

Safe and Healthy Relationships

Domestic abuse affects not only the people in the relationship but their friends, family and community. These effects can be painful and destructive but there are services that can offer help, information and support.

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

More information

To find out more about domestic violence in DSG relationships check out our website: www.ssdag.org.au

The Police

How do I report instances of domestic violence?

By phone

If the incident of FDV is currently occurring you should call the police number 131444 to have police attend; in the case of an emergency, call 000 for urgent assistance.

Most reports of FDV are initiated by phone with police in general, being obliged by legislation to attend and investigate all reported incidents of domestic violence.

In person

If the incident has passed and there is no immediate threat or danger you can report the incident in person to your local police station. This will enable police to obtain a statement from you regarding what has occurred.

What will the police response be?

Police have a legislative responsibility to investigate all reported incidents of Family and Domestic Violence (FDV). Upon attendance they will assess the situation and take positive action to intervene. This could be in the form of an arrest if there has been a criminal offence and sufficient evidence exists to proceed with a charge.

Police also have a legislative requirement to make application for a Violence Restraining Order (VRO) or issue a Police Order or make a written record as to why neither was obtained.

Support and Referral

If you think you, a friend or a family member may be in an abusive relationship call the

Women's Domestic Violence Helpline

Telephone: 1800 007 339/9223 1188
or the

Men's Domestic Violence Helpline

Telephone: 1800 000 599/9223 1199
(24 hrs, 7 days) for information and referrals. Both Helplines are for DSG and heterosexual domestic abuse.

WA AIDS Council (WAAC)

WAAC can provide counselling support to the DSG community who are experiencing domestic abuse.
Telephone: 08 9482 0000

FPWA - the Roe St Centre can provide counselling support to the DSG community who are experiencing domestic abuse.
Telephone: 08 9228 3693

Gay and Lesbian Community Services (GLCS)

GLCS act as an advocacy and educational agency for issues relevant to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.
Telephone Counselling Line
Telephone: (08) 9420 7201
Free call: 1800 184 527
7pm - 10pm, Monday – Friday
www.glcs.org.au

If you need assistance, contact any of the services listed or show this brochure to your General Practitioner (GP) and discuss your situation.

Perth Inner City Youth Services (PICYS)

