

Queensland's plan to respond to domestic and family violence against people with disability

Easy Read version



How to use this plan



The Queensland Government wrote this plan.

When you see the word 'we', it means the Queensland Government.



We have written this plan in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.



We have written some words in **bold**. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 30.



This Easy Read plan is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at www.bit.ly/2l5lmH5



You can ask for help to read this plan.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is this plan about?



This plan is about **domestic and family violence** against people with disability.



Domestic and family violence is when you are hurt by someone close to you, such as:

- your boyfriend or girlfriend
- your husband or wife
- a member of your family
- someone who takes care of you.



It usually happens in your home.

But it can happen anywhere.

Domestic and family violence can be:



- physical – your body gets hurt



- emotional – your feelings get hurt



- sexual – you are made to do sexual things
you don't want to do



- mental – you're made to feel bad, you're
told bad things will happen, they try to
control you and change how you think.

When people with disability experience domestic and family violence, someone might:



- yell, shout or swear at them
- hit, punch, kick or choke them
- threaten to hurt someone they care about, such as their children, pets or assistance animals
- threaten to break or take away something they need, such as their communication or mobility aids
- threaten to send them away to be locked up
- not give them proper care
- take control of their money
- stop them from doing things they want to do
- stop them from seeing people they want to see
- stop them from getting services they need
- stop them using or charging their devices.



Domestic and family violence is not ok.



Domestic and family violence can **impact** a person.

The impact is how much something affects you.



Domestic and family violence can be **prevented** – we can do things to stop it from happening.



Our community needs to learn how domestic and family violence can impact people with disability.



We all need to do something about domestic and family violence against people with disability.

Why do we need this plan?

When people with disability experience domestic and family violence, it can:



- go on for a long time
- happen to them in more than one way.



Sometimes it is hard for people with disability to find people and places where they can feel safe.

We are working to find better ways:



- for systems and services to work together



- to stop domestic and family violence.



Some women are more at risk:

- women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- women from diverse cultural backgrounds
- women with disability.



It can be hard for people with disability to get the help they need from:

- police
- the courts
- the law.



It can be even harder for women with disability.



Women with disability can be treated unfairly because of their:

- gender
- age
- race
- sexuality.



The partner of a woman with disability might be their carer some of the time, then treat them badly at other times.



The community doesn't always include people with disability. They can feel:

- left out
- lonely.



People with disability don't always get the same chance to take part in:

- school and learning
- work.



It can be hard for some people with disability to communicate.

What are we going to do?



Our plan explains what we are going to do about domestic and family violence against people with disability in Queensland.

We need to look closely at:



- what support each person with disability really needs to be safe



- ways we can include women with disability in the things we do



- what has worked before so we can plan what to do next.



We set up a team to deal with the problem of domestic and family violence.

It's called the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland.



The Special Taskforce wrote a report called
Not Now, Not Ever.



The report:

- taught us a lot
- explained what we can do.



We have a chance to stop domestic and family
violence in Queensland.



But it is not an easy problem to fix.



There might be more people with disability experiencing domestic and family violence than we know.



Those people might:

- not know what to do
- be too scared to say or do anything.

Who will this plan help?



This plan can help all Queenslanders, including people with disability.



The whole community needs to take part.

We will:



- work with organisations and services that support people who have experienced domestic and family violence



- find new ways to share information about domestic and family violence against women and girls with disability



- offer people who work with women and girls with disability more training about how to:
 - recognise and respond to domestic and family violence
 - refer women and girls impacted by domestic and family violence



- find better ways to collect information about domestic and family violence against women with disability.



This will help us know where help is needed so we can make better decisions.



We will make sure organisations and services are:

- inclusive
- accessible.



If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



This plan gives people with **lived experience of disability** a chance to:

- help it get started
- make it work.



If you have lived experience of disability, you:

- have a disability
- know what life can be like for people with disability
- can tell your story to help others.

What's in the plan?

Our 4 focus areas

In the plan, we focus on 4 important areas:



1. Raising awareness



2. Building sector capacity and capability



3. Implementing practical responses



4. Building the evidence.

We explain each of our focus areas on the following pages.

1. Raising awareness

This focus area is about helping the community know and understand how people with disability:



- can be impacted by domestic and family violence



- have the same rights as everyone else.



What will we do?

We will clearly communicate with all Queenslanders about:



- how domestic and family violence impacts people with disability



- the rights of people with disability.



We will make sure people with disability can get the services and information they need to help them make decisions that keep them safe.



We will share information with people who work for the Queensland Government and explain:



- how domestic and family violence impacts people with disability



- what support they need.



How will we know if this has worked?

We will know this has worked if Queenslanders understand:



- how domestic and family violence impacts people with disability



- what to do to stop domestic and family violence against people with disability.

We will know this has worked when more people know and understand that people with disability:



- have rights
- can be independent
- can make decisions with the right support
- are safe
- get the support they need.

2. Building sector capacity and capability



This focus area is about making sure people who work with people with disability can give them the support and information they need.



What will we do?

We will:



- give people with disability better information about the support they can use if they are impacted by domestic and family violence
- help women with disability learn how to get help if they need it
- help people understand the best ways to support people with disability, especially women and their children.





We want to work closely with women with disability so we know we are doing things the right way.



How will we know this has worked?

We will know this has worked if there are better:



- programs for preventing domestic violence against people with disability



- services that know how to support people with disability impacted by domestic and family violence.

3. Implementing practical responses



This focus area is about really getting things done.

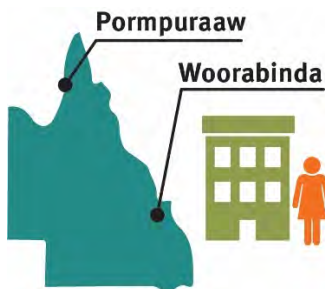


What will we do?

We will:



- build accessible women's shelters in Caboolture and the Gold Coast



- build better women's shelters in Pormpuraaw and Woorabinda



- support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with disability who are impacted by domestic and family violence.



We will also make sure Queensland police can handle domestic and family violence problems safely and well.



How will we know this has worked?



We will know this has worked if people with disability impacted by domestic and family violence are:

- safe
- supported.

4. Building the evidence



This focus area is about collecting information about domestic and family violence.



We need better information about how people with disability are impacted by domestic and family violence, especially women with disability.



What will we do?



We will work out what information we:

- already have
- need to collect.

We will look at:



- what we've done before and see if it is working for people with disability



- how good support is for people with disability who are affected by domestic and family violence.



How will we know this has worked?

We will know this has worked if we can see:



- the effect domestic and family violence can have on people with disability



- stop domestic and family violence against people with disability.

How can you get help?



There are ways to get help when you are affected by domestic and family violence.



If it's an emergency and you are in danger now, you can call Triple Zero – **000**.
Ask for the police.



DVConnect Womensline can support women who need:

- support
- a place to stay.



1800 811 811

24 hours, 7 days a week



DVConnect Mensline can support men who need:

- information
- counselling.



1800 600 636

9 am to midnight, 7 days a week



1800RESPECT can support you if you are being affected by domestic and family violence.

1800 737 732



You can go to their website and use their online chat service.

www.180orespect.org.au/



Lifeline

13 11 14

24 hours, 7 days a week



You *Deserve to be Safe* is an easy-to-read booklet about domestic and family violence.

You can use this link to download the booklet.

You Deserve to be Safe

wwild.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/final_web_tagged-pdf-002.pdf

Sunny app



Sunny is an app that supports all women with disability who have been impacted by domestic and family violence.



Sunny was designed by women with disability for women with disability.



Sunny helps you:

- learn about different types of domestic and family violence
- tell your story
- understand what has happened
- know your rights
- find people who can help.



Sunny is free to download for:

- iPhone
- Android phones.



You can visit the website to find out more about the Sunny app.

www.1800respect.org.au/sunny

Word list



Accessible

If something is accessible, everyone can use it.

This might be:

- a place or a building
- transport
- a service
- information
- a website.



Domestic and family violence

When someone you know:

- calls you names
- makes you feel scared or afraid
- hurts your body
- stops you from doing things you want to do
- says they will hurt someone or something you care about, such as your:
 - children
 - pets.



Impact

The impact is how much something affects you.



Inclusive

If something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



Lived experience of disability

If you have lived experience of disability, you:

- have a disability
- know what life can be like for people with disability
- can tell your story to help others.



Prevent

We can do things to stop it from happening.



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