

# Domestic and family violence - Not now, Not ever.



## P&C Fact sheet: What is Domestic and Family Violence and what can you do to help prevent it?

Responding to domestic and family violence in our community is everybody's responsibility. It is a complex issue that can impact on anyone, regardless of age, wealth, location, cultural background, sexual identity or gender.

Early in 2015, the Queensland Government released the landmark *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* Taskforce Report. The Taskforce was chaired by Dame Quentin Bryce. In response, the Queensland Government is implementing all 140 recommendations from the report. Included are nine recommendations and actions being undertaken by the Department of Education and Training.

The department has developed training materials and a number of resources to support staff experiencing domestic and family violence and to support principals and managers in supporting affected staff. The department has also made available the *Respectful relationships education program* for students in Prep to Year 12. Intervention with children around respect and healthy relationships is critical to breaking the cycle of domestic and family violence.

Parents and Citizens' Associations are an integral part of the school community and can work with principals and teachers to build school communities that model respectful healthy relationships and support prevention initiatives for their school.

### WHAT IS DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence occurs when one person in an intimate relationship uses violent or intimidating behaviour to instil fear and to assert power and control over their partner or ex-partner on an ongoing basis. Domestic violence is gendered in nature, in that it is mainly perpetrated against women and their children by men known to them.

Family violence refers to abuse and violence that occurs between family members and can at times be used interchangeably with the term domestic violence when it occurs within intimate relationships or after separation.

### THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

There are many different forms of domestic and family violence. These range from physical assault to emotional, financial, social, psychological, sexual abuse, stalking and other controlling behaviours.

### WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT IT?

- **1 in 6** Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner
- **1 in 4** Australian women have experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner
- **1 in 19** Australian men will experience physical or sexual violence from a partner or former partner
- **66 000** incidents of domestic and family violence were reported to Qld police in the 2013/14 year – more than 180 a day
- **1** woman is killed by her partner every week on average in Australia.

### HOW ARE CHILDREN INVOLVED?

- **61%** of people had children in their care when violence occurred, including **48%** who said the children had seen and heard the violence
- Children are present in **1 in 3** domestic and family violence matters reported to police in Australia

- Witnessing Domestic and Family Violence by a child can be a form of child abuse and can be reported to Child Safety.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT IT?

You can help to prevent Domestic and Family Violence. You could:

- Find out more about it. You could invite a local Domestic Violence service to come and present to the P&C (\*\*Please be aware that this may cause a trigger response for some members. Make sure there is adequate professional support available and give members notice prior to the presentations).
- Know your local services and how to access them to help provide support to victims.
- Raise community awareness of the issue: Get your school involved by holding a White Ribbon day, a 'Respectful Relationships Day' or raise funds for a registered local Domestic Violence charity.
- Support your school in implementing the *Respectful relationships education program*. This information will have more impact if a whole of school community approach is taken.
- Talk about it with other parents.
- Speak out against violence and challenge attitudes that contribute towards violence against women.

### WHAT SUPPORT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are Domestic and Family Violence services across the state. To find your closest service you can access Queensland Domestic Violence Link (DV Link). DV Link is a web-based directory of support services for people affected by domestic and family violence.

- 1800RESPECT Ph: 1800 737 732 (national telephone domestic and sexual violence service)

Within Queensland, DVConnect offers the following counselling and information services:

- Womensline: Ph: 1800 811 811 (24/7 telephone service)
- Mensline: Ph: 1800 600 636 (9am-midnight, 7 days)
- Sexual Assault Line: Ph: 1800 010 120 (8.30am – 11.30pm, 7 days)

Or contact the national 24/7 1800RESPECT (Ph: 1800 737 732) telephone service for support and information on Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013, Personal safety, Australia, 2012 (4906.0)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4906.0Main%20Features12012?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4906.0&issue=2012&num=&view=>

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services 2015, Not now, not ever : Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland <http://www.qld.gov.au/community/documents/getting-support-health-social-issue/dfv-report-vol-one.pdf>