



Understanding Domestic and Family Violence & Coercive Control

“Everyone has the right to feel safe at home”

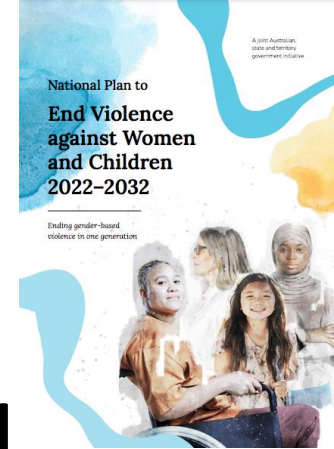


Acknowledgment

- To the traditional custodians of this land , the Durumbal People, and the ancestors of this country who passed down the knowledge to the keepers today, to remember Connectivity to Life through Spiritual Lore.

Dedication

- To each and every **victim and survivor of gender-based violence** we acknowledge their resistance and resilience.
- We **thank the victim-survivors who have spoken out and shared their stories.**
- We **mourn those who have been murdered and the children we will not see grow up.**
- We **acknowledge and thank all the people and organisations who work tirelessly every day to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and children, and whose advice and advocacy have informed this plan.**

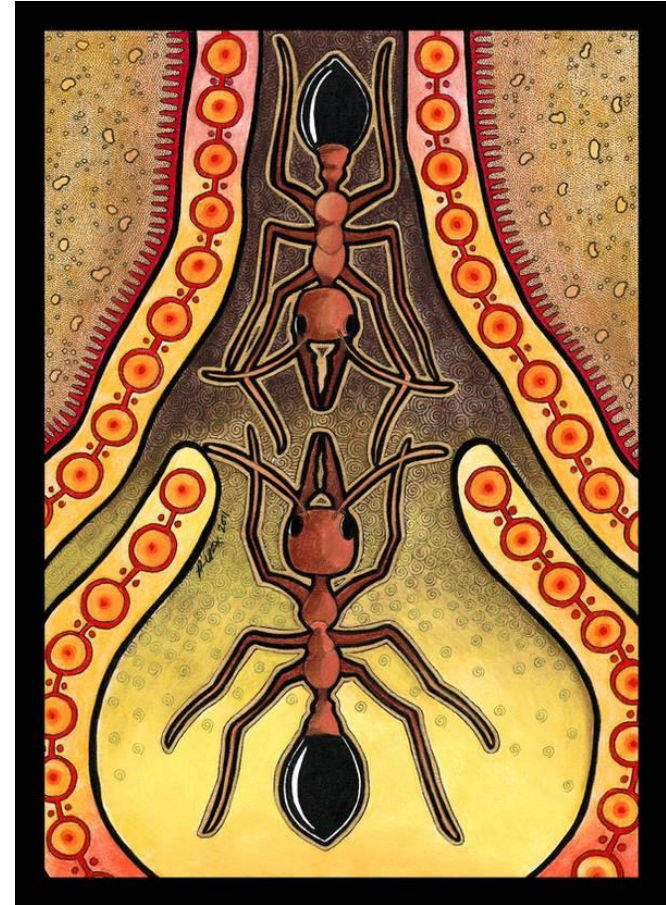


Source: National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

Story - Ant

- Ant asks us to consider 'doing what is right.' This means not only doing what is right for us, but also **looking at what services we can offer to enrich our community and family. That communal ant works towards an idea of a greater good**, which is sustaining and nourishing its community so that it - in turn - may be protected by its community. It is through a healthy community that many species of ant thrive; and ant brings this to our attention.

Source: www.wildspeak.com



Special Taskforce on DFV in QLD

- Working Together to Achieve Change
- In August **2014**, an online **survey** was **developed to understand community attitudes about DFV** and how we can best respond as a community.
- The survey **revealed that the community, service providers, and the families** of those involved are viewed as **responsible** for supporting someone affected by DFV.
- **Education and awareness building is an effective prevention mechanism**

Source: www.publications.qld.gov.au

Introduction

- Background holistic psychotherapy private practice
- **DFV Counsellor – DFV Response Program CCCQ**
- Case Management/ Domestic and Family Violence
- Trained facilitator Circle of Security Parenting
- Trained facilitator Caring Dads – Men’s/Father’s behaviour program
- Trained facilitator Women’s Healing and Storytelling Circle
- AIM: Living in community where the Mothers are taken care of so they can take care of the children and adolescents for their development into healthy, individuated, responsible adult human beings

Information, Awareness & Understanding

AIM

- Raise awareness about DFV and coercive control
- Support services available in our community
- Resources, conversations and whole of community approach

Warning and Taking Care

- If you need support, there are trained professionals in this room.
- If you need to step away, please take of you – you will not be judged
- If you require support after the event you can call these numbers for free confidential support service:

