

## what is a Women's Refuge?

A women's refuge is a safe place where women and children can stay if they have experienced domestic violence.

Like most other women's refuges, Erin House has workers that are trained in the area of domestic violence and are able to provide a range of practical and emotional supports to you and your children.

## what can you expect at Erin House?

Erin House offers secure accommodation, has self contained units and a 4 bedroom share unit, with a shared children's play area.

Workers are available from Monday – Friday (9-4pm) with an on-call worker available for emergencies after hours.

There is also a worker on the weekend who is available Saturday and Sunday morning.

So that the refuge remains a safe place for women and children, the address and telephone number are not publicized. Therefore during and after your stay you are asked not to disclose the address or telephone number to anyone.



**Workers at Erin House are there to assist you.**

**They will respect your Individuality,  
Beliefs, Values, Religion and Lifestyle.**

**Staff will provide you with practical assistance,  
information and advocacy to address your  
emotional, physical, medical, legal and  
financial needs.**

**EVERYONE DESERVES  
to live a life  
free from fear  
AND ABUSE**

## what is Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is an abuse of power in a relationship where one person uses a range of behaviours to intimidate, dominate and control the other person through fear.

*These behaviours include:*

*Emotional abuse (put downs)*

*Social abuse (isolation)*

*Sexual abuse (unwanted sexual contact)*

*Economic abuse (controlling what you spend)*

*Physical abuse (hitting, spitting, punching, kicking)*

*Verbal abuse (name calling)*

*Harassment*

*Stalking*



## Jane's Story

*I did not understand about domestic violence - I knew my husband was very controlling and I was often called a f...bitch (and a lot worse when he had been drinking). He did shove me sometimes and twice I was punched (but he was always sorry). I was not a confident person and did not think I could manage the children by myself. When I left it was because he was really hitting into the girls and they were being called ugly names all the time (my eldest was going to leave home and she was only 14). I ended up in a women's refuge - the girls are so happy now and I am discovering that I am not hopeless and I have people I can talk to. I have access to so many services and I am rebuilding my life for myself and my children.*



**Domestic Violence 24hr Line  
1800 811 811**

**Emergency  
000**

**Gympie Police  
07 5480 1111**

**Women's Information Service  
07 5482 7973**

**Legal Aid  
1300 651 188**

**Women's Legal Service  
1800 677 278**

**Lifeline  
131 114**



*"A place of safety and protection where you can receive assistance and support to rebuild a future free from violence"*

**WHEN SHOULD  
YOU  
seek  
refuge**

When you or your children are suffering from the effects of domestic violence

When you fear for the safety of yourself and your children from an violent partner

When you need support, understanding and assistance to leave an abusive home