Victorian Supreme Court over the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2015.

Research Stage 2: Case analysis: All cases identified as part of Research Stage 1 will be analysed to identify and document key facts, including victim/perpetrator relationship, prior violence, precipitating events, prior victim and/or perpetrator interactions with social, health and justice services.

Research Stage 3: In-depth interviews: Interviews conducted with Victorian specialist service practitioners, health practitioners, community and policy stakeholders to inform understandings of current risk awareness and assessment, as well as recommendations for future policy and practice reform.

In order to identify these cases and then to examine the presence of risks and points of intervention prior to the deaths of these women, Victorian legal databases were used. The analysis undertaken in Stage 2 relies on information gathered from Supreme Court of Victoria sentencing decisions. While this by no means paints a complete picture of the victim and offender history, circumstances, and any relationship between the victim and offender prior to the act of homicide it does begin to weave a narrative around the events leading up to and surrounding the death of women by male offenders – as accepted in evidence received by the court. As part of the stage 2 analysis the project identified where there had been a prior interaction with the criminal justice system – be it the police, criminal courts or family law system – as well as where either the female victim or male perpetrator had a prior interaction which led to awareness of violence within the health system, specialist services, perpetrator programs, education institutions, or other generalist community services. In addition, where it was accepted in evidence to the court, prior histories of intimate partner violence as reported by family, friends and neighbours has also been captured as part of this project.

6.2.3 Progress and findings to date

The data collection and analysis for this project is now complete. 209 cases of women killed by a male perpetrator in Victoria sentenced in the Supreme Court of Victoria over the 16-year period between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2015 were identified in Stage 1 of the research and analysed as part of Stage 2. This included:

- 116 cases of male perpetrated intimate partner homicide (including all cases where a female was killed by a male current or former intimate partner, being a spouse, de facto, boyfriend or a sexual partner)
- 92 cases of women killed by a male offender outside the context of an intimate partner relationship.
- 26 cases where there was a familial relationship (outside of an intimate partner relationship) between the victim and the offender.
- 14 cases where there was no known relationship between the victim and offender at the time of the homicide.

Of the 209 cases identified, there were 14 female victims who were under the age of 18 years old at the time of the homicide (7%). In 10 of these cases there was a familial relationship between the victim and the offender, including eight cases where the female victim/s was killed by a parent, one case where the victim was killed by a step parent, and one case where the victim was killed by their parent's intimate partner.

7. The existence of/ or progress in the creation of a national femicide watch and/ or observatory on violence against women

7.1 Australian Femicide Observatory

As indicated in section 4, there are a number of organisations that are collecting data and reporting on femicide in Australia. Acknowledging the important work that organisations such as Destroy the Joint and others currently do in monitoring and recording femicide in Australia, the Centre intends to collaborate with these organisations to investigate establishing an Australian Femicide Observatory over the next three years. Linking to projects in Canada, Europe, the United Kingdom, South America and Scandinavia, the Observatory would systematically record femicide to ensure that these deaths are counted and accounted for. The Observatory would build on current counts and sources of data in Australia by integrating qualitative and quantitative data from a variety of sources to build a data source that not only counts but also looks to understand the context of such violence and inform policy and practice reform. The Observatory will include material drawn from our Australia-wide case dataset that will allow qualitative analysis of process failures, service use and the justice interactions that preceded each instance of IPH. The content of the data base will be linked to systematic review that looks to potential points of intervention that might have prevented the deaths and contribute to developing an evidence base for reforms in practice and policy that are likely to prevent future such deaths.

7.2 Book: *Towards a Global Femicide Index: Counting the costs*

Centre members are currently writing a book to be published by Routledge in July 2019, *Towards a Global Femicide Index: Counting the Costs*. Currently the quantification of femicide relies on diverse methodologies, concepts, definitions, and units of measurement.

This book aims to provide:

- a gendered account of IPH internationally;
- a critical analysis of the need for a specific focus on the killing of women by intimate partners;
- develop a framework for the measurement of IPH globally so that future work will be more coherent and better coordinated, and;
- provide a more powerful and more comparative (over time and across place) analysis of femicide.

