

ENABLERS

for women and children getting their needs meet



Women and children being able to maintain their own support networks during their stay (including family).

An empathic and skilled workforce.

A service where women and children are not just treated as cases but as individuals with different needs and experiences to consider.

Structure and rules within refuges can be useful for women e.g. if they have just arrived and are at risk of returning to the perpetrator.

When women and children feel safe and cared for.

Positive relationships formed between women and children and staff are impactful experiences and can even be a valuable source of support post refuge.

Women being able to access services through increased knowledge of services, strong referral pathways and partnerships.

The type of activities and programs for both women and children should strengthen, rather than diminish, their connection to culture.

Services that create the space for women and children to develop self determination, recover, and build a sense of independence.

A refuge recognising that family structures can look and feel very different within the same and different cultures.

Women and children receiving continued support from a refuge post-stay (e.g. counselling provided through refuge), support enrolling into higher education, accessing donated goods such as furniture and clothing.

Women and children receiving financial support (for legal advice, counselling, home security, and other services).

Refuges being understanding. Women and children feel heard, believed, and not judged.

Support with developing skills as a parent in a trauma-informed way and child care.

BARRIERS

for women and children getting their needs meet



A lack of clarity about the role of males in refuges.

Current refuges don't always create a cooperative and comfortable environment. E.g some women fear other women in the accommodation due to trauma.

A lack of practical arrangements in refuges can cause more problems for clients (e.g. a lack of transport).

A lack of cultural security e.g there being no suitable culturally specific services available and a lack of customised advice for different cultural backgrounds.

A lack of support for women and children post-refuge results in some recoveries being unsustainable and puts stress and pressure on clients during their stay.

Inability for women and children to access suitable services due to a lack of certain services and the low capacity of services. Cost is a factor whether you're running a service or accessing it.

Gaps in service and activity offerings for children (e.g. boys, 'tween' age).

Women and children having a lack of knowledge as to where to access services.

Judgment coming from different places (e.g. community and staff perceptions) affects whether women and children engage with a service and how they experience it.

A lack of options for housing post-refuge, and a lack of support to attain suitable housing for women and children during their stay.

Perpetrator behaviour e.g lying to police and courts, intimidating and threatening the victim financially and legally.

When being heard does not translate to being understood. E.g. the lack of understanding about FDV in services (such as courts and police) resulting in a lack of empathy, urgency and support in these systems.

Children being seen as an extension of their mother, not as an individual.

For non-residents - language and immigration status (including inability to access social security, payments, housing, etc.)

Staff absence or apathy.

Continuation of control mechanisms through rules and the way that they are enforced.