

ANOTHER CLOSET



Domestic Violence In Same-Sex Relationships

This booklet contains information and referral details for people who may be experiencing abuse within a same-sex relationship

ONLY TAKE THIS BOOKLET WITH YOU IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

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RELATIONSHIP CHECKLIST

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RELATIONSHIP CHECKLIST



Domestic violence can take many forms. To assess your relationship, answer the following questions.

Has, or does, your partner:

- ☐ Humiliate you, call you names or make fun of you in a way that is designed to hurt you?
- ☐ Threaten to 'out' you to your family or work?
- ☐ Prevent you from attending gay or lesbian events or venues?
- ☐ Have sudden outbursts of anger?
- ☐ Act over-protective and become jealous for no reason?
- ☐ Make it difficult, or prevent you, from seeing friends or family?
- ☐ Control your money against your will?
- ☐ Threaten you with violence or hit, kick or throw things at you?
- ☐ Physically or emotionally hurt your children?
- ☐ Threaten to or actually hurt your pets?
- ☐ Force you to engage in sexual acts that you don't want to do?

Or do you...

- ☐ Change your behaviour or your appearance so your partner doesn't get angry?
- ☐ Avoid talking about money or other topics?
- ☐ Feel scared, anxious or like you are 'walking on eggshells'?
- ☐ Cut yourself off from your friends or family?

If you answered yes to any of these questions you may be experiencing domestic violence.

You can go through this Relationship Checklist with a friend or family member's relationship in mind. Does their partner behave in any of the ways listed above? If so they may be experiencing domestic violence.

All types of domestic violence are wrong and some are illegal.



“

I became ashamed about
being gay, about being
sexually attractive and about
having sexual desires.

It was like going back in
the closet.”

DAVID, 27

INFORMATION ABOUT SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Introduction

Most same-sex relationships are built on love and respect. Some are built on abuse and control. Abuse and control in a relationship is domestic violence.

This booklet is written for people in same-sex relationships who are or may be experiencing domestic violence. It contains information on what domestic violence is, what to do if you are experiencing abuse, making a Crisis Plan and the details for some important referral services.

It also has information for supporting a friend or family member who is experiencing abuse. The information in this booklet is also available on the Another Closet website <http://www.anothercloset.com.au>

This publication focuses on domestic violence issues for people in same-sex relationships. However, we recognise that transgender and intersex people also experience domestic violence in opposite sex relationships. Specialist support services are needed to support transgender and intersex victims of domestic violence, and more research needs to be done into the experiences of transgender and intersex victims. Some referrals for organisations working in this area are on page 32 of this booklet.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is any type of abusive behaviour used to gain and maintain control over another.

Domestic violence in a relationship is when one partner or ex-partner consciously tries to manipulate and dominate the other. It is about the misuse of power and control.

Domestic violence can take many forms including physical violence, sexual assault, emotional abuse or social or financial control. Abuse does not have to be physical or sexual to be domestic violence. (See page 4 for more information on each type of abusive behaviour).

It can happen in all types of relationships: gay, lesbian or heterosexual; monogamous, open or three-way; dating, new relationships or long-term; live-in or not. And it happens across all communities, social classes, ages, cultural backgrounds and geographical areas.

Throughout this booklet domestic violence is referred to as abuse from one partner, or ex-partner, towards the other in an intimate or romantic relationship. However, domestic violence also includes abuse within other types of relationships including; between relatives, housemates, or a carer relationship, either paid or unpaid.

All types of domestic violence are wrong and some like physical violence, sexual assault and stalking are criminal offences.

1 INFORMATION ABOUT SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Types of Abuse

Domestic violence can take many forms. Many of these don't include physical violence.

Emotional or Psychological Abuse is any type of behaviour by one partner (or ex-partner) to make the other feel afraid or worthless. It can also include one partner making the other feel responsible for their safety.

Common forms of emotional and psychological abuse include:

- Putting the partner down eg, telling them that they are ugly, stupid or incompetent.
- Humiliating them in front of friends, family or in public .
- 'Outing' or threatening to out them to friends, family, at work or to their cultural community.
- Threatening or actually hurting pets.
- Telling, or threatening to tell, others about their HIV status without permission.
- Threatening to harm their children.
- Treating children in a disrespectful or abusive manner.
- Undermining the relationship between the children and their partner.
- Threatening to self harm or commit suicide.

"One letter to my mother falsely claimed that I had AIDS." **ADAM, 35.**

Social abuse is any behaviour by one partner to control the other's social life. It can include:

- Stopping them from visiting their friends or family.
- Abusing or fighting with their friends or family so they stop visiting or calling.
- Cutting off the phone or monitoring calls or bills.
- Preventing them from attending gay, lesbian or bisexual events and venues.
- Locking them in the house.
- Isolating them from their cultural background or preventing them practicing their religious beliefs.

"She told me that my mother would never accept us, and that she would try to break us up so I saw less of my family." **LISA, 38.**



Physical Abuse is any type of physical violence that an abusive partner inflicts on the other. It can include:

- Hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, strangling or burning.
- Breaking possessions or punching/kicking walls.
- Withholding or stopping their partner from getting medication or treatments.

"He was smashing my head repeatedly into the gravel, only stopping to punch me in the chest. He then started strangling me. [When I came to he said] 'Now look what you've made me do, you piece of shit'" **KENT, 35.**

Sexual abuse is any behaviour where one partner forces the other to perform sexual acts they don't want to. It can include:

- Pressuring them to have sex when they don't want to.
- Pressuring, forcing or tricking them into having unsafe sex.
- Involving them in BDSM without consent.
- Making them have sex with other people.
- Sexually assaulting (raping) them.

Financial abuse is any behaviour by one partner to control the other's money against their will. It can include:

- Taking their money or controlling their income.
- Refusing to give them money or making them account for everything they spend.
- Threatening to withdraw financial support as a means of control.
- Preventing the partner from working so they become financially vulnerable or reliant on their partner.

Stalking is any behaviour by which one partner (or ex-partner) tries to intimidate or harass the other. It can include:

- Following them when they go to work, home or out.
- Constantly watching them, their house or workplace.
- Cyber stalking, following or monitoring their movements online.
- Calling, texting or emailing them or their family, friends or work colleagues more often than is appropriate or when asked not to.

