

# FAMILY VIOLENCE FACTSHEET FOR STUDENTS

[swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity](https://swinburne.edu.au/safercommunity)

MADE BY THE SAFER COMMUNITY TEAM

## Creating a safe and respectful Swinburne community.

### What is family violence?

The Family Violence Protection Act (2008) describes family violence as physically, sexually, emotionally or financially abusive behaviour towards a family member. It includes any behaviour that is threatening, coercive or dominating which causes family members to feel fear for the safety or wellbeing of themselves or another person.

#### Examples of family violence:

- Physical violence or threat of violence towards a family member, pet or personal property.
- Unwanted sexual behaviour, such as being forced into sexual activity.
- Constant put downs, ridicule, name calling, humiliation or insults.
- Controlling behaviour such as stopping someone from seeing people or leaving the house.
- Stalking behaviour such as repeatedly imposing unwanted communication or contact.
- Limiting someone's financial independence by not allowing them to have money or preventing them from working.
- Not allowing a person to practice their religion.
- Exhaustive legal action to intimidate, exploit or disempower a person.
- Harmful behaviour in a relationship of trust with an older person.

### What to do about family violence?

If you are experiencing family violence, here are some steps you can take.

#### 1 SEEK URGENT HELP IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

- If you or someone you know is hurt or in immediate danger, call for help.
  - Call emergency services 000 or Swinburne security 03 9214 3333.
- If you feel safe to do so, leave the abusive relationship and seek crisis accommodation.

#### 2 INCREASE YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

- Always have your phone with you and save emergency contact numbers in it.
- Make a safety plan including safe places you can go in an emergency. It might be homes of friends or family.
- Keep your location private by turning off location services on your phone. Don't make posts on social media.
- Use the private browsing setting in your internet browser to ensure your search history can't be viewed.
- Change passwords and increase privacy settings on social media. Ensure your profiles are set to private.

#### 3 SEEK ADVICE AND SUPPORT

- Tell trusted people in your support network about the behaviour and seek their advice. This may include friends, family, neighbours, work mates or peers/staff at university.
- Request that trusted people avoid contact with the abusive person and do not provide them with any information about you such as your location.
- Report behaviour to the university, e.g. teaching staff, security services, or Safer Community, who can link you in with other support services.
- Seek help from professional support services.
- Seek legal advice about your rights and options.

#### 4 COLLECT EVIDENCE AND REPORT THE BEHAVIOUR

- Keep a logbook of all incidents of abusive behaviour with dates and times.
- Save a history of all messages, emails, social media posts, photos and medical records related to the abusive behaviour. Take screen shots where possible.
- Report the abusive behaviour to the police to investigate.
- If you are in immediate danger of physical harm, report to the police immediately on 000.
- Consider applying for an intervention order that forbids the person from contacting you. Carefully consider whether this is the right action to take given your situation, as these orders don't deter all perpetrators of family violence.

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## Some statistics (Australia)

- 1 in 3 women experience family violence.
- 4% of men experience family violence.
- On average, 1 woman a week is murdered by a current or former partner.
- Family violence is the principal cause of homelessness for women and their children.
- Indigenous women and girls are 35 times more likely than other females to be hospitalised due to family violence.
- Women between 18 and 35 years are more likely to experience violence than women overall.
- Family violence is increasing in Australia (rates almost doubled from 2010–2014).

(White Ribbon Australia, 2014)

## Support on campus

### SAFER COMMUNITY

Safer Community offers advice, support, intervention, and risk management for students who experience or witness concerning behaviours on or off campus. These concerning behaviours include stalking, bullying, harassment, family violence, and sexual assault or harassment. To report concerning behaviour email Safer Community or complete the online incident reporting form.

[safercommunity@swinburne.edu.au](mailto:safercommunity@swinburne.edu.au)  
[swinburne.edu.au/incident-reporting-form](http://swinburne.edu.au/incident-reporting-form)

### INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICE

Swinburne Student Life provides policy advice, support and guidance in academic issues, and advocates for best outcomes in complaints, grievances, appeals and misconduct hearings.

03 9214 5445  
[studentlife@swin.edu.au](mailto:studentlife@swin.edu.au)  
[swinburne.edu.au/advocacy](http://swinburne.edu.au/advocacy)

### SWINBURNE SECURITY

Contact campus security services for emergencies on campus or for a security officer escort.

03 9214 3333

### STUDENT COUNSELLING

If you are struggling with a personal, emotional or mental health difficulty, whether related to your studies or your life away from university, counselling may help. Register and make an appointment with Swinburne's counselling services.

03 9214 8483  
[swinburne.edu.au/counselling](http://swinburne.edu.au/counselling)

### CRISIS LINE – OUT OF HOURS

The Swinburne crisis line is available to help 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays, and outside business hours on weekdays (before 9am and after 5pm).

Call 1300 854 144  
Text 0488 884 145

## Support off campus

### POLICE

National emergency response and reporting.

In emergencies call 000  
[police.vic.gov.au](http://police.vic.gov.au)

### NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE

24/7 phone and online counselling service for victims of family violence.

1800 737 732  
[1800respect.org.au](http://1800respect.org.au)

### MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE (NO TO VIOLENCE)

Advice and support for men concerned about their anger or violence towards their family.

1300 766 491  
[ntvmrs.org.au](http://ntvmrs.org.au)

### MAGISTRATES COURT OF VICTORIA

Information about applying for a personal safety intervention order.

[magistratescourt.vic.gov.au](http://magistratescourt.vic.gov.au)

### EASTERN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE (EDVOS)

Specialist family violence service in Melbourne's eastern metropolitan region.

03 9259 4200  
[edvos.org.au](http://edvos.org.au)

### SAFE STEPS

Victoria's 24/7 family violence response service for women and children.

1800 015 188  
[safesteps.org.au](http://safesteps.org.au)

The information contained in this flyer was correct at the time of publication, October 2019. The university reserves the right to alter or amend the material contained in this guide.