

The Research at a Glance



The key finding from this research is that there are major gaps in knowledge, policy and processes that will require significant resourcing in order to improve services to women with disabilities

Research Objectives

To analyse the extent to which current Victorian family violence policy and practice recognises and provides for women with disabilities who experience violence; and to make recommendations to improve responses to women with disabilities dealing with family violence.

Findings

- Family violence sector standards and codes and guidelines say little about how to support women with disabilities
- Most services do not routinely collect data on disability and family violence
- Most family violence workers consulted had minimal or no training in supporting women with disabilities
- Little is known about the help-seeking experiences of women with disabilities experiencing violence
- The human rights of women with disabilities to be free from violence requires planned action NOW
- Family violence and disability services need:
 - sustained collaboration with each other that includes specialist advice, secondary consultation and education about women with disabilities experiencing violence .
 - education from women with disabilities
 - to undertake risk assessment and to respond appropriately
- Family violence services must
 - improve physical access
 - Provide information in accessible formats is very limited
 - Provide secure, affordable crisis, supported and permanent accommodation available
 - Provide more intensive case management and post-crisis support is needed

The Team



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