

Brisbane Domestic Violence Service

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

family violence is never ok

Brisbane Domestic Violence Service (BDVS) is a free and confidential service for people in the Brisbane Metropolitan area who are affected by domestic and family violence. The service supports women, children, family members, same sex couples, couples without children and others affected by domestic violence.

The goal of BDVS is to support any adult or child to reach a stage where they are safe and free from fear of domestic and family violence. We provide a range of services, including **information and referral, crisis support, practical assistance, advocacy, and counselling and emotional support.**

We work to provide a safe environment in which people can access our services, providing support in the way that best meets need - over the phone, online, or by visiting in the home or at a safe place in the community.

In January 2012 BDVS became a formal part of Micah Projects Inc, integrating with Micah Projects' Working with Families, Women and Children Services. Our service is based on the beliefs that:

- Domestic and family violence is a violation of human rights and is unacceptable in any form.
- Violence in any form is a crime and should not be tolerated by society.
- Women and children are predominantly victims of domestic and family violence.
- All family members have a right to safety in the community and where they reside.
- All individuals experiencing domestic and family violence have a right to be treated with respect, dignity and with a non-judgemental attitude.
- All individuals experiencing domestic and family violence have the right to choose what options they pursue to address the violence.

Information and Referral

We provide people with information to explore the options, choices, rights and entitlements which they feel best address their individual experience/s of domestic and/or family violence. This may include referrals to other appropriate support services to help people reach their safety goals, including culturally appropriate services.

Crisis Support

BDVS advocacy workers support people to assess the impact of abuse in their lives, work through the options that are available to them and develop a safety plan that will help address their risks and concerns.

Practical Assistance

We provide planned support to help people reach their safety goals, including:

- support to help access housing, legal advice and representation, immigration advice, health services, Centrelink and any other services which will help to address the physical and emotional needs of the individual
- court support for Domestic Violence Protection Order mentions and hearings
- childminding
- financial help.

Advocacy

Advocacy with each individual is an integral part of our work in assisting each person to access the services, resources and entitlements required for their safety and wellbeing. This can include referral to any other services – such as Queensland Police Service, court systems, Centrelink, Child Safety, Department of Housing and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship - which impact on the safety of those supported by BDVS.

Counselling and Emotional Support

BDVS provides ongoing counselling and emotional support throughout the process of reaching and maintaining safety goals. We provide short-term, crisis-based counselling to address immediate safety and risk concerns, set goals, and support positive emotional health and wellbeing. We continue to provide emotional support until people have reached the point of being safe and free from fear of domestic and family violence.

How do you access BDVS services?

To refer yourself or another person to BDVS, phone (07) 3217 2544, or go to www.bdvs.org.au. To ensure safety, desire to access the service, and that the service is appropriate to the needs of the individual/s, BDVS works directly with those affected by domestic and family violence.

BDVS IS AN ACTIVITY OF

MICAH PROJECTS INC



Breaking Social Isolation
Building Community

BRISBANE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE

Working with Families, Women & Children

HOME SAFETY ASPIRATIONS

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