



27 November 2020

Information Sharing Schemes – Public hospital / health services in the Barwon region (Vic)

The information below relates to requesting information from any of the hospital / health services in the Barwon region under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS). These services are:

- Barwon Health
- Colac Area Health
- Hesse Rural Health
- Great Ocean Road Health

IMPORTANT:

1. ***Only specific programs within Barwon Health and Colac Area Health are currently prescribed to share information under these two Schemes. These programs are:***

| <u>Barwon Health</u> | <u>Colac Area Health</u> |
|--|--|
| <i>Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service</i> | <i>Homelessness Service</i> <i>Alcohol and Other Drugs Service</i> <i>Financial Counselling</i> <i>Women’s Family Violence Counselling and Support</i> <i>Family Services</i> |

2. ***In April 2021 all program areas within any of the public hospital/health services in the Barwon region will be mandated to share information under the Schemes.***

Key information:

- Any request for the release of information pertaining to the Schemes must be done so by an authorised Information Sharing Entity (ISE) and/or Risk Assessment Entity (RAE). The hospital / health service will be required to verify the requesting agency is authorised prior to the release of information.
- To request information, authorised agencies should complete the **Information Sharing Request (Health services in Barwon region)** form. To access the form:

Colac Area Health: [CLICK HERE](#)

Barwon Health: [CLICK HERE](#)

- Requesting organisations must complete all fields in Section A:
 - **Full name and date of birth of all known client/s:** (Victim/survivor, perpetrator and children)
 - **Specific information being requested/shared**
 - **Purpose of the information request:** (Risk assessment, child wellbeing, protection purposes etc)
 - **Under which Scheme is information being requested:** CISS / FVISS
 - **Requesting organisation's status: under the scheme:** Information Sharing Entity (ISE) or Risk Assessment Entity (RAE).
- Requests are to be emailed to the appropriate email address as detailed on the **Information Sharing Request (Health services in Barwon region)** form.
- The standard turn-around time for requests is 48 hours.
- Prescribed agencies can continue to share information using other permissions (e.g. privacy laws, *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*).
- For more information about the new information sharing schemes, refer to the Ministerial Guidelines:

FVISS - [CLICK HERE](#)

CISS - [CLICK HERE](#)

- For any questions about a hospital / health service's protocols around information sharing, contact the hospital / health service using the email address as indicated on the **Information Sharing Request (Health services in Barwon region)** form.