

# FAMILY & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Your faith | Your vote | Your voice

In the time that Jesus lived, it was normal for men in society to not speak to women who were not related. Women could not be disciples, and their legal testimony was only worth half of a man's. Like children, they were considered to be the patriarch's property. Despite this, Jesus welcomed women, taught them, spent time with them, and even disciplined them. He valued women and children in a way that was radical for his day. Today, while women have more rights, it is also important to acknowledge that people who are victim-survivors of family and domestic violence are all too frequently considered by the perpetrator as 'property'.

**THE UNITING  
CHURCH IS DEEPLY  
CONCERNED ABOUT  
THE PREVALENCE  
OF DFV IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES  
AND ITS  
DEVASTATING  
EFFECTS ON  
SURVIVORS,  
THEIR FAMILIES,  
FRIENDS  
AND OUR  
WIDER SOCIETY.**

Uniting Church in Australia,  
*Beyond Violence*



Uniting Church in Australia  
**Western Australia**

## OUR CONCERNS

With the twin crises relating to the cost of living and lack of affordable housing, victim-survivors of family and domestic violence are all too frequently faced with an impossible choice. Escaping from violence frequently leads to poverty, homelessness, and even the risk of children being placed into the custody of the perpetrator due to unstable living arrangements.

Whilst the community demonstrates a greater awareness of FDV and the associated issues compared to even at the last election, there are also myths that persist with victim-blaming, normalisation of abuse, and even still arguing that allegations of abuse are evidence of revenge. (source - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *FDSV Summary*)

We applaud that all sides of politics have committed to further funding to reduce domestic and family violence as well as to support victim-survivors as they rebuild their lives into the future.

## ASK YOUR CANDIDATES

- How will you ensure that funding allocated towards addressing issues related to FDV meets best practice guidelines for intervention?
- What are the practical ideas that your party is currently exploring in relation to reducing FDV?
- What practical steps will you be taking to ensure that women in shelters can be rehoused in a timely manner?
- Given the shortage of housing, how do you plan to ensure there is also emergency accommodation for perpetrators who are removed from the family home?
- What support will you give educators and other relevant professionals who teach children and adolescents about respectful relationships?