



**Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Ballarat**

Safe Church Program

Understanding and Responding to Family & Domestic Violence

For all parish members

This guide provides information for all clerics and church workers on recognising, understanding and responding to domestic violence. It includes information on

- Understanding the reality of family & domestic violence
- Recognising warning indicators
- Responding to family & domestic violence

Document Information

This document has been compiled by the Diocesan Safe Church Officer for use in the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat. Information contained in this document is specific to this diocese. Information contained in this document is compiled from a variety of sources including diocesan legislation, protocols and policy and Victorian state standards and regulation.

Advice should be sought from a Safe Church Officer, diocesan cleric or the Director of Professional Standards in individual situations.

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Contents

Introduction.....	4
Understanding Family and Domestic Violence	5
Women who use violence	6
Gender-Based Violence: Preventing Violence Against Women	6
What Family Violence Looks Like	7
Red Flags and Risk Factors	9
Risk Factors for Victims.....	9
Risk Factors for Perpetrators	10
Responding to Family & Domestic Violence	16
Reporting Child Abuse.....	18
Pastoral care.....	19
Church Contacts.....	20
Advice and Counselling Services.....	21
Other Reporting Authorities.....	22
References	22
Safe Church Program Guides.....	23

Introduction

Family & domestic violence poses one of the most significant risks to the members of our churches as well as members of the wider public. The church has an important role to play in changing public perception of family & domestic violence and responding with the care and compassion of Christ. Being vigilant for and responding with love to victims of family & domestic violence with equal regard for all is Kingdom work.

This guideline seeks to illustrate the realities of family & domestic violence, how to identify the indicators that family & domestic violence might be occurring, and how to respond to it effectively.

To transform unjust structures of society,
to challenge violence of every kind
and pursue peace and reconciliation.

Fourth mark of mission
Anglican Communion: anglicancommunion.org/

The Anglican Board of Mission's fourth mark of mission, our diocesan theme for 2020, speaks to the spiritual imperative behind the Safe Church Program. The program is not just about fulfilling our legal obligations; it is also part of our job as disciples of Christ to follow in his way and challenge violence, injustice and oppression in our churches, families and communities. As church leaders, we have a role to fulfil in our communities to call out disrespect and be peacemakers.

Understanding Family and Domestic Violence

Most people in intimate relationships disagree about things from time to time. Disagreements are a normal part of a healthy relationship. Both parties should be able to put forward their different points of view or concerns and feel comfortable discussing them together. In a healthy relationship, both parties treat each other as equals and compromise to seek solutions to overcome their problems. However, in a relationship where domestic and family violence is occurring, the situation is very different. One person in the relationship uses abuse and/or violence to **control the other person through fear**. The victim feels threatened - too frightened to argue back or too scared to disagree or express their opinion. **The perpetrator has power over the victim. This is called "coercive control"**.

Generally, women affected by domestic and family violence do not enter a relationship believing it will become violent. Sometimes women will choose to make a long-term relationship commitment when there is abuse occurring, often thinking marriage or moving in together will put a stop to his extreme jealousy and possessiveness. There are also occasions when women enter longer-term commitments out of fear, concerned about the consequences for their safety or for others if they don't.

In many abusive relationships, physical and sexual violence does not begin until after the relationship is well established and, for many women, their first experience of physical violence will be during pregnancy. Perpetrators of abuse and violence are often initially very controlling and dominating over their partner, and this behaviour may mistakenly be interpreted as jealousy or considered a compliment by the victim or a sign of love. In some cases, domestic and family violence can continue long after the relationship has ended. People who experience these acts of abuse or violence often feel fearful and unsafe.

Domestic and family violence is not restricted to any particular socioeconomic, faith, racial or cultural group. It can occur between people in a range of domestic relationships, including:

- Spousal relationships
- Intimate personal relationships
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex relationships
- Family relationships (sibling, elder, etc.)
- Informal care relationships.

Women who use violence

There is a small percentage of relationships where women use violence as a pattern of abuse using power and control against their partners. However, statistics compiled from Police reports, Hospital Accident and Emergency Departments, Court data, Domestic Violence Counselling Services and surveys suggest these types of relationships are a minority.

