



Domestic & Family Violence Referral Options

April 2010

Domestic Violence Resource Centre (Victoria)

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Women's Domestic Violence Services

These services provide advocacy and support to women and children experiencing domestic violence.

Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service of Victoria (WDVCS)

Phone: (03) 9322 3555 or toll free 1800 015 188 (country callers) 24-hours, 7 days a week

- provides telephone crisis counselling, referral, information and support
- the service is the central contact point for women's refuges in Victoria
- women needing accommodation need to speak to the service themselves, to provide certain information required for referral to a refuge
- if there are no vacancies in refuges, the workers will assist a woman to explore other options until she can move into a refuge
- agencies can ring for information about the service
- the crisis line can be extremely busy, so callers need to keep trying until they get through (sometimes it is easier after office hours)
- the service can provide 24-hour access to interpreters and to support for Indigenous women

<http://www.wdvcs.org.au>

Women's Refuges

Refuge accommodation can be arranged through the Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service of Victoria (WDVCS) (see above). While WDVCS is the main source of referrals to women's refuges, many refuges also accept referrals from other designated agencies within their region.

- women's refuges provide safe accommodation and support for women and children escaping domestic violence
- their location is not made public for safety and security reasons
- domestic violence workers in refuges provide assistance with Centrelink, schooling, court support, and housing related needs
- refuges assist women with referrals for legal issues including immigration and Family Law matters and Intervention Orders
- refuges provide support to women with a diverse range of cultural and other needs, including women with disabilities. They can cater for special dietary and other cultural and/or religious needs
- where language is a barrier, refuge workers utilise the Victorian Interpreting and Translation Services (VITS). Some refuges also employ bilingual workers. When requested or deemed necessary, referrals are made to ethno-specific agencies such as the Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service (IWDVS) for cultural and linguistic support
- different refuges provide different forms of accommodation. Some provide high-security communal living, others have individual units with communal space, and some provide accommodation in which women and children can live independently
- depending on her circumstances and safety issues a woman may not need to move a long distance from where she currently lives and in some cases may continue to work in her current workplace. Children may continue to attend the same school if it is considered safe to do so. Refuges work with women to develop safety plans to support them and their children to continue their normal lives as much as possible
- all refuges have Children's Support Workers whose role is to work with the mother and the child focusing on practical and therapeutic needs
- callers (nominated by the woman in refuge) who wish to speak to the woman once she is in refuge can ring the Women's Domestic Violence Service administration line on (03) 9928 9600 Monday-Friday 9am to 5.30pm and the WDVCS crisis line at other times

Domestic Violence Outreach Services

Domestic violence outreach workers provide support to women and children who are experiencing or escaping from domestic violence. The venue for support is at a location where both the worker and the woman feel safe. Outreach workers support victims/survivors of domestic violence by

- providing support to women with a diverse range of cultural and other needs, including women with disabilities
- working with women to develop safety plans to enhance the safety of themselves and their children
- providing information on options and resources, referral to other services, and case management support. Case management support is client driven and based upon the individual woman. Support may involve assistance with Centrelink, schooling, court support, and housing related needs; referral to other services such as housing (including to refuge), counselling and financial counselling; and the provision of advocacy
- assisting women with referrals for legal advice and the provision of court and legal support for immigration, Family Law, Intervention Orders and other legal matters
- where language is a barrier workers utilise the Victorian Interpreting and Translation Services (VITS)
- providing support to children (accompanying women supported by the service) through the refuge children's worker

Domestic violence outreach workers also provide information to other service providers and are involved in community education.

Melbourne Metropolitan Outreach Services

Eastern Metropolitan	Ringwood	9259 4200
North & West Metro	Eaglemont	9450 4700
	Footscray	9689 9588
Southern Metropolitan	Frankston	9781 4658
	Cranbourne	5990 6789
	Dandenong	9791 6111
	Narre Warren	9703 0044
	Pakenham	5945 3200
Middle/Inner South Metro		9536 7777 or 1800 627 727 (from landline only)
Mornington Peninsula		5971 9454

* Offices are open from 9am to 5 pm Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated.

