

# Voices Against Violence



Paper Seven:  
Summary Report and Recommendation in Easy English

#### Publication details

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Voices Against Violence Research Project team

Women with Disabilities Victoria – Keran Howe, Sharon Granek

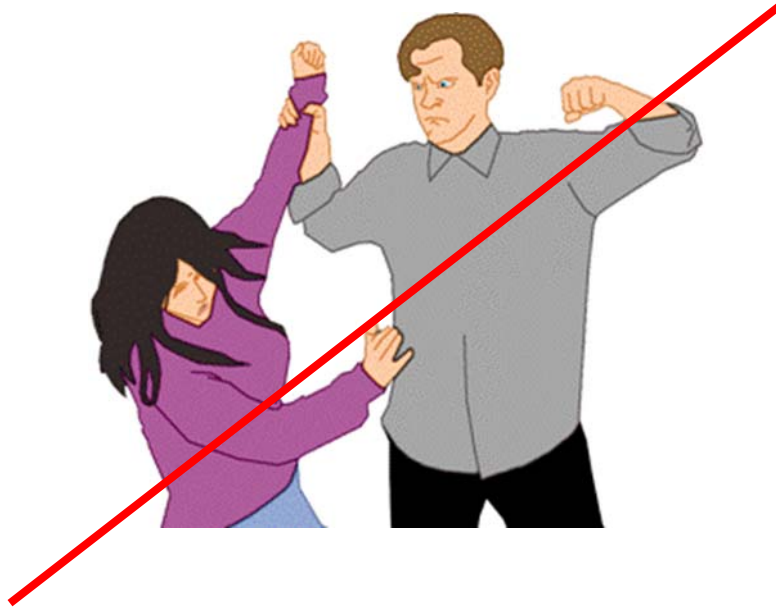
Office of the Public Advocate – Magdalena McGuire

Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria – Vig Geddes, Delanie Woodlock

Cover illustration by Margaret Krajnc

#### Acknowledgements

Thank you to Kim Manley for reading Book 7.



Women with Disabilities  
and Violence.

Easy English.

April 2014.

**You can have this information in different ways.**



*W*omenwithdisabilitiesvictoria  
empowering women

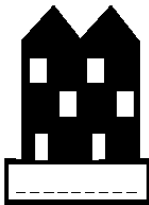
Ask Women with Disabilities Victoria



Phone 9286 7800



Email [wdv@wdv.org.au](mailto:wdv@wdv.org.au)



Address Level 9  
255 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000



This report is about a large project done from 2012 - 2014. The project was done in Victoria.

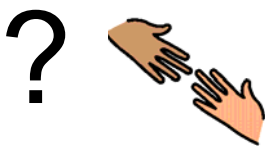


This project was about women with disabilities

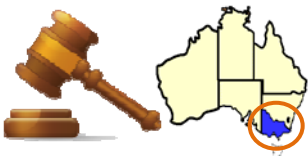
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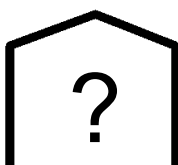
- violence



- how women with disabilities get help



- laws in Victoria



- what help there is now.



## What is in this book?



difficult

monstrous

revolting

Some new words in this book

page 6



About this project

page 12



Who did the project?

page 13

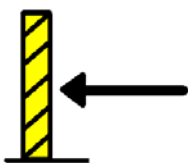


What we found out about

page 14

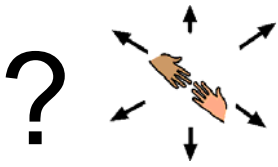
- different sorts of violence

page 20



- what stops women being safe

page 24



What we found out about

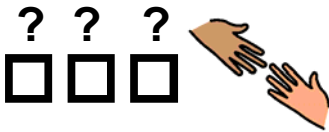
- where to get help

page 26



- about the law

page 28



- what help is good

page 30



- new ideas to think about and do.

page 32.



difficult

monstrous

revolting

## Some new words in this book



### Violence

This word is used many times in this book.

There may be many other words you can use.

Here are some of them.



- cruel, ill treat, nasty, hostile
- force, intense, power, strong, abuse
- aggression, brutal, fighting



- physical attack, hitting you, beating
- sexual attack



- neglect, like, not talk to, leave dirty



- harsh and rude words
- hurt, harm, injure, treat badly, molest.





Violence can be in many different ways.

Here are some examples.



- hurt your feelings
- yell at you. It can be sometimes or all the time.



- saying you are **not** part of a group
- saying you do **not** belong here
- saying you are a bad person



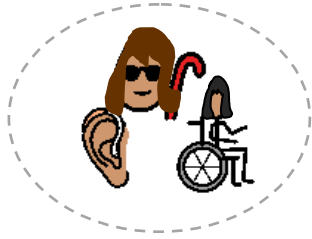
- take your money
- hit you



- sex. like, touching you in private places.

You did **not** want this to happen.

- make you do things you do not want to do.
- Childhood sex abuse. This is touching your private parts when you were young.



## Disability

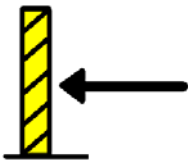
Some people find it hard to do things.



It can be because you are unable to do it, like you

- can **not** see
- can **not** plan things
- can **not** walk
- do **not** talk clearly.

**+** and



There are barriers around you.

A barrier can be

- objects, like stairs,
- what people think you can **not** do
- behaviour, like saying you can **not** get a job.



**Violence against women with disabilities.**



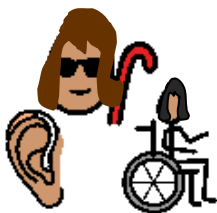
It is **not** right.



Men may abuse you because

- you are a woman

**and**



- you have a disability.



It can be

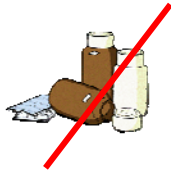
family violence. It is done by someone in your family.



- sex attack, like someone touches your private places.

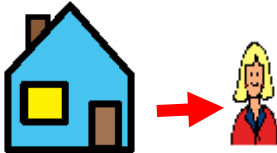
You did not want this to happen.

**and**



- violence because you have a disability. Like, **not** giving you your medicine.

or



- saying you will go into a Home.



For many women with disabilities, more than 1 person

can be violent to you. It may be

- a husband or partner
- a father, brother, or uncle
- support workers
- taxi driver or bus driver.



## About this project



The project is called **Voices Against Violence**.

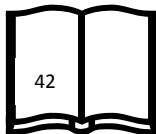
The project has 7 books.



This is book 7.

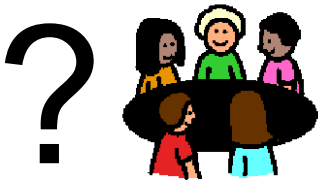
Women with Disabilities and Violence.

Easy English.



You can ask to read any of the books.

Go to page 42 for the list of other books.



# Who did the project?

3 groups worked together on this project.



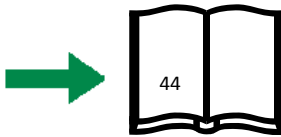
- Women with Disabilities Victoria



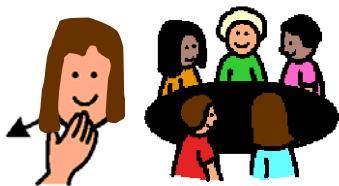
- Office of the Public Advocate



- Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria.



You can read about these groups on page 44.



Lots of people helped on the project.

Thank you to everyone.



The project had money from

- Gandel Philanthropy

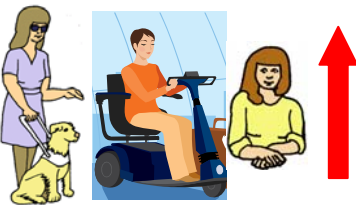


- Legal Services Board.

## What we found out



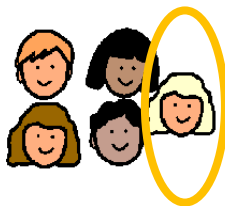
All people with a disability  
do **not** get a fair go.



It is worse for women with disabilities.



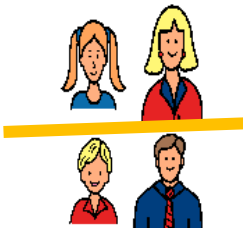
It is worse again for Aboriginal women with disabilities.



In Victoria

1 in 5 people has a disability.

This is 1 million people.

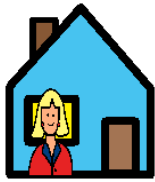


Half the people are women and girls.

