

Funds for Freedom

Supporting women and children to live a life free from domestic and family violence ... and give hope where all hope has gone.

The **Funds for Freedom (FFF)** aims to assist women and children with the opportunity to make a fresh start, after fleeing their homes because of domestic and family violence. It gives women and children back the right to live without fear with freedom and with love.

Every person has the right to live free from abuse as no woman or child should be forced to go back into a dangerous situation because they have no money. For the families forced out of their homes due to violence the need for financial support is a number one priority when seeking to re-establish themselves in a new household. Essential items such as fridges and washing machines are costly items and the **FFF** will provide grants that will assist women to purchase white goods and essential household items without having to repay a loan.

The **FFF** aims to reduce the financial stress and give women a sense of economic independence. Your support can make a real difference in the lives of many women and children in Western Australia. Having to return to a violent relationship because of the

lack of financial support should not be an option.

The Women's Council is a state-wide peak organisation representing Women's Refuge and Domestic and Family Violence services in WA to ensure that all Women and Children live free of Domestic and Family Violence. The role is to provide a voice on Domestic and Family Violence issues that facilitates and promotes policy, legislative and program responses relevant to women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence.

Your donation will give hope of a better life to women and children who are looking to make a fresh start after living in a violent relationship. The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) has Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.



**WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**
FOR DOMESTIC & FAMILY
VIOLENCE SERVICES (WA)

How widespread is Domestic and Family Violence?

Anywhere between 1 in every 3 (*Mouzos & Makkai, 2004*) and 1 in every 5 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006) women are abused by an intimate partner in their adult life, and one in four children grow up witnessing this violence (*Indermaur, 2001*).

Western Australia Police attend over 30,000 call outs for family and domestic violence every year and on average investigate 18 domestic homicides.

Domestic and family violence continues to be the major driver of homelessness. Escaping violence is the most common reason provided by people who seek help from specialist homelessness services. 22% of people seeking help from specialist homelessness services do so because they are escaping violence. (*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, NDCA Report, 2008*)

Domestic and family violence is the principal cause of homelessness among women. 55% of women with children and 37% of young single women who seek assistance from specialist homelessness services do so to escape violence. (*FaHCSIA, 2008*)

Many service providers report that homelessness driven by domestic violence is different from other forms

of homelessness. Many women who escape abusive, violent relationships return to the perpetrator numerous times and cycle in and out of homelessness.

Make a donation:

Cheque/money order

Please make a cheque/money order payable to the **Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA)** and post it to the Women's Council.

Direct debit/EFT

Bank: Bankwest
BSB: 306 035
Acc No: 4195169
Acc Name: Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA)
Reference: FFF, Your Name

Online

Please visit our website at www.womenscouncil.com.au

To request a receipt for your donation, please notify the Women's Council.

Contact details:

Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA)
PO Box 8437
Perth Business Centre WA 6849
Ph: 9420 7264
Fax: 9486 8744
Email: info@womenscouncil.com.au
www.womenscouncil.com.au

The dragonfly was chosen as the FFF symbol as it represents transformation of one's life.

References: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Homeless people in SAAP: SAAP National DATA Collection Annual Report, SAAP NDCA report series 12, cat. No. HOU 185, Canberra, 2008.

Flinders University, Women, Domestic and Family violence and Homelessness: A Synthesis Report, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra, 2008.