Rural Outreach Services

Barwon South West	Geelong/ Barwon	5224 2903	
	Warrnambool	5561 1934	
	Hamilton	5571 1778	
	Portland	5521 7937	
	Casterton	5581 2109	
<hr/>		Camperdown	5593 1892
Gippsland	Warragul	5622 7000	
	Morwell	5120 2000	
	Leongatha	5662 4502 or 1800 221 200	
	Bairnsdale	5152 0052	
<hr/>		Lakes Entrance	5152 0052
Grampians	Horsham	5362 1200	
	Ballarat	5333 3666	
	Stawell	5358 7400	
	Ararat	5352 6200	
<hr/>		Wodonga	(02) 6022 8888
Hume	Shepparton	5823 3200 or 5821 9458	
	Broadford	5784 5555 (8.30am to 5pm)	
	Wangaratta	5722 1100 (8.30am – 5pm)	
<hr/>		Mildura	5021 2130 24hrs on call
Loddon Mallee	Bendigo	5430 3000 or 1800 884 038	
	Swan Hill	5033 1899 (8.30am to 5.30pm)	

* Offices are open from 9am to 5 pm Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated.

Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service (IWDVS)

Phone: (03) 8413 6800 Toll Free 1800 755 988 (9.15am - 5.15pm, Monday to Friday)

The Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service works with women & children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. The service has a pool of bi-lingual and bi-cultural workers who provide support, information and referral to women and children escaping domestic violence.

It also provides support and advocacy to women, including assisting women with housing and Centrelink, providing information about the refuges and other accommodation and women's legal rights in Australia.

IWDVS workers also accompany women to legal appointments or court and other settings as required.

<http://www.iwdvs.org.au>

Indigenous Family Violence Support

Elizabeth Hoffman House (Aboriginal Women's Domestic Violence Service)

Phone: 9482 5744 or Toll Free 1800 796 112

Elizabeth Hoffman House is a refuge with the primary function of providing emergency shelter for Aboriginal women and their children in need of support due to domestic violence.

Provides:

- a supportive accommodation service sympathetic to the needs of service users
- Outreach Support to Aboriginal women in metropolitan Melbourne to assist them to access support services in the areas of family violence and related issues.
- conducts Community Education workshops with Aboriginal communities throughout the State

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service

Phone: (03) 9244 3333 or Freecall 1800 105 303 www.fvpls.org

FVPLS Victoria provides legal advice, counselling, information, referral and support to Aboriginal victims of family violence and sexual assault and to parents/carers of Aboriginal children. Legal assistance and advice regarding intervention orders, Family Law, Child Protection, victims of crime, assistance with applications to Victoria Legal Aid and other legal advice such as Centrelink issues, debts or fines. FVPLS also provides community education and is committed to ongoing policy/law reform.

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Phone: (03) 8388 1855 www.vacca.org

VACCA is the lead Aboriginal child and family welfare organisation in Victoria. VACCA provides support, outreach, information and confidential advice to parents and carers of Aboriginal children. Has programs and placement supports that are culturally sensitive and promote strong connection to Aboriginal culture and community in accordance with the child/young person's best interests.

Gippsland East Aboriginal Co-operative

Phone: 5150 0700

Provides short-term crisis accommodation for women & children escaping family violence.

Goulburn Valley Community Health Service – Indigenous Family Violence Support

Phone: 5823 3200 (and ask to speak with the Indigenous Family Violence Support Worker)

Indigenous Family Violence Strategy, DHS

Phone: 9096 5555 (Statewide Coordinator)

Contact the Statewide Coordinator for details of regional IFVS workers. This office can also assist with information on the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence strategy.

Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinators

Within each region, there is a group of services involved in providing an integrated family violence response. Each of these groups is supported by a Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinator.

These positions provide a central contact point in the region for:

- Information about the work of the Regional Family Violence Committee;
- Information about Community Education programs, forums and training;
- Production and dissemination of family violence information products;
- Information about regional services and networks, best practice approaches, and protocols;
- Feedback from within and between services and the general community regarding responses to family violence; and
- Family Violence data for the region.

Each Regional Integration Coordinator is based in an auspice agency. Below is a list of the regions and the agency in each region that auspices this position. You can contact your local Family Violence Regional Integration Coordinator to discuss interagency issues or obtain information to support interagency liaison.

