THE MONASH GENDER AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTRE IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AIMED AT PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE. THE CENTRE IS CONTRIBUTING TO TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL CHANGE AIMED AT ENDING FAMILY VIOLENCE BY PROVIDING AN EVIDENCE BASE FOR POLICY CHANGE THAT BETTER SUPPORTS AND PROTECTS THOSE EXPERIENCING FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ADDRESSES THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DRIVERS THAT UNDERPIN IT.
ABOUT US

The Centre was established in recognition of the scale, quality, impact and potential of the family violence prevention research and education being undertaken at Monash. The Centre has its roots in the social sciences, arising out of a demonstrated commitment to challenging the gendered dynamics and social structures that support family violence and improving outcomes for those experiencing family violence. The landmark Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence (2016) provided the impetus for the Centre’s establishment.

The Centre has a Graduate Certificate and Diploma of Family Violence Prevention, aimed at practitioners engaged in family violence response and prevention, and those who aspire to work in the family violence sector.

We are a vibrant community of leading researchers and educators working in collaboration with practitioners, advocates and policy makers. The Centre has a strong focus on interdisciplinary research. The Centre includes leading academics, dedicated Research Fellows, PhD and Master candidates and is supported by a stellar professional team.

The Centre has strong partnerships with Australian and international policy-makers and senior practitioners through its networks and invited positions on high level government and departmental advisory committees and taskforces, requests for expert comment, submissions to government reviews and expert testimony to parliamentary committees and other forums.

The Centre’s board is made up of policy, community and higher education leaders including Professor Anne Edwards AO, former Vice Chancellor of Flinders University and inaugural Chair of the Australian National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety; Christine Nixon APM, former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police and the Hon. Marcia Neave AO, Commissioner, Royal Commission into Family Violence.

The Centre’s track record includes ground-breaking research, engagement with government and civil society stakeholders and innovative educational offerings. Our research and teaching is grounded in our expertise in qualitative and quantitative methods, combined with a well-developed understanding of the contemporary policy landscape.
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The Centre’s capacities and capabilities are enhanced through networks with key stakeholders, including practitioners, policy leaders, advocates, leading and emerging scholars. Internationally, we have well established collaborations with a range of academics at the forefront of gender and family violence research. We have engaged with academics through a range of research collaborations, including conference panels and co-publications as well as through hosting Visiting Scholars at the Centre and the appointment of Adjunct Professors.

> University of Liverpool
> Lancaster University
> University of Ottawa
> Oxford University
> Northern Arizona University
> University of Lisbon
> University of Cardiff
> Durham University
> The Open University
> University of Auckland
> University of Guelph
> Victoria University, Wellington
> University of Southern Maine
> University of Cambridge
> UniCEUB, Brasilia, Brazil
> University of Colorado-Boulder
> Fort Lewis College
> University of Oslo, Norway
> University of Manchester
> University of Georgia
> West Virginia University

> University of Maryland
> Basque Institute of Criminology, University of the Basque Country
> University of Salford
> University of Leicester
> Hebrew University of Jerusalem
> University of Roehampton
> Northumbria University
> University of Alberta
> Florida Atlantic University
> Eastern Kentucky University
> O.P. Jindal Global University
> University of Guelph
> University of South Florida
> Violence and Society Centre, City, University of London
> University of Oxford
> University of Lisbon
> John Jay University, New York
> University of Cape Town, South Africa

VISITING SCHOLARS

> University of Sussex
> West Virginia University
> University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
> University of Manchester
> University of Auckland
> School of Law, Lancaster University
> Cardiff University
> The Open University
> Durham University
> University of Oxford
> University of Lisbon
> UniCEUB, Brasilia, Brazil
> University of Ottawa

> University of Maryland
> Basque Institute of Criminology, University of the Basque Country
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> Eastern Kentucky University
> O.P. Jindal Global University
> University of Guelph
> University of South Florida
> Violence and Society Centre, City, University of London
> University of Oxford
> University of Lisbon
> John Jay University, New York
> University of Cape Town, South Africa

ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

> University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
> West Virginia University
> George Mitchell Institute for Peace, Security and Justice, The Queens University of Belfast
OUR APPROACH

WE ARE DISTINCTIVE IN OUR DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO TRANSLATE RESEARCH SKILLS AND EXPERTISE INTO POLICY-GROUNDED INSIGHTS AND SOLUTIONS. OUR WORK HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE POLICY AND PRACTICE IN VICTORIA, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

The Centre takes an interdisciplinary approach to addressing research questions and policy challenges, combining expertise in criminology, sociology, gender studies, social work, law and international relations. The Centre includes Monash academics from law, medicine, social work, education and architecture. The Centre also benefits from drawing on the expertise of world leading international scholars and policy leaders in domestic and family violence.

We have a demonstrated track record in researching sensitive topics and engaging with hard to access and marginalised groups. Our research projects have included women — including Aboriginal people and culturally and linguistically diverse women — who have experienced family violence, women with disability who have experienced violence, families who have experienced adolescent family violence and people who use violence.

Our distinctive approach engages with the full continuum of prevention, from primary prevention — preventing violence before it occurs; secondary prevention — early intervention to stop violence reoccurring; and tertiary intervention and response — to prevent long-term harm from violence.
CAPABILITY STATEMENT
WHAT WE DO

WE CREATE AND SHARE NEW KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GENDER AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND POLICY REFORMS DESIGNED TO BETTER RESPOND TO AND PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE. THROUGH THE CENTRE’S COLLABORATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS THIS KNOWLEDGE IS APPLIED AND TESTED IN REAL-WORLD CONTEXTS TO INFLUENCE AND INFORM REFORM AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES.

The Centre’s track record includes ground-breaking research, engagement with government and civil society stakeholders, and innovative educational offerings. Centre researchers have an established track record in delivering timely, quality research projects on family violence policy, practice and reform.

The Centre collaborates with government, the family violence sector, men’s services, criminal justice agencies, health and other human service organisations to build an evidence base for social change aimed at family violence prevention. We also work with diverse communities to ensure our research reflects and responds to diverse contexts and experiences of family violence.

Centre researchers are engaged in:

> Contract research and consultancy on all aspects of family violence and family violence prevention.

> Policy development – including on perpetrator interventions, family violence risk assessment and risk management, criminal justice system interventions and reforms, mapping and developing linkages, and collaborations between sectors and between multiple intersecting reforms.

> Evaluations of programs and reforms – including men’s behaviour change programs and large scale multi-sector reforms.

> Workforce Capability building on family violence prevention for practitioners and policy-makers from a wide range of sectors – including the Graduate Certificate and Diploma of Family Violence Prevention and professional development short courses.

> Expert lectures, seminars, industry briefings and media contributions – including on the gendered dynamics of family violence; the extent, nature and costs of family violence; legal responses to family violence; intimate partner homicide, the contemporary reform landscape; corporate responsibility and family violence; the drivers of family violence; preventing family violence; and perpetrator interventions.
The following sets out a brief overview of some of the Centre’s expertise:

> **Femicide**, including a national study of intimate partner femicides to identify known risks and potential points of intervention and an international study of femicide counting practices.

> **Violence against women with disability**, including research to better understand their experience of accessing justice.

> **Adolescent family violence**, including research into the prevalence and experience of, and service system responses to this form of family violence.

> **Recovery from childhood trauma**, including research on trauma informed service responses and the intergenerational impacts of family violence.

> **Women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities**, research focusing on the unique risks and barriers to accessing justice for culturally and linguistically diverse women experiencing family violence.

> **Indigenous women and communities’ experiences**, including projects on family violence, housing stability and child protection responses among Indigenous mothers and communities.

