

## Domestic Violence is an abuse of human rights

*Your rights and responsibilities*



These information sheets are designed for people in SA, who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence and are planning to separate or have separated from their partner. The sheets will provide information on:

- Financial issues
- Parenting issues
- Immigration



Domestic violence is an abuse of power. Domestic violence occurs when one person tries to physically or psychologically dominate and control another person.

### **Domestic violence can take many forms. It can include:**

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Threats and intimidation
- Emotional and psychological abuse
- Put-downs
- Isolating someone from their friends and family
- Financial control
- Preventing someone from practicing their religion
- Pressure or coercion to have children

### **Domestic violence can occur in the following relationships (ex or current):**

- Spouses or de-facto partners
- Boyfriend or Girlfriend (sexual or otherwise)
- Flatmates or housemates
- Persons who live in the same residential facility
- A person and their carer (paid or unpaid)
- Relatives
- Extended family or kin, according to the Indigenous Kinship System (for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders)

Domestic violence is perpetrated mainly (but not only) by men against women in a relationship or after separation. Both women and men can be perpetrators of domestic violence in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

Domestic violence and family violence are often used to describe the same thing.

## Being safe from domestic violence is a human right

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that all people in the world are entitled to have, regardless of their sex, religion, nationality, race or language. Many international agreements such as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) contain the human rights standards and customs that should be honored in every nation. The *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) supports the specific protection of women against violence.

You also have human rights to:

- Safe housing
- Access to social, health and legal services
- Social security payments (if eligible)

There are laws and services in Australia that can help you achieve these rights. For example, there are laws to protect you from violent behaviour. Centrelink provides emergency income assistance; and the government funds a range of housing, social, legal and other services to help people who have experienced violence, to get the assistance they need.

The following factsheets will give you information about some of your rights, to help you live free from violence:

## Index of Information sheets

- Checklist and useful contacts: Leaving domestic violence
- Centrelink and domestic violence
- Debt and domestic violence
- Fines and domestic violence
- Immigration and domestic violence
- Divorce and domestic violence
- Property and domestic violence
- Parenting and domestic violence