Research indicates that men experience the impact of domestic violence very differently than women. These studies show that men report they were not living in their homes in an on-going state of fear of the perpetrator. Men generally did not have prior experiences of violent relationships, and men rarely experience post-separation violence. **Because this type of violence is not common, it can be difficult for men to reach out to seek help.**

Gender-Based Violence: Preventing Violence Against Women

In most of the vast majority of cases, **domestic violence is a gender issue** and should be understood in the context of social structure and inequality between men and women, not the dynamics of individual relationships. Male violence towards women results from patriarchal norms in our society where men believe they are superior to women and that it is their innate right to dominate. Sex-role stereotypes, homophobic attitudes among men and cultural traditions that devalue women are all elements of this culture of violence. **As church leaders, we need to work together to promote and normalise gender equality in both public and private life.**



What Family Violence Looks Like

Domestic and family violence is focused on establishing and maintaining **power and control over the victim (coercive control)**. It uses (but is not limited to) the following:

Violence Types

Violence Type	Description
Intimidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smashing things and destroying possessions• Putting a fist through the wall• Handling guns or other weapons in the presence of the victim• Using intimidating body language such as angry looks or a raised voice• Questioning the victim in a hostile way• Recklessly driving a vehicle with the victim in the car• Harassing the victim by making persistent phone calls, sending text messages or emails, following them, or loitering near their home or workplace
Verbal abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screaming, shouting, making put-downs, name-calling• Using sarcasm to abuse• Ridiculing the victim in public or private
Physical abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Showing a lack of consideration for the victim's physical comfort or safety (such as dangerous driving)• Pushing, shoving, hitting, slapping, choking, hair-pulling, punching or using weapons• Destroying possessions (Note: acts are physically abusive even if they do not result in physical injury)
Emotional abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any behaviour that deliberately undermines the victim's confidence (for example: leads them to believe they are stupid, a 'bad parent', useless or even crazy or insane)• Acts that humiliate degrade and demean the victim• Threatening to harm the victim, their friends or family members; to take their children or to commit suicide• Silence and withdrawal as a means to abuse• Threatening to report the victim to authorities such as Centrelink or Immigration
Spiritual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ridiculing or putting down the victim's beliefs and culture• Preventing the victim from belonging to or taking part in a group that is important to their spiritual beliefs or practising their religion

Social abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolating the victim from their social networks and supports, either by preventing them from having contact with their family or friends or by verbally or physically abusing them in public or in front of others • Continually putting friends and family down, so the victim is slowly disconnected from their support network • Preventing the victim from having contact with people who speak their language and/or share their culture
Economic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denying the victim access to money, including their own • Demanding that the family live on inadequate resources • Incurring debt in the victim's name • Making significant financial decisions without consulting the victim • Selling the victim's possessions (Note: these can be contributing factors for women becoming 'trapped' in violent situations)
Sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rape (which includes being forced to perform unwanted sexual acts or to have sex with others) • Being pressured to agree to sex • Unwanted touching of sexual or private parts • Causing injury to the victim's sexual organs
Controlling behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dictating what the victim does, who they see and talks to or where they go • Keeping the victim from making friends, talking to their family or having money of their own • Preventing the victim from going to work • Not allowing the victim to express their own feelings or thoughts • Not allowing the victim any privacy • Forcing the victim to go without food or water
Stalking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loitering around places the victim is known to frequent, watching and following the victim, making persistent telephone calls and sending mail including unwanted love letters, cards and gifts

Red Flags and Risk Factors

Risk Factors for Victims

Victims who are experiencing any of the following are at increased risk of being killed or almost killed. Please note that this list outlines the highest risk factors, not all the risk factors.

* May indicate an increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed.

Pregnancy/new birth*	Family violence often commences or intensifies during pregnancy and is associated with increased rates of miscarriage, low birth weight, premature birth, foetal injury and foetal death.
Depression/mental health issue	Victims with a mental illness may be more vulnerable to family violence.
Drug and/or alcohol misuse/abuse	Victims may use alcohol or other drugs to cope with the physical, emotional or psychological effects of family violence; this can lead to increased vulnerability.
Has ever verbalised or had suicidal ideas or tried to commit suicide	Suicidal thoughts or attempts indicate that the victim is extremely vulnerable, and the situation has become critical.
Isolation	A victim's vulnerability increases if they are isolated from family, friends and other social or support networks.
Recent separation*	For women who are experiencing family violence, the high-risk periods include immediately before taking action, and during the initial stages of or immediately after separation. Victims who stay with the perpetrator because they are afraid to leave often accurately anticipate that leaving would increase the risk of lethal assault.
Financial difficulties	Low income (less than that required to provide for basic needs) and financial stress, including a gambling addiction are risk factors for family violence.
Escalation or increase in severity and/or frequency of violence*	Violence occurring more often or becoming worse is associated with lethal outcomes for victims.