This book will build on the work of agencies such as the United Nations and the World Health Organisation highlighting the fatal consequences of IPV for women around the world, to provide a global examination of international attempts to count the deaths of women in the context of IPV. The book will focus on the counting that has been done already and the challenges and gaps that remain to be addressed. It will provide a critical analysis of the reasons why counting IPH is important, the risks and challenge of counting these deaths, the different ways in which such killings can be defined and counted as well as the value of the data generated in terms of informing practice and the prevention of men's fatal violence against women and female intimate partners in particular.

The book will propose the need for, and take steps towards creating the framework for, a global femicide index. At present, while there are global indices for deaths that relate to public violence, such as terrorism, there is no global initiative to systematically count and account for the deaths of women by their intimate partners. Recognising the influence that high profile cases of IPH play in driving policy and law reform, we argue there is much to be learnt for policy, practice and law in systematically reviewing and counting the deaths of women in the arguably preventable context of IPV. The book will include case studies throughout which will be used to illustrate key points in the analysis.

7.3 Workshop on counting intimate partner homicide

The Centre is convening a workshop with international experts in London in June 2019, to be co-hosted by the International Criminological Research Unit in the University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice. The event will focus on counting intimate partner homicides and contribute to the framework for the Australian femicide observatory.

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9. Appendix A: Current research

Members of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre are currently engaged in a range of project related to preventing and improving responses to intimate partner and family violence. Details of these projects are provided below.

- **Review of the Victorian Information Sharing Scheme**

Investigators: Jude McCulloch, JaneMaree Maher, Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Marie Segrave, Kathryn Benier, Kate Burns, Jasmine McGowan and Kate Thomas (contract research, Family Safety Victoria).

The research team have been contracted by Family Safety Victoria to conduct an independent Review of the new family violence Information Sharing Scheme that commenced in Victoria in 2018. The scheme is part of the broader reforms recommended by the Royal Commission. The Review considers any adverse impacts or unintended consequences of the scheme, as well as make recommendations to improve its operation. The findings of the Review will be tabled in Parliament and likely impact on family violence information sharing practice, policy and legislation.

- **Securing women's lives: Preventing intimate partner homicide**

Investigators: Jude McCulloch, Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Sandra Walklate, JaneMaree Maher (Funded by Australian Research Council)

This project aims to develop a framework for a new systematic preventive approach to intimate partner homicide. Intimate partner violence is the most common type of violence against women worldwide and the leading cause of death amongst Australian women aged between 15 and 44. The project intends to review a decade of intimate partner homicides in Australia to identify potential points of intervention that might have provided opportunities to prevent such killings. This new knowledge is intended to inform and assist in developing a more risk sensitive preventive approach to intimate partner homicides in Australia and overseas, enhancing women's security and preventing their deaths.

- **Perpetrator interventions in Australia: A national study of judicial views and sentencing practice for domestic violence offenders**

Investigators: Kate Fitz-Gibbon, JaneMaree Maher, Jude McCulloch. Partner Investigators: Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council, Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration (Funded by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety)

- **Identifying economic abuse amongst women with disability**

Investigators: JaneMaree Maher, Jasmine McGowan, Tricia Malowney and Kate Thomas (Funded by The Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust)

Members of the research team and partners will develop a fully accessible toolkit designed to assist service providers and victim/survivors identify economic abuse amongst Victorian women with disability. The toolkit will be a set of questions developed in Auslan, Easy English and through images designed to help women and their service providers talk about economic abuse. Evidence of the under-recognition of economic abuse amongst women with disability suggests such a

toolkit has the potential for wide-ranging direct impact. This project will contribute to the goal of strengthening the economic security of Victorian women by increasing awareness of this form of domestic and family violence and by assisting women with disability identify the presence of economic abuse in their lives.

- **The killing of women in Victoria: Examining risks of violence and points of intervention**

Investigators: Kate Fitz-Gibbon (Funded by the Victorian Women's Trust).

This project examines the killing of women in Victoria (Australia). Using case analysis and interviews, the project will generate an in-depth understanding of the risks of violence and points of intervention common to cases of lethal violence against women in Victoria. The findings will provide an evidence base to illuminate women's experiences of lethal violence and to inform support services, prevention initiatives and justice system responses in Victoria.

