

Vision of the Service

The Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service (CRDVS) aims to challenge the social structures that maintain domestic violence by coordinating a comprehensive service to all vulnerable clients by offering a client-centred support system to eliminate family violence in the community.

What can you expect from our service?

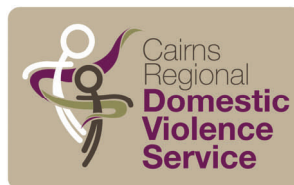
Our service is staffed by qualified professionals with experience in adult and child counselling, court support and training.

We will:

- Listen to, validate and believe you;
- Treat you with respect, dignity and consideration;
- Respect gender, race, ethnic origin, class, religion, political/philosophical beliefs, values and sexuality;
- Keep information confidential unless there are concerns for safety or harm to self or others.

Funded by Department of Communities,
Queensland

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Monday to Friday 9am–5pm

The service is free and confidential and open to all people of all backgrounds. We can arrange interpreters if required.

No appointment is necessary in an emergency.

Useful contact numbers

24 hour Qld Domestic Violence Telephone Service
(includes access to women's shelters) 1800 811 811

Police/Ambulance	000
Police–Cairns	(07) 4030 7000
Gay and Lesbian Counselling	1800 249 377
Legal Aid Qld	1300 651 188
Men's DV Information Line	1800 600 636
QuAC Cairns	(07) 4051 1028

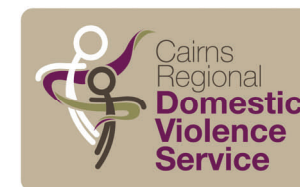
Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service



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(PO Box 12103,
Cairns DC.Qld 4870)

Phone: (07) 4033 6100
Fax: (07) 4033 5863
Email: office@dvcairns.org
www.dvcairns.org

Information about domestic violence for GLBT relationships



Provides

- Crisis support
- Assistance with Domestic Violence Protection Orders
- Court Support
- Face to face counselling
- Counselling for children and young people
- Information and Referral to other services
- Community Education and Professional Training
- Information brochures, posters and fact sheets
- Liaison and consultation with other agencies

If home is where the hurt is...



Tel: (07) 4033 6100



What is same sex domestic violence?

Domestic violence is abusive behaviour used by one person in a relationship to dominate and control another, irrespective of the label attached to describe the relationship. The abusive behaviour generally has a pattern to it and is repeated. The result is that the person subjected to the violence lives in fear and intimidation.

The following behaviours are some examples of domestic violence:

- **Physical abuse** such as hitting, slapping, punching, biting, kicking or pushing;
- **Damaging property** such as breaking furniture or hurting pets to intimidate and frighten you;
- **Threats** to 'out' you or harm you or your family members;
- **Intimidation and harassment** including humiliation, constant criticism, insults, persistent phone calls, following you or staying outside your home or workplace;
- **Forcing** you to have sex or take part in sexual acts that you do not want;
- **Withholding** necessities of life such as food, money, medical care and the company of family, friends and involvement in the GLBT community.

You are not to blame and you are not alone

Domestic violence often takes place 'behind closed doors'. As with heterosexual relationships, it is believed that the level of domestic violence in GLBT relationships is far higher than reported.

It can be difficult for those who are, or who have experienced violence to come forward because they may feel isolated, ashamed, confused or just too afraid to speak about their experiences.

The fear of hostility from a homophobic society may also make it difficult for victims to break the silence. Myths surrounding same sex domestic violence such as the belief that it is a fair fight between equals and that when gay men fight it is just 'boys being boys' means victims may worry that no-one will believe them. Often abusive partners have used homophobia and heterosexism as a weapon of control over their partner.

Sometimes those being abused blame themselves for the violence because they have been told by their partner on many occasions, that they 'provoked' it.



Remember

- No one deserves to be abused.
- You have the right to be safe and live free from violence.
- The person being abusive is responsible for their own behaviour.
- Abuse happens to people from all walks of life, cultures and age groups.

The *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989* includes same sex couples under the definition of spouse. This means that GLBT men and women can have some protection from their violent partner or ex-partner.

A Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) is a civil court order that constrains a person's behaviour towards another. Taking out a DVPO does not give the person a criminal record. However, if they breach the DVPO this becomes a criminal matter and is dealt with accordingly.

For more information contact our service.