

System Audit Family Violence Evaluation (SAFE) Project

The University of Melbourne and The Royal Women's Hospital (The Women's) were funded by the Collier Charitable Fund to undertake research to assess the impact of the Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence (SHRFV) program.

SHRFV provides a whole-of-hospital approach for embedding policy and practice concerning FV identification and response – all Victorian public hospitals and health services have participated in the program.

The SAFE Project developed a System Audit Tool (SAFE Tool) to evaluate how hospitals and health services are realising change at patient, staff, and organisation levels to address FV.

The SAFE Tool has been successfully implemented across 18 Victorian health services (from November 2019 to April 2021).

Results suggested that while the participating health services had systems and strategies in place to respond to FV and staff capacity had started to be built, this had not necessarily been translated completely into practice or integrated investment by the health service, and so there continues to be a need for further resourcing and improvement.

What are the benefits of a system audit tool?

Evidence shows auditing and feedback are powerful mechanisms to change behaviour individually and across organisations.

The SAFE Tool shows where sites are progressing system change within their organisations to address family violence.

The SAFE project provides a structural framework for future work, recommendations and investment at the practice and government levels to ensure women and families are on a pathway to safety and well-being across Victoria and nationally.

What is the SAFE Tool?

The SAFE Tool provides an *Overall Score* derived from ten individual (weighted) *Domain Scores*.



What's next?

The University of Melbourne, in collaboration with The Women's, have received Commonwealth National Partnership funding to expand the SAFE Project in 2023 and 2024 to a further 20 new hospitals and health services and conduct repeat auditing at the 18 original participating sites.