**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.

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

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

Women with disabilities experience higher rates of violence.

Over one-third of women with disabilities experience some form of intimate partner violence…compared to one-fourth of women with no disability.

Women with disability report experiencing…
Physical violence 48% compared to 28% of women without disability.

Sexual violence 33% compared to 16% of women without disability.

Stalking or harassment 27% compared to 16% of women without disability.

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. They also experience disproportionate rates of family violence compared to non-indigenous women. LGBTQI people with disabilities experience higher rates of crime, violence and discrimination.

More than half of all incarcerated women in Australian prisons have a diagnosed psychosocial disability and a history of sexual victimisation. Women with disabilities in a rural setting experience a higher risk of social isolation and have less access to support services.

Women with disabilities from refugee or migrant backgrounds are less likely to report acts of violence or access disability services. Women make up 74% of all elder abuse victims, many of whom are also living with disabilities.

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 living in institutions or being dependent on informal or formal care in the home.

Women with disabilities are less likely to report violence or access support services,13 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.

Facts on Violence Against Women with Disabilities Sources

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