Metropolitan

Eastern Metro	Eastern Domestic Violence Outreach Service	9259 4200
North West Metro (North)	Women's Health in the North	9484 1666
North West Metro (West)	Women's Health West	9689 9588
Southern Metro (Pahran)	Inner South Community Health	8520 5226
Southern Metro (Dandenong)	WAYSS	9791 6111

Regional

Barwon South West	Community Connections	5223 1660
Gippsland	Gippsland Women's Health Service	5143 1600
Grampians (Ballarat)	Central Highlands Child & Family Services	5337 3333
Grampians (Stawell)	Grampians Community Health Centre	5362 1200
Hume	Women's Health Goulburn North East	5722 3009
Loddon Campaspe	EASE	5443 4945
Loddon Mallee	Mallee Domestic Violence Services	5033 1899

Sexual Assault Services

Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA)

To contact any CASA or the after hours Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL) from anywhere in Victoria, phone: **1800 806 292** (your call will be directed to your local CASA).

Or email: ahcasa@rwh.org.au

CASA offer 24-hour crisis support to recent victims of sexual assault.

- CASA offer telephone or face-to-face counselling to survivors of recent and past sexual assault/abuse (including incest)
- they also provide legal information
- CASA can also assist survivors to negotiate with hospitals, doctors, the police and other legal system representatives, where appropriate

<http://www.casa.org.au/>

Melbourne Metropolitan CASAs

CASA House	Melbourne	9635 3610 or 1800 806 292
Western CASA	Footscray	9687 5811
Northern CASA	Heidelberg	9496 2240
Eastern CASA	East Ringwood	9870 7330
South East CASA	East Bentleigh	9594 2289

Rural CASAs

Ballarat CASA	Ballarat	5320 3933
Barwon CASA	Geelong	5222 4802
Gippsland CASA	Morwell	5134 3922
Goulburn Valley CASA	Shepparton	5831 2343
Loddon Campaspe CASA	Bendigo	5441 0430
Wimmera CASA	Horsham	5381 9272
Upper Murray CASA	Wangaratta	5722 2203
South Western CASA	Warrnambool	5564 4144
Mallee CASA	Mildura	5025 5400

Services for Children and Young People

After Hours DHS Child Protection Crisis Line (Statewide)

Phone: 131 278

Business Hours Child Protection Regional Intake Units

Eastern: 1300 360 391
Southern: 1300 655 795

Northern & Western: 1300 369 536

Rural Regions:

Gippsland: 1800 020 202
Hume: 1800 650 227
Barwon South-West: 1800 075 599

Grampians: 1800 000 551
Loddon Mallee: 1800 675 598

Child FIRST – Child & Family Information. Referral & Support Teams

Child FIRST sites have been established in 24 sub regional catchments across the state and provide a central, community-based referral point to a range of community based Family Services and other supports. The primary purpose of Child FIRST is to ensure that vulnerable children, young people and their families are linked effectively into relevant services.

The link below contains information about how to contact your local Child FIRST agency, by working out which DHS region and Local Government area you are in. In some areas referrals about Aboriginal children and families can be made directly to an Aboriginal organisation, as indicated in italics in the table:

<http://www.cyf.vic.gov.au/family-services/how-to-make-a-referral-or-report/first-child-and-family-information-referral-and-support-teams>

A guide for professionals

If you need guidance in deciding whether to report to Child Protection or refer to Child FIRST, go to the below link and download the document listed under "A guide for professionals".

<http://www.cyf.vic.gov.au/family-services/how-to-make-a-referral-or-report>

The Maternal & Child Health Line (Statewide)

Ph: 13 22 29 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

This service is available to families with children from birth to school age. Staffed by qualified Maternal and Child Health Nurses who provide information, support and advice. Able to connect culturally and linguistically diverse families to female interpreters. Available to hearing or speech impaired callers who have access to the National Relay Service (NRS).

Austin Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Intake: Phone: (03) 9496 3620 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday AH (03) 9496 5000 through Emergency Department

CAMHS Programs and Services include:

- a wide range of free services, delivering mental health care for children, adolescents (under 18 years) and their families or carers.
- includes outpatient services, inpatient services, including adolescent inpatient care (covering regional catchment areas).
- child inpatient care (12 years of age and under) is offered statewide.