Telephone: 9388 2792

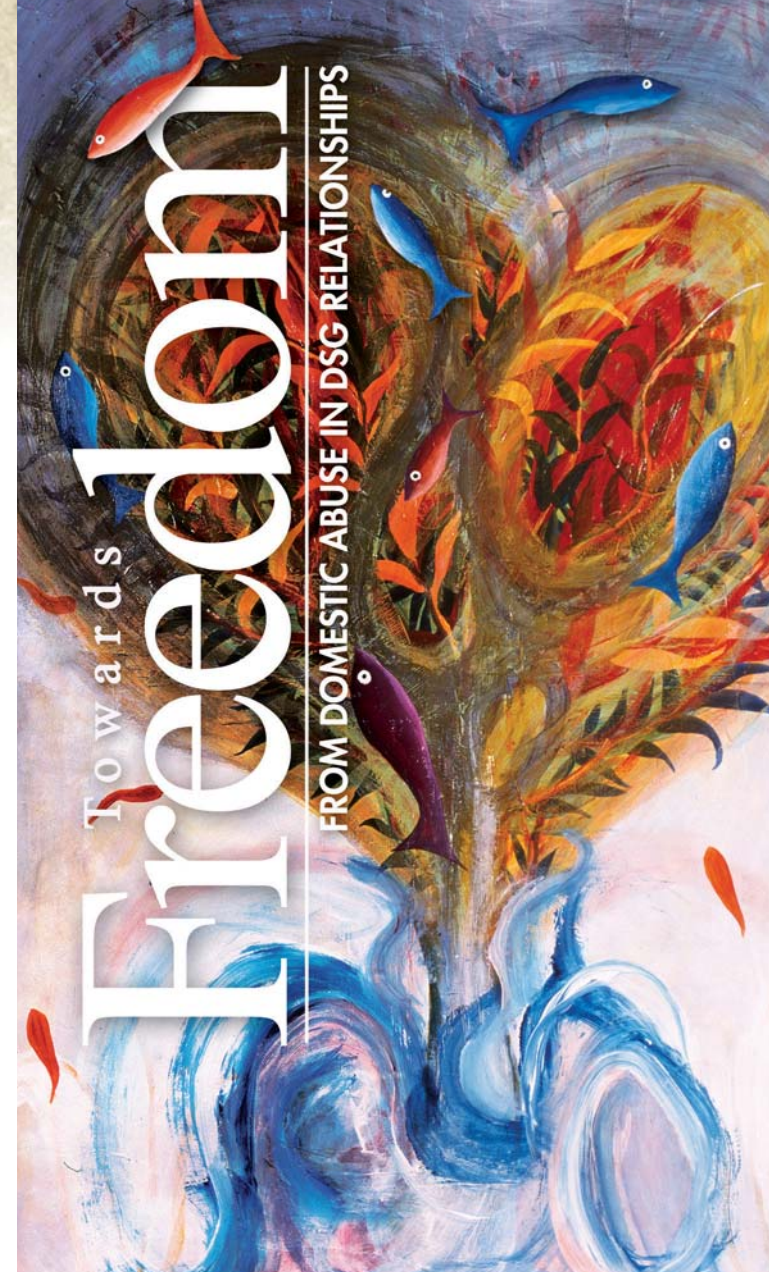
The Freedom Center

Freedom Centre (FC) supports young DSG (under 26) and their communities to be informed, happy and healthy about their sexuality and gender. It is a safe drop-in centre to meet other DSG youth.

93 Brisbane St. Northbridge PERTH

Telephone: 9228 0354

Telephone: 9482 0000



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

This brochure contains information and referral details for people of **Diverse Sexuality and Gender (DSG)** who are or may be experiencing **abuse within their relationships**



Criminal Property Confiscation
Grants Program

ssdag
same sex domestic abuse group
www.ssdag.org.au

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is any form of abusive behaviour that one partner or ex-partner uses against another. Domestic abuse will often include physical or sexual assault but many types of abusive behaviours are not physical.

Most DSG relationships are based on love and respect. But some contain abusive behaviours. Domestic Abuse exists in our community.

This pamphlet contains information on domestic abuse in DSG relationships.

Types of Abuse

There is a range of ways one partner may behave abusively towards another. The ongoing presence of any of these behaviours in a relationship may indicate domestic abuse

Emotional Abuse – where one partner tries to make the other partner feel worthless, e.g. name calling, ridicule and public humiliation, threats to hurt themselves, their partner, their children or pets; and threatening or actually 'outing' their partner in terms of their sexuality or HIV or other health status.

Social Control – where one partner tries to isolate the other from friends, family or community activities, e.g. monitoring phone calls or bills; causing fights with, or preventing family or friends visiting; preventing participation in DSG or other cultural events like church.

Financial Control – where one partner attempts to make the other financially dependent, e.g. taking control of all the couple's income; threats to, or actually withdrawing financial support; and making them account for all their spending.

Sexual Abuse/Assault – where one partner forces another have sex or engage in acts like threesomes or group sex against their will; non-consensual BDSM; and or actual sexual assault (non consensual penetration or touch).

Physical Abuse/Assault - where one partner physically assaults another partner, e.g. punching, slapping, biting, wrestling, strangling or burning, and using weapons like knives, guns or blunt objects.

Stalking – any behaviour that one partner uses to monitor or harass the other, e.g. calling, texting or e-mailing inappropriately; and following their partner to and from or loitering around their home, work or social setting.

Domestic Abuse is a DSG Issue

The police, health care providers, DSG organisations and legal services are aware that domestic abuse happens in DSG relationships as they are working with the people who have, or are experiencing it.

Studies from around the world show that the overall patterns and effects of domestic abuse in DSG relationships are very similar to those in heterosexual relationships.

Effects of Domestic Abuse

Over time someone who experiences domestic abuse may suffer a wide range of negative effects, e.g. physical injuries; emotional and mental health problems like stress and anxiety; social and cultural isolation; loss of family relationships; and loss of confidence and self-esteem.

Myths and Facts About DSG Domestic Abuse

Myth: Women aren't violent and men can't be victims of domestic abuse.

Fact: Domestic abuse is a behaviour that any person can use against another person. Men, women and transgender people can use abusive behaviours against another person. And Men, women and transgender people can all experience domestic abuse.

Myth: Violence between DSG people is a mutual fight.

Fact: This myth that is based on the out-dated idea that real abuse can only occur when men do it to women. This is not true! Being of the same sexuality or gender makes no difference. All abuse is wrong no matter who is using the abusive behaviour or who is experiencing the behaviour.

Myth: Drugs make them violent.

Fact: Some drugs (especially amphetamines) may trigger violent behaviour in some people. However if the person uses the drug knowing they may become violent and/or the violence is targeted towards their partner then this is domestic violence and they are responsible for their actions.

Myth: The law can't help me and the police aren't interested.

Fact: Threats, stalking, and physical and sexual abuse/assault are all illegal. The Western Australia Police has a responsibility to investigate all reported incidents of Family and Domestic Violence. Upon accessing the situation they will take positive action to intervene and will endeavor to provide assistance and protection to anyone in WA experiencing illegal forms of domestic abusive behaviours, regardless of their sexuality or gender. If someone feels the police or other legal service response hasn't been adequate or appropriate they have the right to make a complaint. (Visit www.ssdag.org.au for more information.)