



RAMPS.

RAMPS: Strengthening Risk Management in City of Hume

Joanna Bock, Consultant to
the MAV. May 2015.



- *“There was clear evidence that staff in a whole range of agencies felt inhibited from freely exchanging information relating to children and families due to concerns about alleged legal restrictions on doing so.”*

[Lord Laming. Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. UK 2003]

- *“Colleagues in education, early years, health and police need to be willing and proactive in discharging their statutory duty to co-operate on child safeguarding. In particular confusion remains about the basis of information sharing”*

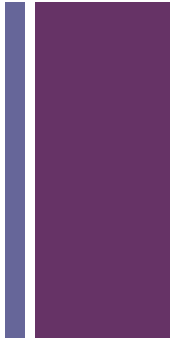
[Lord Laming. Review of Child Protection. UK 2009]



MARAC: Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
[UK]

RAMP: Risk Assessment and Management Panels
[Victoria]

MARACs/RAMPs are regularly held local community based forums where statutory and community sector agency representatives share information about women and children who are at high risk of continuing domestic abuse in order to produce a co-ordinated action plan to increase safety.





Risk Assessment

- *Some agencies may have snippets of info that on their own don't raise any particular concern, it's only when the jigsaw of info is pieced together that the risk factors begin to be understood."*

[Evaluation MARACs 2004. Cardiff, UK]

+ MARACs were found to:

- *improve understanding and identification of domestic abuse across agencies;*
- *improve information sharing and referral mechanisms between agencies;*
- *facilitate access to the range of services available in order to address the complex and varied needs of victims of domestic abuse;*
- *improve consistency and accountability across agencies, achieved through shared policies and procedures.*

+ RAMP Core membership:

- Berry Street Family and Domestic Violence services [Northern Integrated Family Violence Services]
- Victoria Police
- Office of Corrections
- Department of Housing
- Centrelink
- M&CH for the City of Hume
- North West Area Mental Health Services
- Northern Health
- Child FIRST
- Regen Drug and Alcohol services
- DHS Child Protection





Case Example: Jenny Smith

Jenny was reluctant to engage with support services despite several Police reports about violence inflicted on her by her ex-partner and father of her 2 children. She was fearful not only of her ex partner but also of his criminal associates. Jenny agreed to a RAMP meeting about her situation. The RAMP shared vital information that the M&CH nurse held about the service's involvement with the family, as well as information from the Office of Corrections and from NW Area Mental Health service. Following the RAMP and the development of a safety plan for her, Jenny felt safer to disclose further details that were shared at a follow up RAMP, which led to a significantly more interventionist safety plan that ensured her and the children's ongoing safety.





Key messages about information sharing:

- The ability to identify who was/is involved and who needs to be involved
- The ability to complete the picture – the jigsaw
- The ability to make a comprehensive assessment of risk
- The capacity to prevent recidivism in offenders
- The importance of mutual professional respect, understanding of roles and mutual accountability
- The value of collaboration and shared planning
- The importance of listening to and trusting the experience of women and making that centre stage
- A clear focus on safety and best interests

