

LEAVING VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Support to take the next step



The Leaving Violence Program

Leaving a partner who uses violence can be a risky time. The Leaving Violence Program can provide financial and other support to help you when you have left, or are leaving, a partner who uses violence.

What kind of support can you get?

The Leaving Violence Program is an individual support package that can provide you with **up to \$5,155 in financial support (consisting of a cash payment and goods and services)** which you can spend on what is right for you.

This might include:

- furniture or white goods
- short-term accommodation
- clothes, food, medicines
- medical or counselling needs
- school or education costs
- relocation and transport
- paying bond or rent
- fixing a car.

The Leaving Violence Program team can work with you for up to 12 weeks, if needed, to provide other support.

This can include things like:

- completing a risk assessment
- working with you to develop a safety plan
- setting up a safe bank account
- referring you to other relevant services, such as psychological and financial counselling, legal assistance, health services, or family, domestic and sexual violence specialist services.

Who is eligible for support through the Leaving Violence Program?

You can access the Leaving Violence Program if you:

- are experiencing intimate partner violence, and
- have changed, or have been planning to change, your living arrangements in the past 12 weeks because of the intimate partner violence. For example:
 - you have left your shared home, or
 - your partner has left or been excluded from the shared home, or
 - you have a plan, or want help to make a plan, to leave a partner who uses violence and change your living arrangement.

To be eligible, you must also:

- be 18 years and over, and
- be experiencing financial stress (e.g. having difficulty accessing money or paying bills), and
- be living in Australia as either an Australian citizen, permanent resident or temporary visa holder, and
- have not received the payment in the last 12 months (includes: Leaving Violence Program payment, Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) Trial; or the Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (TVP) payment).

The program is open to people of any gender or sexuality.

What is intimate partner violence?

An intimate partner is a current or former romantic partner, such as a husband, wife, partner, spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend. They can be any gender or sexuality.

Intimate partner violence is any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm.

Intimate partner violence can be:

- physical, verbal or sexual abuse
- emotional, spiritual or psychological abuse
- financial abuse
- threatening, coercive, or seeking to control or dominate the other person.

How to apply for the Leaving Violence Program support?

You can apply online for the national program at leavingviolenceprogram.org.au

All applications are completely confidential. If you need help to complete your application, you can call **1800 253 283 (1800 2 LEAVE)**.

If you have a support worker already supporting you, you can ask them to refer you to the Leaving Violence Program.

Translation services

For help in other languages call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.

Hearing and speech communication support

If you are d/Deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech communication difficulty you can use the National Relay Service (NRS) to contact the Leaving Violence Program.

The NRS has specially trained staff called relay staff who act as a 'relay' or a bridge between people who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing or have speech communication difficulties, and the person or organisation they are calling.

The Access Hub website has instructions for many different relay methods including:

- TTY (Speak and Read, Type and Listen, Type and Read)
- Voice relay
- Video relay
- SMS relay
- NRS chat
- NRS captions.

Visit the Access Hub website at accesshub.gov.au to find a relay method that works for you.



For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The Leaving Violence Program includes the Regional Trials that deliver the Leaving Violence Program through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led organisations. The Regional Trials can provide culturally appropriate support for people accessing the Leaving Violence Program.

The Regional Trial areas are Broome, Cairns, Darwin and Dubbo.

People who live in these areas have a choice about how they apply for the Leaving Violence Program.

You can apply to the Regional Trial organisation in your location or you can apply to the national program. For more information visit leavingviolenceprogram.org.au/regionaltrials

If you live outside of a Regional Trial area, you can apply to the national program at leavingviolenceprogram.org.au

If you need help to complete your application, you can call **1800 253 283 (1800 2 LEAVE)**.

Crisis support

Please be aware that the Leaving Violence Program is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 000.

If you or someone you know is experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic, family or sexual violence, call **1800RESPECT** on **1800 737 732**, chat online via 1800RESPECT.org.au or text **0458 737 732**.

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and you're feeling worried or no good, you can call **13YARN** on **13 92 76** to speak to a Crisis Supporter. No shame, no judgement, just a safe place to yarn.

All of these services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:



1800 253 283 (1800 2 LEAVE)



leavingviolenceprogram.org.au



Australian Government