CAPABILITY STATEMENT
THE MONASH GENDER AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTRE IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AIMED AT PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE. THE CENTRE IS CONTRIBUTING TO TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL change AIMED AT ENDING FAMILY VIOLENCE BY PROVIDING AN EVIDENCE BASE FOR POLICY CHANGE THAT BETTER SUPPORTS AND PROTECTS THOSE EXPERIENCING FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ADDRESSES THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DRIVERS THAT UNDERPIN IT.
The Centre was established in recognition of the scale, quality, impact and potential of the family violence prevention research and education being undertaken at Monash. The Centre has its roots in the social sciences, arising out of a demonstrated commitment to challenging the gendered dynamics and social structures that support family violence and improving outcomes for those experiencing family violence. The landmark Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence (2016) provided the impetus for the Centre’s establishment.

The Centre has a Graduate Certificate and Diploma of Family Violence Prevention, aimed at practitioners engaged in family violence response and prevention, and those who aspire to work in the family violence sector.

We are a vibrant community of researchers, educators and practitioners with a strong focus on interdisciplinary research. The Centre includes 37 academics, three dedicated Research Fellows and four PhDs, supported by a Centre Manager and Communications Manager.

The Centre has strong partnerships with Australian and international policy-makers and senior practitioners through its networks and invited positions on high level government and departmental advisory committees and taskforces, requests for expert comment, submissions to government reviews and expert testimony to parliamentary committees and other forums.

The Centre’s board is made up of policy, community and higher education leaders including Professor Anne Edwards AO, former Vice Chancellor of Flinders University and inaugural Chair of the Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety; Christine Nixon APM, former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police and the Hon. Marcia Neave AO, Commissioner, Royal Commission into Family Violence.
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The Centre’s capacities and capabilities are enhanced through networks with key stakeholders, including practitioners, policy leaders and other leading scholars nationally. Internationally, we have well established collaborations with institutions at the forefront of gender and family violence research including, amongst others:

> University of Liverpool
> Lancaster University
> University of Ottawa
> Oxford University
> Northern Arizona University
> University of Lisbon
> University of Cardiff
> Durham University
> The Open University
> University of Auckland
> University of Guelph
> Victoria University, Wellington
OUR APPROACH

WE ARE DISTINCTIVE IN OUR DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO TRANSLATE RESEARCH SKILLS AND EXPERTISE INTO POLICY-GROUNDED INSIGHTS AND SOLUTIONS. OUR WORK ON IMPLEMENTING THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE RECOMMENDATIONS HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT IN VICTORIA AND NATIONALLY INreshaping the understanding of and response to family violence risk.

The Centre takes an interdisciplinary approach to addressing research questions and policy challenges, combining expertise in sociology, gender studies, criminology and international relations. The Centre collaborates with Monash academics from law, medicine, social work, education and architecture. The Centre also has the benefit of the expertise of world leading international scholars and policy leaders in domestic and family violence.

We have expertise and a track record in researching sensitive topics and engaging with hard to access or marginalised groups. Our research projects have included women – including Indigenous women and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women – who have experienced family violence, women with disability who have experienced violence, and those who have experienced adolescent family violence.

Our unique approach engages with the full continuum of prevention, from primary prevention – preventing violence before it occurs; secondary prevention – early intervention to stop violence reoccurring; and tertiary intervention and response – to prevent long-term harm from violence.
WHAT WE DO

WE CREATE AND SHARE NEW KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GENDER AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND POLICY REFORMS DESIGNED TO BETTER RESPOND TO AND PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE. THROUGH THE CENTRE’S COLLABORATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS THIS KNOWLEDGE IS APPLIED AND TESTED IN REAL-WORLD CONTEXTS TO INFLUENCE AND INFORM REFORM AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES.

