



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE
MEETING ON UNCEDED
ABORIGINAL LAND.

WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ELDERS
PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE
SOVEREIGNTY OF THIS LAND WAS
NEVER CEDED.

ALWAYS
WAS
ALWAYS
WILL BE
ABORIGINAL
LAND.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW

Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in New South Wales (NSW). We work from a feminist, social justice perspective and acknowledge that domestic and family violence (DFV) is serious, prevalent and driven by gender inequality.

STATS

- More than 1 million Australian children are affected by domestic and family violence – which is 1 in 4 children.
- if domestic and family violence already exists, it is likely to increase in severity during pregnancy.
- 1 in 3 young people presenting as homeless have experienced domestic violence.

IMPACTS

Warning signs	Impact
<p>0-5 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depressed, withdrawn mother, baby is jumpy, nervous fretful, not responsive or cuddly,• poor language skills,• baby withdrawn and difficult to engage in play or communication,• delayed toileting, sleep problems, disruptions in eating.• Poor attachment to caregivers• Little awareness of their environment• Overly aggressive, bullying behaviour, controlling over siblings, defiant.• Imitating inappropriate sexual behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foetal damage from physical violence against the mother.• Low birth weight, still birth• Stress hormones in mother's system affecting normal brain growth.• Depressed parents respond less frequently to their babies cues this can lead to delays in infants expressive language and ability to concentrate.

IMPACTS

Warning signs	Impact
<p>5-9 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Frequent visits to the GP and hospital•Bedwetting and sleep problems•High level of school absenteeism•Aggressive or confrontational behaviour•Extreme levels of anxiety•Poor attachment to caregivers•Clear avoidance of discussing family life•Extreme fluctuation of moods and emotions•Bearing too much responsibility for the care of parents and siblings•Problems with attention and hyperactivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Increased risks of physical injury, convulsive disorders and other health issues including stomach pains, head aches, allergies and disturbed sleep patterns.•Ill health may go unrecognised due to absenteeism from school.•School medicals may be missed.•Gender split in cognitive development leading to boys displaying aggression and anxiety and girls more likely to underachieve in school.•Risk of children in developing low self esteem and tendency to self blame for the violence in the family.•Feelings of guilt and helplessness. Also of shame which leads to child keeping it a secret.•Pre occupation with details of traumatic event.

IMPACTS

Warning signs	Impact
<p>10- 14 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Low self esteem•Develop an early interest in alcohol/ drugs•School performance below expected ability or very much an over achiever•Depressed•Friendships may be restricted•Attempts to run away from home•Cautious about discussing family life•Inappropriate behaviour such as bullying, violence or sexual abuse•Early sexual activity•Perceptions of risk may be particularly acute or poorly reactive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Children left to cope alone with physical changes that accompany the onset of puberty.•Impact on academic competence varies•School may be seen as source of help and sanctuary from problems at home.•Children experience inability to concentrate causing them to perform below expected ability.•Tendency to blame themselves for the behaviour of the abusive parent.•Running away may cause the child to feel a detachment from school and lead to involvement in criminal activities•Anxiety about what might be happening when away from home can cause young adolescents to be continually vigilant.•Socialisation skills neglected due to missing out on school events and activities.

IMPACTS

Warning signs	Impact
<p>15 years + :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forming inappropriate intimate relationships• Tendency to get serious about relationships too early in order to escape home• Frequent patterns of disciplinary action at school• Difficulty in making decisions and following these through• Evidence of self-harm• Limited social networks and social skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of opportunity to discuss contraception or how to behave in close personal relationships.• Inappropriate role models lead to poor attitude to and/or understanding of sexual relations.• Higher risk of pregnancy or getting someone pregnant.• Higher risk of catching STDs• School exclusion impacting on future life chances.• Less likely to continue into higher education.• Develop a belief that they have little or no control over what happens to them.• Seeking solace in use of drugs/alcohol• Higher risk of suicidal behaviour, self-harm and depression.• Continued worries about their parents lead to them leading a restricted life.



D O M E S T I C
V I O L E N C E
N S W

D O M E S T I C
V I O L E N C E
N S W

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Listen
- Amplify their voices
- Child/young person focused and child/young person led
- Provide and fund specialist services to respond including prevention and early intervention
- Training and education
- Integrate services

THANK YOU

