



## Tip Sheet 2

# What is Domestic and Family Violence?

### ► Domestic and Family Violence is:

Any behaviour (either physical or non-physical) in an intimate or family relationship, that is intended to coerce or control another person, or that causes another person to be intimidated or live in fear. This includes physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, verbal, financial or stalking behaviour (see the 'Power and Control Wheel' (below) for other typical types of abusive tactics).



### ► Power and Control Wheel

Used with permission by Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre, Duluth, Minnesota.

The power and control wheel (above) demonstrates how perpetrators of domestic violence often use physical and sexual violence to wield control. The eight spokes of the wheel are examples of tactics that abusers may use to gain that power and control.

Domestic violence where there are children in the household is **child abuse**.<sup>1</sup> Abuse where there are children involved must follow child protection procedures.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more information on child abuse please see page 5 of Breaking the Silence Training Workbook.

Presbyterian Church NSW, Conduct Protocol Unit Online: <https://www.jerichoroad.org.au/breaking-the-silence/basic-training>

<sup>2</sup> Presbyterian Church NSW, Conduct Protocol Unit, Breaking the Silence Training Workbook

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► **Domestic and Family Violence can happen in many relationships**

- intimate partners (Husband or wife /partner)
- older persons (sometimes called elder abuse)
- parents and children
- persons with a disability

Abuse is an exploitation of power. It seeks to wield control over another. Statistics show us that the victims of this exploitation are usually women and children.



*"Women are over three times more likely to experience violence than men."<sup>3</sup>*

► **It is the church's role to love and support those who are vulnerable (James 1:27).**

Domestic and family violence is often a hidden violence. The perpetrators of this violence may seek to dismiss or condone their actions. Physical violence can be easier to identify - emotional or other forms of abuse are usually difficult to recognise. However, it is important to note that domestic and family violence is a crime and must be treated seriously. If domestic and family violence is occurring in our church communities, we need to be aware of it and do all we can do to protect the victims.

For more information on how to respond well to domestic and family violence, please see Tip Sheet 3 "Responding to Domestic Violence from a Leadership Perspective".

If you are concerned that you are a victim of Domestic and Family Violence please contact the CPU (**Conduct Protocol Unit**) and inform the Breaking the Silence representative or leadership of your church.

<sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) Personal Safety, Australian, 2012, Cat. No. 4906.0



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[www.breakingthesilence.org.au](http://www.breakingthesilence.org.au)

**NSW Domestic Violence Line**

Phone: **1800 656 463**

24/7 support and referrals for victims.

[www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/get-help](http://www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/get-help)

**No to Violence: Men's referral service**

Phone: **1300 766 491**

Information, referral and support for male perpetrators, male victims and for their relative and friends.

[www.ntv.org.au](http://www.ntv.org.au)

**Child protection Helpline**

Phone: **132 111**

▶ **Further resources**

Tweed Shire Women's Services Inc. Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program (WDVCAP) at Legal Aid NSW. Charmed and Dangerous: A woman's guide to reclaiming a healthy relationship. June 2017

<http://lacextra.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/PublicationsResourcesService/PublicationImprints/Files/754.pdf>

NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for reform 2016-2021: Safer lives for women, men and children. See Online:

[http://domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/379849/dfv-blueprint-for-reform.pdf](http://domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/379849/dfv-blueprint-for-reform.pdf)

Domestic Abuse intervention Programs, home of the The Duluth Model. Power and Control Wheel. Minnesota.2017, Online <https://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels/>