



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Domestic and Family Violence Support in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Background

Times of crisis can increase the risk of violence against women and their children. As part of the Australian Government's response to Coronavirus, \$150 million funding has been announced to support Australians experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence due to the COVID-19 situation.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) had also established the Women's Safety Council, with relevant ministers from the Commonwealth and each state and territory. The COAG Women's Safety Council will meet monthly to coordinate how funding will be delivered to best support local responses to this issue. Responding to challenges of supporting women and children in regional and remote locations is one of the Council's priorities.

\$20 million has been committed to Commonwealth-funded initiatives including 1800RESPECT, MensLine and a new national information campaign with clear information on where Australians experiencing violence during this period can access support.

There is free and confidential help available at all hours, every day. Support and advice is also available for family and friends of those experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

Help is Here Campaign

The Help is Here campaign, which was launched on 3 May 2020, includes advertising across television, digital, social media, radio, magazines and newspapers as well as in shopping centres, hospitals and GP surgeries.

The new awareness campaign directs women and men to the two national helplines - 1800RESPECT and MensLine Australia - where they could talk directly and confidentially with trained counsellors via online chat or phone.

The campaign had two clear messages – that help is here and tough times do not excuse tougher times at home. It makes it clear that violence and abuse are never acceptable, no matter the circumstances

Further information about the campaign and support services is available on the Department of Social Services website: www.dss.gov.au/women/help-is-here-campaign, and at www.australia.gov.au/dvsupport.

National Counselling Services

Community members from Norfolk Island can access these two national services:

- 1800RESPECT, the national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling service. Phone: 1800 737 732 (24 hours).
- Mensline Australia, the national counselling service for men that provides support for emotional health and relationship concerns for men affected by or considering using violence. Phone: 1300 78 99 78 (available 24 hours).

Services delivered directly on Norfolk Island

For urgent medical assistance, call triple zero (000) or visit NIHRACS immediately.

You can also call 000 to report domestic violence to the police and seek additional help.

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