

# Do you feel controlled or scared?

## What is domestic and family violence?

Domestic and family violence is when a person in a relationship (past or present) uses violence against the other person.

It can include:

- Physical assault – choking, beating, pushing
- Sexual violence – forcing sex or sexual acts
- Mental or emotional abuse – name calling, blaming, lying, denying, abusive behaviour, threatening, property damage, stalking, monitoring. Example – controlling use of telephone and places the person can go
- Financial abuse – denying living expenses, forcing other person to sign legal documents, demanding money. Example – family or a friend who cares for someone, steals their money.
- Domestic and family violence can affect all people and relationships, including:
  - Marriages
  - Partners and ex-partners
  - Adults and children
  - Adults and older parents
  - Senior carers
  - Extended family
  - People living together
  - People who are dating regardless of whether they have had sex.

## Who must report domestic and family violence?

All adults must report to police if they believe that:

- Serious harm related to domestic and family violence has occurred or is likely to occur.
- The life or safety of another person is under serious threat because domestic violence has been or is about to be committed.

## How can Territory Families, Housing and Communities help?

All information about domestic and family violence will remain confidential. Territory Families, Housing and Communities will not tell any person involved about your conversation without your consent.

The Department can provide support to people and their families who are currently affected by domestic and family violence to help rebuild their lives. The Department can:

- Help you make an application for public housing.
- Help you make decisions about your situation as well as discuss how to make the public housing property feel safe.
- Organise repair to the property if there are damages caused by domestic and family violence.
- Review any maintenance charges related to a domestic and family violence incident.
- Organise for Public Housing Safety Officers to issue a notice of direction to people who are not welcomed visitors.
- Refer you to or provide details of support services, including legal advocates that may be able to help you.

A risk assessment will be conducted when Department staff witness or become aware of domestic violence or believes there is a risk of domestic violence occurring.

The result of the risk assessment may mean you are referred to the Family Safety Framework Meeting.

## What is a Family Safety Meeting?

The Family Safety Meeting is a group of representatives from participating agencies that meet every two weeks. These agencies include:

- Department of Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Northern Territory Police.

At this meeting high risk cases are reviewed and steps can be taken to help you with your situation.

## Where can I seek more information or help?

You can speak to a Department staff member if you are experiencing difficulties in your life. Difficulties could include financial distress, problems with gambling, alcohol and other drugs. The Department can refer you to support services that may be able to help you.

1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) is the National Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service for people living in Australia. This service provides confidential counselling and support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For further information, go to [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

You can call for Northern Territory Police assistance on 131 444 or in case of an emergency call 000.

## Where can I get more information?

To find out more, visit the website [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au) or contact your local Housing office:

Alice Springs	(08) 8951 5344
Arafura Region	(08) 8995 5122
Greater Darwin	(08) 8999 8814
Katherine	(08) 8973 8513
Nhulunbuy	(08) 8987 0533
Palmerston	(08) 8999 4767
Tennant Creek	(08) 8962 4497