

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is when one person in a relationship uses violence or abuse to control or dominate the other person, causing them to live in fear. There are several different forms of abuse.

Psychological abuse:

Abuse which deliberately destroys your self confidence; it makes you feel you are useless, stupid or going crazy. It can be described as a type of brainwashing where you believe that everything that goes wrong is your fault.

Verbal abuse:

Constantly putting you down, calling you names, making you feel worthless, or making comments about your competence. Humiliating you or insulting you in public. Can also include threats of physical abuse.

Financial abuse:

When you are not allowed to have a say in how the money is spent, or being refused money for family needs, being made to get into debt for the other person.

Sexual abuse:

Being forced to have unwanted sexual contact or drugging you to have unwanted sexual contact.

Physical abuse:

Physical assault can take many forms from pushing, poking, biting, burning, slapping, hair pulling, strangulation, using a weapon, smashing things or hurting children or pets.

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL: 000



Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc.

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or 07 5591 4222

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Other useful phone numbers

DVconnect - Womensline

(24 hours, 7 days) 1800 811 811

Women's Legal Service

1800 677 278 or (07) 3392 0670

Legal Aid & Women's Legal Aid Queensland

1300 651 188

Multicultural Families Organisation (MFO)

(07) 5571 0381

Police Prosecutions

(07) 5571 4383

Queensland Law Society

(07) 3842 5842

Southport Magistrates Court

1300 516 700

Coolangatta Magistrates Court

(07) 5569 3040



DVPC is located on Kombumerri Country on the traditional lands of the Kombumerri Saltwater people. We acknowledge and pay respects to the Kombumerri traditional custodians and their Elders, past and present.



This brochure is funded by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

Counselling information



Produced by the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc. (GCDVPC Inc.)
Please enquire about our Privacy Policy

Services available

The Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast (DVPCGC) offers the following services to women and their children affected by domestic and family violence:

- telephone counselling and support (Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm);
- crisis counselling appointments;
- groups for women;
- children's counselling appointments (children and young people);
- domestic violence court support, information and advocacy program;
- referrals to other agencies;
- domestic violence information;
- school based education programs; and
- interpreters provided as required.



What is counselling?

Counselling provides a time and place to talk and explore experiences, in safety. It provides an opportunity to get information and develop ideas that will increase the safety and wellbeing of you and your children.

DVPCGC operates within a client centred framework in which women who have experienced, or who are currently experiencing, domestic violence are treated with respect and dignity and provided with the information and support to make informed decisions about their life.

This philosophy is supported by the staff at the DVPCGC who are experienced and specialised in the area of domestic violence and are able to provide information and offer counselling on a range of different issues:

- risk assessment and safety planning;
- advocacy with other key services;
- understanding the cycle of violence;
- understanding of power and control in relationships; and
- healthy boundaries and healthy relationships.

Counselling information

Counselling is provided free of charge and is confidential but you should be aware that information can be subpoenaed by a court with jurisdiction. The DVPCGC will seek legal advice if records are subpoenaed.

Counselling sessions are available by appointment only and last for approximately an hour. It is not appropriate to bring children to counselling appointments and if childcare is an issue this can be discussed with a counsellor.

During counselling other significant issues may emerge. Referrals can be made to appropriate services for specialist counselling if required.

The location of the DVPCGC is confidential. When you arrive for your appointment please press the intercom button at the front door and a staff member will let you in.

If it is safe for a counsellor to contact you by telephone, she will identify herself by first name only and not the organisation. If someone else answers the phone or the call is diverted to message bank or voicemail, your safety will not be compromised.