

Tip SHEET

WHITE RIBBON DAY

- What is domestic violence?
- The prevalence of domestic violence in Australia
- The impacts of domestic violence in the workplace
- Support for people who have experienced domestic violence
- Ways to support White Ribbon Day 2017

Domestic violence is defined as 'acts of violence that occur within intimate relationships'. The term 'violence' refers to all forms of harm including:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Psychological abuse

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA

The most recent nationwide data on domestic violence was published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its report titled *Personal Safety*. The report was released in 2012. Key findings of the report include:

- 17% of all women aged 18 years and over (1,479,900 women) had experienced violence by a partner since the age of 15

- 5.3% of all men aged 18 years and over (448,000 men) had experienced violence by a partner since the age of 15
- Over the previous 12 months 1.5% of all women aged 18 years and over (132,500 women) had experienced violence by a partner
- Over the previous 12 months 0.6% of all men aged 18 years and over (51,800 men) had experienced violence by a partner

It is believed that there is widespread under reporting of domestic violence in Australia. This could impact on the accuracy of prevalence statistics and could provide an incomplete picture of the impact of domestic violence, particularly when this is committed by women against men, as well as when the victims are living in gay, lesbian or transgender relationships.

THE IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

Data from the *Personal Safety* report also shows that between 55% and 70% of women had experienced domestic violence are active in the workforce.

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Domestic violence can impact on women at work:

- Women who had experienced domestic violence are likely to have a more disrupted work history, earn lower salaries, be employed in casual and part time work
- Partner abuse can be present in the workplace in the form of harassing phone calls or attendance at the workplace, as well as in the use of physical restraint to prevent women from getting to work on time
- Abusive partners can also physically or verbally threaten staff at the victim's workplace

Women who experience domestic violence may also be more likely to take leave, including sick leave, and may attend work but have lower levels of productivity.

GETTING SUPPORT

There are a range of support services available to people who are experiencing domestic violence.

If you, or someone you know, is facing the threat of domestic violence call the Police on 000.

Other support services available include:

National Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Counselling Service	1800 737 732 www.1800respect.org.au
Aboriginal Family Domestic Violence Hotline	1800 019 123
Converge International Employee Assistance Program	1300 OUR EAP (1300 687 327)

WHITE RIBBON DAY

Each year White Ribbon Day is on 25 November. This day is also known as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The White Ribbon Day campaign asks men and women to "Take The Oath" which is:

I will stand up, speak out and act to prevent men's violence against women. This is my Oath.

You can learn more about White Ribbon Day, and find out more about how you can support this campaign and Take The Oath, by visiting www.whiteribbon.org.au

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