AIM Team (Adolescent Intensive Management Team)

- An outreach team responding to the needs of teenagers who have been assessed by the community outpatient teams as requiring intensive, more flexible day to day treatment or management off campus.

Gatehouse Centre for the Assessment and Treatment of Child Abuse

Ph: (03) 9345 6391 9.00 am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

For emergency after hours assistance during evenings, public holidays and weekends, telephone the Royal Children's Hospital on (03) 9345 5522. The switchboard operator will then page the on-call worker.

The Gatehouse provides assessment, treatment, counselling and support for children & young people up to 16 years old harmed by violence, including sexual assault and where there are concerns of abuse.

- the Gatehouse Centre does not have the legal power to investigate concerns about child abuse
- the Victoria Police work alongside the Department of Human Services, where appropriate, having responsibility for the criminal investigation
- information and consultation to hospital staff, agencies and the community is available 24 hours each day
- Referrals are received from family members, professionals and members of the community

<http://www.rch.org.au/gatehouse>

Australian Childhood Foundation

Ph: 1800 176 453 or (03) 9874 3922

The Australian Childhood Foundation is a national charity that works to make children's safety and welfare a priority. It provides counselling, advocacy, education, child abuse prevention programs and research.

www.childhood.org.au

Parentline

Ph: 132 289 (8am - midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-10pm Weekends) www.parentline.vic.gov.au

Parentline is a statewide telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents and carers with children from birth to eighteen years. It is a confidential and anonymous service.

Kids Helpline

Ph: 1800 551 800 (24-hours)

Kids Help Line is Australia's only free, confidential and anonymous, 24-hour telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between five and 18.

E-mail and web counselling also available

<http://www.kidshelp.com.au>

Useful Websites

Domestic Violence Resource Centre (Vic) has developed the following websites in consultation with young people and services.

'[Bursting the Bubble](http://www.burstingthebubble.com)' is an award winning site for teenagers and is about abuse by family members. The website provides quizzes, stories, and advice

<http://www.burstingthebubble.com>

'[When Love Hurts](http://www.dvirc.org.au/whenlove)' - a website for teenagers on relationships, respect and abuse. Provides a respect checklist, the relationship quiz, true stories www.dvirc.org.au/whenlove

Services for men who use violence

Men's Referral Service

Ph: (03) 9428 2899 or STD Freecall 1800 065 973 (9am to 9pm Monday to Friday)

The Men's Referral Service is an anonymous and confidential telephone service provided for men by men. It provides a central point of contact for men who are wanting to stop their violent or abusive behaviour towards their family members, but are not sure how or where to go for advice. Many women also call the Men's Referral Service seeking information and help for their male partner, husband, relative or friend.

www.mrs.org.au

Support Groups

There are a variety of support groups around Victoria for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and incest.

Contact the Domestic Violence Resource Centre (Vic) Ph: (03) 9486 9866 or consult the **DVRC (Vic) Quarterly** newsletter, which provides quarterly updates on support groups. Alternatively, call your local domestic violence outreach service for information on local support groups.

Legal Services

Women's Legal Service

Legal Advice Line Ph: 9642 0877 or Toll Free 1800 133 302

Monday 10am – 1pm; Tuesday & Thursday 6.30pm – 8.30pm; Wednesday 2pm – 5pm.

Drop in/walk in service available Thursday only – 9.30am – 12pm.

Women's Legal Service, Level 3, 43 Hardware Lane, Melbourne 3000.

Women's Legal Service is a state-wide community organisation providing free confidential legal advice, assistance and referral for women. Their services include legal advice telephone line, face to face advice & assistance, casework, court support, interpreter assisted appointments, outreach service and community legal education.

Community Legal Centres

To find your local legal centre, contact:-

The Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria Ph: (03) 9652 1500

<http://www.communitylaw.org.au>

Community Legal Centres provide free legal advice and assistance to anyone who lives, works or studies within their catchment area. The Centres also provide community education about the law and legal system and advocate for law reform. Legal advice can be provided in the areas of Family Law, Crimes Compensation, debts and any other areas. Where appropriate, the Centres can assist with applications for Legal Aid whereby a private solicitor will act, and Legal Aid will pay for it.

