

NUMBER OF RESPONSES TO VICTORIA POLICE FAMILY VIOLENCE REPORTS

	2019	2020	Last year comparative %
January	762	757	-0.0%
February	615	679	10.4%
March	576	751	30.4%
April	545	690	26.6%
May	566	658	16.3%
June	498	729	46.4%
July	616	702	14.0%

Whenever Victoria Police attend a family violence incident, they are required to complete a Family Violence Report (FVR) for both the Affected Family Member/AFM (victim) and the Respondent (perpetrator). FVRs for the AFM are sent to Wayss and Wayss makes contact with the person to offer referral to Family Violence support services and to carry out safety planning. FVR responses reflect the number of individual AFMs Wayss has made contact with over the month. Some AFMs Wayss contact may then choose to be referred to Wayss FV support service or for other support services.

FVR responses remained consistently high in July but slightly lower than the previous month. The imposition of Stage 3 restrictions with families confined to their homes in second half of July may be responsible for a reduction compared with the previous month (June). A similar trend was experienced when Victoria went from Stage 2 to 3 in April.

NUMBER OF NEW CLIENTS ACCESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

	2020	Month on Month Comparative %
February	135	
March	180	33.3%
April	197	9.4%
May	210	6.6%
June	161	-23.3%
July	167	3.7%

These figures reflect the number of new clients accessing Wayss family violence support services. Referrals come from Wayss internal sources (eg. AFMs receiving a FVR call back); from external referrers such as Monash Health, Safe Steps, drug and alcohol services and other family violence or homelessness services or can be an individual self-referring for assistance.

NUMBER OF CLIENTS PRESENTING FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE

	2020	Month on Month comparative %	Comment
1Apr-30 Apr	1653	86.67%	There has been a marked increase in requests for housing assistance during April, following job losses and reduction in hours that has resulted in rental arrears.
1May-31 May	2596	57.0%	A significant increase in phone calls for housing assistance throughout May is responsible for this sharp rise in numbers. It is important to note that a phone enquiry does not always result in Wayss providing a 'support period' to a client. This number reflects all enquiries for housing assistance via phone calls or presentation at the Dandenong office.
1 Jun – 30 Jun	2609	0.5%	Numbers presenting for assistance continue to be high and aligns with the continuation of the pandemic, financial hardship and uncertainty.
1Jul- 31 Jul	2696	3.3%	Presentations for assistance remain steady. Main requests for assistance relate to financial hardship and having nowhere to stay that night. There has been a small increase in the number of people presenting with no income at all (NZ citizens and temporary visa holders).