

Family Violence Integration Project (FVIP)

The FVIP is a new and innovative partnership project led by Eastern Community Legal Centre, funded by the Legal Services Board.

The FVIP is supported by a partnership including Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS), Victoria Legal Aid Ringwood (VLA), Ringwood Magistrates' Court, EACH Eastern Victims Assistance Program (EVAP), Victoria Police, Eastern Men's Behaviour Change Consortium (EMBCC) and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Family Violence Partnership (EMRFVP).

Project Vision

- To instil trust and confidence in the most vulnerable of victim/survivors that their safety and support needs will be upheld through their interaction with the legal components of the family violence system.

Project Aim

- To improve the response of legal and support services to victim/survivors of family violence in a co-ordinated and integrated manner, through the partnership and collaboration of key agencies working at the Ringwood Magistrates' Court.

Project Goals

- Improve the co-ordinated and integrated response for victim/survivors of family violence accessing the legal system.
- Demonstrate a successful partnership model and a range of strategies that could be utilised and adopted in other regions.
- Present key learning's and recommendations to be distributed and considered for wider community engagement work.



FVIP Co-ordinator

- The role of the FVIP Co-ordinator will be to lead the development of the project, co-ordinate its implementation and ensure that the aims of project are achieved within the appropriate timelines.
- The FVIP Co-ordinator will be the contact person for the FVIP and will facilitate communication between the partners.
- The FVIP Co-ordinator will also be responsible for managing the evaluation of the project.

FVIP Steering Group

- The members of the FVIP Steering Group will include key agencies involved in the Intervention Order Support Service at the Ringwood Magistrate's Court.
- Through the expertise of its members, the FVIP Steering Group will oversee and inform the progress of the project.
- The FVIP Steering Group will also ensure the support of their agencies required for the implementation of the project.
- Resolve systemic recurring issues that are identified through the FVIP Steering Group.



Family Violence Integration Project

Vision

To instil trust and confidence in the most vulnerable of victim/survivors that their safety and support needs will be upheld through their interaction with legal components of the family violence system.

People

ECLC
FVIP Co-ordinator

FVIP
Steering Group

Aim

To improve the response of legal and support services to victim/survivors of family violence in a co-ordinated and integrated manner, through the partnership and collaboration of key agencies working at the Ringwood Magistrates' Court.

Objectives

Objective 1 - Develop a clear evidence base regarding effective strategies for improved service -> **Key recommendations for action for improving service.**

Objective 2 - Establish improved co-ordinated responses for parties (especially victim/survivors) engaging with the legal responses of the family violence system -> **Meaningful collaboration between agencies involved in the IOSS at the Ringwood Court.**

Objective 3 - Utilise and expand the existing partnerships of agencies currently delivering an IOSS at the Ringwood Magistrate's Court -> **Interaction with additional/indirect stakeholders of the IOSS at Ringwood Court.**

Objective 4 - Develop and implement education and case co-ordination strategies to improve the pathway and experience of parties entering and exiting the court system -> **Outcomes of education and case co-ordination strategies.**

Objective 5 - Ensure that victim/survivors are well informed and able to access all of their entitlements through victims of crime support and compensation and other relevant programs -> **Improved access to information for VOC services.**

