

# Facts on Violence against Women with Disabilities

## Why are we focusing on women with disabilities?

### Violence against women is a serious, widespread problem in Australia

Approximately  
**1 in 4 women**  
has experienced  
violence by an  
intimate partner.<sup>1</sup>



Intimate partner  
violence is a **leading  
contributor to illness,  
disability and premature  
death** for women aged  
18–44 years.<sup>2</sup>

On average,  
**one woman**  
a week in  
Australia  
is killed by  
an intimate partner.<sup>3</sup>



### Women with disabilities experience higher rates of violence

Women with  
disabilities are  
**more likely**  
to experience  
violence than  
those without  
disabilities.<sup>4</sup>

Women with  
disabilities  
experience higher  
rates of violence  
over **longer  
periods of time,**  
in **more settings,**  
and by **more  
perpetrators.**<sup>5</sup>

**Over one-third**  
of women with  
disabilities experience  
some form of intimate  
partner violence.<sup>6</sup>

More than  
**70%**  
of women with  
disabilities have  
experienced a  
violent sexual  
encounter.<sup>7</sup>



### Some women with disabilities experience even higher rates of violence and discrimination

Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander women experience  
**higher rates** of disability than  
non-Indigenous women.<sup>8</sup>  
They also experience **disproportionate  
rates of family violence compared  
to non-Indigenous women.**<sup>9</sup>

LGBTQI+ people with  
disabilities experience  
**higher rates** of  
crime, violence and  
discrimination.<sup>12</sup>



More than  
**half**  
of all incarcerated  
women in Australian  
prisons have a  
diagnosed psychosocial  
disability and a history  
of sexual victimisation.<sup>10</sup>

Women with  
disabilities in a rural  
setting experience  
a **higher risk** of  
social isolation and  
have less access to  
support services.<sup>14</sup>



Women  
with  
disabilities  
from refugee  
or migrant  
backgrounds are  
**less likely** to report  
acts of violence or  
access disability  
services.<sup>11</sup>

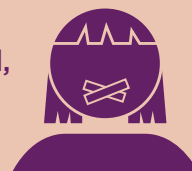


Women make up  
**74%**  
of all elder abuse  
victims, many of  
whom are also living  
with disabilities.<sup>13</sup>

### Women with disabilities face unique challenges in seeking support for violence

Women with disabilities  
are often exposed to other  
**risk factors** for violence,  
such as experience **living  
in institutions** or **being  
dependent on informal or  
formal care** in the home.<sup>15</sup>

Women with disabilities are  
**less likely** to report violence  
or access support services,<sup>16</sup>  
and their experiences  
of violence are more  
likely to be minimised,  
excused or not  
believed.



Women with disabilities  
are **less likely** to receive  
support due to:

- inaccessible information and communication
- physical barriers to services
- not knowing their rights.<sup>17</sup>

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