

The Leaving Violence Program

Support for people to leave a partner
who uses violence

Easy Read version



Australian Government



A warning about this document



In this document, we talk about **violence**.

Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.



You can talk to someone you trust if you:

- need support to read this document
- don't feel comfortable to read this document.



We have a list of organisations you can use if you need extra support.

You can find this list of organisations on page 19.



It is important that the person who is hurting you doesn't find this document.

You should keep it in a safe place.

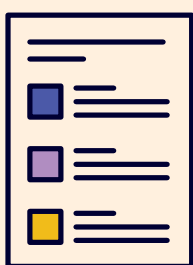
How to use this document



Australian Government

We are the Australian Government
Department of Social Services (DSS).

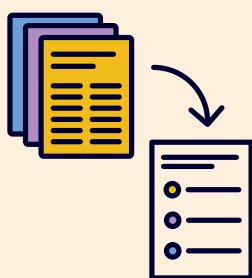
We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 24.



This is an Easy Read summary of
another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



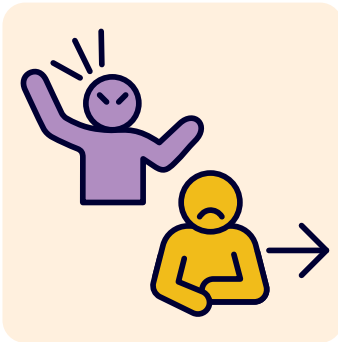
You can find the other document on
our website.

www.leavingviolenceprogram.org.au

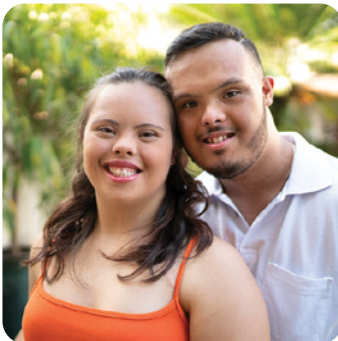
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About the Leaving Violence Program



The Leaving Violence Program supports people who are experiencing violence from a **partner** and want to leave.

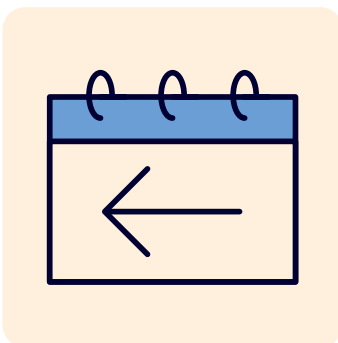


A partner is someone you have a romantic relationship with.

For example:

- a boyfriend or girlfriend
- a husband or wife.

The program can support you:



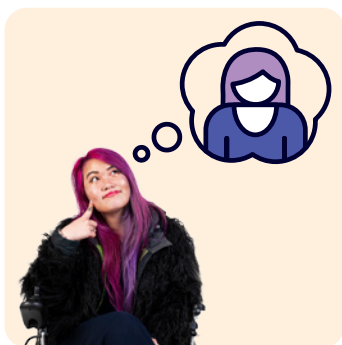
- before you leave your partner



- after you have left your partner.



The program is for people of any **gender**.



Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

You might think of yourself as a man or woman or something different.

You can choose the words that are right for you.



The program is also for people of any **sexuality**.

Your sexuality is about the genders you are attracted to.

Types of violence you might experience



You might experience **physical violence** from a partner.

Physical violence is when someone hurts your body.



You might experience **verbal abuse** from a partner.

Verbal abuse is when someone:

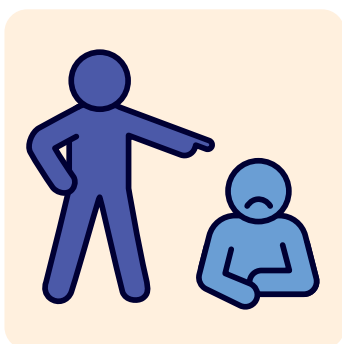
- shouts or says mean things
- calls you names
- says they will hurt you.



You might experience **sexual abuse** from a partner.

Sexual abuse is when someone:

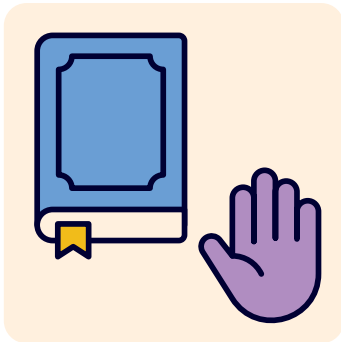
- makes you do sexual things you don't want to do
- does something sexual to you that you don't want them to do.



You might experience **emotional abuse** from a partner.

Emotional abuse is when someone:

- says things to make you feel scared or bad about yourself
- makes you feel confused about what has happened to you
- controls what you do.



You might experience **cultural and spiritual abuse** from a partner.

Cultural and spiritual abuse is when someone:

- treats you badly because of what you believe in
- stops you from taking part in your **culture** or religion.