"A new phase of harassment and stalking followed that included a wide range of threats ranging from 'Come back, I've changed' to 'If you have sex with another man I'll kill you and him'." **DAVID, 27.**

1 INFORMATION ABOUT SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence in Same-Sex Relationships

The police, domestic violence services, the courts, GLBT* organisations and other services all report that they are working with individuals who have experienced or are experiencing same-sex domestic violence.

To date, there is limited Australian research that records the level of domestic violence in same-sex relationships. However, a number of overseas studies suggest that the general patterns and levels of domestic violence in same-sex relationships are about the same as in heterosexual relationships. These studies also show that once the violence starts it is likely to get worse.

Unique Aspects of Same-Sex Domestic Violence

Domestic violence in same-sex and heterosexual relationships share many similarities, including the types of abuse and the impact on the abused partner. However, there are a number of aspects that are unique to same-sex domestic violence. These include:

‘Outing’ as a method of control

If the abused partner isn’t out to their family, friends, and workmates or within their cultural community the abusive partner may use ‘outing’ or the threat of ‘outing’ as a method of control.

Domestic violence isn’t well understood in the community

There hasn’t been much information or discussion in the gay and lesbian communities about domestic violence in relationships. Most information on domestic violence relates to heterosexual relationships with the man as the perpetrator. This lack of understanding means that some people may not:

- Believe domestic violence happens in same-sex relationships
- Recognise abuse as domestic violence if it does happen to them and/or
- Know how to respond if they see domestic violence in their friend’s or family members’ relationships.

Confidentiality and isolation for people in same-sex relationships

The relatively small size and close-knit nature of gay and lesbian communities, especially in smaller cities and rural areas, can make it difficult for the abused partner to seek help. They may feel embarrassed about the abuse, or their partner may have tried to turn others in their community against them. An abusive partner may isolate them from contact with their community by preventing them from reading community media, attending events or seeing their friends. This is especially true for people in their first same-sex relationship who may not have had much contact with the community before the relationship began.



Services may not be well developed

Although women can access most general domestic violence services, like refuges, court assistance schemes, and counselling services, these services may have little experience in working with same-sex domestic violence and therefore, may not offer the most appropriate service. For gay men there are currently few specific services that offer assistance or support. The Same-Sex Domestic Violence Interagency and other organisations are working to address this issue.

Myths and Facts

There are many myths surrounding domestic violence and some specific myths surrounding same-sex domestic violence. Some myths excuse the abuse while others blame the victim. Myths make it difficult for the person experiencing abuse to seek help and they make it difficult for others to understand the real issues. Myths shift the responsibility for abuse on to the victim or an outside factor. There is no excuse for domestic violence.

Myth: Domestic violence only happens to certain people.

Fact: Domestic violence can happen to anyone. Domestic violence happens in all income brackets, countries, religions, cultures, ages, sexualities and genders.

Myth: Stress causes him/her to become violent.

Fact: Daily life is full of frustrations associated with money, work, our families and other personal relationships. Everyone experiences stress, but everyone has a choice in how they respond to it. Choosing to be abusive or violent to relieve stress is not acceptable.

Myth: The person being abused did something to provoke the violence.

Fact: No one has the right to be violent or threaten anyone. No one deserves to be beaten, battered, threatened or in any way victimised by violence. Any domestic violence is unacceptable. Putting the blame for the violence on the victim is a way to manipulate the victim and other people.

Myth: Domestic violence is caused by a loss of control

Fact: People who use violence to control their partners are often highly self-controlled. If the rage was really uncontrollable they would explode at anyone at any time – whereas in domestic violence the abuse is usually hidden from others. Perpetrators are often able to appear calm when the police arrive and have enough control to limit the physical abuse and injuries to undetectable parts of the body such as under the hair or on the torso.

Myth: The drugs make him/her violent.

Fact: It's true that some drugs (especially amphetamines) may trigger violent or aggressive behaviour in some individuals. If the violent person lashes out at anyone who may cross their path and this is a one off or very infrequent occurrence, then the violence may be drug related.

However, if the person uses the drugs knowing they may become violent or the violence is targeted towards their partner (or their partner's friends) then this is domestic violence and they are responsible for their actions.

1 INFORMATION ABOUT SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

An abusive partner will often try to minimise the violence or deny their responsibility for it. Blaming the drugs (or alcohol) may be one way of doing this.

Someone who is violent before they use drugs or alcohol is likely to become more violent after using drugs or alcohol. It is advisable for their partner to take extra precautions if they do start to use drugs or alcohol.

"There were the apologies and the making up. We both explained it as a speed induced come down drama ..." **RUTH, 48.**

Myth: Domestic violence is always visible

Fact: Perpetrators aren't easy to spot. Some perpetrators can be well respected and widely liked members of society. Domestic violence is insidious and can go unnoticed. Victims aren't always harmed physically. Many victims are psychologically traumatised, socially isolated and/or financially deprived. This abuse is more difficult to detect.

Myth: Bondage and Discipline or Sadoomasochism (BDSM) is about power and control. That means the submissive partner is being abused.

Fact: BDSM is a negotiated sexual activity that may involve hitting, slapping, pain, coercion, or dominance. Some people may adopt long term roles of dominance or submission. These are conscious and consensual activities where all parties agree to their roles as well as the time and place for a particular scene. In a domestic violence situation the abused partner does not consent to the abusive activities.

The following myths are specific to same-sex relationships:

Myth: Violence in same-sex relationships is a mutual fight.

Fact: Domestic violence is about power and control and will almost always involve a number of forms of abuse, for example emotional or social abuse. Physical violence may only be one of those. Regardless of whether an abused partner may be able to fight back during a particular incident they are still experiencing domestic violence.

Myth: The law can't help me and the police aren't interested because I'm in a same-sex relationship.

Fact: Threats, stalking and physical and sexual violence are all illegal. The law in NSW offers the same protection to same-sex victims of domestic violence as it does to heterosexual victims including police protection and access to Apprehended Violence Orders. After two years of living together the law allows for the division of joint property.

The police have a duty of care to provide protection to anyone in NSW experiencing domestic violence – regardless of their sexuality. If someone feels the police response hasn't been adequate or appropriate they have the right to make a complaint. (See page 32 for info on making a complaint.)



Myth: I won't be able to meet any other gay or lesbian people.