Goals

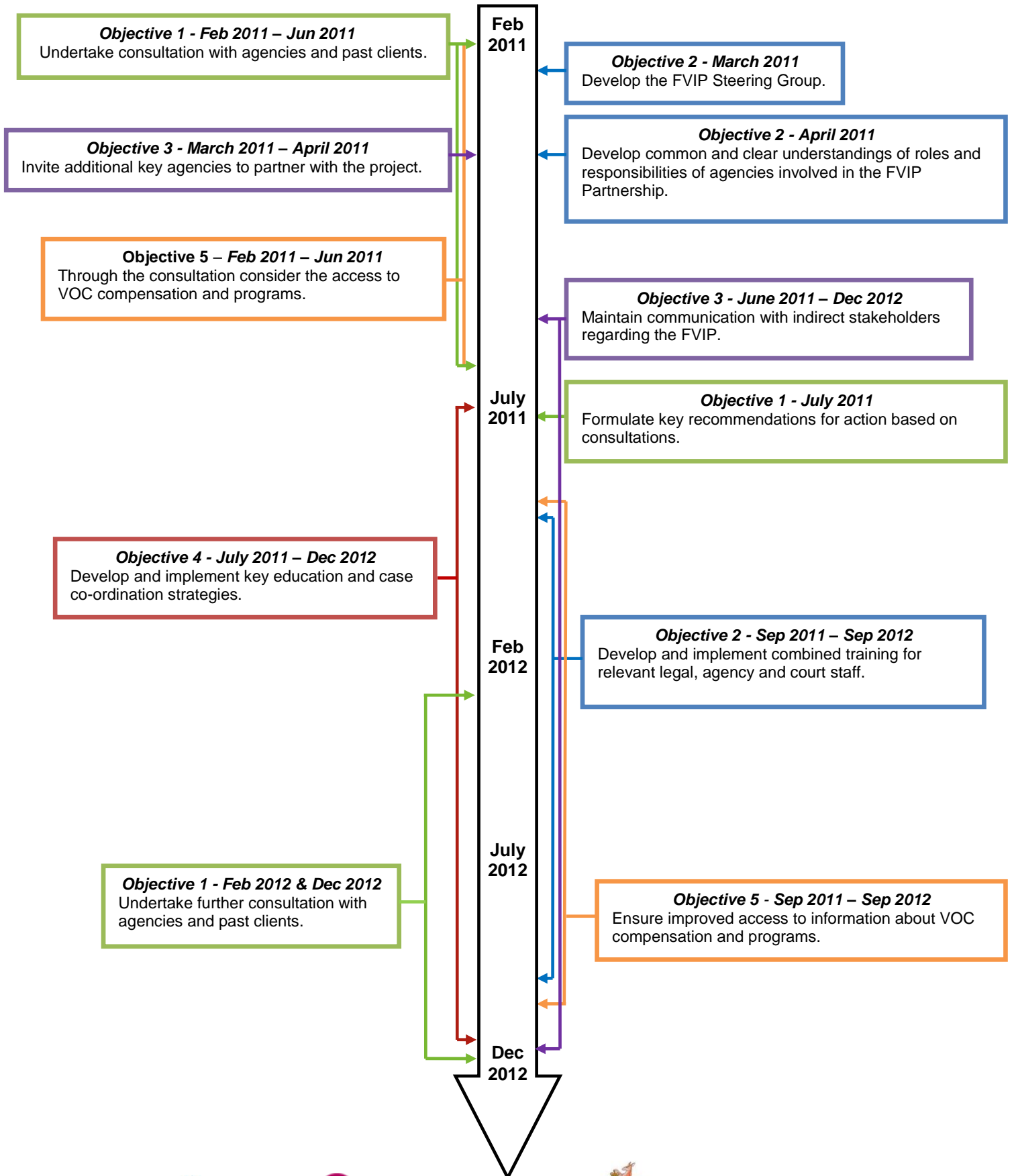
Improve the co-ordinated and integrated response for victim/survivors of family violence accessing the legal system.

Demonstrate a successful partnership model and a range of strategies that could be utilised and adopted in other regions.

Present key learnings and recommendations to be distributed and considered for wider community engagement work.



Family Violence Integration Project Timeline Feb 2011 – Dec 2012



Objectives, Activities and Indicators of Success

Objective 1 - Develop a clear evidence base regarding effective strategies for improved service.

- Collect data at the initial stages of the project and throughout that identifies the extent of service provision and the level of intersection.
- Conduct client and agency focus groups at the initial stage of the project and throughout to further understand the key issues and barriers for victims when engaged with legal and family violence interface.

Indicator of success -> Key recommendations for action for improving service

Objective 2 - Establish improved co-ordinated responses for parties (especially victim/survivors) engaging with the legal responses of the family violence system.

- Develop the Family Violence Integration Project Steering Group to oversee the development and implementation of the project.
- Develop and document clear understandings of the roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved in the Intervention Order Support Service at the Ringwood Magistrate's Court.
- Develop and implement combined training for relevant legal, agency and court staff.

Indicator of success -> Meaningful collaboration between agencies involved in the IOSS at the Ringwood Court.

Objective 3 - Utilise and expand the existing partnerships of agencies currently delivering an IOSS at the Ringwood Magistrate's Court.

- Invite additional key agencies to partner with the project.
- Establish and maintain communication with indirect stakeholders from across the legal and family violence sectors.

Indicator of success -> Increased interaction with additional/indirect stakeholders of the IOSS at Ringwood Court.



Objective 4 - Develop and implement education and case co-ordination strategies to improve the pathway and experience of parties entering and exiting the court system.

- Undertake key education activities in the form of regular education sessions and developing more effective printed information.
- Based on the recommendations established through Objective 1, implement improved case co-ordination strategies.

Indicator of success -> Outcomes of education and case co-ordination strategies.

Objective 5 - Ensure that victim/survivors are well informed and able to access all of their entitlements through victims of crime support and compensation and other relevant programs.

- Consider the extent of victims accessing VOC services and the possible explanations behind this.
- Identify and implement potential improvements to service response and opportunities for increased collaboration.
- Ensure that victim/survivors of family violence are well-informed and have access to information about VOC entitlements and programs.

Indicator of success -> Improved access to information for VOC entitlements.

