



City of
KINGSTON

PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

ACTION PLAN

2019-2021



1 IN 6 WOMEN AND 1 IN 16 MEN
HAVE EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL
VIOLENCE BY A CURRENT OR PREVIOUS PARTNER



1 IN 5 WOMEN AND 1 IN 20 MEN
HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND/OR
THREATENED SINCE AGE 15



1 IN 6 WOMEN AND 1 IN 9 MEN
WERE PHYSICALLY AND/OR SEXUALLY ABUSED
BEFORE THE AGE OF 15



1 IN 4 WOMEN AND 1 IN 6 MEN
HAVE EXPERIENCED EMOTIONAL ABUSE FROM A
CURRENT OR PREVIOUS PARTNER SINCE THE AGE OF 15



1 WOMAN A WEEK + 1 MAN A MONTH
IS MURDERED BY A PARTNER OR FORMER PARTNER IN
AUSTRALIA, ON AVERAGE

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE CONTRIBUTES TO MORE ILLNESS, DISABILITY AND
DEATHS THAN ANY OTHER RISK FACTOR FOR WOMEN AGED 18-44 YEARS



68% OF WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE
SAID THEIR CHILDREN SAW OR HEARD THE VIOLENCE.



1,500 INCIDENTS (APPROX)
of family violence in Kingston are reported to Police
each year, it is estimated only 25% of cases are
actually reported.



WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Family violence includes a range of behaviours used to control the victim, including physical violence and verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse, psychological/emotional abuse, social abuse (such as isolation) and stalking. It can affect anyone, regardless of age, cultural background, education, sexuality or ability.

WHAT CAUSES FAMILY VIOLENCE?

A key cause is gender inequality, without it family violence would not occur. Violence is a choice. Alcohol or drug use, problem gambling, and financial stress do not cause family violence, however they can contribute to how and when a person chooses to use violence.

What is gender equality?

Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women, men, transgender and gender-diverse people.

Achieving gender equality requires promoting gender equity.

Gender equity involves the fair distribution of resources and responsibilities to all genders. It recognises different people require different types of help to be successful.



PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE IN KINGSTON

Family Violence is widespread, serious and preventable.
Preventing family violence is everyone's responsibility.

Local government plays a role by influencing social structures, norms and practices that promote respect and challenge the use of violence and discrimination.

City of Kingston's first Family Violence Action Plan outlines our strategy for reducing family violence in our community. Alongside state and regional frameworks, Kingston's evidence-based approach for preventing family violence involves recognising gender inequality as a key cause of family violence.

Kingston Council is committed to working towards the vision of creating safe, equal and respectful relationships in Kingston where family violence and gender inequality are not tolerated.

Through a co-ordinated approach, strong leadership and collaborative partnerships we will work together to prevent family violence and promote gender equality by:

- o Challenging condoning of violence against women
- o Promoting women's independence and decision-making
- o Challenging gender stereotypes and roles
- o Strengthening positive, equal and respectful relationships.

OUR GOALS

Primary Prevention - Stop it before it starts

1. Increase understanding of family violence and gender inequality as an underlying cause.
2. Challenge behaviours and attitudes that support violence, sexism and discrimination.
3. Promote and normalise gender equality in public and private life.
4. Develop Kingston infrastructure, community spaces and activities that are safe, welcoming and inclusive.
5. Strengthen existing partnerships, opportunities for collaboration, and develop evidence-based practice.
6. Position Kingston as an exemplary organisation across Victoria and Australia in its commitment and advocacy efforts to prevent family violence.

Secondary Prevention - Get in early

7. Support Kingston community members at higher risk of experiencing violence to receive early access to information and support services. (Priority populations include: women; new mothers; children; young people; Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander peoples; people who identify as lesbian gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer (LGBTIQ+); people with a disability; elder population; multicultural communities; sex industry workers.)
8. Support Kingston community members at higher risk of perpetrating violence to receive education and interventions that prevent offending and promote respectful relationships.

Tertiary Prevention - Help is here

9. Ensure victim survivors of family violence receive practical and appropriate support in a timely manner.
10. Support victim survivors of family violence to feel safe, connected, heard and empowered.
11. Ensure perpetrators of violence are held to account and supported to access services to prevent reoffending.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To read more, including Council's role in prevention of Family Violence, please see the complete Action Plan at kingston.vic.gov/PFVAP

HELP

Help is available if you or someone you know is experiencing family violence.

Call 000 if you are in danger now.

1800 RESPECT

National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service

Tel: 1800 737 732 (24 hours)

1800respect.org.au

The Orange Door, Bayside Peninsula

Local Support and Safety Hub for families experiencing family violence

Tel: 1800 319 353 (9am-5pm weekdays)

vic.gov.au/familyviolence/the-orange-door

Safesteps: Family Violence Response Centre

Crisis support and referral to safe accommodation

t 03 9322 3555

t 1800 015 188 (24 hours)

safesteps.org.au

TTY 9581 4506

TIS 131450

t 1300 653 356

e info@kingston.vic.gov.au



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