

THE NSW WOMEN'S REFUGE RESOURCE CENTRE

The NSW Women's Refuge Resource Centre ("WRRC") is a community based service established in 1986. The WRRC is the point of contact for the NSW Women's Refuge Movement ("WRM"), a statewide network of 55 refuges for women and children escaping domestic violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is any given form of abusive behaviour that one person uses to achieve and maintain control over another. Domestic violence takes many different forms:

- Physical assault
- Sexual assault
- Verbal abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Social control (often isolation)
- Financial control
- Spiritual control
- Stalking and harassment
- Threats and intimidation

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCCURS IN ALL TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS

Domestic violence can occur within all personal relationships, including heterosexual, homosexual, marital, defacto, extended families and ex-relationships.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE WRRC

- To provide resources and information about issues relating to domestic violence.
- To facilitate the interaction and networking between the NSW Women's Refuge Movement and other relevant services at both the state and national levels.
- To provide resources for the NSW Women's Refuge Movement members in broader issues such as government policy, legislation and special projects.
- To raise community and political awareness of domestic violence.
- To advocate for a considered, effective response to the needs of women and children escaping domestic violence.
- To liaise with the media on behalf of the NSW Women's Refuge Movement.
- To undertake special projects, to coordinate consistent policies and approaches across a diverse range of service models.

THE NSW WOMEN'S REFUGE MOVEMENT

The NSW Women's Refuge Movement is a statewide representative body of 55 refuges with a specific focus on providing consistent, quality support and advocacy for women and children escaping domestic violence.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES OF THE NSW WOMEN'S REFUGE MOVEMENT

- A recognition that domestic violence must be understood within a framework of unequal power relations.
- A collective framework for decision making where all member refuges are encouraged to participate in the decision making process.
- A policy and practice of women managing and operating refuges for women and children.
- Recognition that domestic violence includes all types of violence, not just physical and sexual, but other forms of intimidation and control.
- Domestic violence occurs in all types of relationships: heterosexual, homosexual, marital, defacto, extended families and ex-relationships.
- Domestic violence is a breach of human rights and is a crime.

WRM PRINCIPLES (CONT)

- There are no acceptable excuses. The perpetrator is always responsible for the domestic violence.
- Representation of Aboriginals, lesbians, children, women of a Non-English Speaking Background and women with disabilities, and a sensitivity to the issues specifically applicable to them.
- Access and equity of services to all women.
- Respect for women and children's rights to privacy, informed consent, confidentiality and safety.
- Domestic violence requires a comprehensive response:
 - Advocacy for the rights of individual women and children, as well as for society as a whole.
 - Removing barriers to women and children's safety, and empowerment wherever they occur.

For more information on the NSW Women's Refuge Resource Centre, the NSW Women's Refuge Movement, their activities and resources, please visit our website at:

www.wrrc.org.au

USEFUL CONTACTS

The Department of Community Services Domestic violence Line

For domestic violence counseling and referral to a refuge in NSW

Freecall: 1800 65 64 63

Homeless Persons Information Service

Referral point for homelessness

02 9265 9081

Freecall: 1800 23 45 66

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

Service for survivors of domestic violence

02 9637 3741

Freecall: 1800 81 07 84

TTY: 1800 62 62 67

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

Legal advice to ATSI women and children in NSW

02 9569 3847

Freecall: 1800 686 587

Women's Legal Resource Centre

Legal advice, information and referral to women

02 9749 5533

Freecall: 1800 80 15 01

TTY: 1800 67 43 33

Immigrant Women's Speakout

Advocacy, lobbying, information, referral, policy

02 9635 8022

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NSW
Women's Refuge
Resource Centre



*The NSW Women's Refuge Resource
Centre*

*provides policy, resources, research
and administrative support for the
NSW Women's Refuge Movement*