> **Perpetrator interventions**, including research into the use of interventions in court settings across Australia, interventions with fathers who use family violence, review of minimum standards for men’s behaviour change programs, and independent program evaluations.

> **Specialist policing and court responses to family violence**.

> **Legal responses to intimate partner violence**, including research examining the merits and risk of new criminal offences.

> **The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nature of and responses to family violence**.

> **Mothering and women’s experiences – as they care for children while experiencing family violence**.

> **Child protection responses to family violence**, including research examining women and children’s safety and wellbeing.

> **Gender equality and primary prevention**, including workplace strategies, community awareness activities and other primary prevention interventions.
In the 5 years since the Monash Gender and Family Violence research group was established the team has:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGAGED WITH A TOTAL OF 3,500 PARTICIPANTS’</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMISSIONED FINAL REPORTS</td>
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<td>CONDUCTED 9 SURVEYS WITH MORE THAN 1600 RESPONDENTS</td>
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<td>78 FOCUS GROUPS WITH OVER 300 PARTICIPANTS</td>
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<td>CONDUCTED 400 INTERVIEWS INCLUDING 83 INTERVIEWS WITH WOMEN AFFECTED BY FAMILY VIOLENCE AND 25 WITH PEOPLE WHO USE FAMILY VIOLENCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MADE 91 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE REFORM</td>
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<td>HAD 2 REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>MADE 20 SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT ON A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS RELATED TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDERTAKEN 3 AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL FUNDED PROJECTS</td>
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<td>UNDERTAKEN 3 ANROWS FUNDED PROJECTS</td>
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* These counts reflect Centre research activity from the period February 2016 to February 2021.
Members of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre have been engaged on a range of research projects emerging from the Findings and Recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV).

Our work towards realising the recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence includes:

> Review of the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) – Recommendation 5

> Review of the Family Violence Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (CRAF) – Recommendation 1

> Review of Minimum Standards for Men’s Behaviour Change Programs – Recommendation 91

> Review of the Victoria Police Digitally Recorded Evidence in Chief – Family violence trial - Recommendation 58

> Evaluation of Taskforce early intervention for family violence (U-Turn) program - Recommendation 93

> Centre researchers have also been represented on key governance structures and committees set up in response to the recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

This includes:

> Professor Jude McCulloch was appointed in 2016 to the Victorian Government’s Prevention of Family Violence Standing Committee.

> Associate Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon was appointed in 2016 to the Victorian Special Minister of State’s Expert Advisory Committee on Perpetrator Interventions (EACPI).

> Associate Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon was appointed in 2018 to the Inaugural Board of Directors of Respect Victoria.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KATE FITZ-GIBBON

Associate Professor Fitz-Gibbon is Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre and an Associate Professor of Criminology, Faculty of Arts, Monash University.

Kate is an internationally recognised researcher in the field of family violence, femicide, criminal justice and service system responses to violence against women, and the impact of criminal law reform in Australia and internationally. She has significant experience in qualitative research methods including interviews with family violence victim-survivors, judicial officers, legal stakeholders, police and family violence service providers. Kate has received research funding from the Australian Research Council, ANROWS, Australian Institute of Criminology, Victoria Police, Family Safety Victoria and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and has led multi-year projects with significant stakeholder engagement. The findings of her research have been published in high impact criminology and law journals and presented at national and international criminology conferences.

In 2018 Kate was appointed to the Victorian Government’s Expert Advisory Committee on Perpetrator Interventions, the Monash City Council Gender Equity Advisory Committee and the inaugural Board of Directors of Respect Victoria. Kate has advised on homicide law reform, family violence and youth justice reviews in several Australian and international jurisdictions.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SILKE MEYER

Associate Professor Meyer is Deputy Director of the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre and an Associate Professor of Criminology, Faculty of Arts, Monash University.

Silke is nationally and internationally recognised for her research on domestic and family violence. Her specific areas of expertise include the experiences of mothers and children, perpetrators as fathers, experiences specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the role of DFV informed child protection, police and court responses. She has over 10 years’ experience of interviewing survivors and perpetrators of domestic and family violence, and community stakeholders and service providers.