10. Appendix B: Recently completed research

Members of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre have recently completed a range of project related to preventing and improving responses to intimate partner and family violence. Details of our recently completed projects are provided below.

- **Investigating Adolescent Family Violence**

Investigators: Kate Fitz-Gibbon, JaneMaree Maher, Jude McCulloch, Jan Coles and Deborah Western (Funded by Monash University Faculties of Art and Medicine)

This project was recently finalised by a multidisciplinary team of Monash University researchers from the School of Social Sciences, the Department of General Practice, and the Department of Social Work at Monash University. It explored attitudes towards, patterns of, and the impact of AFV. The findings are relevant to all Australian jurisdictions, and have the potential to inform and reform legal, health and social responses to AFV, and provide a greater understanding of 'risk'.

The [Final Report](#) can be downloaded via the [project website](#).

- **Women, disability and violence: Creating access to justice**

Investigators: JaneMaree Maher, Claire Spivakovsky, Jude McCulloch, Jessica Cadwallader (People with Disability Australia) (Funded by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety)

This project explored the experiences of women with disability in seeking access to justice when they have faced violence and/or sexual assault either inside or outside their relationships. The research team's approach centred women's voices and experiences, and explored their insights in relation to those of service providers and other justice sector stakeholders.

The Final Report and access to the Knowledge Translation and Exchange Workshop Resources can be downloaded via the [project website](#).

- **Review of Minimum Standards for Men's Behaviour Change Programs**

Investigators: Jude McCulloch, Kate Fitz-Gibbon, JaneMaree Maher, Marie Segrave and Kathryn Benier (Contracted research, Victorian Department of Health and Human Services)

Following the Victorian Royal Commission on Family Violence (Recommendation 91), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) contracted with the research team to conduct a consultation and review of the Minimum Standards for the effective delivery of Men's Behaviour Change Programs.

- **Temporary migration and family violence: An analysis of victimisation, support and vulnerability**

Investigators: Marie Segrave and [InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence](#). (Funded by Monash University Faculty of Arts and InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence)

The aim of this project was to undertake a comprehensive review of family violence cases managed by inTouch that involve women (victims) who have or are experiencing family violence whose migration status is temporary. The project documented the ways in which migration status is connected to and impacts both vulnerabilities to family violence and access to support. The project also documented the breadth of situations of violence and exploitation, identifying, for

example, the extent to which some cases may better be identified as cases of human trafficking and in so doing contribute towards the development of a risk assessment tool to enhance both data gathering and improved access to the appropriate legal and welfare-related support.

The [full report](#) was released in September 2017 and can be accessed via the [Project website](#).

- **The Monash Review of the Family Violence Common Risk Assessment Framework in Victoria**

Investigators: Jude McCulloch, JaneMaree Maher, Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Marie Segrave and James Roffee. (Contracted research, Victorian Department of Health and Human Services)

In 2016, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) contracted with the research team to conduct a review of the Common Risk Assessment Framework (CRAF) as part of the DHHS response to Recommendation 1 of the Victorian Royal Commission on Family Violence. The [final report](#) of the CRAF Review, findings and recommendations are now published. The Review makes twenty-seven recommendations aimed at enhancing the use and usability of the CRAF and more effectively embedding it across different professional groups.

- **Innovative legal responses to the prevention of intimate partner homicide in the UK, US and Canada**

Investigators: Kate Fitz-Gibbon (Fellowship awarded by The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust)

This project was part of a 2015 Churchill Fellowship awarded to Dr Kate Fitz-Gibbon to investigate the effectiveness of innovative and recently introduced legal responses to intimate homicide in the UK, USA and Canada. The project examined the merits of the offence of coercive control in England and the proposed offence of domestic abuse in Scotland, the New York integrated domestic violence court model and domestic violence death review committees internationally.

The full report, [2015 Churchill Fellow Report: The Peter Mitchell Fellowship to examine innovative legal responses to intimate homicide in the UK, USA, Canada](#), was published in 2016.