Fact: One form of abuse is social isolation. Some people worry that if they leave their abusive partner they will end up isolated and alone. This is a common fear for people in their first same-sex relationship. But there are many community groups that can help people make connections with other people who have been through similar experiences. The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW has an extensive list of gay and lesbian support and social groups. Call 5.30pm - 10.30pm, 7-days, (02) 8594 9596 or 1800 18 4527.

Same-Sex Domestic Violence in Rural Areas

The patterns, effects and impacts of same-sex domestic violence in rural, regional and remote areas share many similarities to metropolitan areas. However there are a number of factors that are unique to the experience of domestic violence in rural areas. These include:

- There may be few support or legal services available in the local area.
- It may be difficult to maintain privacy and confidentiality.
- Physical isolation may make it difficult to contact friends, family, neighbours or services.
- The greater chance that someone seeking help may encounter homophobia or discrimination from services.

There are a number of strategies that someone experiencing domestic violence in rural areas can use to make seeking help easier. They include:

- Developing a comprehensive Crisis Plan (see page 19).
- Seeking the support of a few trusted friends or services, even if they are outside the area.
- Seeking services in neighbouring towns or regional centres.
- Talking with state-wide services, eg the Domestic Violence Line (1800 65 64 63).
- Accessing services and information via the internet, such as Another Closet website ssdv.acon.org.au

Chronic Illnesses, Including HIV, and Domestic Violence

Chronic illnesses (eg HIV, cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimers, etc) can cause tension, stress and a range of other problems within a relationship but they do not cause domestic violence. Abusive partners (or ex-partners) choose the weapons of abuse and control they use, and their or their partner's health can be used as one of these weapons. In some abusive relationships the domestic violence began at or around the time that the illness was diagnosed.

In some cases of domestic violence the abusive partner is the one with the illness while in other cases it is the one without the illness that is abusive. Within an abusive relationship where either or both of the partners has a chronic illness many of the forms of abuse and control discussed earlier (Page 4) may exist. However there are a number of forms of domestic violence that are specific to relationships where either or both partners have a chronic illness.

1 INFORMATION ABOUT SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

If the abusive partner does not have a chronic illness (eg is HIV negative) they may:

- Threaten to, or actually, disclose their partner's health status to friends, family or colleagues.
- Withhold medication, treatments or access to other medical services.
- Threaten to cut off support or to leave.
- Verbally abuse their partner by saying they are 'diseased, sick, unclean' or other inappropriate comments about their illness, or otherwise undermine their partner's confidence.

"At one point I became very sick. I couldn't even walk to the bathroom. She refused to drive me to the doctor and she said I was exaggerating." RUTH, 48.

If the abusive partner does have a chronic illness (eg is HIV positive) they may:

- Use guilt or other psychological abuse to manipulate their partner.
- Refuse to take medication or seek medical services.
- Use their illness to manipulate services, eg. Saying 'I'm weak and sick, how could I control him/her?'
- Where relevant, threaten to, or actually, infect their partner to prevent them leaving.

As sexual assault is a common form of domestic violence, sexually transmissible illnesses (eg HIV, Hepatitis B) pose a special risk to the uninfected partner.

As well as the domestic violence services listed in the back of the booklet (pages 30 – 31) there is a range of support services that someone with a chronic illness may be able to contact. These include:

- A trusted doctor, nurse or other health care worker or a hospital social worker or counsellor.
- Centrelink (13 10 21).
- ACON (9206 2000 / 1800 063 060),
- Illness-specific support groups eg the Cancer Council (9334 1846 / 13 11 20) or MS Society, NSW (1800 04 21 38) for information on treatments, legal rights, support services, and so on. These groups may not have experience providing support to gay men or lesbians escaping domestic violence but they may be able to provide support around the specific requirements of the illness. Look in the White Pages or search online for contact details for specific groups.



Children and Domestic Violence

Abusive partners sometimes tell the victim that they have to stay in the relationship, or else they will have no rights to see the children. This is not true.

If you have a child together or have been caring for a child together, then your rights will depend on what is recorded on the birth certificate, or whether there are any existing court orders, such as family law orders or apprehended violence orders. If you leave an abusive relationship, your children still have a right to a relationship with you. It is best to talk to a solicitor about your options in relation to children.

Children can experience domestic violence as:

- Witnesses to domestic violence. This includes seeing or hearing abuse, seeing physical signs after the violence or witnessing the effects of domestic violence on the abused person.
- Weapons of abuse. An abusive partner can use access to their children as a form of abuse and control. They may try to turn children against the other partner or undermine the other partner's parenting role.
- Victims of abuse. Children may be physically or emotionally abused by the abusive partner (or even in some cases by the abused partner).

Children who experience domestic violence, whether in same-sex or heterosexual relationships, can suffer from many negative effects ranging from short term physical injuries to long term emotional or psychological trauma. All children who experience domestic violence are affected by it in some way.

All service providers in NSW are legally bound to report to the Department of Community Services if they believe a child is experiencing domestic violence and is at risk of serious harm. They will usually tell the client they are going to do this and what the possible consequences might be.

Under the Family Law Act biological and adoptive parents automatically have what is known as '*parental responsibility*' for children. This means they are responsible for all decisions relating to the welfare and upbringing of that child. Non-biological parents and donors, regardless of their relationship with the child, do not have any automatic legal right or responsibilities over a child unless there is a Parenting Order issued by the Family Court.

If you are experiencing domestic violence and you have children with your partner or from a previous relationship you should seek legal advice. The DV Line (1800 65 64 63) can refer you to appropriate services or the Inner City Legal Centre (1800 244 481) can advise you.

1 INFORMATION ABOUT SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Division of Property and Finances

Abusive partners sometimes tell the victim that they have to stay in the relationship, or else they will have no rights to the property or finances. This is not true.

Anyone who has been in a de facto relationship is eligible to make a claim on the property of the relationship. To do this:

- You must have been living together for 2 years; or
- You must have made a substantial contribution to the property of the relationship; or
- There must be a child of the relationship.

There is a time limit of 2 years after you have separated to make an application to court for property orders or orders for spousal maintenance. The court will look at the financial and the non-financial contributions to the relationship.

If you haven't lived together and the abusive person owes you money, there may be some action you can take to get your money back. In this situation, it is best to seek legal advice.