1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

1800 737 732

Free service 24/7

for people impacted by domestic,
family and sexual violence

13 YARN

13 92 76

Free service 24/7

for First Nations people

 **Beyond
Blue**

1300 224 636

Free service 24/7

counselling for everyone in
Australia



What is Domestic & Family Violence

“Everyone has the right to feel safe at home”

End DFV and coercive control in QLD

- **Domestic and family violence and coercive control is a complex and pervasive issue across Queensland with devastating and long-lasting impacts to individuals and across our community.**
- In response to the Queensland Government's commitment to legislate against coercive control, the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established in March 2021 as an independent, consultative taskforce to look at:

coercive control and the need for a specific offence of DFV
the experience of women and girls across the criminal justice system

Domestic & Family Violence



Queensland Government
Queensland Legislation

Domestic violence means behaviour, or a pattern of behaviour, by one person towards another person with whom the first person is in a relevant relationship that is:

- physically or sexually abusive; or
- emotionally or psychologically abusive; or
- economically abusive; or
- threatening; or
- Coercive (but not limited to this)

Source: Adapted from the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, 2012

Domestic & Family Violence



Queensland Government
Queensland Legislation

It is any form of **control** and **dominance** by one person in a **relevant relationship** toward another person that causes them **fear** for their safety or wellbeing (or that of someone else).

The meaning of a **relevant relationship** is:

- an intimate personal/partner relationship; or
- a family relationship; or
- an informal care relationship.

Source: Adapted from the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, 2012

Domestic & Family Violence



Queensland Government
Queensland Legislation

Intimate personal relationship – Intimate partner

- a spousal relationship including de facto; or
- an engagement relationship; or
- a couple relationship.

Source: Adapted from the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, 2012

Domestic & Family Violence



Queensland Government
Queensland Legislation

Family relationship/ Relative:

- A family relationship exists between two persons if one of them is or was the relative of the other.
- A relative of a person is someone who is or has been connected to the person by blood or marriage.

Examples of an individual's relatives

- an individual's spouse, child (including +18), stepchild, parent, step-parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, nephew, cousin, half-brother, mother-in-law or aunt-in-law

Source: Adapted from the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, 2012

Domestic & Family Violence



- **Family violence** is the preferred term for family and domestic violence within First Nations communities, as it covers the extended families, kinship networks and community relationships in which violence can occur (Cripps and Davis 2012).
- **Family violence** can lead to severe social, cultural, spiritual, physical and economic impacts for First Nations communities, especially for women and children (HRSCSPLA 2021).

Domestic & Family Violence



Queensland Government
Queensland Legislation

Informal Care Relationship

- An informal care relationship exists between 2 persons if 1 of them is or was **dependent** on the other person (the carer) for help in an activity of daily living. Eg Mental Health and Disability, Elderly

Examples of help in an activity of daily living


- dressing or other personal grooming of a person
- preparing a person's meals or helping a person with eating meals
- shopping for a person's groceries
- telephoning a specialist to make a medical appointment for a person

Source: Adapted from the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, 2012



Signs and Relationship Abuse

“Everyone has the right to feel safe at home”

A silhouette of a police officer in uniform, facing forward, is positioned on the left side of the image. The officer's uniform includes a vest with 'POLICE' written on it. The silhouette is filled with a black and white pattern and is outlined in a bright orange color.

What is Coercive Control?



Gender-based violence

- Violence against women and children is a problem of **epidemic** proportions in Australia.
- in 2023, 74 women killed in Australia by men according to researcher Sherele Moody.
- In 2024, 1 woman is being murdered every 4.5d with the current number of women killed in Australia - **39**
- Indigenous women are 11 times more likely to die from family violence than non-indigenous women

Source: ABC News 24 Apr 2024

Source: National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

Gender-based violence

- Refers to violence that is used against someone because of their gender.
- It describes violence rooted in gender-based power inequalities, rigid gender norms and gender-based discrimination.
- While people of all genders can experience gender-based violence, the term is most often used to describe violence against women and girls, because **most** gender-based violence is perpetrated by heterosexual, cisgender men against women, because they are women.

Source: National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

Gender-based violence

- One in 3 women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15
- One in 5 has experienced sexual violence.
- Rates of violence are even higher for certain groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
- A woman is also more likely to experience violence at particular life stages, such as while pregnant or while separating from a relationship.
- In 2021, girls aged 10 to 17 made up 42% of female sexual assault victims.

