

How to support people experiencing family violence



- Find a safe place to talk
- Have someone else present – if this is acceptable to the victim survivor
- Allow time for the person to talk
- Listen to what they have to say – and take it seriously.
- Believe them, their description of the abuse is only the tip of the iceberg
- Give priority to their immediate safety
- Empower them to make their own decisions
- Support and respect their choices. Even if they choose initially to return to the abuser, it is their choice. They have the most information about how to survive.
- If children experiences family violence their safety must come first. Keep in mind the appropriate reporting requirements. If you have any questions please contact
- Give them information about relevant support agencies and if appropriate, offer to contact the agency on their behalf. Do so in their presence or offer a safe and private place from which they can contact the relevant agency
- Use the expertise of those who are properly trained
- Reassure them that this is not their fault, they don't deserve this treatment, and it is not God's will for them.
- Let them know that what the abuser has done is wrong and completely unacceptable
- Love and support them
- Be patient
- Protect their confidentiality