It is important to protect your financial interests when you leave an abusive relationship. If your partner knows your PIN or the details of your bank accounts, you can talk to your bank about changing the details. If you have joint accounts or credit cards, contact your bank and talk to them about protecting your share of the money and making sure your partner does not run up any debts in your name.

Pets

Many branches of the RSPCA run the Safe Beds for Pets Program. Safe Beds for Pets provides low cost accommodation for pets whose owners are escaping an abusive relationship. You can contact the NSW RSPCA for more information (02) 9770 7555 or www.rspcansw.org.au



Another Closet Website

For more information including a collection of real life stories and the latest research and articles on same-sex domestic violence go to **www.anothercloset.com.au**

2

“

She said I was wasting my time with my family and friends as they didn't understand me and didn't understand us. The good times together were getting few and far between. She controlled my days, my social calendar, the clothes that I wore and the people I would speak to.

”

KIM, 42

IF YOU ARE
EXPERIENCING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2 IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The most important thing to remember if you are experiencing domestic violence is that the abuse is not your fault and you don't have to put up with it. You do not deserve to be abused.

Listed below are a range of things you might think about to reduce the risk to yourself, help you understand what is happening to you and to take control of your life again.

"My advice to anyone is 'Don't blame yourself' - that is part of the cycle of abuse and control. The other person (the abuser) needs to take responsibility for their own behaviour ..."

RUTH, 48.

In an Emergency Call the Police

If your partner or ex-partner has assaulted you or you are afraid for your own or for others' safety you can call the police. The police have the power to provide you with immediate protection at any time of the day or night. **Call 000.**

The police have guidelines that instruct them to respond to domestic violence in a particular way. Police should: respond promptly, ensure your safety, stop the violence, thoroughly investigate what has happened, speak to you and your partner separately, get a statement from you and any witnesses, collect evidence, take photos of any injuries and the scene, and arrest the violent person if they have committed a criminal offence. They should also notify the Department of Community Services if there are children. Some police officers are specialist Domestic Violence Liaison Officers or Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers, and you can ask if one is available.

Talk to Someone You Trust

If you have a friend or a family member you trust, tell them what is going on and how it makes you feel. Talking to someone else can help you understand what is happening to you. They may also be able to help you contact support services and/or to make a Crisis Plan (see page 19 for details on making a Crisis Plan).

Call the Domestic Violence Line

The NSW Department of Community Services runs the 24-hour Domestic Violence Line (DV Line). If you are, or think you are, experiencing domestic violence you can call them. Calls to the DV Line can be anonymous – you don't need to give your or your partner's name.

Staff at the DV Line have had training in working with gay men and lesbians who are experiencing domestic violence. The DV Line will focus on your (and your children's) safety.



The DV Line staff can help you:

- Arrange accommodation in emergencies.
- Explain what refuges are and refer you to an appropriate one. (Please note that domestic violence specific refuges exist for women and children only. Gay men may be able to access other emergency accommodation).
- Refer you to other services like family support, counselling, the police, legal services, court assistance schemes, and hospitals and health centres.
- Explain what an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) is and how to apply for one.

To contact the **DV Line call 1800 65 64 63**. This number is free from public phones and landlines. Calls from mobiles will be billed to your account and will appear on your bill.

Apply for an Apprehended Violence Order

Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) are court orders designed to protect you from physical assault, stalking, harassment, intimidation or damage to property. You do not have to have experienced violence to apply for an AVO – fearing that you will experience violence is enough to make an application.

An AVO usually states that **your partner or ex-partner cannot assault, threaten, harass, molest, interfere with, intimidate or stalk you**. If you have any children in your care, they will be included on the AVO unless there are good reasons not to. You can also ask the police or Chamber Magistrate to add specific conditions to the AVO to suit your particular situation for example adding other people, like family, children or friends, who may be in danger.

There are two ways to apply for an AVO:

1. If police attend an incident or you make a report to the police and a domestic violence offence, stalking offence or an offence against a child has occurred, or is likely to occur, police must apply for an AVO on your behalf. This application will be heard in court at a later date. If the incident occurs after hours police may apply for a Provisional Order which can protect you until your case is heard in court.
2. If you haven't or don't want to call the police you can make an appointment with the Chamber Magistrate at your local court and apply through them. You can find your local court on the lawlink website www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au.

AVOs and non urgent AVOs do not have any effect until they have been served on (given to) your partner.

After the AVO has been given to your partner, you and your partner will be asked to appear in court. While in court, if your partner agrees to stick by the conditions of the AVO, it will become binding. If they don't agree to the conditions of the AVO another court date will be set. At that hearing you will be asked to say why you need protection from your partner. Your partner will be given the opportunity to say why they don't believe the order should be made. The magistrate will then decide whether the AVO will be granted.

2 IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

If the hearing is adjourned for any reason you can ask the magistrate to make an interim order until the next hearing date. An interim order is a temporary protection order binding until the next court date.

Having an AVO doesn't give your partner a criminal record. If your partner breaks any of the conditions of the AVO it is called a breach. A breach is a crime. You can call the police if your partner breaches the AVO. The police will ask you to make a statement detailing the breach and your partner will need to appear in court. If a person is convicted of breaching an AVO they will have a criminal record.

If the police have applied for an AVO on your behalf, the police prosecutor can advise you of the process of your AVO application and will represent you in court.

If you are applying for an AVO it is a good idea to seek legal advice. The Safe Relationships Project is a NSW court assistance scheme for people experiencing same-sex domestic violence. The Safe Relationships Project can be contacted via the Inner City Legal Centre (1800 244 481).

Moving Interstate

AVOs are not automatically effective in other States or Territories. However, an AVO can be registered in New Zealand and other states (except WA) by providing a copy to the police and proof that it has been served on your partner. Your AVO can be enforceable in States and Territories other than NSW. If you wish to move interstate, it is best if you have your NSW AVO registered in the new State or Territory. Contact the magistrate's court or a women's or community legal service in the new State or Territory for help in registering your AVO interstate.

How to Report a Breach

All breaches of your AVO can be reported to the police. You can report a breach by going to a police station, by telephoning a police station or in an emergency, by calling 000.

Reporting a Breach at a Police Station

If you go to a police station to report a breach of an AVO, it is a good idea to make a written statement about what happened. Giving a verbal statement may mean that you become involved in court proceedings for breach of the AVO as a witness against the defendant. If this happens, you may be cross-examined by the defendant's solicitor, or by the defendant, if the defendant has no solicitor.