The Centre collaborates with government, the family violence sector, health and other human service organisations, as well as criminal justice organisations to build an evidence base for social change aimed at family violence prevention. We also work with diverse communities, people with disability, and Indigenous people to respond to the diverse contexts and experiences of family violence.

Our services and capabilities include:

> Contract research and consultancy on all aspects of family violence and family violence prevention.

> Policy development – including perpetrator 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 multisector reforms such as the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme.

> Capability building on family violence prevention for practitioners and policy-makers from a wide range of sectors – including the Graduate Certificate and Diploma of Family Violence Prevention and professional short courses aimed at family violence practitioners and policy makers, and those that aspire to these positions.

> Expert lectures, seminars, industry briefings and opinions on family violence – including the gendered dynamics of family violence; the extent, nature and costs of family violence; legal responses to family violence; the contemporary reform landscape; corporate responsibility and family violence; the drivers of family violence; preventing family violence; and perpetrator interventions.
The following sets out a brief overview of some of the Centre’s expertise:

> **Preventing intimate partner homicides** – the Centre is undertaking a systematic review of approximately 500 femicide cases in Australia in order to better prevent these killings.

> **Femicide Observatory Australia** – linking to projects in Canada, Europe, the United Kingdom, South America and Scandinavia, the Observatory will systematically record such homicides to ensure that these deaths are counted and accounted for.

> **Perpetrator interventions** – assessing the effectiveness of different perpetrator interventions.

> **Adolescent family violence** – the Centre’s research into adolescent family violence in Australia seeks to provide a greater understanding of this under-researched form of family violence.

> **Women with disability** – women with disability experience gendered violence at higher rates than others in the community. The Centre’s research on violence against women with disability and access to justice provides a rare insight into their pathways to justice.

> **Women from CALD communities** – focusing on the unique risks and barriers to accessing justice for CALD women experiencing family violence.

> **Key drivers of family violence** – the Centre has an innovative framework for understanding and challenging these drivers as a means of sustainable long-term prevention of family violence.

> **Women in leadership** – the Centre models and translates strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women from all backgrounds and in all aspects of life.

> **Mothering and women’s experiences** – as they care for children while experiencing family violence.

> **Family violence policy context** – the Centre academics have been engaged in developing government frameworks in relation to family violence prevention such as Victoria’s ‘Free from violence’ strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.

> **Indigenous women and communities’ experiences** – Centre academics have completed projects on family violence, housing stability and child protection responses among Indigenous mothers and communities.
WITHIN DAYS OF VICTORIA’S ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE HANDING DOWN ITS REPORT WE WERE CONTRACTED TO IMPLEMENT ITS FIRST RECOMMENDATION TO REVIEW VICTORIA’S FAMILY VIOLENCE COMMON RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK.

Since then we have been contracted to implement other core Commission recommendations, including reviewing standards for men’s behaviour change programs and conducting an independent review of the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme. Other projects include research on women with disability experiencing violence, adolescent family violence, perpetrator interventions, and preventing intimate partner homicides.
The review of the Victorian Common Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework
(Recommendation 1 of the Royal Commission into Family Violence – contracted by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services):

- 10-WEEK TIME FRAME
- MORE THAN 1100 PARTICIPANTS FROM 127 ORGANISATIONS
- 21 FOCUS GROUPS
- 24 INTERVIEWS WITH WOMEN WITH EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE
- FINAL REPORT WITH 27 RECOMMENDATIONS

Women, Disability and Violence: Creating Access to Justice
(Funded by the Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety and in partnership with People with Disability Australia):

- 36 INTERVIEWS WITH WOMEN WITH DISABILITY FROM VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES
- IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC RISKS OF VIOLENCE RELEVANT TO WOMEN WITH DISABILITY
- IDENTIFIED UNIQUE BARRIERS TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITY EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE
- TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS INTO PRACTICE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF TRAINING FOR DISABILITY AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PRACTITIONERS TO BETTER EQUIP THEM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CLIENTS WITH DISABILITY EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE
PROFESSOR JUDE MCCULLOCH
Professor McCulloch is Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. She is an invited member of the Victorian Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence’s Taskforce on Family Violence Prevention.

