

# Feeling supported, not stuck

Rethinking intervention orders for children and young people

## \* Key statistics and findings

The number of **children responding to intervention orders** is growing



**34%** increase in respondent intervention order legal services by Victoria Legal Aid **since 2018**

Clients **responding to PSIOs\*** almost doubled from 243 in 2018-19 to 472 in 2023-24

## Gap in access to legal representation

We estimate that **over 50% of young respondents were not legally represented** by Community Legal Centre, Victoria Legal Aid or private lawyers doing legally aided work.



## Of VLA's clients:

\* **5%** were 10-12

\* **28%** were 13-14

\* **72%** were 15-17

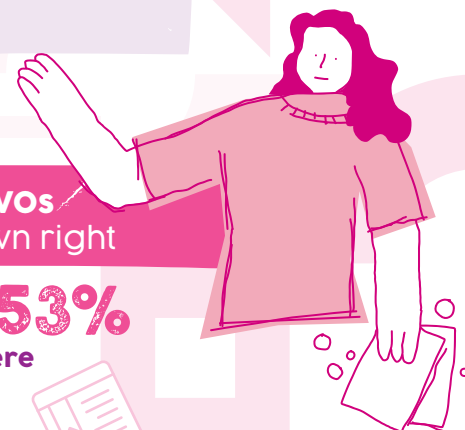
\* **25%** had a disability

\* **29%** had Child Protection involved

\* **9%** were First Nations

Young people **responding to IVOs** are **victim survivors** in their own right


Crime Statistics Agency found that **53%** of young respondents to a FVIO\* **were previously an applicant in a FVIO**





IVOs are being used **instead of supports for families** in crisis

Victoria Police guidance **does not explain how police should tailor their response** to family violence incidents at home **involving children**



**39%** of families in our file review **did not support a FVIO** being made against their child



PSIOs are being used in schools, **causing some young people to miss out on education**



**81%** of PSIO files we reviewed **involved disputes between children in school**

**36%** of young people on PSIOs reported they were **missing school**



**Children are left out of court processes**

**70%** of children in our file review with an interim order **were not at court when the order was made**

**only 2%** of our clients' responding to IVO applications **were resolved through mediation** in the Children's Court

**over 50%** of intervention order applications **did not result in a final order in court**



NB: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

\* FVIO = Family Violence Intervention Order

\* PSIO = Personal Safety Intervention Order