A written statement is a document that may be used as evidence by the police to help prosecute the defendant in court for breaching the AVO.



Talk to a Counsellor

Talking with a counsellor can help you work out if what you are experiencing is domestic violence. You can also talk with them about strategies for protecting yourself within the relationship or for leaving the relationship. Sometimes speaking to a counsellor is easier than speaking to someone who knows you and your partner.

Counsellors can be found at a range of services including specific domestic violence services (generally for women only), some GLBT services like ACON and local community health services. The DV-Line (1800 65 64 63) has a list of counsellors.

A range of private counsellors and therapists advertise in the community media. These therapists generally charge commercial market rates for their services but they usually have specific experience with lesbian and gay clients.

Make Yourself as Safe as Possible

Many people experiencing domestic violence say they don't want to leave their home or their relationship, they just want the violence to stop. For others a lack of finances, wanting to maintain access to children or limited outside support may mean they feel they can't leave. If you are staying in the relationship try to make yourself as safe as you can.

Think about and identify some of the ways you have coped until now and work out how you might use those strategies in the future. You understand your situation better than anyone else so use that knowledge to help minimise the risks to yourself.

Find out about your options, and who can help you, even if you don't want to use them yet. For example, finding out how to apply for an AVO (page 15) before you actually need one means that you will be better prepared if it becomes necessary. Knowing what you can do and how to do it can help you to feel more in control of your situation and your safety.

If you do decide to stay in the house it's important to remember that once violence begins it is likely to get worse over time.

Some people develop a Crisis Plan to protect themselves (and their children). Suggestions on what your Crisis Plan might include can be found on page 19.

2 IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Leave Home for a While

You might decide it is best to leave the place you live for a while. You could go to a friend or family member's place, a refuge, emergency housing, a hotel or backpacker hostel.

Lesbians can generally access women's refuges. Refuges are safe houses that provide short-term accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence. To find out more about refuges call the DV Line (1800 65 64 63).

For gay men short term housing options include staying with friends or family, a hotel or low cost hostel, emergency housing through Department of Housing or a designated men's service.

Find Somewhere New to Live

If you decide that you need to find a new place to live there are a number of options including moving in with friends or family or, if you can afford it, finding a private rental property.

People escaping same-sex domestic violence may apply for housing assistance from the Department of Housing. In general, to be eligible, you will need to be a citizen or permanent resident of Australia and live in NSW. You must also be within the Department's income and asset limits and be able to successfully sustain a tenancy either independently or with appropriate support.

Apart from emergency accommodation the Department of Housing has a number of other programs, including priority housing and RentStart that you may be eligible to apply for.

For more information contact your nearest office. Look in the white pages under H for your local office or visit www.housing.nsw.gov.au.

Immigration and Same-Sex Domestic Violence

If you have applied for residency in Australia on the basis of your relationship and you are experiencing domestic violence the domestic violence provisions of Australia's immigration laws may apply to you. These provisions may enable you to leave the violent relationship and still be eligible to apply for permanent residency. If this applies to you, you should seek legal advice. For more information call the Immigration Advice and Rights Service (02 9281 8355) or the Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force (02 9283 4031) on Monday evenings between 7:45 and 9pm.





Planning Ahead - Making a Crisis Plan

If you are experiencing any form of domestic violence you might consider making a Crisis Plan. A Crisis Plan sets out what you could do under certain circumstances to help reduce the risk of emotional or physical injury to yourself (and your children). Your Crisis Plan can include strategies for reducing risk to yourself while living with your partner or it may outline how you could get away. You can make a Crisis Plan on your own or speak with a trusted friend, a counsellor or the DV Line (1800 65 64 63).

If you write your Crisis Plan down ensure you hide it so that your partner can't find it. You could leave it at a friend or family member's house or with a support service. You might just think about and memorise the details of your plan.

When developing your Crisis Plan think about the times your partner is most likely to be violent or abusive and how s/he acts during these times so you can develop strategies that best suit your needs.

If you are experiencing domestic violence you should constantly remind yourself that it's not your fault and the abuse isn't your responsibility. You do not deserve to be abused.

Living With an Abusive Partner

If you are living with your abusive partner there are a number of things you can try to reduce the risk of injury to yourself (and your children):

- Plan and practice (with your children) how you might escape from the house.
- Where possible, keep weapons and knives locked up or inaccessible (eg. removing knife-blocks from kitchen benches).
- Let trusted friends, family or neighbours know about the abuse and let them know about your Crisis Plan.
- Develop a code word or signal for friends, children or neighbours to call the police.
- Teach your children that their responsibility during an incident is to stay safe – not to rescue you.
- Program the police or a friend's number into the speed dial on your phone.
- Keep essential items like money, keys and identification somewhere that you can access them quickly.
- Plan out where you will go and how you will get there in case you need to leave in a hurry.
- If possible keep a record of any physical abuse, eg photos, maybe at your doctor's or a friend's house.

During a Violent Incident

- Try to stay away from, or leave, the kitchen or other rooms with potential weapons.
- Try to stay out of rooms without exits like the bathroom or closets.
- Press the emergency speed dial number or call out your code word.
- Depending upon your capacity to do so defend yourself.
- Trust your instincts.

2 IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Planning to Leave

- Hide a bag (maybe at family/friend's place) with clothes, keys and other essentials like medication etc.
- Put aside some money for travel expenses, accommodation, food etc.
- Collect all your forms of identification together, including Medicare card, drivers license, Centrelink details, Tax File Number etc.
- Make copies of important documents eg car rego, title deeds, loan records, etc.
- Pack important possessions, eg photos and keepsakes.
- Take small sellable items like jewellery.
- If you have children take clothes, medical records, bottles and some of their favourite toys.