Culture is someone's way of life and what they believe

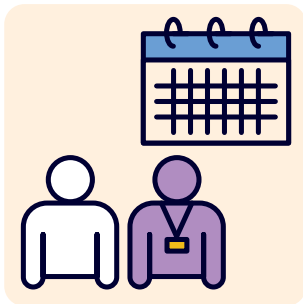


You might experience **financial abuse** from a partner.

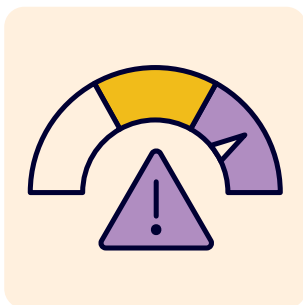
Financial abuse is when someone:

- takes your money when you don't want them to
- controls how you spend your money.

How the program can support you



The program team can work with you for
up to 12 weeks.



They can support you with a **risk assessment.**

A risk assessment is a way to find out what
you can do to stay safe.



They can support you with a **safety plan.**

A safety plan is a plan of actions to help keep
you safe.



They can support you to set up a bank
account that your partner can't use.



They can also help you connect with other
services you might need.

For example, services that can:



- support your health, including your mental health



- give you advice about the law

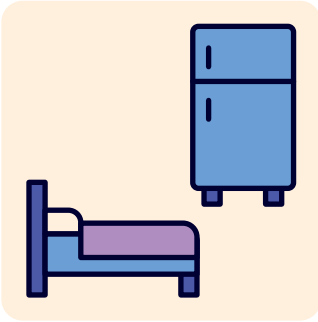


- support you to manage your money.



The program can give you
up to \$5000 in support.

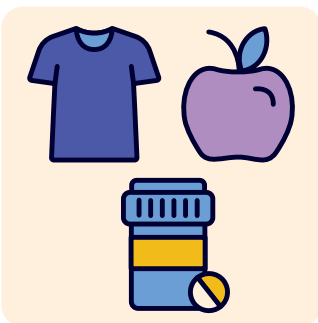
You can use this money to pay for:



- things for your home, like a bed or a fridge



- somewhere to live for a short or long time



- clothes, food or medicine



- transport, like fixing your car or moving far away



- other support services, like health or disability services.

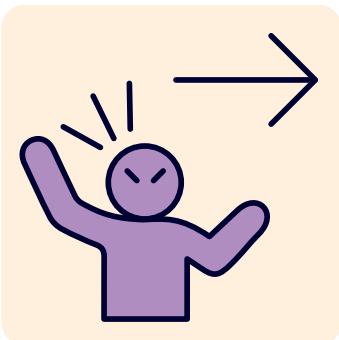
Who can get support from the program

You can get support from the program if you are experiencing violence from your partner and:



- you have left the home you live in together

or



- your partner has left the home you live in together.



You can also get support from the program if you are experiencing violence from your partner and you need help making a plan to leave.

To get support from the program, you must:



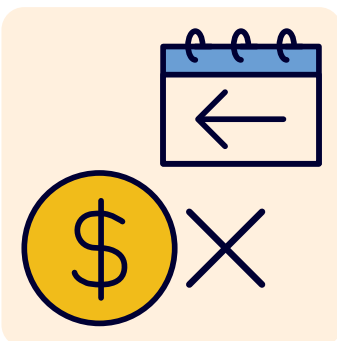
- be 18 years or older

and



- be having financial problems, for example you're not able to pay your bills

and



- not have gotten money from the program in the last 12 months.

You must be living in Australia and:



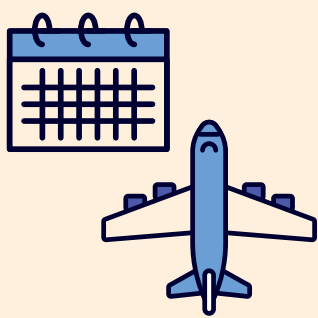
- be an **Australian citizen** – someone who belongs to Australia under the law

or



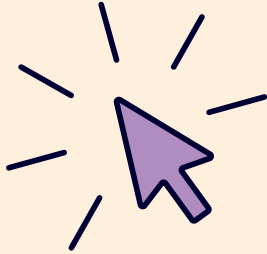
- be a **permanent resident** of Australia – when you are allowed to live in Australia but are not a citizen

or



- have an **Australian visa** – a document that says you can visit Australia for a certain amount of time.

How you can apply for the program



You can apply for the program on our website.

www.leavingviolenceprogram.org.au

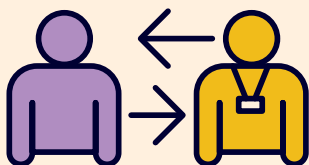


We will protect the personal information you share when you apply.



You can call us for support to apply.

1800 253 283



If you have a support worker, you can ask them to connect you to the program.

Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



Organisations led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are helping us run the program.



These organisations can support people to feel **culturally safe**.

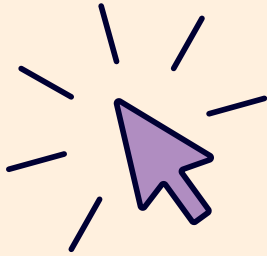
When something is culturally safe, people feel:

- respected and heard
- safe to be who they are.



