

Domestic Violence is often thought of as being mainly about the physical abuse of a woman by her male partner but there is more that needs to be understood about the true nature of domestic violence.

Domestic violence occurs when someone in an intimate relationship uses **FEAR to CONTROL** their partner on an ongoing basis; it is an **ABUSE of POWER** by one person over another in that relationship.

Domestic violence is **GENDERED** in nature - it is mainly perpetrated against women and their children by men.

Abusive behaviours that are used to control and instil fear can include:

Physical abuse, verbal & psychological abuse, social abuse, financial abuse, damage to personal property, spiritual/cultural abuse, stalking and sexual abuse. (More details at www.dvconnect.org)

Domestic violence occurs within all cultures, demographics, socio-economic and age groups and within intimate personal Relationships including same sex relationships.

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 also affords protection to victims within **Informal Care relationships** where a person providing unpaid care to another misuses the imbalance of power in that relationship to control, abuse and instil fear in the one they are caring for.

Legislation also covers **Family Violence** between adult family members within the immediate or extended family. However, Family Violence does not always include the elements of fear and control that are present in Domestic Violence and within Intimate Personal relationships.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities generally refer to the violence within their intimate relationship and wider families as Family Violence.

DVConnect Womensline is the state wide telephone service offering a free 'crisis hotline' 24 hours a day 7 days a week to women experiencing domestic or family violence.

Professional and non-judgemental telephone support is just a phone call away. Our experienced counsellors also offer culturally sensitive support, and if English is not your first language we can offer an interpreter.

DVConnect Womensline takes over 4000 calls every month and we arrange an urgent place of safety for over 350 women and 400 children from all over Queensland.

In addition and with help from the RSPCA Qld - we also assist between 12 and 20 pets to safety each month.



DV CONNECT
Anyone can **make the call.**

www.dvconnect.org

1800 811 811

24 hours, 7 days

PO Box 10575 Adelaide Street Brisbane 4000

Womensline
1800 811 811

24 hours, 7 days

Free crisis counselling and support for women affected by domestic or family violence

***It could be happening to a friend, a colleague,
a neighbour or a relative right now!***



Some people think Domestic and Family Violence is a private family issue - but it is a wide reaching community issue.

It affects the physical health and emotional wellbeing, the learning capacity and productivity, as well as the ability to earn a living for thousands of women across Queensland every day. For many children growing up in the midst of domestic violence - the physical and emotional impact will last a lifetime.

If you are concerned for a friend - even if its just 'a gut feeling'

**Call Womensline-
you may just be saving someone's life!**



***It could be happening to you!
Are you in fear around your partner?***

If you are living with Domestic Violence, your personal safety, and that of your children, (if you have any) is at increased risk.

We can arrange immediate safety for you and your children. If you are not in a position to leave home we can help you with the development of a safety plan.

A Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) is a civil matter and if granted by a Magistrates Court prohibits future abusive and violent behaviour by an abusive person. It only becomes a criminal issue (i.e. punishable by a prison sentence) if the Order is breached by the Respondent.



What is Women's Refuge?

Refuges are safe and secure places for women and children escaping domestic and family violence throughout the state. Refuge staff specialise in supporting women and children during this difficult time. The location and contact details of refuges are not available to the general public.

***Your safety is our priority...
Planning for your safety***

Your safety and that of your children, needs to be a priority whether you are planning to stay in the relationship, are thinking about leaving or have already left. Ideally it is best to develop a plan to ensure you and your children and even your pets, can stay safe.

No one knows your situation like you, if you are unsure about what to do, please call Womensline.

What we can do

We can – provide free telephone crisis counselling and support

We can – arrange for free interpreter services if needed

We can – help develop a safety plan for you and your children

We can – provide emergency transport and accommodation if necessary

We can – provide advice about and arrange for you to go to women's refuge

What we cannot do

We cannot – provide you with legal advice

We cannot – support you financially with costs associated with relocating personal effects

We cannot – provide you with ongoing face to face therapeutic counselling

Pets in Crisis

If you cannot find alternative safe care for your pets when you leave the violence at home, DVConnect may be able to support you with a referral to Pets in Crisis program*. All arrangements with are made through DVConnect.

(*Some conditions do apply – www.dvconnect.org)

1800 811 811

www.dvconnect.org