

If **you** are the **victim of violence** you should get some legal information about:

- ⦿ How to make yourself safe
- ⦿ How to make a complaint about the violence
- ⦿ How to apply for compensation

**Domestic violence**, also known as family violence, is when someone abuses someone else close to them, like their wife, girlfriend, mum, sister, daughter, brother or son. This abuse may be physical, mental, emotional or financial. Examples of domestic violence include:

- ⦿ hitting someone
- ⦿ threatening to hurt someone or their relative/s
- ⦿ putting someone down or calling them names
- ⦿ controlling someone's money
- ⦿ stopping someone from seeing their friends or family.

**Sexual assault** is forcing someone to have sex without their consent. Examples include oral sex or using objects to have sex.

**Indecent assault** is touching someone – on the breasts, genitals or backside, for example – without their consent.

**An act of indecency** can include when someone flashes at you (exposing their genitals), or when someone masturbates in public in front of you.

**Sex discrimination** is harassing or treating someone unfairly because of their sex – in relation to education, employment, accommodation or access to goods and services or registered clubs. Examples include being refused a job or denied entry to a club because you are a woman.

**Sexual harassment** is a form of discrimination involving unwanted sexual behaviour. Examples include displaying pornography in the workplace or a boss asking a worker for sex.

**Child sexual assault** is when someone has sex with a child. Examples include touching a child's genitals or backside, or flashing or masturbating in front of a child.

It is important to note that the law says that a child is not capable of consenting to sex.

**For the safety of the child – get help now!**

**Disclaimer:** The information on this card is only meant as a guide. It is not a substitute for legal advice. If you are the victim of violence please speak to a solicitor.

**Racial violence** is abusing someone because of their race. Examples include bashing, stalking or threatening someone because they are Aboriginal.

**Race discrimination** is harassing or treating someone unfairly because of their race – in relation to education, employment, accommodation or access to goods and services or registered clubs. Examples include someone being refused service in a shop or denied a lease on a house because they are Aboriginal. It is also against the law to say or write something in public which encourages racial hatred.

# Wirringa Baiya



**Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre** is a community legal centre for Aboriginal women, young people

and children living in New South Wales. Wirringa Baiya focuses on issues relating to violence against Aboriginal women, young people and children. Our service is **free** and **confidential**.

Call us on **1800 686 587** or visit [www.wirringabaiya.org.au](http://www.wirringabaiya.org.au)

## Homosexual and transgender discrimination

is treating someone unfairly or harassing them because they are lesbian, gay or transgender – in relation to education, employment, accommodation or access to goods and services or registered clubs. Examples include someone being refused service in a shop or denied entry to a registered club because they are gay.

It is also against the law to say or write something in public which encourages hatred of lesbians, gays or transgender persons. Examples include anti-gay graffiti, public speeches or slogans on clothing.

## Limitation Periods

A limitation period means that you have only a certain amount of time to make a complaint or lodge an application.

**Victims Compensation** – in NSW an application for victims compensation must be made within 2 years of the date the violent crime occurred.

**Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW** – complaints must be made within 6 months of the discrimination happening.

**Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission** – complaints must be made within 12 months of the discrimination happening.

## For legal help and information

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre .....	1800 686 587	
Domestic Violence Advocacy Service.....	(02) 9637 3741 or 1800 810 784	
	.....TTY 1800 626 267	
Indigenous Women's Program .....	1800 639 784	
Legal Aid Commission: Hotline under 18 .....	1800 101 810	
Law access 24hr .....	1300 888 529	
Victims Compensation Tribunal: Victims services.....	1800 069 054 .....	TTY (02) 9374 3175
Victims of Crime Bureau (24 hours).....	1800 633 063	
Anti-Discrimination Board.....	1800 670 812 .....	TTY (02) 9268 5522
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission ....	1800 670 812 .....	TTY 1800 620 240

## For counselling and other support

Domestic Violence Line.....	1800 65 64 63 .....	TTY 1800 671 442
Rape Crisis Centre .....	(02) 9819 6565 or 1800 424 017	
Kids Help Line.....	1800 551 800	
Dympna House (for victims of child sexual assault) ...	(02) 9797 6733 or 1800 424 830	
Homeless Persons Information Line .....	(02) 9265 9087 or 1800 234 566	
Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service.....	(02) 9207 2800 or 1800 184 527	

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Don't be shame  
Let's yarn!

Call Wirringa Baiya  
Aboriginal Woman's Legal  
Centre for free legal advice

**1800 686 587**