

## Resources for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month – May 2026

Domestic and family violence (DFV) occurs across gender, ages and backgrounds, but mainly affects women and children.

DFV remains the most common homicide threat for Australian women - since the early 1990s, there have been an average of 49 women killed each year by their current or former intimate partner.<sup>1</sup>

In Australia:<sup>2</sup>

- 1 in 5 adults have experienced DFV since the age of 15.
- over 1 in 4 women have experienced DFV since the age of 15.
- over 1 in 8 men have experienced DFV since the age of 15.
- 12% of people have witnessed partner violence against their mothers when they were children, 4.3% of people have witnessed violence against their fathers.

First Nations women are overrepresented as victims of homicides due to DFV.<sup>3</sup> Family violence among First Nations people should be understood in the context of intergenerational trauma and the ongoing impacts of colonisation.<sup>4</sup>

In 2018, the fifteenth Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia resolved to adopt the *Statement on Domestic and Family Violence* and encouraged all presbyteries and agencies to undertake the commitments outlined in the statement, available here [09-Domestic-and-Family-Violence-15th-Assembly-Resolution.pdf](#), and with the text below:

### Assembly Resolution 18.06

Adopted by the Fifteenth Assembly 2018

The Assembly resolved to:

18.06.01 to adopt the Statement on Domestic and Family Violence;

18.06.02 to acknowledge and lament the presence of Domestic and Family Violence within the church including in the Uniting Church; the role some theologies have played in its legitimisation and that Christian communities have sometimes failed to acknowledge the presence of such violence in their midst and respond appropriately;

18.06.03 to affirm the work being done by:

(a) Agencies of the Uniting Church in addressing Domestic and Family Violence;

<sup>1</sup> Cubitt, T., Morgan, A., Dowling, C., Bricknell, S. & Brown, R. (2024). Targeting fixated individuals to prevent intimate partner homicide: Proposing the Domestic Violence Threat Assessment Centre. *Research in Practice* 48, Australian Institute of Criminology. Available at: <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rip/rip48>

<sup>2</sup> Cubitt, T., Morgan, A., Dowling, C., Bricknell, S. & Brown, R. (2024). Targeting fixated individuals to prevent intimate partner homicide: Proposing the Domestic Violence Threat Assessment Centre. *Research in Practice* 48, Australian Institute of Criminology. Available at: <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rip/rip48>

<sup>3</sup> Bricknell, S. & Miles, H. (2024). Homicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. *Australian Institute of Criminology Statistical Bulletin* 46. Available at: [https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/sb46\\_homicide\\_of\\_aboriginal\\_and\\_torres\\_strait\\_islander\\_women.pdf](https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/sb46_homicide_of_aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_women.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Bricknell, S. & Miles, H. (2024). Homicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. *Australian Institute of Criminology Statistical Bulletin* 46. Available at: [https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/sb46\\_homicide\\_of\\_aboriginal\\_and\\_torres\\_strait\\_islander\\_women.pdf](https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/sb46_homicide_of_aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_women.pdf)

- (b) Congregations, ministry agents and members of the Uniting Church who are compassionately responding to people affected by Domestic and Family Violence; and
  - (c) Uniting Church theological colleges in their formation of people for ministry which supports and encourages mutually respectful relationships between women and men; and
- 18.06.04 to request the Assembly Standing Committee, liaising with other parts of the Church, to:
- (a) create educational, theological and liturgical materials for distribution to the wider church within the current triennium to resource the Church to meet these commitments; and
  - (b) encourage Uniting Church members, synods, presbyteries, congregations, agencies, theological colleges and schools to carry out the commitments found in the Statement.

## **Statement on Domestic and Family Violence**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Broad community concern has brought Domestic and Family Violence into sharp focus in recent years. It is a global issue affecting people in Australia and across the world. The Uniting Church acknowledges that we as a community are not immune to incidents of Domestic and Family Violence and their consequences. We further acknowledge that Christian teachings have been used inappropriately to justify unhealthy relationships that can lead to Domestic and Family Violence.

