



Mary's House Services is a not-for-profit organisation, funded by the community, that supports women and their children to escape and recover from domestic and family violence.

maryshouse.org.au



About us

Established in 2015 and launched in 2016 on the lower north shore of Sydney, services are available to women of all faiths and cultures from anywhere in Australia.

The team of professional social workers provide access to housing and refuge services, referrals for expert advice, and trauma-informed support services to empower women to recover from abusive relationships and achieve their goals.

Mary's House Services is also committed to raising awareness about domestic and family violence, promoting education about the dynamics of abusive relationships, and advocating for societal change in a bid to create a safer and more compassionate community for everyone.



Mary's House Refuge

Mary's House Refuge provides a temporary home for women and their children. It offers safety, shelter, and immediate critical care essentials such as food and clothing. An operations team – including qualified case workers – are on hand to help women get back on their feet and rebuild their lives.



Daisy Centre

Mary's House Services also provides services to women in the community through its Daisy Centre, the starting point of often a journey for clients who are trying to escape or recover from abusive relationships. A team of qualified staff provide expert and practical guidance such as access to financial and legal advice, safety planning and emotional support via counselling and therapeutic classes. The Centre has helped more than 500 women and their children since opening its doors in 2020.

Our impact

The refuge has accommodated 40+ women since established.

52% of them with families.



Last financial year



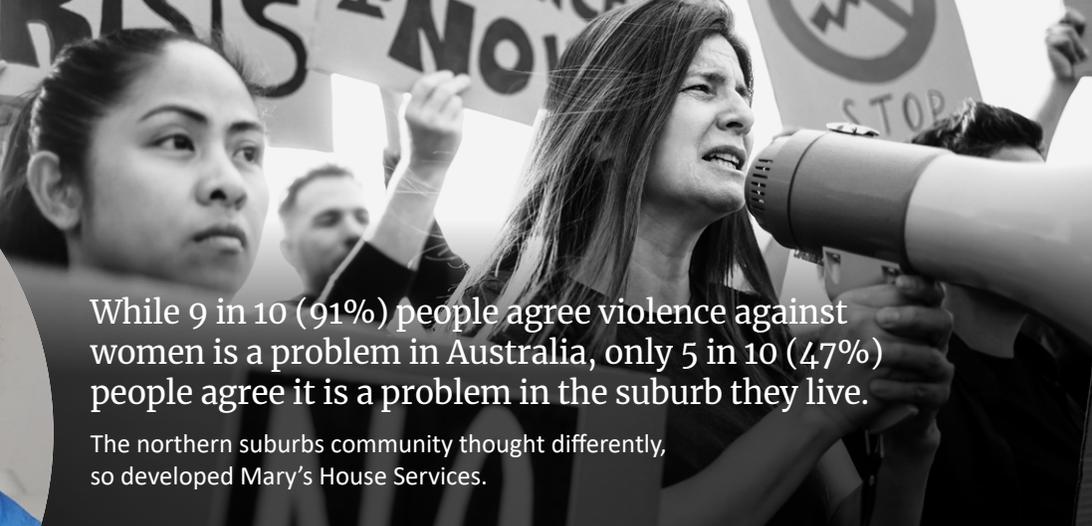
During this period, reasons for declining refuge referrals were:

- 65% no vacancy
- 8% no casework capacity
- 27% for a mix of reasons (unmanaged health matters/suicide ideation/not covid vaccinated not a DFV issue)**

* The housing crisis will make this number even harder to manage.

** Mary's House Services refers women to other specialist services if we have no capacity to assist

Together, we can build hope and save lives.



While 9 in 10 (91%) people agree violence against women is a problem in Australia, only 5 in 10 (47%) people agree it is a problem in the suburb they live.

The northern suburbs community thought differently, so developed Mary's House Services.

Last two financial years Mary's House Services has provided

90+

women with **specialist social worker support services**

440

women have been accepted into our evidence based **therapeutic and wellbeing programs**

Appointment numbers for specialised **legal/financial and counselling services** are up by **30%**

43%

of our clients had **serious safety risks** associated with their circumstances

42%

of our clients **experienced sexually coercive behaviour or a sexual assault**

Specialist social worker support may start prior to entering the Mary's House Refuge or when registering with the outreach centre and continue for undefined periods of time

Staff made

16 child protection reports

in 12 months about children who were at significant risk from witnessing mothers' assault

Source (MHS DVSA).

Just some of the facts

National domestic violence services report

20,000 calls per day to helplines

First Nations women bear a higher burden of homelessness, with **10.9%** attributed to their experience of trauma

Violence against women is a significant **risk factor for disease burden** particularly among women **aged 18–44**

Intimate partner homicide is the most common type of homicide in Australia

90% of women's violence experiences were by a **person known to them**

Domestic and family violence **contributes significantly to homelessness** among women

1 in 3 Australian women has experienced **physical violence since age 15** totaling over 3 million women (30.8%)

44% of women who experience violence experienced more than one form of **monitoring/stalking behaviour**

Of women who experience violence, **36%** had **tracking software or apps installed** on their phones or other devices

1 in 3 **murders/attempted murders** are related to domestic and family violence (36%)

Disturbingly, **2 in 5** **women with disabilities** have experienced sexual violence after age 15

North Sydney to Hornsby, Northern Beaches to Ryde

APR 21 – MAR 22

1,061

DFV related assaults*

APR 22 – MAR 23

1,154

DFV related assaults*

* Excludes sexual assaults : Source: BOCSAR June 14, 2023.

NSW Police report

400–500

calls a day related to DFV

Mary's House Services at a glance

- Located on Sydney's lower north shore
- Developed by the community
- A unique service in the area
- For women and children of all faiths and cultures, from anywhere in Australia
- Providing refuge and professional support services
- Providing critical care and ongoing assistance
- Not-for-profit
- Community funded
- Minimal (1%) government funding
- Not government regulated

Mary's House Services needs your support.

It relies on donations from the community, with less than 1% of funding coming from government.

Find out
more



maryshouse.org.au

Together, we can build hope and save lives.