

The Choosing Safety Workers can be contacted by phoning  
NQDVRS on **47212 888**.



A program to assist victims of Domestic  
Violence to feel safe in their home.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Police emergency	000
Police Link	131444
Department of Housing and Homelessness	47607378
The Women's Centre	47757555
DV Connect	1800811811
NQ Women's Legal Service	47725400
Victim Assist Queensland	1300546587
Australian Red Cross (Homelessness Hub)	47216580

## SAFETY UPGRADE



## PROGRAM



NQDVRS

Funded by



Queensland  
Government

## NQDVRS

funded by the Department of Communities

- **Assistance with Protection Order applications**
- **Information and referral**
- **Choosing Safety Program**
- **Court Support**
- **Aardvarc Program for children**
- **Men's Behaviour Change Program (MenTer)**
- **“SAFE DADS”- a short course in non violent fathering**
- **Community Education and Training**
- **Resources**

**TOWNSVILLE OFFICE**  
Level 1, Metway Arcade  
390 Flinders Street  
PO Box 6061  
Townsville QLD 4810  
Telephone: 07 47212 888  
Fax: 07 47211 794  
Email: [safety@nqdvrs.org.au](mailto:safety@nqdvrs.org.au)  
Web: [www.nqdvrs.org.au](http://www.nqdvrs.org.au)



## ENHANCING SAFETY

The Choosing Safety worker can assist women to use their protection order effectively, implement safety planning and provide upgrades to the property and our aim is to assist women to **feel safe** in the home through the support that the program provides.

Choosing Safety workers can assist with upgrades if the woman is:

- A tenant on the lease of a private rental property
- A tenant on the lease of a Department of Housing property or
- Owns her own home.

**What happens once the risk assessment and audit are completed?**

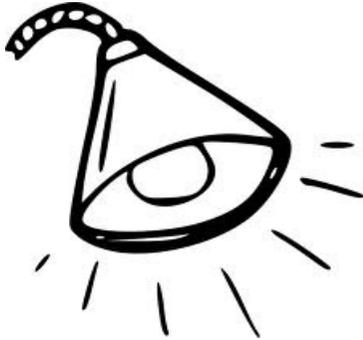
Once a risk assessment is conducted and the safety audit at the property is completed, the Choosing Safety worker will:

- Liaise with the real estate agent or department of housing and homelessness (depending on the housing situation) to advocate and request approval for possible upgrades
- Contact relevant contractors to perform the work
- Provide follow up to ensure that upgrades are completed and provide ongoing support as required.



## SAFETY UPGRADES

The following are some examples of ways that the Choosing Safety workers may help to make a property more secure. A risk assessment and safety audit will be conducted to discuss which options would best suit the home and what would be appropriate for each persons situation.



- Lock change
- Provide window locks and alarms
- Install sensor lighting to illuminate the property
- Discuss Ergon padlocks for power box
- Install finger guards on screen doors
- Discuss padlocks and chains for gates
- Provide personal alarms
- Install security screens on windows

### WHAT IS DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Domestic and Family violence is a pattern of abusive and violent behaviors used to control and dominate your spouse within a domestic relationship. Domestic violence is defined as:

- **Wilful injury** such as punching, hitting and slapping
- **Wilful damage** to your property such as breaking possessions
- **Intimidation and harassment** of another person such as following and stalking
- **Indecent behaviour** without consent such as forcing you to engage in sexual activity
- **Verbal Abuse** involving put downs, insults, name calling and swearing
- **Emotional Abuse** such as playing mind games, minimising the use of violence, behaviours that strip you of your self esteem and confidence and control through fear and intimidation
- **Social Abuse** such as controlling you through isolation, insulting friends and family and depriving you of contact with these people
- **Economic Abuse** involving controlling the finances, depriving you of money or refusing to work
- **Threat to commit** any of the above forms of abuse

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDERS

A Domestic Violence Protection Order is an order made by the court that includes conditions that restrain, restrict and prohibit the behaviour of the respondent in order to prevent further domestic violence. Under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, a number of conditions may be added to a Protection Order to prohibit further domestic violence.

**In order to be eligible for assistance from the Choosing Safety Program, either of the following conditions must be included on the Protection Order. These conditions are:**

- **The respondent is not to enter or remain in any place where the aggrieved is living**
- **The respondent is to vacate the premises where the aggrieved and respondent used to live together (Ouster Condition).**

Often these conditions may be on a Protection Order but the protected person may still not feel completely safe. The Choosing Safety workers can assist you to feel safer in the home by assisting with upgrades to your property to make it feel more secure.

## WHAT IS THE CHOOSING SAFETY PROGRAM?

The Choosing Safety Program assists women to enhance their safety and the safety of their children while remaining in their home after leaving an abusive relationship. This is done by providing safety upgrades to the woman's property and providing ongoing practical and emotional support.

The Choosing Safety workers can assist women to:

- Use a Domestic Violence Protection Order effectively
- Provide crisis counseling, support and information
- Discuss the best option in terms of safety i.e. staying at home, going to a shelter or making another arrangement
- Discuss safety plans and plan practical aspects of staying safely at home
- Conduct a risk assessment and safety audit at the property
- Upgrade certain aspects of the property and make suggestions to assist women to feel safe
- Provide ongoing support for a period after safety upgrades have been completed