1.2 It is important for the Church at this time:

- to be clear in repudiating all forms of Domestic and Family Violence;
- to express God's desire for life-giving mutually respectful relationships, homes and communities, where all people can flourish;
- to educate our members about the reality of the situation and how they can respond to point people to support, resources and care;
- to develop safe practices and safe spaces within all our congregations, agencies, schools, groups and communities consistent with the commitments made in the Uniting Church's National Child Safe Policy Framework<sup>5</sup>; and
- to acknowledge the work of our agencies (within the UnitingCare network as it connects to UnitingCare Australia that includes all agencies and Uniting World) in addressing this issue<sup>6</sup>;
- congregations, ministry agents and members of the Uniting Church who are compassionately responding to people affected by Domestic and Family Violence; and
- Uniting Church theological colleges in their formation of people for ministry which supports and encourages mutually respectful relationships between women and men.

1.3 For the purposes of this document, Domestic and Family Violence refers to a situation where someone who has a close personal relationship to another person physically injures them or makes them feel afraid, powerless or unsafe. Domestic and Family Violence can take the form of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, social, financial or spiritual abuse<sup>7</sup>.

### **2. UCA Theology and Belief**

2.1 In making this statement, the Uniting Church affirms the following biblical and theological understandings:

- All people are created in the image of God and are known and loved by God.

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<sup>5</sup> Uniting Church in Australia National Child Safety Policy Framework.

<sup>6</sup> The Uniting Church, through its agency UnitingWorld, is working with our Church Partners to address Domestic and Family Violence and gender inequality. They do this through projects that challenge theological understandings, empower women and encourage male advocates.

<sup>7</sup> Based on the definition used by Lifeline.

- Every person is of infinite worth and entitled to live with dignity and each person's life and humanity needs to be protected or the human community and its reflection of God are diminished<sup>8</sup>.
- As Christians we base our values on Jesus, who in his life and ministry loved and respected women and men, girls and boys, and people of all ages.
- We recognise Jesus' specific care for people who were powerless and those who were vulnerable.
- Our commitment to the equality of men and women and respect for all humans underlies our rejection of any form of violence.
- People grow into their fullest humanity when they are nurtured in situations of love, trust and safety – people should not have to live in fear.
- Liberation from oppression and injustice is central to the incarnation of God through Jesus Christ. God desires us to be free to make choices about our lives and to be responsible in that freedom to each other.
- The Basis of Union (Par 11) calls us to engage with literary, historical and scientific enquiry and to stand in relationship with contemporary society in ways that will help us understand our own nature and mission. Therefore, we must listen to the voices that inform us about Domestic and Family Violence and be willing to join others working to overcome this violence.
- The Basis of Union (Par 18) notes the Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in our life.

#### 2.2 We acknowledge that:

- We live in a world where women are often treated as less than equal;
- Some violent men who are members and adherents of Christian churches have used phrases in the Bible to reinforce their power in intimate relationships<sup>9</sup>;
- Theologies and teachings which support a power imbalance in family relationship can nurture an environment in which violence and other forms of abuse are present; and
- The lifelong commitment of marriage does not mean that people should stay in violent relationships. There are times when "divorce may be the only creative and life-giving direction to take"<sup>10</sup>.

#### 2.3 We give thanks for:

- The courage and witness of those who have come forward to share their stories of Domestic and Family Violence within the church and the wider community; and
- The ways in which light has been shed on the serious issue of family violence including through the work of public figures, journalists and government commissions.

### 3. The current context

3.1 Domestic and Family Violence is now recognised as a serious and widespread problem in Australia with huge impacts on individuals, families and communities.

3.2 The incidence of Domestic and Family Violence in Australia is not only restricted to women, but also includes abuse directed at men, children and increasingly towards older family members.

<sup>8</sup> Dignity in Humanity, A UCA Statement on Human Rights (2006).