So 500,000 women and girls in Victoria  
have a disability.



This project asked about



women who live in their own home



and

women who live in other places, like



- aged care
- hospitals that help you with your mental health



- share houses for people with a disability.

Sometimes this is called a CRU.



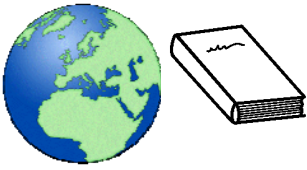
The project also asked about day centres.



In Victoria



There was **no** research about women with disabilities and violence.



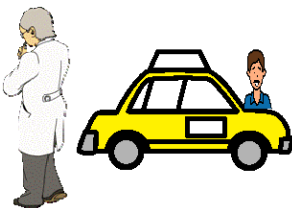
Research around the world says



Women with disabilities are at risk of violence from



- carers
- other support staff



- medical staff, like doctors and nurses
- transport staff, like taxi drivers



- men friends
- men who live in the same house.



It can be some of the same violence as other women.



**But**



There is **more** violence to women with a disability.



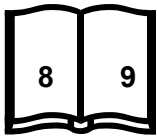
It is violence because you have a disability. Like,

- you do **not** get your medicine
- you do **not** have your wheelchair
- your communication board is always in a cupboard.





## Different sorts of violence



Go back and read pages 8 and 9.

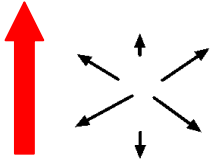


For women with disabilities there is

- **more** family violence, like, someone in your family
  - touches your private parts
  - takes your money away
  - yells at you
  - hits you
  - does **not** let you see your friends.



- **more** sex attacks , like touching you in private parts, even when you say no.

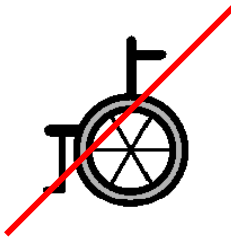


- violence from **many** people, but
  - most of the time it is from men
  - all through your life
  - in different places you live and work.



There is also violence where women live in large places,  
like Kew Cottages.

and



Violence because you have a disability.  
Like, your wheelchair is taken away.



Women who have trouble learning things are  
most at risk.



Violence comes from

- partners or husbands
  - sons
  - fathers, brothers,
  - men carers
- and**
- also men who are strangers.



Read book 2 for more information about what happens to some women with disabilities.



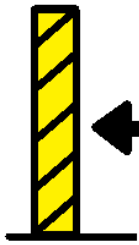
You are at **more** risk because you



- are a woman
- and**
- have a disability.





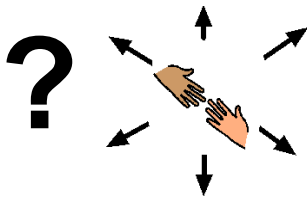


## What stops women being safe

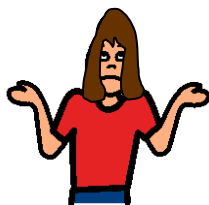
### Women with disabilities



- may be scared to get help



- may **not** know who to ask to help



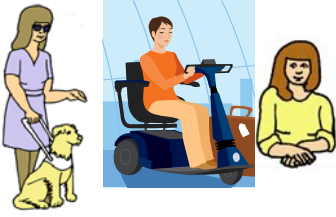
- may **not** know what to do to get help



- may think, what is happening is **not** violence.

Maybe there has always been violence.

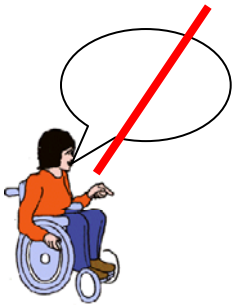
Some women do not know they do **not** have to put up with it.



Women with disabilities are seen as



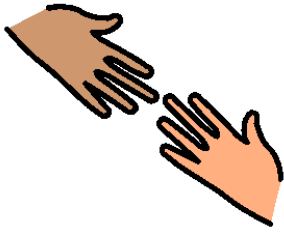
- an easy target by some men



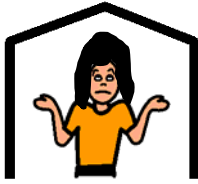
- someone who does **not** speak up
- someone who has **no** voice.



