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| Bulletin #47 |
| Mental Health – Family Violence clinical specialistsJuly 2020 |

# Mental Health Service – Family Violence clinical specialists

#  Purpose

* To outline new mental health contact activity reporting requirements for family violence specialists employed in area mental health services.
* To formally approve Clinical Specialist Family Violence program as a service able to report specialty service development contact hours.

## Background

* The 2016 the Royal Commission into Family Violence found that workers in mental health and AOD services wished to improve their understanding and capability in relation to family violence, and workers in specialist family violence services needed to increase understanding in mental health, AOD and other individual risk factors for family violence. Therefore, the royal commission made recommendations 98 and 99 to build capacity and support cross-sector collaboration across mental health, AOD and family violence services.
* Mental Health Services received establishment funding for Family violence specialists in 2017, and full year funding from 2018-19 on an ongoing basis.
* Specialist family violence advisors in mental health services provide expertise and support for workers in the mental health sectors to identify and respond to family violence with their clients, whether they are experiencing family violence or perpetrating family violence. Key duties include Identifying, establishing and further develop intra- and inter-agency processes and practices that support high-quality responses to individuals and families experiencing family violence.
* Family violence can become more frequent and severe during periods of emergency. Restrictions which have been implemented as part of COVID-19, such as social distancing and self-isolation, in addition to other stressors including physical and psychological health risks, school and business closures, family confinement, and economic vulnerability may increase risk of family violence for people.

## CMI/ODS Contact data reporting

### Specialty service development

Family violence specialist services have been approved for recurrent service hour funding across mental health services. For CMI/ODS service hour reporting, in addition to usual reportable service hour criteria, this specialist service is approved to record contact type C, code 6 (specialty service development). This is in recognition that this service is funded to provide specialist type community mental health services which significantly build an area Mental Health Service’s capacity to provide mental health support to a target population. Please see the further information section below for further contact data definitions.

### Subcentre / Program

Services can create their own subcentre descriptions or link the below family violence specialist programs against an existing subcentre, provided it is a community subcentre and the consumer age group for the program is specific to the subcentre age group.

The required program setup requirements are as below.

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| **PROGRAM** |
| **Description** | **Classification** | **Program Type** | **Target Population** | **AMHS** | **Fund Source** | **Start Date** |
| *(Service discretion)*  | Community | Comm, Clin Specialist Family Violence - C & A (Child and adolescent) | Family Violence | (Local Service) | Other State Govt Dept | 01/07/2020 |
| *(Service discretion)*  | Community | Comm, Clin Specialist Family Violence - Adult | Family Violence | (Local Service) | Other State Govt Dept | 01/07/2020 |
| *(Service discretion)*  | Community | Comm, Clin Specialist Family Violence - Aged | Family Violence | (Local Service) | Other State Govt Dept | 01/07/2020 |

## Further information

* CMI/ODS contact data reporting information, please email: MHDReporting@dhhs.vic.gov.au
* [Chief Psychiatrist's guideline and practice resource: Family violence](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/key-staff/chief-psychiatrist/chief-psychiatrist-guidelines/family-violence-guideline-practice-resource)
* <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/family-violence-crisis-response-and-support-during-coronavirus>