

Domestic abuse – what we need to know

What is the victim's/abuser's understanding of domestic abuse	
Evidence of domestic abuse victim's/abuser's response	
When was the first incident	
When was the last incident	
The nature of any domestic abuse (physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, financial, stalking and harassment. Also consider whether there are coercive and/or controlling behaviours present)	
The nature of any threats including threats to kill	
If physical abuse – any injuries and whether medical attention sought	
Duration and frequency of the incidents	
Police intervention	
Continuing fear of further abuse	
Use of contact to perpetrate domestic abuse	

Breaches of court orders	
Impact on victim	
Children	
Have children witnessed domestic abuse	
Nature, frequency and duration of the incidents witnessed by the children	
Have children been at home or in the vicinity when incidents have occurred	
Have the children been caught up in incidents / injured	
Children also subject to threats	
Impact on the children: emotional and behavioural	
Children subject to abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect	
Vulnerability of the children: age, any disabilities	
Understanding of impact on the children and actions taken to protect them	
Availability of other supportive adults	

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Child's relationship with each parent.	
Potential Vulnerabilities	
Victim's / abuser's mental health needs, including suicidal behaviour / ideation	
Victim's / abuser's substance misuse	
Victim's / abuser's learning or physical disabilities	
Victim / abuser isolated / limited support network	
Victim/ abuser has not accessed support services / resistance to such	
Victim has experienced domestic abuse in previous relationships	
Abuser has been violent in previous relationships	
Victim's / abuser's experience of childhood abuse	
Recent life event stressors: unemployment, financial problems, illness, loss	

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