

Reporting Family and Domestic Violence:

What Barriers do Aboriginal Women in the Northern Territory Face?

8 in 10

Victims of family and domestic violence related assaults in the NT are Aboriginal women.



Aboriginal women in the Northern Territory:

Have the highest rates of victimisation in the world

18x

More likely to experience family and domestic violence than non-Aboriginal people

40x

More likely than non-Aboriginal women to be hospitalised for family and domestic violence related assaults

90%

Of violence against Aboriginal women is not reported. Not reporting violent crimes can leave women and their children without help and support, and at further risk of injury or death.

Understanding the reasons why Aboriginal women do not report violence is the key to making services more accessible and better equipped to combatting the cycle of gender based abuse.

Barriers to reporting violence



Many women fear payback, or repercussions, from their partner's family



There are feelings of shame surrounding those impacted by violence and abuse

Many women still love their partners or husbands, and don't want them to go to jail



In small communities and towns, it is hard to remain anonymous when reporting violence



Many women are unaware of what services exist



Lack of trust towards police and/or service providers

Many women are worried their children will be removed when violence is reported



Fear of being involved in the criminal justice system



Lack of interpreters can make communication very difficult



For women living in a remote community, help is too far away

Women don't want to leave their communities to escape the violence



High risk of homelessness



In the Northern Territory, all adults are required by law to report domestic and family violence if they think someone has or is likely to suffer physical harm because of the violence. Reports must be made to the police by calling 131 444

In an emergency, always call 000.

