

About the support we provide

We can link women with appropriate services – such as:

- Counselling for women and their children
- Crisis accommodation
- Housing services
- Financial counselling
- Children's services
- Centres against sexual assault

An Aboriginal family violence case manager can speak to services on behalf of women, if needed.

Case management can be provided help women with a range of support over a fixed time period (usually three or six months).

Case management can provide women with emotional support, practical support, housing support and help with safety plans.

How to contact us

Call (03) 9689 9588 or visit our website at www.whwest.org.au

Our services cover the western metropolitan region of Melbourne. You can access our services in Footscray, Melton, Werribee or various other locations across the west.

Women's Health West

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

After hours support

Women needing family violence support outside working hours please call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188

FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT

PLEASE CALL THE POLICE ON 000 IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER



What is family violence?

Women's Health West is committed to providing culturally safe and accessible services for Aboriginal women and children. Women's Health West employs dedicated Aboriginal family violence case managers.

Our case managers provide culturally sensitive services and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experiencing family violence.

They provide crisis support and ongoing case management.

Family violence is a crime. It is a violation of human rights.

Family violence can take many forms, and is when a family member tries to hurt, dominate and control others, for example their partner, siblings or children.

Family violence includes physical acts like hitting, pushing, smashing things or locking someone in. It also includes behaviour that is intended to cause the family or household member to be fearful.

It can also involve:

- Stopping the victim from seeing family or friends
- Pressuring, tricking or forcing their partner to do sexual things
- Threatening to hurt their partner, kids, family members or a pet
- Being verbally abusive or deliberately making their partner, kids or family member feel bad
- Stopping a partner or family member from having any money
- Constantly checking where a partner or family member is, what they're doing and who they're talking to

About the support we provide

Our Aboriginal family violence case managers can provide free face-to-face or telephone support.

We offer:

- Someone to talk to
- Support to develop a safety plan
- Information about rights and reporting to police
- Information about housing
- Information about income and other financial support
- Support with attending court, and information on legal options
- Help with filling in forms
- Referrals to other support services

Women and children have the right to access support from Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, such as VACCA and Elizabeth Morgan House. Our staff can connect women to these services.