

What our workers can do for you

NQDVRS will work with the courts, police and clients to assist women and children to stay safe in their home. To accomplish this, our workers will:

- Discuss safety needs to ensure the woman feels safe staying in her home when there is a protection order which has a condition on it stating the respondent is not to enter or remain in any place the woman is living, or when the court has ordered the respondent to vacate the premises by specified date
- Plan practical aspects of staying safely at home and make arrangements for safety upgrades to be made to the woman's home
- Discuss and plan for appropriate referrals
- Assist with the court process
- Provide information and support
- Provide respectful and holistic support to achieve a feeling of safety
- Follow up on safety issues
- Refer respondents to appropriate services
- Temporary assistance to respondents with emergency accommodation

Other Helpful Services

NQDVRS provides services that include:

- Crisis Counselling and Support
- Information and Referral
- Court Support
- AARDVARC program for children who are exposed to Domestic and Family Violence.
- Community Education and Training
- Resources
- Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MenTER)
- 'SAFE DADS' an information program for fathers



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Funded by the Department of Communities

NQDVRS Domestic Violence Pilot Project



Domestic Violence has been identified as the main reason for women and children to become homeless. (NDCA Data)

A Program to assist victims of Domestic and Family Violence to stay safely in their own home

What is the “Choosing Safety Program”?

NQDVRS has received funding for a pilot program to help women and children stay safe at home. The Choosing Safety Workers will assist you to enhance your safety and the safety of your children. They will discuss your Protection Order and safety plans, plus the best option for you to either stay at home or to go to a shelter or other arrangement. They will assist you to use your Protection Order effectively, and they will provide crisis counseling and legal information. If staying in your current accommodation is an option for you they will conduct a risk assessment, and a safety audit of the property, They will help you negotiate with land owners or Department of Housing and others.

After reaching an agreement that staying at home is the best option for you, the workers will organize basic safety upgrades of locks and security items where appropriate.



WHEN VIOLENCE OCCURS!

For some women seeking safety from domestic and family violence has meant leaving the family home and going into a shelter or other temporary accommodation. This results in the woman and her children having to leave family, friends, personal belongings, school and work to ensure the perpetrator cannot continue with his violence. The woman may also feel she has to choose to relocate, away from community.

NEW CHOOSING SAFETY PROGRAM

This program allows women to consider a further option for safety. If you are a woman who has a temporary or permanent Protection Order with a condition that the perpetrator cannot come to or enter the home where you are living, or that he has to move out of the property you may like to consider this option.

If you are applying for a Protection Order you might like to discuss the possibility of your remaining safely in your home and using your Protection Order to ask the courts to keep the perpetrator away from your premises and/or to remove his personal belongings away from your residence.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Will you feel safe at your location
- The cost of your rent/mortgage
- Ownership of the home/unit
- Closeness of schools and supports etc.
- Will there be a Family Law settlement

PURPOSE OF SAFETY UPGRADES

Your safety is your responsibility but Choosing Safety Workers can assist you to use your Protection Orders effectively, to consider a safety plan and to discuss possible safety upgrades. They can provide emotional support and, follow up support to assist you to feel safer in your home.

This program is not about imprisoning you in your own home but rather helping you feel safe.

What the Choosing Safety Program cannot do!

- Guarantee absolute safety
- Upgrade or repair your premises
- Make your house a fortress