Silke brings expertise in research design and consultations specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims, families and communities and extensive experience in researching the role of family violence informed practice in policing, court proceedings and child protection. She has experience in qualitative research methods and survey design, and extensive expertise around help-seeking decisions and experiences of female victims of family violence and the impact of family violence on children. Silke has led a number of research projects with different industry partners, including government and community organisations. Prior to academia, Silke had five years social work practice in youth justice and intensive family support services.
PROFESSOR SANDRA WALKLATE

Professor Sandra Walklate is Eleanor Rathbone Chair of Sociology at the University of Liverpool (UK) conjoint Professor of Criminology at Monash University.

Sandra has been working on issues of criminal victimization and its impact since the early 1980s and is internationally recognised for her work on victimology and gendered violence(s). Sandra holds an ongoing adjunct professorial role at QUT in Brisbane, is a Research Associate at the University of West Virginia Center for Violence Research, and a Visiting Professor (Violence and Society Research Centre), City University, London. Since July 2019 she has held the role of President of the British Society of Criminology. Sandra is a member of the British Society of Criminology, the American Society of Criminology, the European Society of Criminology and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology. Sandra’s ongoing research on violence against women has received funding from the Australian Research Committee, European Research Council, Research Councils UK, and the British Academy. Her work seeks to address policy and practice responses to violence(s) against women addressing how practitioners understand and deliver policies as well as women’s experiences of them.
PROFESSOR JANE MAREE MAHER

Professor JaneMaree Maher is Professor in the Centre for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, Sociology in the School of Social Sciences, Monash University.

JaneMaree is an internationally recognised feminist social scientist with a focus on family lives and gender violence. Her research critically examines how social institutions such as families and the criminal justice system create gendered inequalities and inequities. She is currently Associate Dean Academic Development and a key researcher within the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. JaneMaree has supervised more than 30 PhDs to completion. JaneMaree has published extensively in both academic and public forums. She has held funded grants from the Victorian Government, ANROWS, and the Australian Research Council: all of these are focused on family violence response and prevention. She has decades of experience in developing knowledge about gender and gender equality for diverse cohorts of undergraduate students, graduate researchers and professionals. She has worked with women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and women with disability in her recent domestic and family violence related research.
DR NAOMI PFITZNER

is a key researcher in the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. Naomi is nationally recognised for her research on family violence prevention in parenting support. Her work has a key focus on family violence, gender and parenting with recent work applying a critical gender lens to family services engagement with parents in the context of family violence. Naomi has a strong track record of high quality publications. Findings from her research have been published in leading international journals and presented at national and international conferences on criminology, family studies and family violence. Naomi has secured competitive government and industry funding to support her research.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARIE SEGRAVE

is a key researcher in the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. In 2018 she completed the largest Australian study of temporary migration and family violence in partnership with inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence. She has completed multi-year funded projects with Victoria Police and was awarded a prestigious ARC DECRA Fellowship for 2014-2018, for research focused on unlawful migrant labour in Australia. Marie has worked with state governments, policing agencies and international organisations such as the International Labour Organization and UN Women.

DR JASMINE MCGOWAN

is the Senior Research Team Leader at the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre. Her research focuses on family violence, gendered violence, disability and violence, disability hate crime, economic abuse, intimate partner homicide and perpetrator interventions. Recent projects she has been involved in include the Review of the Victorian Information Sharing Scheme, the Australian Research Council project ‘Securing Women’s Lives: Preventing Intimate Partner Homicide’ and the ANROWS project Women, Disability and Violence: Barriers to Accessing Justice’. In 2018 Jasmine received funding from the Victorian Women’s Trust to develop a toolkit designed to assist women with disability identify economic abuse.
CONTACT US

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Senior Research Team Leader
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monash.edu/arts/gender-and-family-violence