



Fact Sheet 4 the Level 3 Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF) tools

This Fact Sheet will cover:

- » Who should use the Level 3 tools?
- 1. What is a multi-agency response?
- 2. Purpose of the Level 3 tools
- 3. How should I use the Level 3 tools?
- 4. Other FAQs

Who should use the Level 3 tools?

The Level 3 tools are designed to be used by coordinated multi-agency response teams, including High Risk Teams. The level 3 tools should only be used by people with experience working in domestic and family violence (DFV) and with a strong understanding of DFV-informed practice.

1. What is a multi-agency response?

An integrated or multi-agency response to DFV connects agencies and allows for collaboration on strategies to enhance a victim-survivor's safety. A multi-agency response is better able to address the victim-survivor's holistic needs and is considered best practice, particularly where a victim-survivor is deemed to be at imminent risk of serious harm or lethality.³

Under an effective multi-agency response, there is:

- » A reduction in secondary (system-created) victimisation by limiting the need for victim-survivors to repeatedly recount their story;
- » Increased person using violence (PuV) accountability;
- » The use of a common language of risk between agencies;
- » Cohesive, consensus-based responses;
- » Cost-effectiveness through minimising duplication of services; and
- » Formalised information sharing between agencies.

2. Purpose of the Level 3 tools

The Level 3 tools are specifically designed to support multi-agency response teams where the victim-survivor is assessed to be at imminent risk of serious harm or lethality. The Level 3 tools support multi-agency response teams to:

- » Proactively share and gather information on DFV risk, including by building a shared understanding of a person's DFV risk with other support agencies;
- » Actively monitor DFV risk and respond to changes in risk levels through adjusting risk management activities and safety plans; and
- » Plan and undertake relevant risk management activities with victim-survivors and with other agencies contributing to the multi-agency response, to ensure the overall safety and security of the victim-survivor.

The Level 3 tools should only be used after a Level 2 risk assessment or other initial risk assessment has been undertaken.

The Level 3 tool is divided into three components:

- » **The Level 3A Initial Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Tool:** Designed to support intake into the multi-agency response team. It includes a review of the initial risk assessment and safety action plan, and allows for updates to these based on multi-agency requests for information (RFIs)
- » **Part 1 Referral and victim-survivor information**
Designed to be completed ahead of the initial multi-agency meeting where possible. It sets out relevant information about the referral and the victim-survivor involved in the case, including the PuV and child/ren.
- » **Part 2 Requests for information** Each agency should complete RFIs to supplement the information gathered during the Level 2 risk assessment. These RFIs should be captured in this section. Part 2 is designed to be completed ahead of the initial multi-agency meeting where possible.
- » **Part 3 Initial multi-agency risk management assessment and safety planning strategy:** Identifies the risk and safety management responses that should be implemented to protect the victim-survivor from further harm. This section also seeks to keep agencies accountable for the actions they are responsible for as part of the overall risk management strategy.

FACT SHEET 4

The Level 3 Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF) tools cont...

- » **The Level 3B Ongoing Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Tool:** Designed for ongoing review of risk and the multi-agency strategy by supporting the multi-agency team to consider whether the frequency or severity of risk factors have changed. This tool should be completed for every subsequent multi-agency meeting and replaces meeting notes. There are five parts to this tool (which mirror a standing agenda for the meetings):
 - » **Part 1** Meeting details and summary from previous meeting
 - » **Part 2** Updates from agencies
 - » **Part 3** Changes in victim-survivor and PuV circumstances
 - » **Part 4** Changes in risk and protective factors
 - » **Part 5** Review of ongoing multi-agency risk management strategy
- » **The Level 3C Case Summary and Closure Tool:** Supports agencies to record all relevant information demonstrating how risk was managed and documenting the rationale for case closure. It also documents ongoing risk management strategies to support the victim-survivor. It includes a section for a comprehensive case closure note.

3. How should I use the Level 3 tools?

Figure 1 below illustrates how the Level 3 tools should be used in the context of a multi-agency response:

4. Other FAQs

What do I need to know about information sharing as part of a multi-agency response?

The Information Sharing Guidelines provide detailed information to support you to share information in the context of DFV. See **Fact Sheet 1** for a more guidance on information sharing.

When should a case be closed by the multi-agency high risk response team?

Multi-agency high risk teams predominantly intervene in cases of imminent risk and are not a long-term response. The Level 3 tools will support multi-agency teams to monitor risks on an ongoing basis and consider whether the frequency or severity of risk has changed.

Closure of a case does not necessarily indicate that a victim-survivor is now 'safe'. Rather, it is an indication that the risk to the victim-survivor is no longer imminent and can be managed through other service systems. Protective factors and safety and accountability measures are recorded to help determine any further action required as some agencies will have an ongoing role in supporting the victim-survivor, child, and/or PuV after closure. This information is captured in the Level 3C tool.

