

# English

## **EDVOS - 'A community free from family violence, where everyone feels safe.'**

In Australia, everyone has the right to live without violence in a healthy and safe relationship and community. Women should not be treated badly or hurt.

EDVOS is a service that supports women and children who have been hurt by someone in their home and family.

If your partner, child, carer or a family member make you feel afraid and threatens to hurt you, we are here to support you.

Living with family violence is a difficult and often confusing experience. These questions may help you to understand whether you are experiencing family violence.

Is the person:

- ✧ Making you feel scared or afraid?
- ✧ Yelling at you or saying bad things to you?
- ✧ Putting you down?
- ✧ Hitting, punching or pushing you?
- ✧ Stopping you from seeing your family or friends?
- ✧ Not giving you something you need like medication or food?
- ✧ Controlling your money against your will?
- ✧ Harming or threatening to harm your pets?
- ✧ Not letting you have your own belief system?

## **What is family violence?**

Family violence is when a person in your family seeks power and control over you, causing you to feel scared, worthless or afraid. Family violence can take many forms:

- ✧ It can be physical, psychological and emotional, financial, social, sexual or spiritual.
- ✧ It can include behaviour that is violent, threatening, controlling, intimidating and isolating.
- ✧ It can affect people from all ages, social, cultural and religious backgrounds, and people with a disability.
- ✧ It can occur between family members, parents and children, against older parents, against pets, in marriages, de-facto relationships, same sex relationships, couples who are separated or divorced, and even within shared households.
- ✧ In most cases, it is committed by men against a female partner or ex-partner.



### **How EDVOS can help.**

Our services are free and available to people who live in Boroondara, Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Knox, Monash and Yarra Ranges.

If you find it hard to talk and/or read in English, we can have an interpreter for you. This service is free.

Our staff will:

- ✧ listen to you
- ✧ believe you
- ✧ provide information and support
- ✧ help you develop a safety plan so you can remain in your own home, or help you find a safe place to stay
- ✧ help you support your children, keep them safe and look after their wellbeing
- ✧ contact support services you may need such as legal, counselling and financial

### **What to do if you need help:**

If you are in immediate danger, call 000.

Call EDVOS on (03) 9259 4200 between 9am - 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am - 5pm Saturday.

For help outside these hours call Safe Steps: 1800 015 188, 24hours/day or visit [safesteps.org.au](http://safesteps.org.au)

InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence: 1800 755 988 (Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm)