

## Family violence risk factors

### ! Risk factors relevant to adult victim circumstances

- **Physical assault whilst pregnant / following new birth\***
- Self-assessed level of risk #
- **Planning to leave or recent separation\***
- **Escalation - increase in severity and/or frequency of violence\***
- Imminence #
- Financial abuse/difficulties (other factors)

### ! Risk factors specific for children caused by perpetrator behaviours

- Exposure to family violence #
- Sexualised behaviours towards a child by the perpetrator #
- Child intervention in violence #
- Behaviour indicating non-return of child #
- Undermining the child-parent relationship #
- Professional and statutory intervention #

### ! Risk factors specific to children's circumstances

- History of professional and/or statutory intervention #
- Change in behaviour not explained by other causes #
- Child is a victim in other forms of harm #

### ! Risk factors for adult or child victims caused by perpetrator behaviours

- **Controlling behaviours\***
- **Access to weapons\***
- **Use of weapon in most recent event\***
- Has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or other family members
- **Has ever tried to strangle or choke the victim\***
- **Has ever threatened to kill victim\***
- **Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill pets or other animals\***
- **Has ever threatened or tried to self-harm or commit suicide\***
- **Stalking of victim\***
- **Sexual assault of victim\***
- Previous or current breach of court orders/Intervention Order
- History of family violence #
- History of violent behaviour (not family violence)
- **Obsession / jealous behaviour towards victim\***
- **Unemployed\*** / Disengaged from education
- **Drug and/or alcohol misuse/abuse\***
- Mental illness / Depression
- Isolation
- Physical harm #
- Emotional abuse #
- Property damage #

**Note: bold text and \*** denote increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed. Factors that are emerging as evidence-informed family violence risk factors are indicated with a hash (#). Risk assessment tools are designed from these evidence-based indicators, using structured professional judgement to determine seriousness of presenting risk.

## Nuances of risk for diverse communities

### Aboriginal people

- Controlling behaviours (deprived of access to language, community events, sorry business, travel to Country)
- Ongoing impact on colonisation, systematic racism and fear of Child Protection intervention
- Isolation (fear of losing connection to community)

### Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

- Controlling behaviours (visa/immigration status)
- Threat of physical harm (threat of 'honour killing')
- Isolation (restricted from contacting family or community overseas, dependence on perpetrator due to employment status / financial status, fear of community reactions)

### LGBTIQ people

- Physical harm (restricting access to medication/ hormones)
- Emotional abuse (denying affirmed identity, or threatening to 'out' identity or HIV status)
- Controlling behaviour (restricting caring responsibility for child, restricting access to medication/ hormones)

### People with a disability

- Isolation (reliance on perpetrator for care, perpetrator tactics targeting their disability, social isolation, withholding mobility or communication aids)
- Controlling behaviour (blocking access to therapy, withholding food, over medicating)

### People living in rural / isolated

- Isolation (mobile reception, lack of access to transport, lack of access to police/ emergency services, perpetrator connections in local community)
- Access to weapons (perpetrator access to firearms)

### Older people

- Controlling behaviours (Dependence on perpetrator for care and daily living, neglect, and abuse, withholding access to medications)
- Isolation (social and physical isolation)
- Financial abuse (forced to downsize home, financially dependent on perpetrator)