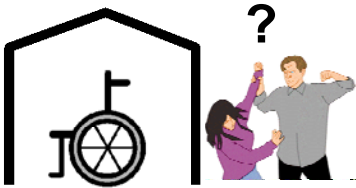
It can be worse for Aboriginal women with a disability.



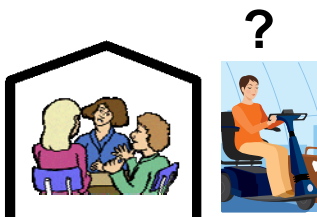
## Access to help



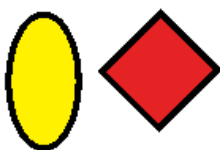
Some services do **not** know what to do.



Some disability services do **not** know how to talk about violence.



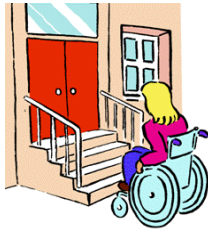
Some help groups do **not** know how to help women with disabilities.



These are the things women said must change.

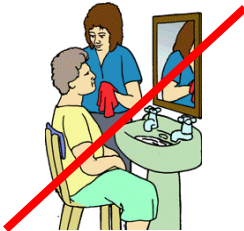


Many Safe Houses have



- **no wheelchair access**

**or**



- **no care staff for women with disabilities.**



It can cost too much money to live in another house.



## About the law

Some women with disabilities said the



- Victoria Police are good.



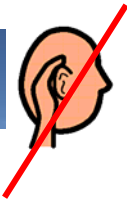
- Victoria Police are **not** good.

Victoria Police are getting better at helping women with disabilities



Go to book 4 and book 5 for more information about the law and the police.





Sometime the police

- do **not** listen to reports of violence from you
- do **not** talk with you.

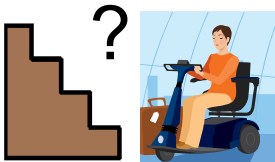


The most at risk group are women who do not talk.



Courts need to plan better.

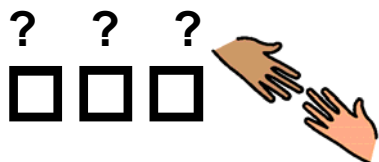
In most courts at the moment



- there are stairs to the witness stand

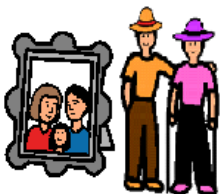


- there is no communication board.

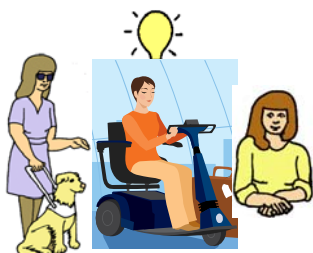


## What help is good

Women with disabilities said



- family and friends are important help



- places who think about the needs of women with disabilities are better.







## New ideas to think about and do

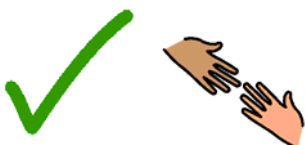
These are the main ideas.

All the books have many more new ideas.

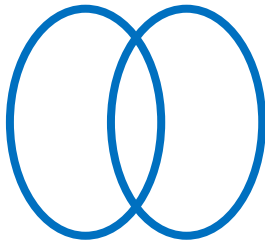


### 1. Listen to women with disabilities.

- a. Have women with disabilities on important committees, Boards, and planning groups.
- b. Keep good programs running, like
  - Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children. The program must think about women with disabilities
  - Gender and Disability Workforce Development Program.



- c. Programs against violence must have clear information about women with disabilities.



## 2. Work together

All parts of government must work together.



Everyone must read these books.



## 3. Training for staff

All workers need training about violence and women with disabilities.

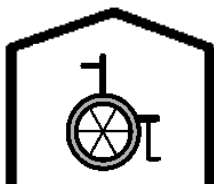
The workers must come from



- government departments



- community organisations



- disability programs.



## 4. Access to courts and police



a. Book 4 has lots of ideas.

The government must read this book.



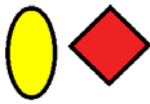
b. The Victoria Police must read the report done in 2013. It is about People with Disabilities Reporting Crime.



