The Community Services’ NSW Domestic Violence (DV) Line provides a 24 hour, 7 day a week telephone service offering immediate and short term crisis counselling, support, referral, and specialist advice to women and children seeking to escape from situations of intimate partner/ex-partner violence. The service acts as a single referral point providing information on approximately 2,500 different support services available state-wide, including crisis accommodation.

The DV Line receives calls from clients, their family, friends and advocates, members of the community, other service providers and agencies requesting specialist assistance related to a range of intimidating and controlling behaviours by those perpetrating the violence. Behaviours can be physical; emotional; psychological; sexual; verbal; social (imposing isolation); financial (controlling money/access to it); spiritual (preventing/belittling spiritual practice); harassment and stalking. Clients often experience a range of these behaviours simultaneously, which creates a form of systematic abuse to control and coerce the victim.

Over many decades research literature has shown domestic violence to be a gendered crime, with women being the overwhelming majority of victims. In more recent times it has also identified that living with domestic violence can have a profound impact upon children, young people, and even unborn children.

Anyone who is experiencing or knows someone experiencing domestic violence can contact the NSW Domestic Violence Line on 1800 65 64 63 for help or visit www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au.