



ZERO TOLERANCE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) has a zero tolerance approach to domestic and family violence.

As an Aboriginal community controlled organisation we know that the rates of domestic and family violence are higher in Aboriginal communities and we are committed to making a significant contribution to ending this 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.

What is family violence?

Family violence is against Victorian law and 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 is unacceptable. It does not have a basis in any community, including Aboriginal communities, and should be dealt with appropriately.
- 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.





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 (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 (9am-9pm): 1300 766 491
- Parent line: 132 289
- Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800
- Victorian Legal Services: 1300 792 387
- Dardi Munwurro Aboriginal Men's Support: 1800 435 799

Safety planning

If you are thinking about 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? (eg: money, birth certificates, passports, spare keys, Medicare card, medications, change of clothes, toiletries etc...)
- Who could you tell about leaving? (eg: supportive friends or family members, neighbours, children's school, support worker etc...)

Legal help

You have the right to apply for an intervention order and can decide whether you want the abusive 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



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