Source: National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

Ripple effects of violence against women and children

– Domestic and family violence is a **leading driver of homelessness** for women

– The cost of violence against women and their children* is estimated at **\$26 billion** a year

**This cost applies to women and their children only. If all forms of violence against children were included, the cost would be significantly higher.*



– Women who experience partner **violence during pregnancy** are **3 times** as likely to experience **depression**

– Children exposed to domestic and family violence may experience trauma symptoms, including PTSD. There may also be **long-lasting effects on children's development, behaviour and well-being**

– **Intimate partner homicide** is the most prevalent homicide type in Australia

– In 2019–20, there were **4,706 hospitalisations** of young people aged 15–24 due to assault

– Violence represents 10.9% of the **burden of disease** for Indigenous women

– Among women 18 to 44 years, violence against women is the **single biggest risk factor** contributing to disease burden; more than smoking, drinking or obesity

Source: National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

Domestic & Family Violence



SpeakOutLoud

- Is an **abuse of power** and is reinforced by **social beliefs** which give **men** the right to **dominate women**.
- Person's Using Violence (PuV) of one-sided power and control can only continue their behaviours if they keep their victims **isolated**, if they keep their victims **confused**, if they keep their victims **servicing**, **worshipping** and **'respecting'** them.
- These tactics can only work when other people turn a blind eye, or actively condone it.

Source: speakloud.net



Duluth Wheel of Power and Control

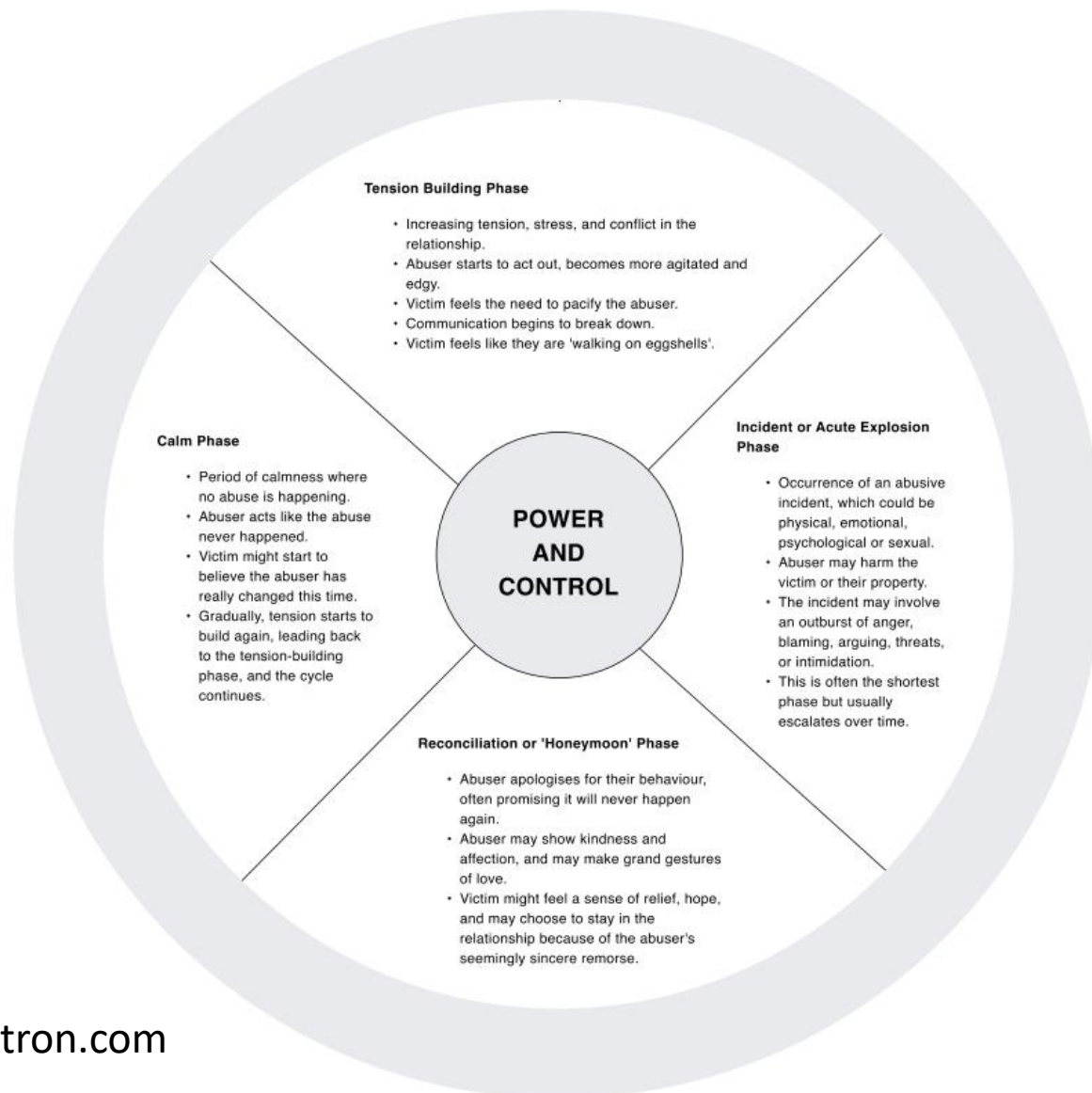


SpeakOutLoud

1. Using Intimidation
2. Using Emotional Abuse
3. Using Isolation
4. Minimizing denying and blaming
5. Using children
6. Using male privilege
7. Using economic abuse
8. Using coercion and threats