Specialist Community Legal Services

There are a number of specialist services that provide legal advice, referral and advocacy:

- Youth law Ph: (03) 9611 2412 <http://www.youthlaw.asn.au>
- Mental Health Legal Centre Ph: (03) 9629 4422 or Toll Free 1800 555 887
<http://www.communitylaw.org.au/mentalhealth>
- Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Ph: (03) 9244 3333 or Toll Free 1800 105 303 <http://www.fvpls.org>
- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) Ph: (03) 9419 3888 or Toll Free 1800 064 865 (24-hours) <http://www.vals.org.au>
- Disability Discrimination Legal Service Ph: (03) 9654 8644
<http://www.communitylaw.org.au/ddls>
- Muslim Legal Services Victoria Ph: (03) 9386 6804 <http://www.hrlrc.org.au>
- Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ph: (03) 8636 4400 <http://www.hrlrc.org.au>
- Seniors Rights Victoria Ph: 1300 368 821 <http://www.seniorsrights.org.au>
- Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre Ph: (03) 9413 0101 <http://www.rilc.org.au>
- Victorian Immigrant & Refugee Women's Coalition Ph: (03) 9654 1243
<http://www.virwc.org.au/>

Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) Legal Information Service

Ph: (03) 9269 0120 or 1800 677 402 (country callers) (8.45am - 5.15pm M-F)

This service offers free legal information in English and 14 other languages, from Monday to Friday. Legal Aid Victoria has in-house lawyers who give legal advice and act for survivors of violence. For your nearest legal aid office, phone Legal Aid Victoria. Legal Aid can fund legal costs of private lawyers for those who are eligible, and they provide duty lawyer services at some Magistrates' Courts. Eligibility for Legal Aid is means- and merit-tested. Recipients are expected to repay costs where possible.

www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

Family Dispute Resolution

Mediation Tip Sheet

Domestic Violence Resource Centre (Vic) has developed a useful tip sheet for women attending mediation.

<http://www.dvrcv.org.au/HelpHub/MediationTips.htm>

Family Dispute Resolution (FDR)

Ph: 1800 050 321 (Family Relationship Hotline) for nearest FDR practitioner

Family Dispute Resolution assists people affected by separation to resolve some or all of their disputes with each other. FDR practitioners are accredited under the Family Law Act. From 1 July 2007 the law requires separating parents to use FDR before taking a parenting dispute to the court (exceptions include cases where violence or child abuse is present).

FDR practitioners work in many places including a Family Relationship Centre, Roundtable Dispute Management, counselling/mediation organizations or in private practice.

www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Roundtable Dispute Management (Victoria Legal Aid)

Ph: (03) 9269 0500 or email rdm@vla.vic.gov.au

Roundtable Dispute Management (RDM) is Victoria Legal Aid's FDR service. RDM offers a case managed settlement conference conducted by a highly qualified FDR practitioner (chairperson). Each person attends with their lawyer, if they have one. Clients can choose not to have contact with the other person.

Usually one person applies for a legal aid grant allowing them to access RDM's services. RDM then contacts the other party and invites them to attend. Participation is voluntary.

www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

Family Relationship Centres

Ph: 1800 050 321 (Family Relationship Hotline) for nearest FRC or **see below**.

The Family Relationship Centres (FRC's) are a FDR service that offers individual, group and joint sessions to help separating families make workable arrangements for their children without having to go to court.

