

# Men can be victims too

## Violence orders on the decline

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In the following 12 months the number of DVOs fell, with 130 men and 416 women from the region receiving them.

The divide between male and female victims is reflected by Australian Bureau of Statistics data that shows one in six women and one in 19 men are the victims of intimate partner abuse.

The same research shows one in four women and one in seven men endure emotional abuse.

The Queensland Government provides about \$4.4 million a year to DVConnect that runs MensLine, but it did not reveal how much was allocated specifically to support men in DV crisis.

Housing is available through the government's Homelessness Program for men and children leaving violent households.

MensLine is one of Australia's key support services for male survivors of domestic violence.

Manager Mark Walters said men often experienced violence from male relatives or, in fewer cases, women.

He said women's violence towards their male partners or former partners was usually to drive them from the house or protect

themselves and their kids.

"The men I have talked to that are genuinely frightened by the potential of harm from their partners,

they have no trouble asking for help," Mr Walters said.

"I do think more males are seeking referrals and support for the violence they can be experiencing at the hands of family members – for example brothers or fathers – or in same-sex relationships.

"Certainly, referrals come through from police who have assessed the male as a victim in heterosexual

relationships – usually at the point of separation.

"Robust policing is catching all the separation-instigated violence along with the resistance violence – for example fightback by abused females – or the retribution-type violence where the female looks to even the score after being abused."

Mr Walters said there were not enough resources available for male survivors.

"Mostly, like women trying to establish a safer place for their children, men are seeking stable accommodation and a place to get some routine back into the kids' lives," he said.

Domestic Violence Minister Shannon Fentiman said male survivors in Queensland could access crisis accommodation, case management, practical and emotional support, information and referral to other services and court support.

"I absolutely acknowledge that men are victims of domestic and family violence," Ms Fentiman said.

"Domestic violence is never acceptable."

Women's Legal Service Queensland principal solicitor Rachel Neil warned some perpetrators were using the DVO system against their victims.

"We are seeing a rise in cross applications and some of those applications are in retaliation to the other person having a DVO on the abuser," Ms Neil said.

 For support phone  
MensLine on 1800 600 636,  
DVConnect on 1800 811 811 or  
the national hotline  
1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732.

# ONE IN FOUR DV ORDERS GOING TO MEN

■ Sherele Moody

ALMOST a quarter of Bundaberg domestic violence orders are going to men.

Exclusive NewsMail research shows men make up 24.5% of the region's residents protected from

family and domestic violence by the courts.

Local courts issued 572 DVOs across Bundaberg from June 1, 2015, to March 31 of last year.

Of these, 145 went to men and 427 were granted to women.

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence but, in what may be a surprise to some, men make up a quarter of all DVOs issued in Bundaberg.