Source: speakloud.net

Cycle of Abuse Wheel



Source: www.carepatron.com

Cycle of Abuse Stages

The cycle of abuse often goes through four main stages:

<-> tension <-> incident <-> reconciliation <-> calm <->



Coercive Control

“Everyone has the right to feel safe at home”

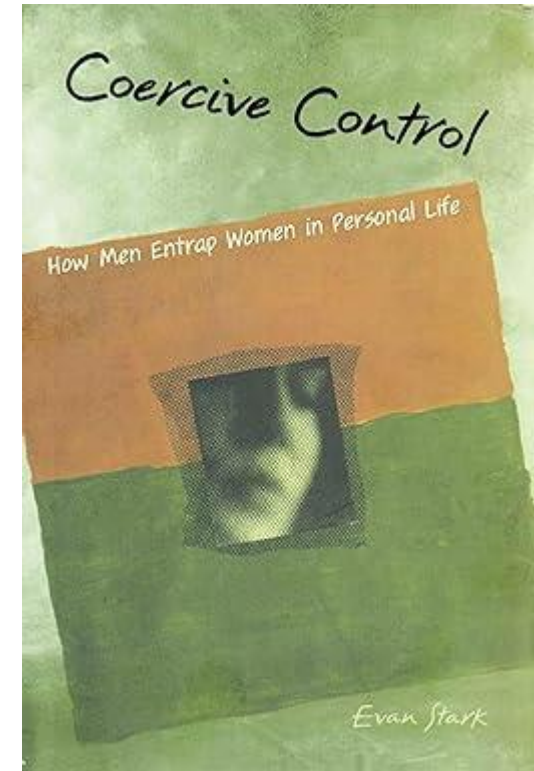


Coercive Control

- "Coercive control is a new conceptual and legal framework for international progress in women's rights that frames male partner abuse as a crime against autonomy, dignity, equality and liberty. "
- **A pattern of controlling behaviors**

Coercive Control

- Dr Evan Stark – Sociologist, Forensic Social Worker, Author, Trainer,
- The theory of coercive control explains why victims may experience living in a prison cell with no visible bars
- The “generality” of coercive control refers to elements that partner abuse shares with kidnapping, hostage-taking, brain-washing and other “capture” crimes.



Source: www.evanstark.weebly.com

What is Coercive Control?

- Laura Richards is international expert on coercive control and male violence, sexual violence, homicide and risk assessment.
- The victim's every day existence is **micromanaged** and her space for action as well as potential as a human being is limited and controlled by the abuser.

What is Coercive Control?

- Initially **loveboming** and charm may occur to get the victim into the relationship.
- **Gaslighting, isolation, financial abuse** and **rules** and **regulations** are gradually introduced over time once the victim is **emotionally invested** as well as a **consequence** if they are broken.
- The **rules** apply to the victim rather the perpetrator creating a double standard and the victim fears the consequence if she breaks a rule.

What is Coercive Control?

- Over time, coercively controlling behaviour **erodes** the victim's **sense of self**, their **confidence** and **self-esteem**, **agency** and **autonomy**.
- The abuser creates an unreal world of contradiction, confusion and **fear**.
- Moreover 51% of victims do not even know that they are being abused, manipulated and controlled.

What is Coercive Control?

- coercive control is about **domination** and correlates significantly to **serious harm** and homicide.
- It causes trauma

Traumatic stress reactions can include

- anxiety, depression, dissociation, flashbacks, hypervigilance and difficulty forming relationships and connections
- physical symptoms like difficulty sleeping, headaches or nausea

Source: National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032
Source: www.thelaurarichards.com

The impacts of DFV and coercive control

- Our responsibility is **helping the women and child survivors to be safe: really safe**, not just safe ‘on paper’
- can be managed with the right support and access to **culturally responsive** and **trauma-informed** DFV response and recovery services.