*"I played along being as nice to him as I could. And saying nothing. I secretly did extra work and saved enough money to move out." **KENT, 35.***

After Leaving the Relationship

The period after leaving an abusive relationship can be especially dangerous. To reduce this risk you could:

- Apply for an AVO.
- If you have an AVO carry it with you at all times and give a copy of it and a photo of your partner to your children's school and your workplace.
- Redirect your mail and/or get a post office box.
- Be careful who you give your new address or phone number to and get a 'silent' number.
- Wherever possible, change your regular patterns of movement eg. travel to and from work by a different route, buy your groceries at a different shop, change the time and maybe location of regular appointments, maybe move your children to a new day care centre or school.
- Ensure where you are staying is as safe as possible, eg security doors, lockable windows, motion-sensitive external lights etc.
- Let important people know about your situation, eg your boss and other work colleagues or your children's teachers, so they know not to give out your details or they can screen your calls etc.
- Continue to seek support from the DV Line and other services during this time.

*"One of the biggest head-fucks was being told that violence was part of his 'culture' and the fact that I had a problem with it meant I was racist." **DAVID, 27.***

3

“

Finally I woke up.

I couldn't let her do any more

damage to me.

I went to counselling,

stopped drinking, moved

back to the city, got a

great job and went back

to school.”

”

MAREE, 22

RECOVERING

3 RECOVERING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Recovering From Domestic Violence

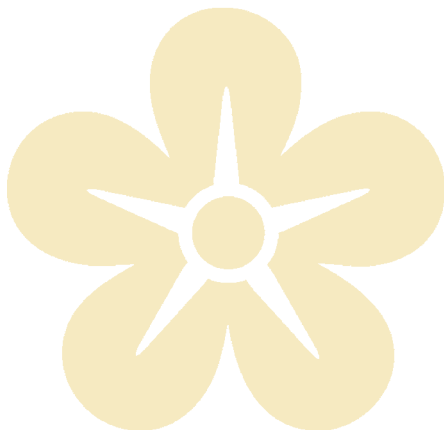
Everyone experiences domestic violence differently. The way in which you respond to and recover from your experience depends upon a number of things, which might include the types of abuse you experienced, any past experiences of abuse and violence, the strategies you used to survive the abuse, other stress in your life, and the support or lack of support you received from friends, family and services. **Whatever your experience, recovering from domestic violence is a recovery from a significant trauma.**

Leaving an abusive relationship can be the beginning of a process of healing and recovering. There is a range of common reactions that you may experience. These may include:

- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Feelings of fear, anxiety, self doubt or vulnerability
- Anger, ranging from irritability to rage
- Repeated thoughts about the abuse
- Feelings of sadness, loss or grief

You might notice that your reactions to the abuse may have been useful survival techniques while you were in the relationship but if they continue after the abuse has stopped they can become a problem. For example, always being on the alert is useful for avoiding an attack but will increase your stress if you are no longer in danger.

All of these feelings and experiences are normal and are a part of the recovery process. However if any of them become overpowering and prevent you from carrying out daily tasks like eating, looking after yourself, going to work and maintaining relationships with friends or family you might seek professional support from a counsellor.





Looking After Yourself

There is a range of things you can do to care for yourself and to recover a sense of safety, self-worth and control over your life. These can include:

- Ensure you are as safe as possible. If necessary or possible move house, or change the locks on your doors. The NSW Police Force has information about residential security on their website www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/crime_prevention/residential
- Recognise that recovery will take time. Give yourself time to grieve the loss of the relationship and the hopes and expectations you had of it.
- Accept that there are going to be good days and bad days. Think about ways you might deal with the bad days. If there continue to be more bad days than good you might be experiencing depression and it's advisable to see a professional counsellor.
- Talk about your feelings. You could talk to trusted friends or family or to a professional counsellor. You can talk to staff at the DV Line (1800 65 64 63) anonymously.
- Continue to use professional support services. If you're seeing a counsellor then keep seeing them after the relationship has finished.
- Do things to treat yourself. It's important that you practice looking after yourself. Think about things that make you feel happy and put time and (if necessary) money aside to do them. This could be as simple as having a bubble bath or taking yourself to the movies.
- If you lost contact with friends or family during the relationship make contact with them again.
- Make new friends by joining a GLBT or other support, social or special interest group. If you're into playing sport join a local sporting group or maybe do a TAFE or adult education class. The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service has an extensive database of community groups (8594 9596 or 1800 184 527 from 5:30pm to 10:30pm seven days).
- Find out if you are eligible for victim's compensation. To find out more call the Victims Compensation Tribunal (9374 3111 or 1800 069 054).
- Look into volunteer work. Many people find supporting others to be a nurturing experience.

3 RECOVERING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Starting a New Relationship

Eventually you may be ready to begin a new relationship. Your past experiences may impact upon your thoughts and feelings about a new relationship. You may:

- Be very cautious, find it difficult to trust your new partner or be anxious that they may try to control you
- Be reluctant to give up newfound independence for a new relationship.

It can be very useful to be cautious about your new relationship. It is also important not to let your experiences get in the way of the possibility of a positive and trusting relationship with your new partner. There is a range of things you can do to help yourself feel comfortable in a new relationship:

- Take it slowly, you have the right to have the relationship develop at a pace you are comfortable with.
- Stay in contact with all of the people who support you, they might be good reality checks for you.
- Be clear with yourself and your new partner about what sort of behaviour you will and won't accept.
- Talk with your new partner about your experiences so they understand what you have been through.
- Keep your finances and other essentials separate until you feel confident to combine them. You may decide that you don't ever want to combine these aspects of your lives.
- Talk to a counsellor, either by yourself or with your new partner, about any anxieties you may be feeling.



Another Closet Website

For more information including a collection of real life stories and the latest research and articles on same-sex domestic violence go to **www.anothercloset.com.au**

4

“

I only had two friends left by the time the relationship ended. But thank God for them. If they hadn't stuck by me I don't know if I ever would have had the courage to leave him.

”

PAULO, 51

SUPPORTING A FRIEND OR
FAMILY MEMBER

4 SUPPORTING A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER

Providing Support

There are a number of things you can look out for if you think a friend is experiencing domestic violence. Your friend may be:

- Unusually nervous, depressed or withdrawn.
- Overly anxious about their partner or their partner's moods.
- Increasingly isolated from friends or family.
- May have unexplained physical injuries eg cuts, bruises or sprains.

Your friend's partner may:

- Put them down a lot in front of you or others.
- Order them about or seems to make all the decisions.
- Control all the money or social activities or contact with friends.

Any of these things may indicate that your friend or family member is experiencing domestic violence. If you are not sure, you could call the DV Line (1800 65 64 63) to talk about what you have noticed. You can keep your friend's identity confidential.

