

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE EXPLAINED

Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) is not a 'private' or 'family' matter; it is a major public, community and workplace concern. Some forms of DFV are considered criminal but many forms of abuse are not prosecutable.

DFV is most often thought of as a form of 'gendered violence', which most often looks like various forms of violence and abuse used by men with the intention to gain or maintain control over their current or former female partner.

However, it must be noted that DFV affects diverse forms of partner relationships, various familial relationships and men can also experience DFV in heterosexual relationships.

For example, DFV can be present where a person or persons in a relationship identify as LGBTIQI. These relationships are diverse and do not easily fit into how we have traditionally thought about DFV.

Essentially, it can exist where one partner and/or family member uses violence and abuse to gain or maintain power over the 'other' person and/or persons.

DFV is usually not an isolated event but is a pattern of ongoing and purposeful use of violence and abuse which, is used to intimidate and instill fear in the other partner or family member.

The partner and/or family member experiencing abuse will be afraid of their partner and may have already experienced extensive harm and they maybe at risk of further abuse and violence, which can result in further injury and/or death.

ABUSE CAN INCLUDE BUT ISN'T LIMITED TO:

- **Emotional;** Making their partner appear unstable, says that if their partner loved them they would do what they want, refuses to clarify mixed messages, controls partners time and energy, crazy making, gaslighting etc.
- **Social;** Criticism in front of friends, monitoring phone calls, insisting on reading text messages, humiliating publicly, hindering contact with family or friends.
- **Verbal;** criticizes strengths and achievements, puts them down, name calling, abusive language, threats, humiliates and embarrasses them in public, abusive language, tells them their relationship is the best they can hope for etc.
- **Financial;** Prevents them from gaining employment, controlling access to money, excessively monitoring expenditure, making all the financial decisions, reminds them that they could not live their lifestyle without that person's money.
- **Sexual;** Expects and demands sex even if the partner does not want it, pressures them to have sex when they're sick or it dangers their health, makes sexual jokes about them in front of friends and family, uses psychological coercion forcing the person into sex (sexual assault), manipulates the other person into having sex by offering them a gift etc., makes them participate in sexual acts that the person does not enjoy/want.
- **Physical;** Hitting, pushing, punching, choking, strangles, scalds, burns, pushes/throws them up against a wall, throwing/destroying the other person's possessions,
- **Spiritual;** Ridiculing their partner's core beliefs, using religious texts to control and dominate their partner, insisting that their partner follow the religion of the other.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE!

People affected by DFV can be of any age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, religion, education, employment or marital status. Children in homes where there is DFV are at increased risk of experiencing abuse and violence and can also experience high-levels of neglect. Even if a child is not physically harmed, they may experience a range of emotional, psychological and a range of developmental issues. If you are experiencing DFV.

REMEMBER

- **You are not alone**
- **It is not your fault**
- **Help is available**

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL THE POLICE ON 000

Employers CAN make a difference

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE STATISTICS

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (ALL FORMS) EXPERIENCED



1 IN 4



1 IN 13

RATES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & MEN

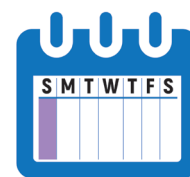
SINCE THE AGE OF 15

Source: ABS (2017)



CHILDREN ARE PRESENT IN
1 OUT OF 3
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE
CASES REPORTED TO POLICE

DVRCV 2017



On Average

1 DEATH
a week from
DOMESTIC and FAMILY VIOLENCE.
Mainly Women and Children

Source: Womensline 2017

GET HELP

DVCONNECT

Womensline 1800 811 811 (24/7)
Mensline 1800 600 636 (9am-12am)

Your local police will have a dedicated officer to deal with domestic violence cases. Call 000 in an emergency.

Our Workplace Domestic Violence Prevention Program is the only one of its kind that has workplaces directly helping those most traumatised by domestic violence.

CONTACT US

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