Source: www.msf.gov.sg

Source: National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

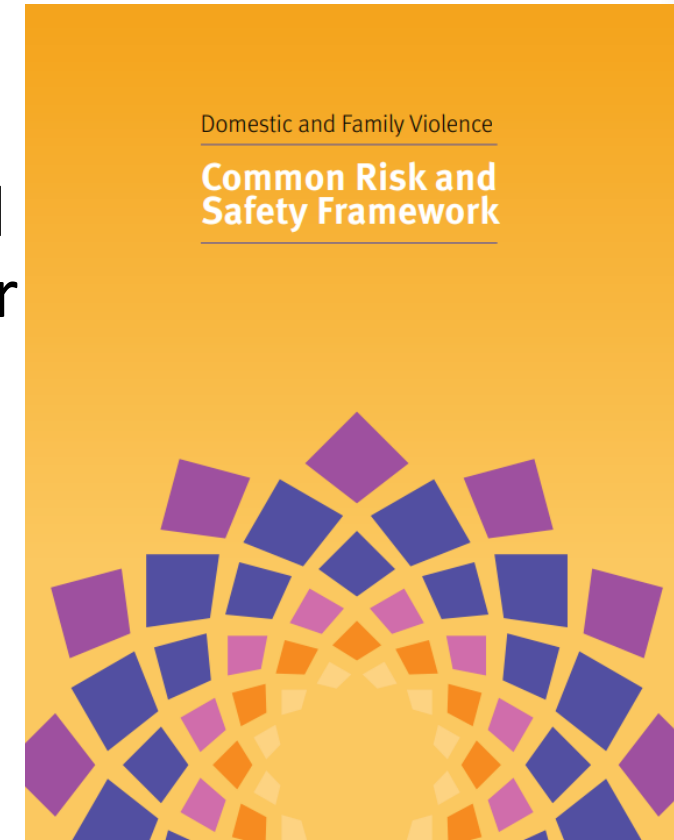
Safety - CRASF

- The DFV **Common Risk And Safety Framework** is part of the Queensland Government's commitment to a Queensland free from DFV where people feel safe in their homes and where children can grow and develop in safe, secure environments



Queensland Government

Department of Justice and Attorney-General



Version 2



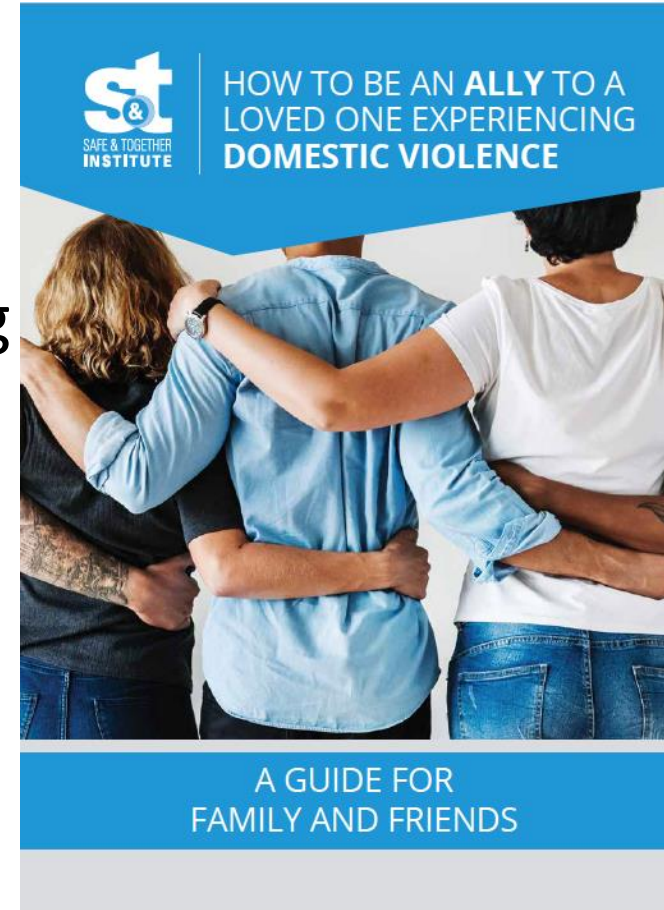
Source: www.justice.qld.gov.au

Safe & Together

- WHAT IS AN ALLY? An ally is someone who provides emotional support and practical assistance to another.
- To be an ally of someone who is experiencing domestic violence, you need to be able to:

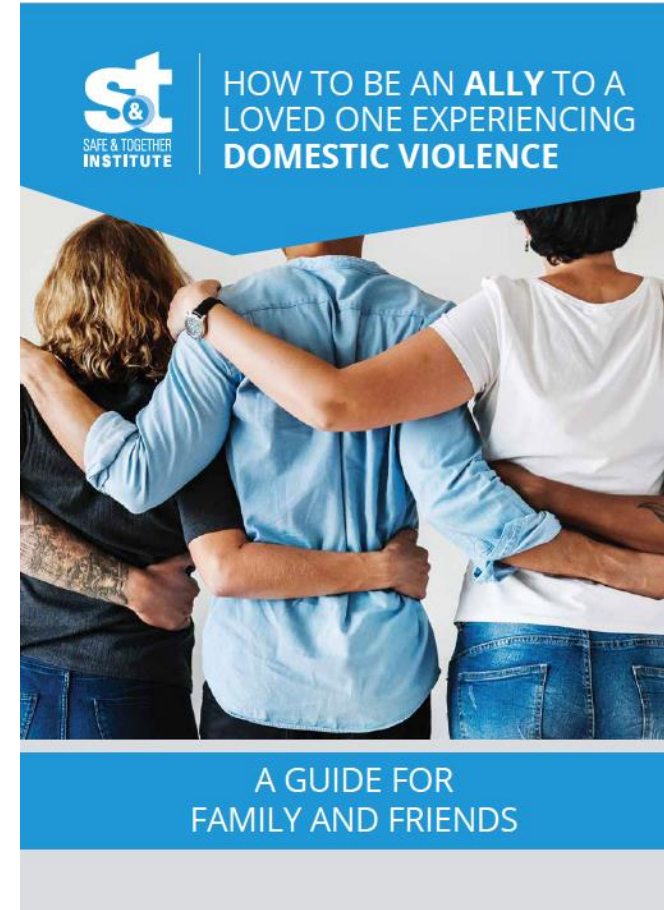
listen,
validate their experience, and, if possible
and safe,
provide tangible forms of support.

Source: www.safeandtogetherinstitute.com



Safe & Together

- This book is designed to provide you with **information, language and suggestions** about **how to respond** to a very challenging, harmful and potentially dangerous situation.
- Provides you with questions and things to think about to listen to her hopes and fears and try to help her make the best decision for her situation.



Source: www.safeandtogetherinstitute.com

00 NEWS

COERCIVE CONTROL EXPLAINED

Coercive Control is now a crime in QLD

- On 6 March 2024, Queensland passed laws to criminalise coercive control, becoming the second jurisdiction in Australia - after NSW - to do so.



Navigator Pilot Program

Angel Tan



Court Support

NAVIGATION



Safety is our
priority 

DFV Legislation

Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023



Criminal Code – Criminal Offence of Coercive Control

The person is in a domestic relationship with another person

The person engages in a course of conduct against the other person that consists of domestic violence occurring on more than one occasion

The person intends the course of conduct to coerce or control the other person; and

The course of conduct would, in all the circumstances, be reasonably likely to cause the other person harm (physical, emotional, financial, psychological or mental wellbeing, whether temporary or permanent)



Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
(<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/bill.first.exp/bill-2023-007>)

Court
Support
NAVIGATION



DFV Legislation *(Continued)*

- **Amendment of Bail Act 1980**
- **Extension of PPN's in exceptional circumstances**
- **Improper Questions**
- **Evidence of the public and evidence of a complainant's sexual reputation and sexual activities**
- **Amendments to the failure to report offence**
- **Affirmative consent, mistake of fact and stealthing**

Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

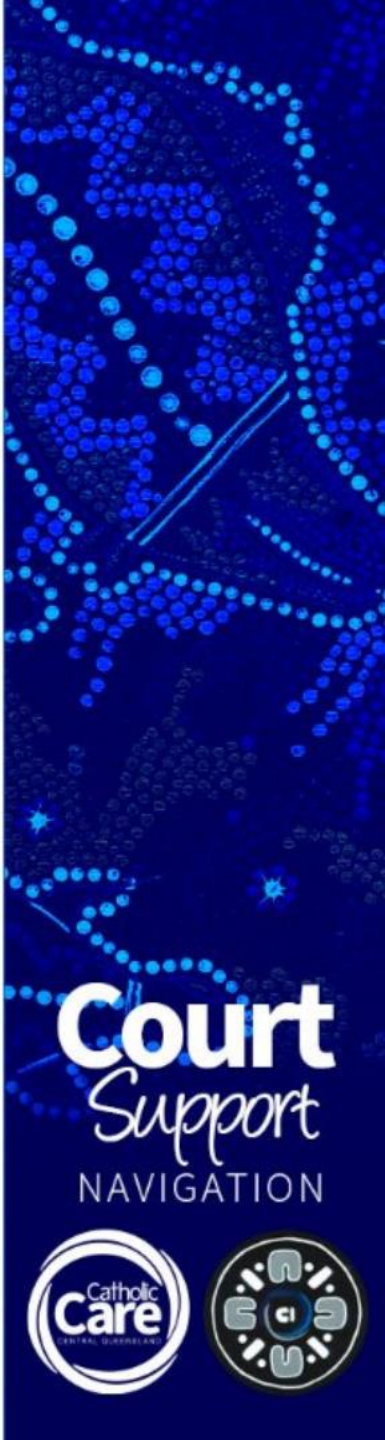
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/bill.first.exp/bill-2023-007>

Court
Support
NAVIGATION





Where do victim/survivors of DFV
access support in the criminal justice
system?