Approaching a Friend

If you think a friend or family member is experiencing abuse but they haven't said anything to you, you could ask them if they need support or information. If you decide to approach them:

- Make sure you are somewhere where they can talk without others hearing or interrupting – especially their partner.
- Maybe start by saying something like, 'I'm worried about you because you seem unhappy...'
- Don't push them into talking if they aren't comfortable.
- Don't be surprised if they are defensive or reject your support – it may not be the right time for them to talk about it.

If they downplay or deny the abuse or aren't willing to talk let them know you are there to support them and wait for a sign that they are ready to talk.

"One good friend said that one day I would find the strength [to leave her] and that he and his boyfriend would support my decision. He was one of her closest friends and I started to think about things and talk to people and decided that enough was enough." **KIM, 42.**



Emotional and Practical Support

If the person experiencing the violence tells you about it there are a number of things you can do to support them. They include:

- Listening to what they tell you without judging them.
- Believing what they tell you - remember most people down-play the abuse they are experiencing so in most cases it will be worse than they are describing.
- Acknowledging their fear and taking their concerns seriously.
- Letting them know the abuse is not their fault, they don't deserve it and that they don't have to put up with it.
- Asking them what you can do to help them.
- In general, keep what they have told you confidential unless they give you permission to tell others. If, in a crisis, you believe your friend or their children are at imminent risk of harm call the police on 000.

Encourage the person to make his or her own decisions. You can help them to make decisions if they want you to but don't tell them what to do.

"I took the leap of confiding in someone I worked with ... he generously lent me his spare room for a week while I disappeared from home." DAVID, 27.

As well as providing emotional support you may be able to assist in a range of practical ways. Including:

- Providing them with, or helping them find a safe place to stay.
- Accompanying them to the police, legal services or doctor etc.
- Getting information they may need eg how to apply for an AVO, the name of the local police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer or Domestic Violence Liaison Officer etc.
- Looking after important items, eg money, documents etc.
- Making notes of what they have told you and record any visible injuries. Let them know you are doing this and that the information may be useful if they report the violence.
- Providing a safe place where they can get short-term respite from the abuse for a while.

Providing someone with practical support can help them feel more in control of their situation and better able to make the decisions they need to start taking control of their lives again.

"I was not happy in the relationship but I knew no one, had no money and much to my detriment, I loved him. I was living on the memory of the good times ..." KENT, 35.

4 SUPPORTING A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER

What Not To Do

If you are supporting a friend who is experiencing domestic violence there are a number of things you should avoid doing. These include:

- Telling them what to do.
- Letting them know you are disappointed if they don't do what you have suggested or if they go back to their partner.
- Making comments that imply they are to blame for the abuse.
- Trying to mediate between the partners.
- Confronting the abusive partner – this can be dangerous for you and for the abused partner.

Getting involved doesn't mean you have to solve the situation. If someone turns to you for help and support it means helping them find their own answers. You cannot 'save' them and it is important not to be disappointed if they don't do what you think they should. Leaving a violent relationship is difficult, it can be dangerous and it may take time.

Looking After Yourself

Supporting someone who is experiencing domestic violence can be difficult and frustrating. If you are supporting a friend or family member you could:

- Get some support for yourself: talk to a counsellor, the DV Line (1800 65 64 63), a trusted friend or family (but be careful not to break confidentiality).
- Be clear with yourself and your friend about how much and what type of support you can give.
- Remember that your support, whether you see it or not, is very valuable.

Why People Stay in Abusive Relationships

There are many reasons why people stay in abusive relationships. These include:

- They may not recognise their partner's behaviour as abuse. Some people think that domestic violence only happens in heterosexual relationships, so they don't see it as something that can happen to them.
- They may fear being 'outed' or discriminated against if they seek help.
- They are committed to the relationship and may believe that they can work it out with their partner.
- They don't want to leave their home, their children or their pets.
- They are afraid of what their partner will do if they leave.
- They are dependent on their partner financially or for care needs.
- The abusive partner is sick and their partner doesn't want to leave them alone.
- They feel shame and don't want everyone to know about the abuse.
- They love their partner and want to believe the promises that *'it will never happen again.'*
- Domestic violence is about power and control - they may not yet feel strong enough to make the break.

5

“

I found a new place to live
and, with a Police Gay and
Lesbian Liaison Officer as an
escort, went to pick up my
belongings and left.

”

DAVID, 27

FINDING INFORMATION,
HELP AND SUPPORT

5 FINDING INFORMATION, HELP AND SUPPORT

There is a range of services that can provide you with information, referral, help and support. These include:

Police

In an emergency, call 000.

The police have the power and responsibility to intervene and protect you from physical or sexual violence or stalking. If it is not an emergency you can ask if a Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) who has had training in working with members of the gay and lesbian community is available. Alternately, you may wish to speak with a Domestic Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO) who has special training in working with people who are experiencing domestic violence.

Most stations have a DVLO, some have a GLLO. To contact a GLLO or DVLO call the police switchboard on (02) 9281 0000 and ask for the station or office nearest you.

Domestic Violence Line

The Department of Community Services Domestic Violence Line is the primary information service for people experiencing domestic violence in NSW. The DV Line is free, confidential and staffed 24-hours, 7-days a week.

Freecall: 1800 65 64 63

TTY: 1800 67 14 42

(Please note - if you call the 1800 number from your mobile it will be billed to your account and appear on your bill. If you call from a landline or pay phone it is free and will not appear on your bill.)

Sexual Assault Services

The NSW Rape Crisis Centre offers 24-hour counselling, support and information.

Phone: (02) 9819 6565

TTY: 9181 4349 or 1800 42 40 17

Website: www.nswrapecrisis.com.au

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Sexual Assault Service offers 24-hour counselling, support and referral.

Business hours: (02) 9515 3680

After Hours: (02) 9515 6111

Relationships Australia

Relationships Australia provides relationship support including counselling, family dispute resolution, relationships education and parenting skills training, specialised family violence programs, children's programs, and programs which specifically engage Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse families, groups and communities.

Phone: 1300 364 277

Website: www.relationships.com.au

This number will automatically transfer you to your nearest Relationships Australia Office.

Victims Support Line

If you have experienced physical or sexual assault you can call the 24-hour Victims Support Line for information, support and referral. The staff can tell you about your right to claim compensation and help you complete an application, as well as provide you with information about preparing a victim impact statement. You may also be able to apply for counselling through the Victims of Crime Bureau.

