

Fact Sheet 2: Violence against Women with Disability

Domestic and family violence is a significant problem in Australia

Domestic and family violence occurs when one person in an intimate personal, family or informal care relationship uses violence or abuse to maintain power and control over the other person.

Domestic and family violence includes behaviour that is physically, sexually, emotionally, psychologically or economically abusive, threatening, coercive or aimed at controlling or dominating another person through fear.

Violence against women is a global human rights issue impacting our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, cousins, friends and sometimes ourselves.

Believe

Empower

Listen

Support

Women with disability are at a greater risk of domestic and family violence because:

- They may be dependent on the perpetrator for care, housing or financial support.
- They may be socially isolated and lack economic resources.
- They may have normalised the experience of being controlled.

They may find it harder to access services and support, particularly if they are:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Who may be fearful of system responses due to historical factors.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women

Who may perceive DFV as a private issue.

LGBTIQ+ people

Who may not feel welcome at mainstream services.

1 in 4 women have experienced violence by an intimate partner.

Intimate partner violence contributes an estimated 5.1 per cent to the disease burden in Australian women.

Every 9 days 1 woman in Australia is killed by a current or previous intimate partner

Domestic and family violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children.

1 in 3 women with a disability have experienced emotional abuse from a current or previous partner.

People with a disability experience additional forms of family, domestic and sexual violence such as reproductive control, forced or withheld medical treatment, forced isolation or restraint.

People with a disability are 1.8 times as likely to have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

An estimated 9 in 10 women with an intellectual disability have experienced sexual assault.

