

LGBTI DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

Only keep this booklet
if it is safe to do so.

For more information on DFV
in LGBTI relationships visit:
www.sayitoutloud.org.au

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YES IT IS REAL!

Domestic and family violence is any type of abusive behaviour used to gain and maintain control over an intimate partner, ex-partner, family member (including chosen family), carer or member of the same household.

Domestic and family violence in LGBTI relationships is as common as it is in non-LGBTI relationships, about 1 in 3 having experienced it.

Chances are that you or someone you know has been or is in an abusive relationship.

VIOLENCE IS NOT ALWAYS PHYSICAL

Domestic and family violence is not just the use of physical violence to control or coerce. It can be:

Verbal: When someone uses words and tone to intimidate the other person or put them down.

Emotional or psychological: When one person makes another feel worthless, afraid and insecure.

Sexual: When one person forces, coerces or pressures another into any type of sexual act against their will or when they cannot consent (Certain circumstances make it impossible for a person to legally give consent. These circumstances usually involve cases in which a person is not mentally or physically capable of choosing whether to engage in sexual

behavior, including if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs or underage).

Social: Behaviour that controls the other's social life, such as restricting who they see or isolating them from friends, family or community.

Stalking/harassment: When someone tries to intimidate or harass the other, in person or via technology.

Financial: When one person controls another person's money and/or assets. This might include coercing someone into taking out loans or debt.

Abuse within LGBTI relationships can share many similarities with abuse within non LGBTI relationships, however there are **some unique differences for LGBTI people:**

- Using someone's intersex status, sexuality, gender, gender expression, transgender or HIV status against them.
- Threatening to 'out' someone to their family, friends, community or workplace. Outing can include someone's gender, sexuality, intersex status or HIV status
- Controlling someone's medications, access to gender transition related healthcare, or pressuring them to conform to sex or gender "norms"

- Confidentiality and lack of appropriate language to discuss abuse in LGBTI communities/relationships.
- A lack of services that address the specific needs of LGBTI people, such as safe housing services for male victims, supports for female perpetrators, transgender and intersex inclusive services.
- A fear of lack of understanding, minimisation and/or discrimination from police and service providers.
- Fear around differing legal rights over children and assets.

IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT IF YOUR LOVED ONE CHOOSES TO BE ABUSIVE

In your relationship do you feel scared, anxious or like you are walking on eggshells?

Do you change your appearance and/or behaviour so your partner/family member doesn't get angry?

Does your partner prevent you from attending social activities or act overprotective or become jealous for no reason?

Talk to someone you can trust – a friend, family member, counsellor, or call a free and confidential service such as 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732, 24/7) or ACON (9206 2000 during office hours).

You don't have to manage this alone.

USING VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND CONTROL IS A CHOICE AND THERE ARE NO EXCUSES!

If you are misusing power and trying to control your partner/family member then it is your responsibility to stop.

Your partner/family member has the right to seek help.

Be honest with how your words/actions are affecting your partner and family.

If you think you might be trying to control your partner/family member contact a free, LGBTI - friendly confidential service such as 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732, 24/7) or ACON (9206 2000 during office hours).

TAKE A ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS ABUSING THEIR PARTNER

Look out for changes in your friend/family member. Do they act differently, look afraid or uncomfortable around their partner/family member?

Do they get dozens of texts and phone calls from their partner/family member?

Are they told what to do and how to act?

Has your friend/family member lost their confidence?

If you are worried about someone you know then you can call a free and confidential service for help and advice such as 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732, 24/7)

DFV SERVICES

In an emergency always call 000
Police Assistance line: 131 444
www.police.nsw.gov.au

To report DFV you can talk to any police officer. You can also ask to speak with a Domestic Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO) or a LGBTI Liaison Officer (known as GLLO). People can try to contact a GLLO directly but some stations don't have GLLOs and GLLOs and DVLOs are not available 24/7 but general police are.

1800RESPECT Helpline: 1800 737 732
www.1800respect.org.au

Information and support for anyone in Australia experiencing DFV or sexual assault, 24 hours/day, 7 days/ week. The website has an LGBTIQ specific information section.

NSW Domestic Violence Line

1800 656 463

Information, telephone support and referrals for LGBTI people who are victims of DFV, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

NSW Victims Services: 1800 633 063,

Aboriginal Line: 1800 019 123

www.victimservices.justice.nsw.gov.au

Confidential support, free counselling, financial assistance, referral and information for all victims of DFV in NSW.

Mensline: 1300 789 978

www.mensline.org.au

Australian wide telephone counselling (6 sessions) and referrals for men (GBTI inclusive).

Lifeline: 13 11 14

www.lifeline.org.au

National crisis and suicide prevention telephone counselling, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Serves (known as Aboriginal medical services/AMS)

ACCHS are health services initiated by Aboriginal people, based in a local Aboriginal community, which delivers a wholistic and culturally appropriate health service. To find the contact details of your nearest service visit:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal
pages/contact.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal/pages/contact.aspx)

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Service

Legal advice and support for a range of issues, including DFV. For all women LGBTI inclusive.

1800 686 587

www.wirringabaiya.org.au

LGBTIQ SPECIFIC SERVICES

ACON

LGBTI health organisation offering information, referrals, counselling, advocacy and practical support for LGBTI people in NSW experiencing DFV.

9206 2000

www.acon.org.au/dfv

Inner City Legal Centre, Safe Relationships Project

Free legal advice and court support for LGBTIQ people experiencing DFV in NSW.

9332 1966

www.iclc.org.au/srp

QLIFE

Free telephone and web based counselling, referrals and support for LGBTI people and their families.

1800 184 527

[www.qlife.org.au](http://www qlife.org.au)

Twenty10

Provide a wide range of support services across New South Wales supporting people of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities, their families and communities, including specialised services for young people (12-26), such as case management, counselling and supported accommodation. As well as information, referral and support for all ages.

8594 9555

www.twenty10.org.au

The Gender Centre

Provides services such as counselling, accommodation, outreach and support for transgender, gender queer and gender questioning people in NSW.

9569 2366

www.gendercentre.org.au

OII Australia – Intersex Australia

Provide information, education and peer support for intersex people nation-wide.

www.oii.org.au

Another Closet

For information and referral details on LGBTIQ domestic and family violence.

www.anothercloset.com.au

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