Risk Factors for Perpetrators

Perpetrators who commit, or are subject to the following factors, are likely to be committing domestic violence or at risk of increasing its severity. Please note that this list outlines the highest risk factors, not all the risk factors.

Use of a weapon at the most recent event	Use of a weapon indicates a high level of risk because the previous behaviour is a likely predictor of future behaviour. A weapon is defined as any tool used by the perpetrator, that could injure, kill or destroy property.
Access to weapons	Perpetrators who have access to weapons, particularly guns, are much more likely to seriously injure or kill a victim than perpetrators without access to weapons.
Has ever harmed or threatened to harm a victim	Psychological and emotional abuse is a good predictor of continued abuse, including physical abuse. Previous physical assaults also predict future assaults.
Strangulation or choking	Strangulation or choking is a common method used by male perpetrators to kill female victims.
Has ever threatened to kill the victim*	Evidence suggests that a perpetrator's threat to kill a victim is often genuine.
Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill children*	Evidence suggests that where family violence is occurring, there is a likelihood of increased risk of direct abuse of children in the family. Children are adversely affected through experiencing violence directly and by the effects of violence, including hearing and (or) witnessing violence or through living in fear due to a violent environment.
Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill other family members	Threats by the perpetrator to hurt or cause actual harm to family members can be a way of controlling the victim through fear.
Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill pets or other animals*	A correlation between cruelty to animals and family violence is increasingly being recognised. Because there is a direct link between family violence and pets being abused or killed, abuse or threats of abuse against pets may be used by perpetrators to control family members.
Has ever threatened or tried to commit suicide*	Threats or attempts to commit suicide are a risk factor for murder-suicide.

Stalking of the victim*	Stalkers are more likely to be violent if they have had an intimate relationship with the victim. Stalking, when coupled with physical assault, is strongly connected to murder or attempted murder. Stalking behaviour and obsessive thinking are highly related behaviours.
Previous or current breach of Intervention Order	Breaching Intervention Order conditions indicates the defendant is not willing to abide by the orders of a court. Such behaviour should be considered a serious indicator of increased risk of future violence.
Drug and/or alcohol misuse/abuse*	A serious problem with illicit drugs, alcohol, prescription drugs or inhalants leads to impairment in social functioning and creates a risk of family violence. This includes temporary drug-induced psychosis.
Obsession/jealous behaviour towards victim*	Obsessive and/or excessive jealous behaviour is often related to controlling behaviours and has been linked with violent attacks.
Controlling behaviours*	For example, the perpetrator telling the victim how to dress, who they can be friends with, controlling how much money they can access and determining when they can see friends and family or use the car. Men who think they 'should be in charge' are more likely to use various forms of violence against their partner.
Unemployment*	Unemployment is associated with an increased risk of lethal assault and, a sudden change in employment status, such as being terminated and/or retrenched may be associated with increased risk.
Depression/mental health issues	Murder-suicide outcomes in family violence have been associated with perpetrators who have mental health problems, particularly depression.
History of violent behaviour	Perpetrators with a history of violence are more likely to use violence against family members. The nature of the violence may include credible threats or use of weapons and attempted or actual assaults. Violent men generally engage in more frequent and more severe family violence than perpetrators who do not have a violent past.

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is any act occurring within a relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which results in harm to an older person. Elder abuse may be physical, sexual, financial, psychological, social and/or neglect. It can be a form of family & domestic violence.

This type of abuse is of particular concern for the church, as many of our members are older persons. Parish members should be vigilant to elder abuse, particularly for those who are housebound or in care facilities

Financial abuse

One of the most common forms of elder abuse reported by older Victorians. Examples may include:

- Coercing an older person into giving money to a relative
- Taking money to compensate for looking after an older family member
- Pressuring an older relative into making financial decisions
- Forcing an older relative to change their Will.

Neglect

- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical attention or dental care
- Using medication improperly
- Keeping older people in a state of poor hygiene.

Physical abuse

- Hitting, slapping, pushing
- Rough handling
- Using restraints.