Family Relationship Centres

Ballarat: 1300 303 988

34 Peel St, Ballarat

www.familyrelationships.gov.au/ballaratfrc

Berwick: (03) 8768 4111

1-2, 38 Clyde Road, Berwick

www.familyrelationships.gov.au/berwickfrc

Broadmeadows: (03) 9351 3700

Level 1, 1100 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows

www.familyrelationships.gov.au/broadmeadowsfrc

Chadstone: (03) 9564 6999

Suites 1 & 2, 41 Stamford Road, Oakleigh

www.familyrelationships.gov.au/chadstonefrc

Frankston: (03) 9770 0341

37 Playne Street, Frankston

<http://familyrelationships.gov.au/frankstonfrc>

Geelong: 1300 656 043 or (03) 5246 5600

Suit 2, 27-31 Myers Street, Geelong

www.familyrelationships.gov.au/geelongfrc

Greensborough: (03) 9404 7800

79 Grimshaw Street, Greensborough

www.familyrelationships.gov.au/greensboroughfrc

Melbourne City (03) 8625 3666

Lower Ground Level, 379 Collins St

www.familyrelationships.gov.au/melbournefrc

Mildura: 1300 667 382
105 Lemon Avenue, Mildura
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/mildurafrfc

Ringwood: (03) 9871 6300
68 Charter Street, Ringwood
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/ringwoodfrfc

Shepparton: (03)5820 0444 or 1300 372 444
74 Wyndham Street, Shepparton
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/sheppartonfrfc

Sunshine (03) 9313 0444
1 Clarke Street, Sunshine
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/sunshinefrfc

Traralgon (03) 5174 1055
41 Grey Street, Traralgon
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/traralgonfrfc

Warrnambool 1300 661 790
19 Jamieson Street, Warrnambool
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/warrnamboolfrfc

Wodonga (02) 6022 8644
282 Beechworth Road, Wodonga
www.familyrelationships.gov.au/wodongafrfc

Interpreting Services

When working with a female client, workers are encouraged to book a female interpreter.

On Call Interpreting & Translating Agency

Ph: (03) 9867 3788

Contact the On Call Interpreting & Translating Agency for telephone or on-site interpreting (Auslan included). Eligible DHS funded agencies receive free services - see www.dhs.vic.gov.au/multicultural for eligibility guidelines.
www.oncallinterpreters.com

Victorian Interpreting and Translation Services

Telephone Interpreting: Ph (03) 9280 1955 On-site Interpreting: Ph (03) 9280 1990

Contact the Victorian Interpreting and Translation Service (VITS) for telephone or on-site interpreting or translation of materials. There are fees involved for this service.
www.vits.com.au/index.htm

Department of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs - TIS National (National Translating & Interpreting Service)

Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) for telephone interpreting. There are fees involved for this service. Organisations can make on-line applications for fee exemptions.

Ph: 131 450

www.immi.gov.au (Follow the links to 'Living in Australia' and 'Help with English')

A useful book, *Improving the use of translating & interpreting services: A guide to Victorian Government Policy & Procedures*, can be obtained from the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Ph: (03) 9208 3152 or download from the language services, standards and guidelines section of their website: www.voma.vic.gov.au

Victoria Police

Family Violence Incidents

In the event of an emergency contact **Police on 000**.

Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence

Victoria Police have a new Code of Practice for the investigation of Family Violence. Police are required to take action when called to a family violence incident - referral, civil or criminal action, or all of these. For assistance with complaints or concerns with follow up, contact your local Family Violence Liaison Officer (at local 24-hour station), or the Regional Family Violence Advisor (see Family Violence Unit website for details p10).

The Code of Practice outlines how police will respond to reports of family violence and emphasises that all such reports will be treated seriously by police. The Code can be downloaded through the weblink below:

http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=674

Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Units (SOCA)

Ph: (03) 9865 5100 or go the below link for local SOCA Unit contact numbers.

http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=757

The SOCA Units' role is to investigate criminal offences relating to child physical and sexual assaults and to support these victims. Experienced police members, who are aware of the particular needs of their clients, staff these units. There are 31 SOCA Units located throughout Victoria.

Counselling services

Counselling services can be accessed via the Victims' Support Agency, local Community Health Services, Family Service Department within Local Government and through local non-government Family Support Agencies. See overleaf.

Victims' Support Agency

Ph: (03) 8684 6700

Victims' Support Agency is a central resource for victims of crime. To obtain information about the services available for victims of crime, see below and visit the website:

www.justice.vic.gov.au/victimsofcrime

The Victims' of Crime Helpline

Victims of crime can call a dedicated Helpline staffed by trained Victim Support Officers. Helpline staff offer information, advice and referrals to assist victims to manage and recover from the effects of crime.