<sup>9</sup> Dr Lynne Baker's 2010 book, "Counselling Christian Women on How to Deal with Domestic Violence" and Julia Baird with Hayley Gleeson, "'Submit to your husbands': Women told to endure domestic violence in the name of God", ABC News, last updated 23 January 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Statement on Marriage, Eighth Assembly 1997, Resolution 97.31.12, Uniting Church in Australia.

- Approximately one in four women (23%) has experienced violence by an intimate partner<sup>11</sup>.
- On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner, according to the most recent analysis of homicide statistics in Australia<sup>12</sup>.
- One in 5 women has experienced sexual violence.
- One in two women and one in four men have experienced sexual harassment.
- The majority of women (nine out of 10) did not contact police about the most recent incident of sexual assault by a male.
- Intimate partner violence contributes to more death, disability and illness in women aged 15 to 44 than any other preventable risk factor<sup>13</sup>.
- Domestic or family violence against women is the single largest driver of homelessness for women<sup>14</sup>.
- Rates of domestic and family violence are higher in regional, rural and remote areas<sup>15</sup>.
- People who, as children, witnessed partner violence against their parents were 2–4 times as likely to experience partner violence themselves (as adults)<sup>16</sup>.
- 55,600 children were placed in out-of-home care as a result of abuse (2015-16).
- 1 in 16 (0.5 million) men have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a cohabiting partner since age 15.

3.3 When children are exposed to violence in their homes it can cause profound harm to their social development<sup>17</sup>.

3.4 Domestic and Family Violence is a global issue. Global estimates published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime<sup>18</sup>. In some of our neighbouring countries research shows that more than 70% will experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime<sup>19</sup>.

3.5 Risk factors identified by WHO that increase the likelihood of a person to perpetrate intimate partner or sexual violence include, a history of child maltreatment, witnessing family violence, unequal gender norms including attitudes accepting of violence, and a sense of entitlement over women.

#### 4 Commitment

4.1 In the light of our Theology and Beliefs and in the Current Context, the Uniting Church commits itself to:

- Speak out strongly against Domestic and Family Violence of all types;

<sup>11</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 2016 Personal Safety Survey (PSS).

<sup>12</sup> Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) 2017. The 2017 National Homicide Monitoring Program report.

<sup>13</sup> VicHealth (2004) The health costs of violence: Measuring the burden of disease caused by intimate partner violence, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.

<sup>14</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2012) Specialist homeless services data collection 2011-12, Cat. No. HOU 267, <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/Understanding-Violence/Facts-and-figures>.

<sup>15</sup> Monica Campo and Sarah Tayton, Domestic and family violence in regional, rural and remote communities, CFA Practitioner Resource— December 2015.

<sup>16</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018) Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in Australia, 2018.

<sup>17</sup> Our Watch, *Facts and Figures* <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/Understanding-Violence/Facts-and-figures>.

<sup>18</sup> World Health Organisation, *Violence Against Women*, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>.

<sup>19</sup> Pacific Women, Shaping Pacific Development, Ending Violence Against Women, <https://pacificwomen.org/our-work/focus-areas/ending-violence-against-women/>

- Acknowledge this is an issue in all cultural, economic and social contexts including among our own church members and leaders;
- Reject any abuse of theology to legitimate Domestic and Family Violence, recognising that theologies which affirm gender equality and human dignity play an essential role in bringing to light and preventing Domestic and Family Violence;
- Develop sound policies and practices that:
  - Promote the equality of men and women, girls and boys and people of all ages;
  - Create safe and inclusive communities, where people experience mutually respectful relationships and all can flourish;
  - Listen to the voices of children, young people and vulnerable people; and
  - Receive and take seriously reports or complaints of Domestic and Family Violence;
  - Provide support and referral to appropriate support services;
  - Educate ministry agents, lay leaders and church members on Domestic and Family Violence and how to respond appropriately;
  - Resource the church in how to respond to this issue, recognising and engaging with the diversity of cultures and languages that make up our communities; and
  - Work constructively with people of other Christian denominations and other faiths, and with other organisations and groups across Australia in order to achieve these commitments.