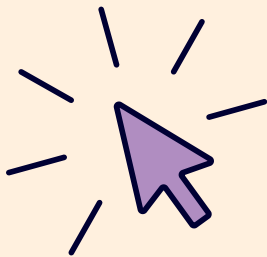
These organisations help us run the program in:

- Broome
- Cairns
- Darwin
- Dubbo.



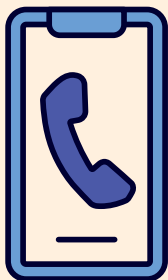
You can apply to the program through these organisations.

www.leavingviolenceprogram.org.au/regionaltrials



You can also apply to the program on our website.

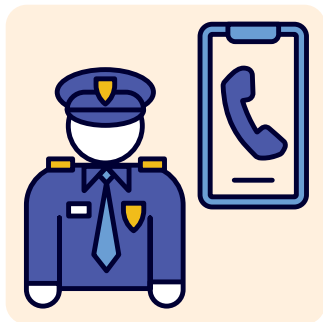
www.leavingviolenceprogram.org.au



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Support for you



If you are in danger now, you can contact the police at any time by calling Triple Zero.

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1800RESPECT can provide support to people experiencing violence from someone close to them.



For example:

- your partner
- someone who takes care of you
- someone you live with.



You can contact 1800RESPECT any time.



You can text 1800RESPECT.

0458 737 732

You can call 1800RESPECT.

1800 737 732



You can talk to them online.

www.1800respect.org.au

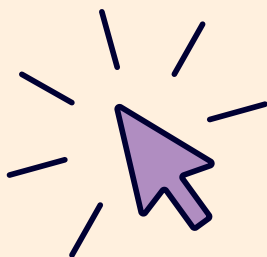


13YARN supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



You can call 13YARN.

13 92 76



You can visit their website.

www.13yarn.org.au

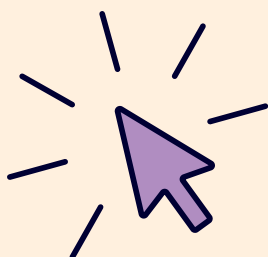
Contact us



You can call us:

- on Monday to Friday
- from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

1800 253 283



You can visit our website.

www.leavingviolenceprogram.org.au

Support to contact us



If you need something in a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service.

131 450



You can ask them to connect you to our phone number.

1800 253 283



You can contact the National Relay Service if you:

- are deaf or hard of hearing
- find it hard to speak using the phone.



TTY (Type and Listen)

1800 555 677



Speak and listen

1300 555 727



You can ask them to contact our
phone number.

1800 253 283



You can learn about other supports on the
Access Hub website.

[www.accesshub.gov.au/other-ways-
to-connect](http://www.accesshub.gov.au/other-ways-to-connect)

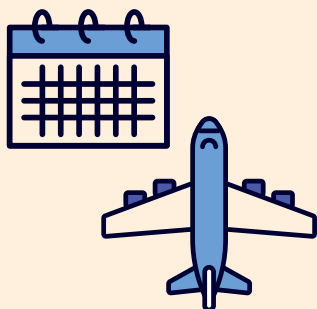
Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



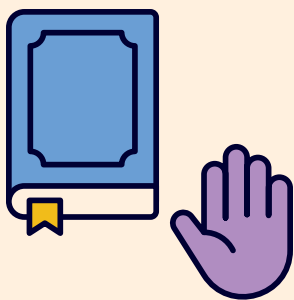
Australian citizen

An Australian citizen is someone who belongs to Australia under the law.



Australian visa

An Australian visa is a document that says you can visit Australia for a certain amount of time.



Cultural and spiritual abuse

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Gender

Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

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You can choose the words that are right for you.



Partner

A partner is someone you have a romantic relationship with.

For example, a boyfriend or girlfriend.



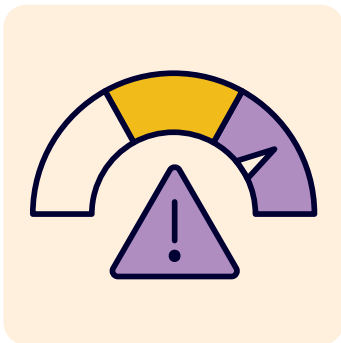
Permanent resident

You are a permanent resident of Australia when you are allowed to live in Australia but are not a citizen.



Physical violence

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Risk assessment

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Safety plan

A safety plan is a plan of actions to help keep you safe.



Sexual abuse

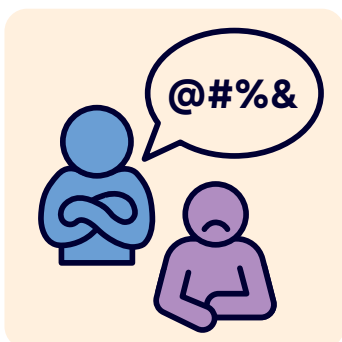
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- calls you names
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Violence

Violence is when someone:

- hurts you
- scares you
- controls you.



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