Available support includes:

- Information on how to access the Justice system, including the Victims' Register
- Referral to local and regional services which can provide practical assistance and support
- Information on how to access counselling

Helpline: 1800 819 817

Victims' Assistance and Counselling Program

The Victims Assistance and Counselling Program (VACP) is a network of services that operate throughout Victoria. These services assist victims, their families or anyone affected by a violent crime to access information, counselling and practical support, either by telephone or in person. Immediate assistance can be provided depending on individual circumstances. They also provide access to ongoing practical support, outreach services, court support, referral and coordination of specialist support groups.

See Victims' Support Agency website for details of local services:
www.justice.vic.gov.au/victimsofcrime

Or call Victims' of Crime Helpline for referral to nearest VACP
Ph: 1800 819 817

Victims' of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT)

The Victim's of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) considers applications for financial assistance by victims of violent crime committed in Victoria. Interim awards for counselling and financial assistance for immediate safety and medical expenses can be made quickly by Registrars without the need for a hearing before a Magistrate.

The Victim's of Crime Helpline or a Victims' Assistance and Counselling Program service can help you with VOCAT applications. Ph: 1800 882 752
<http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au/>

Women's Information Referral Exchange (WIRE)

WIRE provides free information, support and referrals to women across Victoria. Includes a walk-in centre at Queen Vic Women's Centre, 210 Lonsdale St, Melbourne.
www.wire.org.au

Ph: 1300 134 130
(9am-5pm M-F)

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard (Vic.)

Offers a telephone based counselling, information and referral service. Free, confidential and anonymous counsellors are available Mon/Tue/Thurs 6pm-10pm, Wed 2pm-10pm, Fri-Sun 6pm-9pm

www.switchboard.org.au

Ph: (03) 9663 2939

Toll Free: 1 800 184 527

Community Health Centres

Community Health Centres offer groups and activities for women, men, children and young people. They can also provide counselling.

To find your nearest Centre, look under 'Community Health Centres' in the Business White Pages or go to the below link to find out the availability of services.

http://www.health.vic.gov.au/communityhealth/service_provider/community_health_directory.htm

Interstate Contacts

NOTE: 1800 numbers can only be accessed from within the relevant state.

Australia Capital Territory	Domestic Violence Crisis Line	(02) 6280 0900
New South Wales	DoCS Domestic Violence Line	1800 656 463
Northern Territory	Dawn House – Women's Shelter Alice Springs – Women's Shelter	(08) 8945 1388 (08) 8952 6075
Queensland	DV Connect	1800 811 811 (07) 3008 8294
South Australia	Domestic Violence Crisis Service	1300 782 200
Tasmania	Family Violence Counselling & Support: Response & Referral:	(can be used in Vic.) 1800 608 122 1800 633 937
Western Australia	Crisis Care Unit Women's DV Help Line	1800 199 008 1800 007 339

Useful Websites

Domestic Violence Resource Centre (Vic)

Ph: (03) 9486 9866 9am to 5pm www.dvrcv.org.au

The Domestic Violence Resource Centre (Vic) website has a comprehensive range of information about domestic violence information for workers, survivors and students.

- **["Bursting the Bubble"](http://www.burstingthebubble.com)** is an award winning site for teenagers and is about abuse by family members. It provides quizzes, stories, and advice
<http://www.burstingthebubble.com>
- **["When Love Hurts"](http://www.dvrcv.org.au/whenlove)** - a website for teenagers on relationships, respect and abuse. Provides a respect checklist, the relationship quiz, true stories.
<http://www.dvrcv.org.au/whenlove>
- **["Getting Free From Abuse – Women with Disabilities"](http://www.dvrcv.org.au/Disability/DisabilityIndex.htm)** - a guide for women based on real women's stories plus resources for service providers.
<http://www.dvrcv.org.au/Disability/DisabilityIndex.htm>
- **["Partners in Prevention website"](http://www.dvrcv.org.au/pip/)** for local and international resources on working with young people to prevent violence against women. <http://www.dvrcv.org.au/pip/>

No To Violence; The Male Family Violence Prevention Association

No To Violence (NTV), the Male Family Violence Prevention Association Inc., is a peak organisation of individuals and agencies working for the prevention of male family violence. The specific focus is work with men to assist them to change and end their violent behaviour. www.ntv.org.au

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

This site houses a comprehensive catalogue of publications and research articles on domestic and family violence including statistics; health issues; practice innovations; community education; indigenous issues; group work; and research. www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au

Women's Safety After Separation

This website aims to provide information to women facing separation, particularly where there is violence and abuse. www.wsas.here.ws

Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic)

DV Vic is a peak advocacy organisation committed to the rights of women and children to live free of violence. It comprises a membership of women's family/domestic violence services operating across the state of Victoria. www.dvvic.org.au

Women's Health Victoria

This site provides information on a range of issues relevant to women's health care. They have a library available to the public. www.whv.org.au

Women's Health Information Centre

Phone: (03) 9344 2007 or rural freecall 1800 442 007

Located at The Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne, the Women's Health Information Centre (WHIC) is a free, confidential and statewide health information service for all women in the state of Victoria, Australia. www.rwh.org.au/wellwomens

Women's Information & Referral Exchange (WIRE)

Women's Information provides free information, support and referrals to women across Victoria. WIRE services include a phone support service, a walk-in centre, and a comprehensive, searchable website. www.wire.org.au

Victorian Women With Disabilities Network

The VWDN promotes the health and wellbeing of women with disabilities. It does this by supporting women with disabilities to achieve their rights through information sharing, peer support and community education. Also contains new resources, research and reports addressing violence against women with disabilities.

www.vwdn.org.au

Women with Disabilities Australia

Current information and resources on a range of issues facing women with disabilities, including violence and abuse. www.wwda.org.au

The Australian Childhood Foundation

www.childhood.org.au

The Australian Childhood Foundation has two other websites:

The "kidscount" website www.kidscount.com.au/ is for parents and gives information about parenting and child development.

The "stopchildabuse" website is a resource for anyone who wants to know more about the problem of child abuse in the community and what you can do to prevent it.

www.stopchildabuse.com.au/

The Gatehouse Centre

This website provides details of services to assess and respond to child abuse, including sexual abuse. It includes links to publications, research and training.

<http://www.rch.org.au/gatehouse>

Australian Institute of Family Studies

www.aifs.gov.au

The AIFS website provides family related research and information. It has a library available to the public and also houses the following websites:

- www.aifs.gov.au/acssa - Australian Study for the Centre of Sexual Assault-online library.
- www.aifs.gov.au/nch/nch_menu - Child Protection Clearinghouse, that produces publications & research.

Children Youth & Families (Department of Human Services)

Victorian State Government Department site with information about family violence and child abuse, child protection, resources and other links.

<http://www.cyf.vic.gov.au>

Office of Women's Policy (Department of Planning & Community Development)

Victorian State Government department site, with information about current Government policy on violence against women, including the Women's Safety Strategy, and the report of the Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence, 'Reforming the Family Violence System in Victoria'.

www.women.vic.gov.au

Family Court of Australia

The Family Violence section contains information about personal safety, the Court's strategy, external services and links to other websites. www.familycourt.gov.au

Magistrates' Court of Victoria

This site includes links to the Specialist Family Violence Court (under 'Specialist Court Jurisdictions') established in 2005, and other legal information, forms, links and resources.

www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au

Virtual Tour of Magistrate' Court

This site was created to provide information to court users about the court process and the roles of court personnel. The virtual court site allows users to view mock court hearings and take part in an interactive virtual tour of a courtroom.

www.multimedia.justice.vic.gov.au/egov/virtual_tour/magistrates-court-vic.html

Victoria Police Family Violence Unit

The role of the Family Violence Unit (FVU) is to work with central departments and geographical regions of Victoria Police to develop and implement strategies aimed at enhancing the police response to family violence.

www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=288

Secretariat of National Aboriginal And Islander Child Care (S.N.A.I.C.C.)

Advocates for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children. Available on the SNAICC website is an indigenous children's services directory, newsletters, reports and publications, news, events and links to child abuse prevention websites. www.snaicc.asn.au

Relationships Australia

Phone: 1300 364 277

Support groups, family and individual counselling, education on relationships, and for abusive and abused partners. www.relationships.com.au