## Resources

### Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

#### ***Qld Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council: How can you get involved?***

- Include an article in an e-newsletter or your workplace intranet and incorporate the tagline – *Take positive action today to build a safer Queensland*
- Share a post on social media – remember to use the hashtags **#endDFV** and **#DFVPM2026**
- Start a conversation about domestic and family violence and coercive control.
- Ensure you know the support options available for Queenslanders - check out [www.qld.gov.au/needtoknow](http://www.qld.gov.au/needtoknow)
- Find an event to attend, or list an event, via this newsletter and the community calendar: [www.qld.gov.au/dfvpmmonth](http://www.qld.gov.au/dfvpmmonth).
- Find more information and practical tools via [www.qld.gov.au/dfvpmmonth](http://www.qld.gov.au/dfvpmmonth)
- Follow the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention QLD  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dfvpqld](http://www.facebook.com/dfvpqld)
- Follow the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety  
LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/fsdscs](http://www.linkedin.com/company/fsdscs)
- Organisations may **submit an expression of interest** for free physical resources (subject to availability) from the Prevention Council to support prevention events being held during the month. The physical resources include:
  - Allison Baden-Clay Foundation adult, young people, parent and technology power and control wheels
  - innerBoy men's mental health app information cards
  - DVConnect contact cards
  - 1800 4 WOMEN contact cards.

Priority will be given to supplying resources to community-facing events.

### **Inaugural 'Ask A Mate Day' campaign launching in May**

**Ask A Mate Day** is a national call to action making healthier masculinity more visible through everyday role modelling, modern mateship and prevention in practice.

Visit the website or follow Ask a Mate on socials to learn more and to get involved.

[Ask a Mate Home](#)

### **Call to 'Shine a Light' this DFV Prevention Month**

Friends with Dignity invite you to join their **Shine a Light** campaign this Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month by:

- purchasing a Shine the Light pack, or lighting your own lamp or candle to show solidarity with victim-survivors and help illuminate the path to a safer future; and
- sharing your light, by taking a photo of your lit lamp or candle and sharing it on social media, tagging @friendswithdignity and using the hashtag #ShineALightOnDomesticViolence to spread awareness.

Visit the website to learn more and to get involved. [Friends With Dignity | Shine a Light on Domestic Violence](#)

[Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month | Need to know | Queensland Government Events in QLD for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month](#)

[Darkness to Daylight 2026 | Home](#)

[Anglicare SQ | Domestic & Family Violence Prevention Month](#)

[Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month - ATSICHS](#)

11 May is [Are You Safe at Home? Day](#) [Are You Safe at Home? Day Toolkit 2026](#)

### **Uniting Church in Australia**

[Service of lament](#)

[Beyond Violence – Uniting Church Australia](#)

[DFV-Report FINAL web.pdf](#)

[DFV-poster A4 Final.pdf](#)

[Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence 2020 | UCA Assembly](#)

[Becoming aware about family violence - Uniting Church in Australia. Synod of Victoria and Tasmania](#)

[Domestic and family violence theological reflections](#)

### **Faith-Based**

[SAFER: A Domestic Violence Resource for Churches](#)

[Domestic Violence Prevention – National Council of Churches in Australia](#)

[Ten Commitments Overview — Anglican Church of Australia: Families & Culture Commission | Ten Commitments](#)

[Domestic & Family Violence and the Church - Common Grace](#)

Common Grace invites you to join their new webinar, *Healing After Leaving Domestic Violence*.

Together, we will explore what healing can look like after leaving an abusive situation, and how

Christian communities can walk alongside victim-survivors with wisdom, compassion, and care.

Ahead of the webinar, Ellaina Welsman, Common Grace's Domestic and Family Violence Justice

Lead, spoke with two of the presenters - Dr Rosie Shorter and Dr Erin Hutton - about their research

on *Reading the Bible After Violence*. They invite you to [read](#) their reflections and [register](#) for this

important conversation.

