

STORIES OF FAMILY SAFETY STUDY

Understanding what helps families stay safe during and after separation

Family separation can be a stressful and risky time.

The Stories of Family Safety Study is a world-first project exploring what supports safety for parents and children during and after family court involvement.

WHAT THE STUDY IS ABOUT?

STAGE 1: Understanding safety during court involvement

We followed families taking part in the court's Lighthouse Program, which identifies and manages risk early.

Families completed the **DOORS Triage** tool at entry to court—designed to help the court better understand safety needs.

STAGE 2: Following families over time

We are now reconnecting with families **four years later** to learn:

- What helps safety last beyond the court process
- What supports are most important for **Indigenous families**
- How long-term safety can be strengthened for all families

WHO IS RUNNING THE STUDY?

- Led by Professor Jennifer McIntosh AM, Director of **the Bouverie Centre**
- Researchers from **La Trobe University**
- In partnership with **the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia** and **Relationships Australia South Australia**
- Funded by the **Australian Research Council**

WHY THIS RESEARCH MATTERS

This study will help:



Improve family law systems



Strengthen safety responses for separating families



Reduce the emotional, social and financial impacts of family violence



Benefit families in Australia and internationally

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

Visit the website by scanning the QR code for detailed information.



<https://bit.ly/Stories-of-Family-Safety-Study2026>

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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