Jude’s research has impacted on understandings of and responses to crime and risk, and improving security for women and children, and marginalised groups. Her research on the gendered nature of policing and the consequences of this for women contributed substantially to a shift in culture amongst Victoria Police in ways that benefitted women and children as victims of crime and female police. She has a successful track record of collaboration with industry, community groups, government, and academic colleagues. She has worked on research projects in collaboration with Victoria Police, the (former) Office of Police Integrity, Legal Aid, the Department of Health and Human Services and Family Safety Victoria. Professor McCulloch is actively engaged in the design, implementation and review of Victoria’s family violence reforms.

PROFESSOR JANEMAREE MAHER
Professor JaneMaree Maher is Professor in the Centre for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, Sociology in the School of Social Sciences.

JaneMaree’s research is focused in two key areas of gendered social science: women’s work and family, and gendered violences. Her research critically examines how social institutions such as families and the criminal justice system create gendered inequalities and inequities. She holds an Australian Research Council grant (with Jude McCulloch and Kate Fitz-Gibbon) that examines patterns of intimate partner homicide, and how gender impacts on the operation of criminal justice and security in the context of family violence. She is also involved in a number of Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety funded projects addressing the experiences of women with disability and perpetrator interventions and has recently released a report on adolescent family violence. She is also lead Chief Investigator on another Australian Research Council grant: Children as health advocates in families: assessing the consequences which asks how neo-liberal discourses of health and consumption impact on family relationships, especially childhood obesity discourses.
DR KATE FITZ-GIBBON

Dr Kate Fitz-Gibbon is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology and an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Law and Social Justice at University of Liverpool.

Kate conducts research in the area of family violence, legal responses to lethal violence, youth justice and the effects of homicide law and sentencing reform in Australian and international jurisdictions. Kate has received funding to support her research from the Australian Research Council, Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety, Victorian Women’s Trust and the Victorian Legal Services Board. In 2015 Kate was awarded the prestigious Peter Mitchell Churchill Fellowship to examine innovative and best practice legal responses to the prevention of intimate homicide in United Kingdom, United States and Canada. Kate has advised on homicide law reform, family violence and youth justice reviews in several Australian jurisdictions.

PROFESSOR SANDRA WALKLATE

Sandra Walklate is Eleanor Rathbone Chair of Sociology at the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom and conjoint Chair of Criminology, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

Sandra is Editor in Chief of the British Journal of Criminology and in 2014 was awarded the British Society of Criminology’s outstanding achievement award. Sandra is a member of the British Society of Criminology, the European Society of Criminology, the American Society of Criminology and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology. Sandra has held visiting professorships at the University of Stockholm, Minho University, Reims University and the University of Sydney. She also holds an adjunct professorial role at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. Sandra researches criminal victimisation with a particular focus on gendered violence(s) and the fear of crime. Over the last fifteen years Sandra’s interest has also encompassed fear and victimisation in relation to the impact of terrorism and related policy particularly in relation to processes of radicalisation.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SILKE MEYER

Silke Meyer is an Associate Professor in Criminology, with adjunct affiliations at CQ University and Griffith University.

Silke is a criminologist and social worker by training, bringing practical and theoretical expertise to her research, teaching and writing. Her research centres on different aspects of domestic and family violence, including women and children's safety and wellbeing, men’s accountability in their role as perpetrators and fathers, experiences specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the role of domestic and family violence-informed practice in child protection, policing and court proceedings. She has delivered evaluations for a number of government and non-government organisations, including police, child protection, perpetrator interventions and victim support services. Silke is a Subject Matter Expert for the Raising Children Network and a non-government board member on the Qld Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board. Her research has been published and cited widely and continues to inform policy and practice in areas of victim and perpetrator-related service delivery.