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Navigator Pilot Program - Eligibility

Victims of domestic and family violence (the aggrieved) in relation to criminal matters listed in the Rockhampton Magistrates, District and Supreme Court

Inclusive of gender, sexuality, cultural status and do not need to be a prior client with CatholicCare

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Outcomes

- **To ensure every person** subject to DFV and entering the criminal justice system as an 'aggrieved' has trauma informed specialised supports and resources to safely navigate the court system



Court
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Program Delivery

- **Ensuring** a risk assessment and safety plan are in place
- **Negotiating** for victims where special safety measures are required
- **Providing** information about court processes and timeframes
- **Discussing** individual needs and solutions – cultural and gender considerations, interpreters, accessibility or adaptive requirements for people with a disability, and special witness measures

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Program Delivery *(Continued)*

- **Organising** pre-court visits to familiarise people with the set-up and operation of court room
- **Assisting** victims to contact **Police Prosecutions (PP)** and the **Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)** when seeking information
- **Assisting** clients to understand and manage their expectations about processes and potential outcomes
- **Being available** to victims pre and post major court dates and/or attending court with victims while they give evidence

Court
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Program Delivery *(Continued)*

- **Providing** information on victims' rights and financial assistance
- **Referring** to other specialist and generalist support agencies
- **Providing** appropriate assistance on how to prepare and submit a Victim Impact Statement
- **Connecting** the victim to the Victim's Register and discussing post-court support needs

Court
Support
NAVIGATION



Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Victim Assist Queensland

Financial assistance for victims of violent crime



Queensland
Government

What is Victim Assist?

Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ) is a government agency that assists victims of violent crime in Queensland. Our goal is to help victims recover.

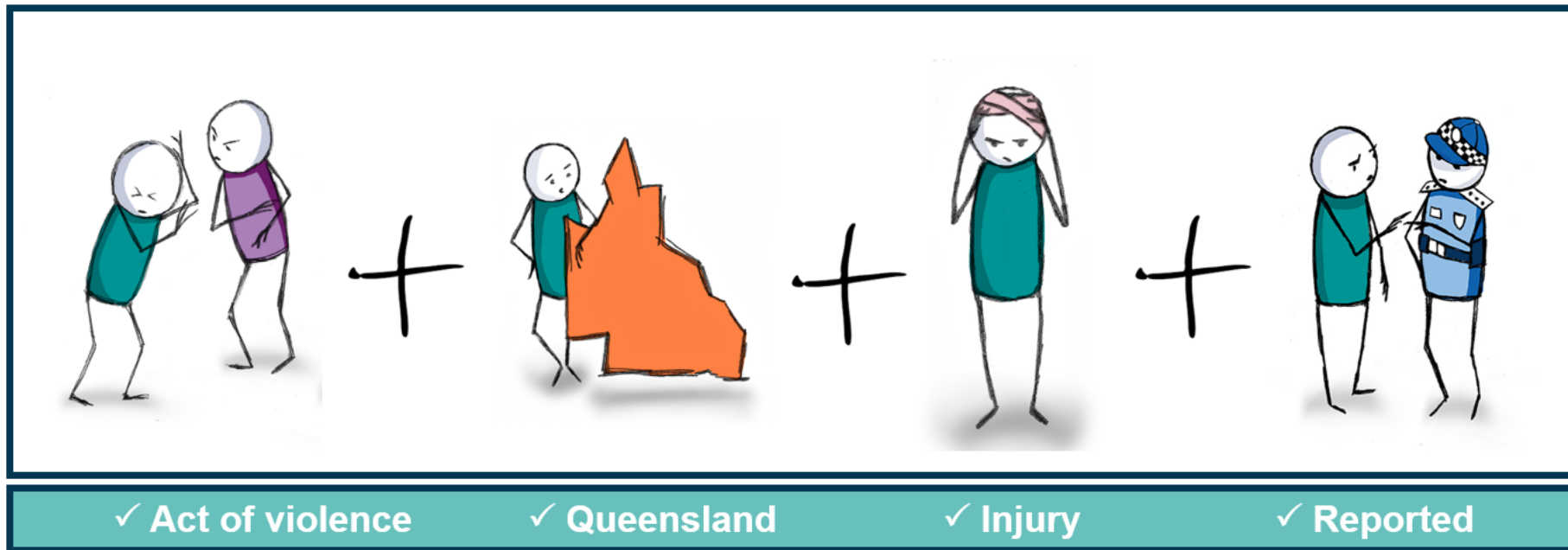
VAQ provides:

