



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**16**  
DAYS

**in WA**

to Stop Violence Against Women

**STOP the Violence**

25 November to 10 December

**#16DaysInWA**

## Minister's foreword

Last year the McGowan Government's **16 Days in WA** campaign to stop violence against women focused attention and action on family and domestic violence. Hundreds of thousands of people interacted with our inaugural campaign.

Almost six per cent of women in Western Australia report having experienced violence (physical and/or sexual violence) in the last 12 months in comparison with the national figure of 4.7 per cent. Family and domestic violence is grossly underreported and national data indicate around one woman a week is killed by her current or former partner.

Starting on 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and finishing on 10 December (Human Rights Day), campaigns like **16 Days in WA** are an important contribution to community awareness about the issue as well as community engagement to bring about positive change.

There is no excuse for violence against women and our campaign messages to the Western Australian community are clear and strong:

- Together we can stop violence against women.
- We all have a role to play in changing the conversation that allows violence against women to go unchallenged.

I encourage community members, industry and sector leaders, and individuals wanting to make a difference to join in **16 Days in WA** to do what you can to end violence against women.



**Hon Simone McGurk MLA**

Minister For Child Protection; Women's Interests;  
Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence;  
Community Services

## Taking Action

This kit has been put together to assist your efforts to Educate, Motivate and Advocate in your community and circles of influence, and stand up to stop violence against women.

It contains:

- Key Facts, Stats & Messages
- 16 Ways to Take Action
- Host an Event
- Other Ways to Get Involved
- Information, Services and Supports

## Key Facts, Stats & Messages

### Do You Know?

Forms of violence against women include family and domestic violence, sexual harassment (including in public places), sexual assault, stalking and technology facilitated abuse.

Gender inequality predicts higher rates of violence against women. Most often this is played out in intimate and family relationships where women experience continued and often severe forms of abuse.<sup>1</sup>

Women in Australia are most likely to experience physical and sexual violence in their home, at the hands of a current or ex-partner.<sup>2</sup>

Results from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey (2016) indicate that about one in every six women in our country has experienced violence by a current or former intimate partner since the age of 15, compared to about one in 16 Australian men.<sup>3</sup>

It also found that both women and men are three times more likely to be physically assaulted by a man, and that of the 1.7 million women who had experienced sexual assault since the age of 15, the overwhelmingly majority of sexual assaults were committed by a male.<sup>4</sup>

In Western Australia, the State Government is working to respond to family and domestic violence in the community through victim safety; perpetrator accountability; a responsive justice system; and early intervention and prevention.

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1. Our Watch, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and VicHealth (2015). Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women and their Children in Australia, Our Watch, Melbourne, Australia.
  2. Personal Safety Survey 2005, 2012, 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics.
  3. Personal Safety Survey 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics.
  4. Personal Safety Survey 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

## The Statistics

- Every week in Australia, at least one woman is killed by a current or former partner.<sup>5</sup>
- Western Australia has the second highest rate of reported physical and sexual violence perpetrated against women.<sup>6</sup>
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are nearly 11 times more likely to die due to assault than non-Indigenous women.<sup>7</sup>
- Less than 20 per cent of women who experience violence from an intimate partner reported the most recent incident to the police.<sup>8</sup>
- Sixty five per cent of women who experienced violence from a previous partner reported having never called the police to report the violence.<sup>9</sup>
- 46,886 family and domestic violence incidents were triaged by the WA Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams in 2017/18.<sup>10</sup>
- The number of sexual harassment complaints received by WA's Equal Opportunity Commission doubled in the past year.<sup>11</sup>
- A 2017 survey by Safer Venues WA found that 80 per cent of female respondents had experienced harassment at Perth entertainment venues.<sup>12</sup>
- The total annual cost of violence against women and their children in Western Australia was estimated to be \$2.2 billion in 2015 – 16.<sup>13</sup>

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5. Australian Institute of Criminology, 2015. Research in Practice: Domestic/Family Homicide in Australia, Australian Government.
  6. Personal Safety Survey 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics.
  7. Based on available national and state and territory datasets: Olsen & Lovett (2016) p.13, citing Al-Yaman et al (2006).
  8. Personal Safety Survey 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics.
  9. Personal Safety Survey 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics.
  10. Department of Communities Annual Report 2017/18.
  11. Equal Opportunity Commission Annual Report 2017-18.
  12. [WA Venue Safety Stats Infogram](#).
  13. The cost of violence against women and their children Final Report 2016, KPMG.

## Our Key Messages

1. Together we can stop violence against women.
2. We all have a role to play in changing the conversation that allows violence against women to go unchallenged.

## Our Hashtags

#StopTheViolence

#16DaysinWA

#ViolenceIsNotOK

#ChangeTheConversation

## 16 Ways to Take Action

1. Attend the Women’s Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA 28th [Silent March](#) on Friday, 23 November to honour the women, men and children who have lost their lives as a result of domestic homicide in our State.
2. Know where to find contact numbers for support services and have them to hand. [1800RESPECT](#) is a good starting point.
3. Update your social media profile with the 16 Days in WA frame.
4. Share 16 Days in WA infographics – Do you know this is abuse? – on social media platforms to raise awareness.
5. Get involved by sharing content using the hashtags #StopTheViolence, #16DaysinWA, #ViolenceIsNotOK and #ChangeTheConversation.
6. Encourage your organisation to hold an event during 16 Days in WA and add it to our calendar at [www.communities.wa.gov.au/16DaysinWA](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/16DaysinWA).
7. Find out if your workplace has a family and domestic violence support policy and encourage workplace training on the topic.
8. Visit the [Women’s Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA](#) website to see how you can support their work to assist women and children experiencing family and domestic violence to get back on their feet.
9. Find out how to be a positive influencer through the national [Stop it At the Start](#) campaign.
10. Do something when you see disrespect towards women – check out Our Watch’s bystander campaign [Doing Nothing Does Harm](#) to find out more.
11. Be an active bystander. These are some of the things you can do:
  - a. If someone is acting inappropriately towards a woman, call it out – intervene. Say something like “that’s not ok – you’re scaring her”.
  - b. Don’t ignore locker room banter, jokes and sexism - challenge it, call it out.
  - c. If you are concerned about a family member or a friend be confident to ask if everything is okay and if they are safe at home.

- d. Believe reports of violence - offer support not suspicion. Disclosing abuse takes courage. If they want you to, help them find support by calling helplines, counsellors or even police.
  - e. Don't ask, "why doesn't she leave?" ask, "why is he violent?"  
Be conscious not to put the blame on the victim.
12. Sign up to become a White Ribbon [Supporter](#), Advocate or Ambassador.
  13. Talk to your kids and young people in your life about respectful relationships and check out [The Line](#) and [The Respect Checklist](#).
  14. Wear orange, the 16 Days in WA campaign colour, or organise for a landmark in your neighbourhood or community to be lit in orange to show your support.
  15. Volunteer your time and professional experience to community organisations, services and groups that are supporting people impacted by family and domestic violence and sexual violence.
  16. Be safe. Changing the conversation can be hard and uncomfortable but it should not come at the expense of your safety and dignity.

## **Host an Event** (in a workplace, school or university)

1. Hold a morning tea or roundtable discussion to raise awareness of the issues.
2. Explore Inequality in Film – host a movie night/screening and comment and/or identify gender bias OR empowerment (Mad Men / Wonder Woman).
3. Time Machine – share and discuss advertisements from decades past until today. Discuss representations of gender and sexism – what has changed, what has remained the same?
4. Mythbusters – create a quiz focusing on gender inequality and violence against women and girls.
5. Put up a display board with printed poster, infographics and other resources.

## **Other Ways to Get Involved**

### **Share on Social Media**

You will find a selection of infographics on the [16 Days in WA](#) webpage, to be shared on your social media feeds.

Four infographics will be released over the course of the campaign. These will focus on the question, “Do you know this is abuse?”

Check the [16 Days in WA](#) webpage from 26 November to 7 December to access the infographics.

To ensure accessibility for all, please include a caption of the infographic statistic and reference with your social media post.

To set up a social media profile pic frame:

- Hover over your Facebook profile picture
- Click on ‘Update’ and click on ‘Add Frame’
- Type ‘16 Days in WA’ in the Search bar
- Select the ‘16 Days in WA’ option, by the Department of Communities
- Click on ‘Use the Profile Picture’



### **Put up a Poster**

The 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women A4 poster can be downloaded from [www.communities.wa.gov.au/16DaysinWA](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/16DaysinWA).

## Information, Services and Supports

For a comprehensive list of State and national helplines, please visit the State Government's [Family and Domestic Violence Help and Advice](#) page.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 000.

### Everyone

1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) or [www.1800RESPECT.org.au](http://www.1800RESPECT.org.au)

The National Sexual Assault, Family and Domestic Violence Counselling Service is a free and confidential telephone and online counselling service for any person, regardless of age or gender, who has experienced or is at risk of domestic and family violence and/or sexual assault, and their family and friends.

[Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia](#) enquiry line - telephone (08) 9216 3900.

### Women seeking support

The Women's Domestic Violence Helpline is a State-wide, 24-hour service that can provide support – telephone 9223 1188 or free call 1800 007 339.

### Men seeking support

In Western Australia: the Men's Domestic Violence Helpline (9223 1199 or 1800 000 599) provides information and support for men who have experienced family and domestic violence.

Nationally: MensLine Australia (1300 789 978 or [www.mensline.org.au](http://www.mensline.org.au)) provides a counselling service that assists men to manage family and relationship difficulties, including issues of violence.

### Sexual violence

The [Sexual Assault Resource Centre](#) is a 24 hour emergency line – telephone (08) 6458 1828 or free call 1800 199 888.

### Young people

The [Office of the eSafety Commissioner](#) has information on having safer, more positive experiences online.

[Kids Helpline](#) is Australia's free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for children and young people aged 5 to 25 years – telephone 1800 551 800.

**Department of Communities**

189 Royal Street, East Perth WA 6004

PO Address: PO Box 6334, East Perth WA 6892

Telephone: 08 6217 6888

Country free call: 1800 176 888

Email: [enquiries@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@communities.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Telephone: 13 14 50

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