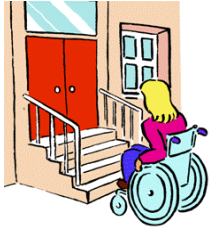
c. The Office of the Public Advocate needs money to help people with disabilities. It will help you in court and also talk to the police.



Office of the Public Advocate



d. Courts must change what they do. Like,



- moving about in the court room must be better.
- There must be a clear way to the witness stand.
- This must be away from the man who you said is violent.



- a communication board, if you need one.



Courts need a person you can call.

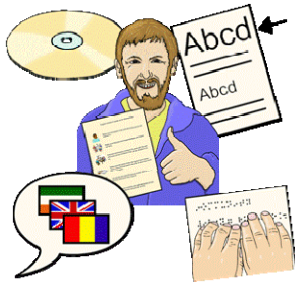
This person will help if

- you are a witness
- or
- or someone has been violent to you.



This person can also work with

- the local community
- other groups that help people with disabilities about violence.



## 5. Access to information



a. Women with disabilities need information about

- safe places to go
- other safety information.



b. Information needs to be written or said in ways we can use. This may be Easy English, large print, or taped information.



c. People in the community need training.

They need to learn about

- what is ok
- and
- what is **not** ok.



d. Help to have groups for women with disabilities.

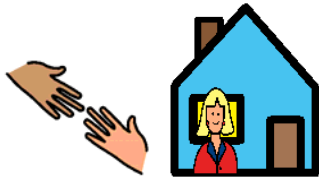


## 6. Access to Emergency Housing

a. The Victorian Government must plan to



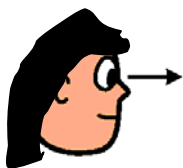
- have emergency houses with access for wheelchairs. These houses are called a Refuge.



- help women with disabilities stay in their own home.



b. Keep good programs going. Like, Making Rights Reality Program.



c. Check women with mental ill-health and chronic ill-health can use the Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response Initiative.



## **7. Get information**

Get more information about women with disabilities and violence.

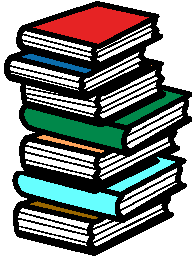


## **8. Research**

Ask questions to help get better services for women with disabilities.







## Voices Against Violence Project.

The project has 7 books



This is book 7.



The other books are

1. Summary Report and Recommendations.



2. Current Issues in Understanding and Responding to Violence against Women with Disabilities.



3. A Review of the Legislative Protections Available to Women with Disabilities who have Experienced Violence in Victoria.



4. A Review of the Office of the Public Advocate's Records on Violence against Women.



5. Interviews with Staff and Volunteers from the Office of the Public Advocate.



6. Raising Our Voices  
Hearing from Women with Disabilities.



Go to page 4 for how to get a copy of these books.



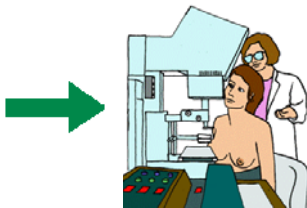
# Who did the project?



## Women with Disabilities, Victoria



A group run by women with disabilities.



Looks at women's problems, like how women

- go to health services



- parenting rights



- violence because we are women.



We work to stop male violence to women with disabilities.

## Office of the Public Advocate



Office of the Public Advocate



It is not part of the Victorian government.



Looks out for the rights of people with disabilities.



Works to stop abuse and neglect of all people with a disability.



Teaches

- everyone to treat each other well
- and
- **not** be violent to women.



## Images in this book

Most of the pictures in this book are from

Inspired Services ClipArt. [www.valuingpeopleclipart.co.uk](http://www.valuingpeopleclipart.co.uk)



Mayer–Johnson said we can use their PCS pictures.

[www.mayerjohnson.com](http://www.mayerjohnson.com)

MicroSoft Clipart [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

The Government said we could use their logo.

This book is based on Book 1



**Access**  
Easy English

Access Easy English wrote the Easy English.

[www.accesseasyenglish.com.au](http://www.accesseasyenglish.com.au) April 2014.

ISBN: 978-0-9924422-5-5

This research is the result of the collaboration between Women with Disabilities Victoria, the Office of the Public Advocate and the Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria. The project was funded by Gandel Philanthropy and a major research grant through the Legal Services Board Grants Program.

