The 2016 Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV) found that effective and appropriate sharing of information amongst family violence services is central to victim survivor safety and perpetrator accountability.

However, the RCFV also found numerous barriers to this in the Victorian family violence sector, and described the dire consequences of ineffective sharing.

The Family Violence Protection Act 2008 was amended in 2017 as a direct result of the RCFV findings (Recommendation 5) and is designed to authorise and expand the ‘trusted circle’ of information sharing entities with the aim of increasing victim survivor safety and perpetrator accountability.

The Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre has been commissioned by Family Safety Victoria to conduct an independent Review of the new Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme which commenced in early 2018. The scheme and the Review are part of the broader reforms recommended by the 2016 RCFV.

The Review being conducted by the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre will consider any adverse impacts or unintended consequences of the scheme, as well as make recommendations to improve its operation. MGFV’s data collection incorporates surveys, and stakeholder and frontline worker interviews and focus groups.

The second stage of the Review is underway to gather data on the implementation of the scheme with Phase One workforces.

The findings of the Review will be tabled in Parliament and will have direct impact on family violence information sharing practice, policy and legislation.