- financial assistance to eligible victims of violent crime to help them recover
- information and guidance on how to apply for financial assistance
- information and referral to existing support services to aid recovery such as counselling
- funding to victim support services in Queensland



Eligibility

There are **4 elements** that must be satisfied in order to be eligible for financial assistance:



Special Primary Victims

A Special Primary Victim (SPV) is someone who:

- Experienced sexual violence
- Has impaired capacity
- Experienced violence by a person who was in a position of power, influence or trust
- Experienced domestic and family violence
- Was a child at the time of the violence
- Is being threatened or intimidated by the offender or someone else

A SPV can report to:

- DFV Specialist (including social workers at a hospital or DFV support worker)
- Doctors
- Counsellor
- Psychiatrist / Psychologist
- Police

A SPV will need to submit a
'Special Primary Victim Report'

with their application.

A Special Primary Victim is a primary victim.

Types of victims and payments

The type of financial assistance available depends on the type of victim, their personal circumstances and what they need to recover.

Types of victims and payments		
Primary victim A person directly injured by an act of violence	Special assistance payment	One off, lump sum recognition payment between \$3,000 to \$15,000.
	Recovery expenses	Services and items to help victims recover such as medical, counselling, travel to appointments, relocation, security, cultural healing, loss of earnings etc.
Related victim A close family member or financial dependant of a person who was killed by an act of violence.	Distress payment	One off, lump sum payment of up to \$15,000.
	Dependency payment	One off, lump sum payment of up to \$20,000 for people who were financially dependent on the deceased.
	Recovery expenses	Services and items to help victims recover.

Types of payments

Parent secondary victim A parent of a child victim	Recovery expenses	Services and items to help victims recover such as counselling, medical and some loss of earnings.
Witness secondary victim A person who saw or heard an act of violence being committed against someone else.	Recovery expenses	Services and items to help victims recover such as counselling, medical and some loss of earnings.
Funeral assistance	Funeral expenses	Up to \$15,000 for the funeral of a person or an unborn child (any gestational age) lost due to violence.

We have an online Application Form

Who can use the online form?

- ✓ **A primary victim** – the person who was directly injured by acts of violence
- ✓ **A related victim** – a close family member or financial dependant of a person who was killed by acts of violence.

The online form has two parts:

- **Part A** – Applying for Financial Assistance
- **Part B** – Claiming recovery expenses

All other applicant types will need to complete a PDF application form available on our website.

Victim Assist Queensland

Department of Justice and Attorney-General



Victim Assist Queensland

If you have any questions,
please contact us on

1300 546 587

or

victimassist@justice.qld.gov.au

or

www.qld.gov.au/victims

You may also contact your local domestic and family
violence support service:

- **CatholicCare**
- **Helem Yumba**



Where to Get Help?

Local Response Team



CatholicCare – DFV Services

- CatholicCare provides **critical** domestic and family violence services to **Rockhampton, Yeppoon, Blackwater, Emerald & Longreach**
- Our local response teams understand the complex reality of domestic and family violence and offer support and services to all those affected, be they victims, survivors, children, or perpetrators.
- Telephone: [\(07\) 4977 4107](tel:(07)49774107)
- email: referral@catholiccarecq.com



CatholicCare – DFV Services

Options for individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing violence:

- Risk assessment, safety planning, and security option consultations
- Counselling
- Child witness support
- Court support
- Men's healing and change programs (PuV)



Helem Yumba
HEALING PLACE



A Culturally Safe Response

Local Response Team

Culturally Safe Response



- CatholicCare is partnered with Helem Yumba our local indigenous healing centre
- For anyone who prefers to access supports centred specifically around Indigenous values, protocols and approaches, Helem Yumba works alongside CatholicCare Central Queensland to ensure that these supports are readily available.
- If you identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or Indigenous, you may prefer to access domestic and family violence services through Helem Yumba
- Telephone: [1800 776 727](tel:1800776727)

Training for the whole community

Statement from former QLD Attorney General Shannon Fentimann

- On Coercive Control and DFV
- “Widespread training and sustained training is required not just for first time responders but is needed for the whole community to be able to identify this kind of behaviour”.

QCDFVR



Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research

Mission Statement:

- To contribute to the prevention of and response to violence against women and their children through research, education and sector support.

Scan this code using a QR reader app on your smartphone to access the full range of fact sheets.



The Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research receives defined term funding from the Queensland Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to undertake research and develop educational resources pertaining to domestic and family violence in Queensland.

Source: noviolence.org.au

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