

Violence



People with disability do not enjoy their right to be safe and free from violence and are at high risk of experiencing violence, abuse and neglect:

- Lack of access to information about rights, complaints processes and effective independent advocacy prevents people with disability from recognising when their rights are not being upheld
- Violence against people with disability is often difficult to detect, investigate and prosecute
- Women with disability experience significantly higher levels of all forms of violence
- People with disability are subject to many other forms of violence that others may not experience, including forced sterilisation, violence in institutions, sexual and reproductive rights violations, restrictive practices, seclusion and restraint and deprivation of liberty
- Quality and safeguarding mechanisms for the NDIS only provide protection for NDIS participants – projected to be around 10% of the disability population
- Complaints processes are often inaccessible and ineffective
- Mainstream domestic violence services for women are currently not equipped to meet the needs of women with disability



Things that work

- ✓ Peer-led programs that allow people with disability to talk about abuse, their right to safety and avenues for reporting and talking about their experiences
- ✓ Accessible and responsive counselling services that are tailored to individual needs
- ✓ Witness intermediary schemes that assist people with disability to give evidence about their experiences of violence, abuse and neglect
- ✓ Independent advocacy support and programs to build self-advocacy skills



We will know that the people with disability are enjoying their right to be safe and free from violence when:

- People with disability can access appropriate, high quality services if they are unsafe or at risk of violence
- Police, legal professionals, judges, court staff and all involved in the criminal justice system have the training, skills and knowledge to respond to experiences of violence and abuse by people with disability, including gender-based violence
- Policy and practice of mainstream violence services are responsive to the unique needs of people with disability

National policy and practice supports all people with disability, regardless of their age, gender, cultural, Indigenous and/or linguistic background to be free from violence, abuse and neglect, advocate for their rights and access justice when rights have not been upheld.