



Zero tolerance to family violence

Aboriginal Housing Victoria has a zero tolerance approach to domestic and family violence. We know that the rates of domestic and family violence are significantly higher in Aboriginal communities and we are committed to making a significant contribution as an Aboriginal community controlled organisation to ending violence.

We understand that ending violence is a shared responsibility. Not one person, not one organisation, but all of us need to work collectively together to end violence in all forms.

Aboriginal Housing Victoria wants to lead by example and show that we are taking this issue seriously. We have made a commitment to become a White Ribbon accredited organisation and have taken the pledge to end violence.

NO MORE family violence.

What is family violence?

Family violence is against Victorian law and should not be tolerated. Family violence includes:

- Any type of physical violence
- Forcing you to do sexual things, even if you are in a relationship or married
- Elder abuse
- Lateral abuse
- Verbal abuse and intimidation
- Preventing you from having access to money
- Isolating you from your family or community
- Any repeated unwanted contact, including texts and social media
- Children witnessing family violence

Working together to end family violence

- Family violence does not have any basis in any community and should be dealt with appropriately.
- Family violence that breaks the law should be dealt with accordingly.
- Children's health and social wellbeing must come first.
- Community has an important role in breaking the cycle of family violence and needs to work together with all services and agencies.
- Women, children and men have the same rights before the law, and their rights must be represented equally.
- Perpetrators and victims need to be supported throughout the relevant treatment and counselling programs to break the cycle of violence.
- Offenders must attend programs to break the cycle of family violence.



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Emergency Family Violence Services

There is no shame in calling the police. If you are in danger, please call **000**.

Help for women, men and children who are experiencing family violence:

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Service (24 hours): 1800 015 188 / 9322 3555

Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service: 9482 5744

Aboriginal Centre for Males Referral Service (24 hours): 1800 352 624

Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491 (9am—9pm)

Parentline: 132 289

Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service: 1300 792 387

Safety Planning

If you are thinking about leaving or intend to leave, have a plan before you go. Some things to think about are:

- Where will you go?
- How will you get there?
- What will you take with you? For example: money, birth certificates, passports, spare keys, medicare card, medications, change of clothes, toiletries
- Who could you tell about leaving? Supportive friends or family members, neighbours, children's school, and/or support worker.

Legal help

You have the right to apply for an intervention order and can decide whether you want the abusive family member to stay away from your home, your workplace, or whether you still want to live together but stop them harming or threatening you. For legal advice, call the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria on: **1800 105 303**

Aboriginal Housing Victoria

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