

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.¹



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

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



Women with disabilities experience higher rates of violence

Women with
disabilities are
more likely
to experience
violence than
those without
disabilities.⁴

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

Over one-third
of women with
disabilities experience
some form of intimate
partner violence.⁶



More than
70%
of women with
disabilities have
experienced a
violent sexual
encounter.⁷

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.⁸
They also experience **disproportionate
rates of family violence compared
to non-Indigenous women**.⁹

LGBTQI+ people with
disabilities experience
higher rates of
crime, violence and
discrimination.¹²



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

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



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



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

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.¹⁵

Women with disabilities are
less likely to report violence
or access support services,¹⁶
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.¹⁷