

Our Position on Family Violence

As a values-based organisation, the Bouverie Centre takes seriously our responsibilities to recognise family violence risk and ameliorate trauma related to family violence. We actively seek to recognise safety needs for family members, our staff, trainees, and participants in our research programs. We provide care across all these areas, to support safety and wellbeing for all.

This high-level position statement reflects our understanding of and organisational response to family violence. This document informs operational guidelines across our training, academic, clinical and research domains, and is a living document, regularly reviewed to reflect current knowledge and practice.

The Bouverie Centre:

1. Acknowledges the pervasiveness and profound impact of family violence for individuals, families and communities. It contributes to compromised mental health, developmental and economic outcomes, and social and relationship instability within families;
2. Is committed to the prevention of family violence whenever possible and to enabling the safety and wellbeing of family members across their life course;
3. Understand family violence in its full and complex socio-ecological context, including gender, culture, intergenerational trauma, structural inequalities and attitudes that drive family violence. We recognise the additional risks and impact of family violence for diverse communities including LGTBQIA+ and First Nations peoples;
4. Is informed by lived and living experience, enabled by respectful partnerships with families, communities and service systems, and aligns to the Victorian Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Framework (MARAM) and relevant legislation;
5. Is focused on early detection of risk, nuanced response, and repair of family violence related trauma, across our clinical, training, academic and research platforms;
6. Seeks to enhance knowledge about and responses to family violence, and to translate this learning through our clinical, academic, and practice development programs, for the benefit of all;
7. Recognises that family violence can affect our staff in their own lives, with both personal and professional impacts. We support their safety and wellbeing through sensitive response and care.