

Women's Refuges

Safety
Plan

**IF YOU ARE IN
IMMEDIATE DANGER**

**PHONE
000**

Providing safe and supported short-term crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence

The Combined Women's Refuge Group (CWRG) is a peak body representing the interests and concerns of the domestic and family violence refuge sector in South East Queensland.

We unite domestic and family violence refuges to advocate for women and children's right to live a life free from violence.

www.cwrg.org

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www.australiasceochallenge.org

Illustration by LM Strangways. Many Cultures, One Journey



Q&A

What is domestic and family violence?

Domestic and family violence consists of a wide range of behaviours which are used deliberately to gain power over others. It occurs in different kinds of relationships, including intimate partner, carer and different family members. Domestic violence includes many forms of controlling behaviour, including physical abuse, threats and intimidation and/or controlling where you go and who you see.

What are women's refuges?

Women's refuges provide safe accommodation and practical support for women and children who need to escape violent situations.

They are sometimes called women's shelters, safe houses or secret hiding places.

Refuges are all slightly different, however they all provide space for you to cook and care for your children. Some have a shared kitchen; however, families always have private spaces for sleeping.

What can you do?

- Talk to DVConnect or the police about Domestic Violence Orders.
- Consider carefully who you tell about your plan, including children and friends.
- Decide who you will call and where you will go if you feel threatened or in danger.
- Consider your children's safety in your plan.
- Save money for transportation and have extra house and car keys.
- Keep a list of important phone numbers, such as taxi and local police.
- Pack a bag with clothes and medication.
- Leave spare keys and copies of important papers (eg passport, birth certificates and marriage certificate) with someone you trust.
- Make a list of items you want to retrieve.

**The best way to make a safety plan is with a support service.
Call DVConnect on 1800 811 811.**

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**DVConnect Womensline
24-hour crisis support**

1800 811 811 • www.dvconnect.org

DVConnect provides a free domestic and family violence helpline.

DVConnect can help you escape domestic violence by providing access to emergency transport and safe accommodation.

Are women's refuges safe and secure?

Yes, all refuge addresses and telephone numbers are strictly confidential, and refuges have security.

How long do women and children stay in refuges?

Refuges accommodate women and children for the duration of their need.

Is rent charged in women's refuges?

Rent is no higher than 25% of your income and individual circumstances are always considered.

I have a disability. Can I access a refuge?

Yes. Refuges have accessible accommodation. Call DVConnect and explain your requirements.

What about my pet?

Many refuges have pet-friendly accommodation. Alternatively, the RSPCA can help foster your pet in a home to ensure they are safe.