Social abuse

- Restricting access to support networks (family, friends, help services)
- Discouraging visitors/social outings
- Opening mail/screening phone calls without permission.

Sexual Abuse

- Any form of forced or unwanted sexual activity, including taking advantage of a person unable to give consent.

Barriers to reporting

The reasons for not reporting abuse are complicated and may include:

- Fear, including fear of retaliation or family breakdown
- Older people may not recognise that what they are experiencing is elder abuse
- Older people may feel that they are responsible for the behaviour of the perpetrator
- Feelings of guilt and shame
- The belief that aggression and violence is a normal part of family life
- Fear that seeking help will lead to being placed in residential care
- Lack of knowledge about available sources of help.

If you are unsure about asking for help, remember everyone has the right to be safe. No older person should be subjected to any form of abuse, mistreatment or neglect. Elder abuse is a form of family violence, and it is unacceptable.

What to do if you suspect elder abuse is occurring or you are experiencing elder abuse

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of elder abuse, you can discuss these concerns with a trusted family member, GP or physician. For further information and for independent advice, contact one of the specialist organisations listed below.

000

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call the police on 000 in the first instance.

Seniors Rights Victoria

Seniors Rights Victoria provides information, support, advice and education to help prevent elder abuse and safeguard the rights, dignity and independence of older people. For more information on Seniors Rights Victoria phone 1300 368 821 or seniorsrights.org.au.

Elder Rights Advocacy

Elder Rights Advocacy provides specialist advice on elder abuse within the context of Australian Government-funded aged care services (residential and home care). For more information on Elder Rights Advocacy phone 1800 700 600 or opan.com.au.

Child Abuse

Child Abuse is any form of behaviour or action that harms a child. The following categories come from the Victorian Commission for Children & Young People's list of reportable conduct:

A Child is anyone under the age of 18 years.

There are five types of reportable conduct:

1. A **sexual offence** committed against, with, or in the presence of a child, whether or not a criminal proceeding concerning the offence has been commenced or concluded
2. **Sexual misconduct** committed against, with, or in the presence of a child
3. **Physical violence** committed against, with, or in the presence of a child
4. Any behaviour that causes significant **emotional or psychological harm** to a child
5. Significant **neglect** of a child.

Perpetrators of child abuse can be:

- Adults
- Young people and older children

Child abuse includes:

- Abuse that causes actual harm
- Abuse that is likely to harm
- Intentional harm
- Harm by omission (i.e. neglect)
- Harm by commission (i.e. exploitation)



Further Reading

The following Safe Church Program Guide is required readings for all church workers engaged in regular contact with young people in high school (years 7-12) in the course of conducting any church ministry.

- Guidelines for Ministry to Children
- Guidelines for Ministry to Young People

Copies are available from your Parish Safe Church Officer, or from the diocesan website at: ballaratanglican.org.au/safechurch/.

Important Note

The diocese has expressed a clear policy for the safety of all children in its Child Safe Policy. This policy extended to the abuse of children in the homes of anyone who is a stipendiary or volunteer member.

Any allegation of any form of harm by a volunteer or stipendiary member against a child will result in a notification to all relevant authorities regardless of the location in which the abuse took place. This includes inadvertent harm and witnessing family violence.

Responding to Family & Domestic Violence

Chances are someone you know - your neighbour, co-worker, friend, sister, brother or mother - is a victim of domestic and family violence. The following are some signs that might alert you that someone you know may be affected by domestic and family violence:

- They may have bruises or injuries, or they have frequent "accidents" for which they give vague explanations. These "accidents" sometimes cause them to miss work.
- Their partner controls the victim's activities, the family's finances, the way they dress or the victims contact with friends and family.
- They frequently cancel plans at the last minute or seems afraid of making their partner angry.
- Their partner ridicules the victim publicly, or you sense volatility in the perpetrator's comments.
- The victim's partner seems overly attentive, remains constantly by their side or is watchful about who they talk to.
- You notice changes in their or their children's behaviour. They appear frightened or exhausted.

Perhaps you feel their problem will "work itself out". Not so, domestic and family violence doesn't usually end unless action is taken to stop it. But it can be hard to know what to do. People are often reluctant to discuss something so intimate, feeling afraid of intruding in a private matter.

How can you help?

For many victims, friends and family are often the first people they talk to about domestic violence. It takes a lot of time, planning, help and courage to escape domestic violence. It is important to know that help is available from people who know and care about the situation.

