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Financial empowerment app launches for domestic violence victims

[Alison Banney \(https://www.finder.com.au/author/alison-banney\)](https://www.finder.com.au/author/alison-banney) 5 September 2017



The new mobile app is the first in Australia to provide financial resources for victims of domestic violence.

Women's Legal Service Queensland (WLSQ) has launched Australia's first mobile app to provide financial tools and support for victims of domestic and family violence. [The app, Penda, \(https://www.wlsq.org.au/resources/legal-toolkit/penda-app/\)](https://www.wlsq.org.au/resources/legal-toolkit/penda-app/) was launched yesterday at Parliament House Canberra and is available for free download now.

The threat of financial hardship is a common reason for many Australians remaining in violent relationships, and the Penda app was developed to provide assistance to women [suffering financial abuse \(https://www.finder.com.au/financial-support-and-resources-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/\)](https://www.finder.com.au/financial-support-and-resources-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse/). It offers readily available access to the resources needed to safely and confidently leave a violent relationship.

Penda offers free financial advice to help victims plan for their future and provides information on accessing emergency money and payments as well as emergency resources like housing. The app's ambassador is Lisa McAdams, a domestic violence survivor, who spoke of the app's importance and ability to assist Australians in need.

"I know from experience the devastating impact of financial abuse. It left a legacy that took more than a decade to overcome. Knowledge is power and the Penda app means the right information is accessible to more women," said McAdams.

The app was developed in conjunction with the Financial Rights Legal Centre, with funding from Financial Literacy Australia and campaign support from [Australia's largest credit union CUA \(https://www.finder.com.au/bank-accounts/cua-savings-accounts/\)](https://www.finder.com.au/bank-accounts/cua-savings-accounts/). You can [read instruction on how to download the free app here \(https://www.wlsq.org.au/resources/legal-toolkit/penda-app/\)](https://www.wlsq.org.au/resources/legal-toolkit/penda-app/).

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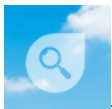
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