

Presented by  
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# Supporting women and children with disabilities experiencing family violence



# Acknowledgement of Country

I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that we live and work on, the people of the Kulin nations, and pay my respects to elders' past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge that this land was invaded, and that Aboriginal people have continuously resisted that invasion for over 200 years. Sovereignty was never ceded.



**Women and girls with disabilities**  
are **twice** as likely to **experience**  
**violence** as those without

## **Family Violence experienced by women and children with a disability**

It is important to remember that women and children with a disability experience all types of family violence, as well as *Disability Specific Family Violence*

## What is disability specific family violence?

Family violence that involves or uses the person's disability as a way of perpetrating violence against the person and/or enhance/maintain control over a person with a disability

- Restricting service access
- Disability related financial abuse
- Disabled related verbal abuse
- Using cognitive and learning disabilities as part of gaslighting
  - Controlling medication
  - Controlling or destroying equipment
- Using societal beliefs about people with a disability to get the person to stay in the relationship

## Barriers to disclosing family violence for people with a disability

- Communication barriers/service inaccessibility
- Dependence on perpetrator for disability needs
- Fear of not being believed
- Other people's perceptions
- Not being believed
- Few or no accessible refuges or accommodation/not wanting to leave a modified home
- Other intersecting and interacting complexities i.e. homelessness, low literacy, non-prescription substance use
- A lack of accessible healthy relationships and sex education for people with a disability

## What safesteps can offer

- The DFVCRI
- **Disability Family Violence Crisis Response Initiative**

### WHAT IS IT?

- 24/7 crisis response support for women and children with disabilities experiencing FV to access safety quickly
- The DFVCRI can provide short-term funding to meet a broad range of disability needs, (such as support workers, transport, and equipment) to enable access to, family violence Crisis Accommodation or a Safe at Home response.

### WHO CAN ACCESS IT?

- Women and children with a disability recognised under the Disability Act 2006.
- Women with mental health, chronic health or ageing condition or have a temporary injury or disability resulting from family violence
- Women do **NOT** need to be supported through NDIS or receive DSP to access this support.

### Secondary consultation for services and organisations

- Intersection of disability and family violence
- A client / family you are working with
- Or a query relating to the DFVCRI brokerage

Please Note: The DFVCRI does not provide case management support



## Accessing support through the DFVCRI or to speak to the Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) at safesteps

### Specialist Family Violence Support Services and other services 24/7

Call 03 9322 3544 or 1300 739 282 or email [safesteps@safesteps.org.au](mailto:safesteps@safesteps.org.au)

### Victim Survivors 24/7

1800 015 188 or email [safesteps@safesteps.org.au](mailto:safesteps@safesteps.org.au).

Web chat is now available via the **safe steps** website <https://www.safesteps.org.au/> 9am to 9pm, Monday to Friday

### To access secondary consultation or get more information about the DFVCRI brokerage

Email: [disability@safesteps.org.au](mailto:disability@safesteps.org.au) or call 03 9322 3544 or 1300 739 282 and ask to speak to the DLO.

Available Monday – Friday 9:00-5:00pm.

Please note: SFVSS and other case management services can access the DFVCRI brokerage on behalf of their clients to enable access to safety quickly.

A Family violence risk assessment must be completed as part of a referral– or can be completed by a **safe steps** Family Violence Crisis Response worker if required.





Questions?

# Thank you

<https://www.safesteps.org.au/our-services/services-for-women-children/disability-support/>

<https://www.safesteps.org.au/disability-funding-will-help-more-women-escape-family-violence-and-stay-safe/>