

FACT SHEET - DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT FUND

On 20 April 2020, the ACT Government announced \$3 million in funding to support people facing homelessness or domestic and family violence arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding will allow the specialist homelessness sector and domestic and family violence services to expand their operational capacity and relieve the pressure of additional need during COVID-19 and throughout winter.

Domestic and Family Violence Support Fund

Under the funding package, \$550,000 has been allocated to respond to an increase in demand for domestic and family violence (DFV) and sexual assault services and provide emergency accommodation to women, children and families experiencing domestic and family violence.

Questions and Answers about the Domestic and Family Violence Fund

How is the funding broken down?

- \$125,000 to boost Safer Families Assistance grants that help cover expenses associated with sustaining or re-establishing a family home. This could include mortgage or rental payments, furnishing, legal services and any other expenses.
- \$350,000 to the Domestic Violence Crisis Service to enhance direct crisis support for women, children and families impacted by domestic and family violence, including emergency accommodation.
- \$75,000 to the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre to assist supports for Canberrans impacted by sexual violence.

What is the Safer Families Assistance?

Over the last year the Community Services Directorate has had feedback from the sector and from individuals that these flexible grants are responsive to client needs and provide valuable assistance.

Under the DFV Support Fund, **\$125,000** has been allocated to boost Safer Families Assistance grants that help cover expenses associated with sustaining or re-establishing a family home.

These grants of \$2,000 per person, could be used to cover mortgage repayments or rental payments, furnishing, legal services and any other related expenses.

The process for accessing these grants will be the same as before more information is at [Safer Families Assistance](#).

What is the Domestic Violence Crisis Service support?

Under the DFV Support Fund, \$350,000 has been allocated to the Domestic Violence Crisis Service to enhance direct crisis support for women, children and families impacted by domestic and family violence, including emergency accommodation.

The funding is provided in two parts:

- \$200,000 to provide emergency accommodation and support and;
- \$150,000 to allow for an uplift in staffing to meet an increase in demand.

How will the DVCS Emergency Accommodation work?

The Emergency Accommodation Program provides short-term supported accommodation for women, men and children escaping domestic violence where refuge accommodation is not available.

Clients who access the accommodation will be supported by Specialist Homelessness Services, along with limited brokerage to provide clients with the things they need while living in emergency accommodation.

What will DVCS do with extra money for an uplift in staffing?

DVCS have reported an increase in demand and complexity of cases due to COVID-19. While DVCS are still offering face-to-face contacts for police call outs and emergencies, they are also seeing a significant increase in demand for online services. Additional support for staffing will give DVCS a greater capacity to meet the complex needs of their clients and allow people to access support in a way that suits them best.

What is the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre support?

Under the DFV Support Fund, \$75,000 has been provided to the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC) to provide additional supports for Canberrans impacted by sexual violence. This will allow CRCC to meet the needs of their clients by phone, and to continue to provide face-to-face care for clients in need via police call outs and access to forensic services which remain available 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

More information

For more information on COVID-19 support for Canberrans facing homelessness or domestic and family violence, please email quality@act.gov.au.