

Long waitlists for Men's Behaviour Change Programs, survey shows

Perpetrators of family violence are waiting up to 40 weeks to enter programs aimed at changing violence and abusive behaviour, according to a recent survey of providers of Men's Behaviour Change Programs.

No to Violence, Australia's largest peak body for services that work with men who use violence and abuse and provider of the Men's Referral Service (1300 766 491), recently conducted a telephone survey of services operating Men's Behaviour Change Programs.

Alarming, it found:

- the average wait time for a Men's Behaviour Change Program is two and half months;
- the longest wait time from survey respondents was 40 weeks; and
- around 30 per cent of programs remain closed due to physical distancing restrictions.

"These results show there is a strong demand for services that support people who use violence to be the man they want to be", said Jacqui Watt, Chief Executive Officer of No to Violence.

"It takes a lot of strength for a man to reach out to a service to want to change their abusive and violent behaviour. To have to wait up to 40 weeks, after making that huge step forward, really presents a risk to these men, and importantly their partners, wives, girlfriends, boyfriends and families.

"If you are ready to reach out for support, or feel like you at a high risk of being violent, stop. We can help if you give us a call on 1300 766 491 or have a chat [online](#)".

Thanks to funding by the Commonwealth Government in response to the coronavirus pandemic, No to Violence's Men's Referral Service has now established a brief intervention service providing multiple telephone counselling sessions for men who use violence to keep them engaged in the system while waiting for a spot on a behaviour change program.

The funding also will enable No to Violence to offer training across the family and domestic violence sector around working remotely with men who use violence, expanding the ability to provide services during physical distancing.

Organisations surveyed were primarily based in Victoria and New South Wales. No to Violence intends to continue this monitoring, and is looking to partner with organisations and peak bodies in other states and territories to make sure we have the most up to date information.

ENDS

CONTACTS	
Jacqui Watt CEO, No to Violence E: JacquiW@ntv.org.au P: 03 9487 4500 M: Mobile available upon request	Russell Hooper Interim Head of Communications and Advocacy, No to Violence E: russellh@ntv.org.au P: 03 9487 4500 M: 0405 638 566

Background/topics/expertise

No to Violence specialises in effective evidence-informed engagement with men and its primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of women and children.

No to Violence (NTV) has successfully worked to develop safe and effective interventions for men using domestic and family violence (DFV) for over 25 years.

No to Violence provides telephone counselling, workplace development and training, policy advice and advocacy to end men's use of family violence.

NTV has three important roles:

- Talk with men anywhere in Australia every day on their helpline Men's Referral Service: **1300 766 491**
- Support members – over 150 organisations and professionals – to deliver best practice, working face-to-face to the highest professional and safety standards. No to Violence provides training and workforce development for professionals across a range of industries and sectors, who need to develop skills in identifying, interrupting and responding to men's use of domestic and family violence.
- Provide evidence-informed interventions and advice to all levels of government across Australia.