Building Safer Families
Our Response To Australia’s Domestic & Family Violence Crisis
A PROVEN TRACK RECORD IN SUPPORTING THOSE IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

HopeStreet has been supporting individuals and families impacted by domestic and family violence since 1971 and we have worked hard to gain the high respect we have in the sector for professional, compassionate and innovative service delivery.

The issue of domestic and family violence in Australia is significant – it is greater than BaptistCare HopeStreet could ever have anticipated when we first began working in this area.

Over this time, we have developed a whole of family approach that seeks to end the cycle of abuse and build safer families.

This means coming alongside women and children, to help them rebuild their lives and to have new choices. In working with their choices, our focus remains constant – our priority is always their safety and wellbeing, through housing and supported accommodation, counselling and group programs, no interest loans and specialist support for children.

We also work with men who use controlling and coercive behaviour to help them to be held accountable for their abusive attitudes and behaviour, to make better choices in their relationships and to be the partner and father that they aspire to be.

WHO WE ARE

BaptistCare HopeStreet provides trusted places in the community in some of the most vulnerable locations across NSW, offering hope to people living with disadvantage and distress. Its services include support for domestic and family violence, homelessness and women who work in the sex industry, as well as providing access to fair finance and affordable food.

BaptistCare HopeStreet sees the person before the issue, and has been privileged to put faith into action for over 45 years, with meaningful services and support that transform the lives of people.

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DEFINING DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is the repeated use of violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour by an individual against a family member(s), or someone with whom they have, or have had, an intimate relationship. Violent behaviour includes not only physical assaults but an array of power and control tactics used along a continuum in concert with one another, including direct or indirect threats, sexual assault, emotional and psychological torment, economic control, property damage, social isolation and behaviours which cause a person to live in fear.

Research from the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey shows that one in four Australian women have experienced violence by an intimate partner, compared to one in thirteen men. Approximately 17% of women have experienced partner violence since the age of 15, while 54% of women who experienced current partner violence, experienced more than one violent incident.

We know that domestic and family violence has far-reaching health and welfare issues. 72,000 women and 34,000 children sought homelessness services in 2016-17 due to domestic and family violence.

AN INTENTIONAL APPROACH

Our whole of family approach to domestic and family violence is integral to HopeStreet’s Building Safer Families strategy where priority is given to increasing the safety of women and children. This strategy offers an integrated, client centred, invitational and strengths-based approach to break the cycle of violence. The integrated response involves our commitment to providing clients and their immediate families with access to services that are most relevant to their needs, and to enacting a proactive engagement with local communities, government and non-government sector for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence.

The BaptistCare Building Safer Families strategy links to priorities detailed in the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint For Reform 2016-2021 and the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women & Their Children 2010-2022.

Our whole of family approach seeks to end family and domestic violence through the provision of:

**OUR SERVICE**

**REACH**

Our service reach generally from year to year:

- Supported accommodation for women and children
- Men’s Behaviour Change Program
- Counselling and group support programs
- No interest loans for women

**YEARLY HIGHLIGHT**

- **200** women & children received housing accommodation
- **400+** participants in Men’s Behaviour Change Programs
- **$70,000+** No Interest Loans for women
- **200+** women and children participated in group support programs

Figures are rounded to provide a top level picture of our service reach generally from year to year.
Counselling & Family Services
Our trained and supervised counsellors provide specialised counselling services for people impacted by domestic and family violence and assist families through a range of group programs including the highly-respected Pathways to Parenting.

Women’s Groups
We have a proven track record in supporting women through valued group programs including Living Beyond Abuse.

Case Management
We provide specialised case management to support women and children escaping domestic and family violence, providing access to a range of support services and enabling them to rebuild their lives.

Men’s Behaviour Program
Facing Up is a program for men who are seeking to move beyond their familiar destructive patterns and take responsibility for the abusive behaviour they use with their loved ones. This includes becoming aware of the consequences of their choices and behaviour, for themselves, and for those who they love. The program is all about giving men the real opportunity to be the father and partner that they really want to be, and to create safe and respectful relationships.

Supported Accommodation
We provide supported accommodation for women and children escaping violence and have developed a strategy to scale up our housing offering and add housing options. All our accommodation is secure, with the locations remaining confidential to protect our clients. All families have access to individual counselling as well as a range of ongoing supportive, educational, financial and parenting services as well as specialised programs for children.

Microfinance Loans
One of the biggest issues facing women when escaping domestic violence and needing to restart their lives are the financial considerations. For many, it’s a big factor as to why they can’t leave an abusive relationship earlier. This is why HopeStreet has teamed up with Good Shepherd Microfinance and the National Australia Bank to make a tailored version of the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) available to women seeking to rebuild their lives.

Practical Support
We provide a range of practical support services to individuals and families impacted by domestic and family violence including Emergency Relief, food support, case work/management, referrals and advocacy.
WHITE RIBBON WORKPLACE ACCREDITATION

BaptistCare has been accredited as a White Ribbon Workplace, at our Head Office and all Community Services sites. BaptistCare will continue to build a culture of respect that prevents violence in all of its forms and ensuring that staff are equipped to recognise, respond and refer in cases of violence against women. BaptistCare is also committed to widen the scope of its accreditation for the whole organisation.

Proudly working with White Ribbon to create a safe workplace. Australia’s campaign to stop violence against women.

Subject matter experts from BaptistCare are available to provide further details about DFV, our Building Safer Families response as well as policy advice. Together we can seek to end the cycle of violence.

Please contact us for further information or to be referred to a subject matter expert.