[Promoting-Equality-and-Respect-Booklet.pdf](#)

[What works to address violence against women and family violence within faith settings](#)

[10 Things a Spiritual Community can do to address violence in families](#)

[QCT domestic & family violence resources](#)

*renewal*



The Uniting Church in Australia  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

## **General**

[Domestic Violence Prevention | Resources | White Ribbon Australia](#)  
[Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research | QCDFVR](#)  
<https://www.respect.gov.au>  
[From the Ground Up: Community-led Approaches to Violence Prevention](#)  
[Videos on domestic violence court process | Queensland Courts](#)  
[Our Watch | Preventing violence against women](#)  
[Coercive control | What does it mean? eSafety Commissioner](#)

## **First Peoples**

[First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence | FNAAFV](#)  
[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander - Coercive control community resources - Dataset - Publications | Queensland Government](#)  
[Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples | 1800RESPECT](#)  
[Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Safe and Equal](#)

## **People from a CALD background**

[Meeting the needs of children from CALD backgrounds in the context of Domestic and Family Violence - SSI](#)  
[Domestic and Family Violence in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse \(CALD\) Communities](#)  
[Supporting people from CALD, migrant and refugee experiences of violence | 1800RESPECT](#)  
[Responding to experiences of violence disclosed by community members from CALD, migrant and refugee backgrounds | 1800RESPECT](#)  
[Talking about the system with people from CALD, migrant and refugee backgrounds | 1800RESPECT](#)  
[Safer Pathways for Women from Migrant and Refugee Backgrounds – CHIFVC](#)

## **People with Disability**

[DFV information for women with a disability | People with disability | Queensland Government](#)  
[Domestic and family violence - Queenslanders With Disability Network](#)  
[Now Available: Domestic and Family Violence and Disability Resource Training – WWILD – SVP Brisbane](#)  
[What to do if women with disability are experiencing DFV?](#)  
[Who can support women with disability to obtain information and access supports and services](#)

## **Children and Young People**

[Comfort Zone](#)  
[The Line Comfort Zone Stakeholder Pack April 2026](#)  
[Our Watch | Changing the landscape](#)  
[Young people experiencing domestic and family violence | Youth | Queensland Government](#)  
[Research summary: The impacts of domestic and family violence on children \(2nd ed.\) - ANROWS - Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety](#)

## **Elder Abuse**

[Promoting the right of older people to live free from abuse | Elder Abuse Prevention Unit](#)  
[Guiding action on elder abuse - Compass](#)  
[Elder Abuse Action Australia - Elder Abuse Action Australia](#)  
[Abuse of the older person](#)  
[The unique challenges of elder abuse in multicultural Australia - Compass](#)  
[Older people, cultural diversity and financial elder abuse - Compass](#)  
[Spiritual elder abuse in culturally diverse communities - Compass](#)

**Domestic and family violence services**

1800 RESPECT National Helpline: 1800 737 732

Lifeline (24-hour crisis line): 131 114

Women's Crisis Line: 1800 811 811

13 YARN 13 92 76

Brother to Brother 1800 435 700

DV Connect: <https://www.dvconnect.org/mensline/> or call 1800 600 636

Mensline Australia: 1300 78 99 78

Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491

Emergency: 000

[Home - QIFVLS](#)

[Kids Helpline](#) – 1800 55 1800 (for children and young people aged 5–25)

**Free online learning and training**

[Domestic and family violence and coercive control training modules | Need to know | Queensland Government](#)

[dvalert.org.au/workshops-courses](http://dvalert.org.au/workshops-courses)

[free-mini-course-understanding-trauma](#)

[Trauma training](#)

<https://www.qct.org.au/what-we-do/domestic-violence-prevention>

[Faith and community leaders' online training to respond to family and domestic violence – National Council of Churches in Australia](#)

[Faith and community leaders' training](#)

[Domestic and family violence resources for health professionals | Queensland Health](#)