Listen without judging.

Tell your friend that you care and are willing to listen. If they are willing to talk, listen carefully and empathically in a safe place. **Believe them. Never blame the victim for what's happening or underestimate their fear of danger.** Let them know that no one deserves to be abused, beaten or threatened.

Allow the victim to make their own decisions.

As you listen, try to understand the many obstacles that prevent them from leaving. It's usually very complex. Focus on supporting them in making their own decisions. **Importantly, encourage them to make choices for themselves even if it means staying with the abuser for now.** It is often the first step toward freedom. Even if they leave and then go back, don't withdraw your support.

Guide them to a specialist domestic violence support service.

Many victims of domestic violence who have found freedom describe someone they knew (a neighbour, doctor, friend) offering support and referring them to a support service. Let them know they are not alone and that people are available to help them. Many victims of domestic violence first seek the advice of marriage counsellors, psychiatrists, churches and others.

Unfortunately, not all helping professionals are fully aware of the complexities of domestic violence and the safety issues victims face. If the first person they contact is not helpful, encourage them to speak to Safe Steps on 1800 015 188 (safesteps.org.au).

Your friend may decide to remain in the violent relationship or return to the abuser after a temporary separation. Don't pressure them to leave, but let them know that you are afraid for them and their children and help them consider how dangerous the violence may be.

Encourage them to keep a diary of what's happening to them if it is safe to do so. **Help them think about steps they can take if their partner becomes abusive again.** Make a list of people to call in an emergency. Suggest they hide a suitcase of clothing, money, Centrelink cards, bank books, birth certificates and school records for future emergencies. Acknowledge that they may be in the most danger while she's trying to leave.

Help them find a safe place.

Safe Steps can assist in finding a safe place or refuge.

If this is not an option and emergency accommodation is needed, the diocese has an Emergency Accommodation Fund which is administered by the diocese. To access this, please contact the Registrar or Diocesan Safe Church Officer (including out of hours). This fund was set up by Mothers Union.

If you see an assault in progress, take action.

Call the police on triple zero (000). Don't assume that someone else has done so. If you are in your car, honk your horn until a group gathers, the violence stops, or the police come. These situations can be dangerous, so whatever you do be sure to keep yourself safe. **But do take direct action.** At the very least, watch them. Being a witness in a way that lets them know that you see them may reduce his level of violence.

Reporting Child Abuse

It is your responsibility to ensure that any child abuse that you become aware of is reported to the relevant authorities. You may become aware of abuse because you have observed indicators of abuse, another person has informed you of their concerns for a child or a child has told you they are being abused.

In some situations, you may be compelled by law to report the abuse. **Advice should be sought from a Safe Church Officer, diocesan cleric or the Director of Professional Standards in individual situations.**



Further Reading

Information on reporting abuse and Mandatory Reporting can be found in the following Safe Church Program Guide

- Guidelines for Reporting Abuse

Copies are available from your Parish Safe Church Officer, or from the diocesan website at: ballaratanglican.org.au/safechurch/.

If a child tells you about any abuse, you should:

- Listen to their story
- Comfort them if they are distressed
- Let them know you're glad they told you and that they did the right thing
- Let them know you are going to get help about what to do next and that you will get back to them.

As soon as possible after the disclosure, you must:

- Write down the details of what was said
- Report the information to the appropriate authorities

Write down the details of what was said including such details as:

- Who you spoke to, date, time and place, what you said,
- What the child said, and
- Any grounds for forming the belief that abuse has occurred.

Keep to the facts about what was said and don't express your opinion. Be aware that this document must be signed and dated and could be subpoenaed in court proceedings.

Report the information to the appropriate authorities.

Contact the **Director of Professional Standards** or the **Diocesan Safe Church Officer** if you are unsure of what to do in any circumstance or where an allegation is regarding the parish clergy.

Do not undertake an investigation, and do not disclose the allegations to the alleged offender at this initial stage.

Confidentiality

You must treat any suspicion, knowledge or disclosure of abuse with the utmost confidentiality. Apart from reporting it to the relevant authorities and to your ministry leader or Minister, you must not ordinarily share the information with anyone else.

Pastoral care

A victim of abuse may require immediate specialist counselling or other support. When a report is made to the Director of Professional Standards, the Director of Professional Standards can provide advice on care for victims and their families. Victims often need ongoing contact and support, and the parish clergy should ensure that an appropriate person is appointed to follow up with them.

