



## **Work health & safety & domestic and family violence**

### **Working from home, COVID-19 and domestic and family violence**



For many people, including victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, being at home is not always a safe place. Domestic and family violence will be a work health or safety risk for many women working from home.

It is anticipated that domestic and family violence incidents will increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know this because of research and evidence that domestic and family violence can become more frequent and severe during periods of emergency. For many people, public health and community containment measures introduced to reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as social distancing and self-isolation, as well as increased financial insecurity and reduced ability to leave relationships, may increase their risk of domestic and family violence.

Times of stress and hardship are never an excuse for violence. All people deserve to live free from fear and domestic and family violence.

During this time, people using domestic and family violence may use COVID-19 as a tactic or reason to abuse their partners and children. The person perpetrating domestic and family violence is responsible for their abusive and violent behaviour. Women and children being abused are never responsible.

**Specialist domestic and family violence services, children and family services, services for men using domestic and family violence, WA Police and other government and community services are there to help ensure the safety of victims-survivors and their children.**

#### **If you are in danger call 000**

For Police assistance call 131 444

#### **National helplines**

- For confidential phone help and referral in Australia, please contact **1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732**, the National Sexual Assault, Family and Domestic Violence Counselling Line.
- For support for men, call **Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491**.
- [Lifeline](#) (24-hour crisis line): 131 114
- [Relationships Australia](#): 1300 364 277
- The National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services provides culturally sensitive help to Aboriginal people who are survivors of family violence; Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women can also call the Aboriginal Contact Line 1800 019 123 for assistance.



### **Western Australian help lines**

- Crisis Care: (08) 9223 1111 / 1800 199 008 (free call)
- Women's DV Helpline: (08) 9223 1188 /1800 007 339 (free call)
- Kid's Help Line: 1800 551 800
- Men's DV Helpline: (08) 9223 1199 /1800 000 599
- Sexual Assault Resource Centre  
Admin: (08) 6458 1830  
Emergency Crisis line: 08 6458 1828  
Free call number: 1800 199 888

For contact details of women's refuges and other domestic and family violence counselling services visit the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services [website](#)

For contact details of women's health centres (providers of domestic violence counselling, support and advocacy), sexual assault support and unplanned pregnancy counselling support services visit the Women's Community Health Network's [website](#)

### **Legal/Counselling**

- DVAS Central: (08) 9328 1200 / 1800 998 399
- DV Legal Unit (LEGAL AID): (08) 9261 6254 / 1300 650 579
- Women's Law Centre of WA: (08) 9272 8800 / 1800 625 122 (Country)
- To find a community legal centre in your area, follow the link: [Community Legal WA](#)

### **Homelessness support:**

- Entry Point: (08) 6496 0001 / 1800 124 684

### **Tenancy Support**

- Tenancy WA: (08) 9221 0088 / 1800 621 888 (Country)
- Ruah Tenancy Support: (08) 9493 5021 / 1800 065 892 (Country)

### **Financial abuse**

For information and resources if you are experiencing financial abuse please visit

[Your Toolkit](#)

**For a comprehensive list of Family and domestic violence services and supports see**

[Family and Domestic Violence Help](#)

### **Technology safety**

To learn how to use technology safely see [Women's Technology Safety & Privacy Toolkit](#)

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