# Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS)

# INFORMATION FOR TRANSITION TO SCHOOL KIT UPDATE

## The Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) provide formal mechanisms to share information between ECEC services, schools and other authorised organisations, known as Information Sharing Entities (ISEs). CISS enables ISEs to share information to promote the wellbeing or safety of children. FVISS enables ISEs to share information to assess or manage family violence risk to children and adults. These schemes do not preclude ECEC services from sharing information about the wellbeing and safety of children through the TLDS process.

The information sharing and family violence reforms have expanded the ability of education and care services to request and share information, collaborate earlier, streamline experiences across services and proactively support outcomes for children and their families. On 19 April 2021, CISS, FVISS and the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) legislation came into effect for certain Victorian education and care workforces, including:

* schools
* kindergartens
* long day care centres
* out of school hours care services
* education-based health, wellbeing, and inclusion professionals.

As ISEs, these services are authorised under legislation to request and share relevant information with each other to support children’s wellbeing and safety and manage family violence risk when certain requirements for sharing are met. A full list of ISEs can be found at: <https://iselist.www.vic.gov.au/ise/list/>

The department has developed a suite of resources and training to support education and care services to meet their obligation under the reforms, including the [Information Sharing and Family Violence Reforms webinars and eLearning modules](https://www.vic.gov.au/training-for-information-sharing-and-maram).

Educators should use existing policies to share information (including information about children’s safety and wellbeing), where already permitted and working effectively, such as the TLDS. If there is certain information regarding a child’s wellbeing or safety that educators deem not suitable to share in the TLDS and where additional information sharing and service collaboration may be required to support the child’s transition to school, this can be shared using CISS and/or FVISS.

The relevant policy for Early Childhood is [Transition — Early Childhood to School PAL guidance](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/transition-early-childhood-school/guidance/1-transition-statements). See section in the guidance titled *Other mechanisms for information sharing to support a positive transition to school*. This provides information on how CISS and FVISS can complement the TLDS process.

Early childhood services and schools should continue to share information as appropriate in accordance with other laws and department policies, such as when making a mandatory report.

More information and support about using CISS and FVISS is available at [Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/information-sharing-schemes/policy).