If you have had someone disclose abuse to you, you will also need to be appropriately cared for and supported. You may need to debrief about how the experience has affected you.

Information about the pastoral care of victims and perpetrators can be obtained from the Diocesan Safe Church Officer.

Church Contacts

Diocesan Safe Church Officer

The Rev'd Glen Wesley
Anglican Diocese of Ballarat
safechurch@ballaratanglican.org.au
03 5331 1183 – Registry
0429 146 566 - Out of Hours

Safe Church Program Information Website

ballaratanglican.org.au/safechurch

The diocesan website holds all Safe Church Program information in an easy to navigate area. It contains:

- Clearance for Ministry forms and guides
- Codes of conduct
- Training and education material
- Policy and legislation documents
- Safe Church Training dates
- Links to further information and websites

Director of Professional Standards

Michael Iacovino
1800 377 842 - 24/7 Messaging Service

The Director of Professional Standards responds to all **complaints of abuse against clergy and Church workers**. The first step in making a complaint is to call the information line.

Director of Episcopal (Bishops') Standards

1800 997 747
PO Box 33144, Domain LP, Melbourne Vic. 3004

The Director of Episcopal Standards responds to all complaints of misconduct including, but not limited to, sexual, physical, spiritual or emotional abuse by a Bishop.

Advice and Counselling Services

1800 Respect

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au

Confidential information, counselling and support service. Open 24 hours to support people impacted by sexual assault, domestic, elder or family violence and abuse.

Mensline Australia

1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

MensLine Australia is a telephone and online counselling service for men with emotional health and relationship concerns.

Safe Steps Victorian Family Violence Response Centre

1800 015 188
safesteps.org.au

Victoria's **24/7 family violence support and triage service**. The Safe Steps response phone line connects women (this includes anyone who identifies as female or transfeminine) and their children with specialist support workers who can help them explore their options, develop a safety plan and access supports that allow them to live safe from family violence. **Safe steps phone support workers can also offer information and assistance to individuals concerned someone they know is experiencing family violence.**

InTouch – Victorian Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence

03 9413 6500
intouch.org.au

A specialist family violence service that works with **multicultural women, their families and their communities**. InTouch provides case management, training, conducts research and runs community-based projects to address the issue of family violence in the community.

Kids Help Line

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

Counselling and crises support service for children and young people up to age 25.

Other Reporting Authorities

Victoria Police

000

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call the police on 000 in the first instance.

Reports of child sexual abuse in an institutional context can be made to Victoria Police's Sano Taskforce via email sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au.

Child Protection

West Division Intake - Rural and regional only

1800 075 599

8.45am - 5.00pm Monday - Friday

After hours Child Protection Emergency Service

13 12 78

5.00pm - 9.00am Monday - Friday, 24 hours on weekends and public holidays

West Division has one child protection intake located at DHHS Geelong covering the following rural and regional areas and LGAs: Ararat, Ballarat, Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Greater Geelong, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Moorabool, Moyne, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast, Warrnambool West Wimmera, Yarriambiack.

Commission for Children & Young People

General Inquiries

1300 78 29 78

contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au

ccyp.vic.gov.au

References

- Respect Victoria: Respectvictoria.vic.gov.au
- Seniors Rights Victoria: seniorsrights.org.au
- Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc: domesticviolence.org.au
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs Duluth USA: theduluthmodel.org
- Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework and Practice Guides 1-3, Dept of Human Services, State Government Victoria.
- OurWatch: ourwatch.org.au
- Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria: dvrcv.org.au

Safe Church Program Guides

These documents are aimed at informing people across all levels of leadership and church engagement to help ensure greater awareness, transparency and accountability within our churches and to help foster a culture of safe ministry at all levels of the church.

- Guidelines for Screening and Licensing for Ministry
- Guidelines for Reporting Abuse
- Guidelines for Parish Clergy
- Guidelines for Parish Safe Church Officers
- Guidelines for Ministry to Children
- Guidelines for Ministry to Young People
- Guidelines for Parents and Families
- Recognising and Responding to Family & Domestic Violence
- Recognising and Responding to Bullying
- Guidelines for Physically Safe Churches

All guides are available from the Bishop's Registry or from the diocesan website at ballaratanglican.org.au/safechurch