Phone: (02) 9374 3005

Freecall: 1800 63 30 63



LawAccess NSW

LawAccess NSW provides free telephone legal information, to people in NSW. Legal information resources such as applying for an AVO can be accessed on the LawAccess NSW website.

Phone and TTY: 1300 888 529

Website: www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service Legal Advice Line

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Service provides specialised legal advice for women. Open 9.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4.30pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Sydney Advice Line: (02) 8745 6999

Rural Free Call Line: 1800 810 784

TTY: 1800 626 267

Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC), Lesbian and Gay Legal Rights Service and Safe Relationships Project

The ICLC operates the Lesbian and Gay Legal Rights Service on Wednesday evenings at their Kings Cross office from 6pm (by appointment only). This service offers information and advice on a range of legal matters affecting lesbians and gay men.

The Safe Relationships Project (SRP) is a court assistance scheme for people in same-sex relationships, transgender people and intersex people who are experiencing domestic violence. The SRP can provide you with information about AVOs and can help you with going to court. To make an appointment call between 10am -6pm Monday to Thursday or 10am-5pm Friday.

Phone: (02) 9332 1966

Freecall: 1800 244 481

Website: www.iclc.org.au

ACON's Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project

The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (AVP) works to improve the outcomes for victims of homophobic and same-sex domestic violence and to address the underlying causes of violence. The AVP runs a confidential violence report line and an information and referral service. The AVP also lobbies relevant authorities for better services for the GLBT community. By making a report to the AVP you can assist them to monitor and map homophobic hate crimes and SSDV. This information is then used to develop education and safety strategies and to advocate for change to make our community safer.

The Anti-Violence Project is generally open 10am-6pm, Monday to Friday.

Phone: (02) 9206 2116

Freecall: 1800 063 060

Website: www.acon.org.au/anti-violence

Online report: www.acon.org.au/report

ACON

ACON is a community based GLBT health and HIV/AIDS organisation. ACON has a range of services that may be appropriate for people experiencing same-sex domestic violence such as information, referral, counselling or support. ACON services also include an Aboriginal Project, a Lesbian Health Project, an Alcohol and other Drugs program, HIV services and a range of services for gay men.

Phone: (02) 9206 2000

Freecall: 1800 063 060

TTY: (02) 9283 2088

Website: www.acon.org.au

5 FINDING INFORMATION, HELP AND SUPPORT

The Gender Centre

The Gender Centre provides information and services to transgender people in NSW.

Phone: (02) 9569 2366

Website: www.gendercentre.org.au

Translating and Interpreting Service

The Translating and Interpreting Service is a national service for people who do not speak English and for English speakers who need to communicate with people who do not speak English. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Phone: 13 1450 (24 hours)

Making a Complaint

In NSW it is illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of their sexuality, transgender status, gender, age, race or marital status. If you feel you have been discriminated against you may be able to take action against the particular service. Certain services like women's refuges can legally refuse to offer service to men. This is to ensure the safety and appropriateness of services to their clients.

The Police

If the police do not respond as they should or they refuse to acknowledge your relationship or behave in other inappropriate ways, you can:

- Request that they follow the steps listed on page 14.
- Ask to speak to the officer in charge. If necessary, call the station while the police are still at your home.
- Make a complaint to the Police Customer Assistance Unit by calling 1800 62 25 71.
- Contact the NSW Ombudsman's Office on (02) 9286 1000 or 1800 45 15 24. One of the core functions of the NSW Ombudsman is to handle complaints about government agencies.

Chamber Magistrates and Court Staff

If the Chamber Magistrate or other court staff do not do what they are supposed to, if they refuse to acknowledge your relationship or if they discriminate against you you can:

- Make a complaint to the Clerk of the Court. You can ask a court staff member to help you find the Clerk of the Court.
- If this doesn't resolve your complaint you can contact the Community Relations Division of the Attorney General's Department on (02) 9228 7586.

Discrimination from Service Providers

If you believe you have experienced discrimination from a service provider you can contact the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.

Phone: (02) 9268 5544

Freecall: 1800 67 08 12

TTY: (02) 9268 5522

Most same-sex relationships are based on love and respect and everyone has the right to seek a safe and healthy relationship.

“Day by day, I am rediscovering who I am. The most important thing for me now is that I’m safe and I control my own life.” DAVID, 27.

“Healing for me had been talking about it and here I am eighteen years later still talking about it.” KIM, 42.

“I have been in a relationship with a loving, caring, gentle and understanding guy for more than nine years now. I’ve learnt that he isn’t trying to control me and have let him in to every part of my life.” BRAD, 35

“My relationship with my family has healed and I’m in a loving and respectful relationship - life is good.” LISA, 38.

“I am now 35, I’m happy with my appearance and have a new career. My quality of life is better and I am independent.” ADAM, 35.

SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Most same-sex relationships, like heterosexual relationships, are based on love and respect. Some however are based on abuse and control.

Abuse and control within a relationship is domestic violence.

This booklet is written for people in same-sex relationships who are, or may be, experiencing domestic violence. It includes information on:

- What domestic violence is.
- Domestic violence in same-sex relationships.
- Types of abuse.
- How to get help and support.
- Making a safety plan.
- Domestic violence and children.

It has a chapter for friends or family members of someone experiencing domestic violence. This chapter provides strategies for providing emotional and practical support.

This booklet also contains the contact details for a range of services that can offer information, support and referral to individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Acknowledgements

All the quotes in this booklet are from real experiences. We'd like to pay a special thanks to all the people who contributed their personal experiences for use in this resource.

The full stories can be read at www.anothercloset.com.au

Design: Mandarin Creative Solutions

This is a publication of the Same-Sex Domestic Violence Interagency (SSDVI). The SSDVI is a group of representatives from community-based organisations and government agencies that aim to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic violence in same-sex relationships and to develop, implement and evaluate strategies that address SSDV in NSW.

Information in this booklet has been adapted from a range of sources including:

A guide for family and friends

2000, DVIRC Inc.

Abuse in lesbian relationships: Information and Resources

L Chesley, D Macaulay, and J Ristock, Health Canada

It's not love, it's violence

NSW Women's Refuge Movement.

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