

Responding to Disclosures of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) of Older Women and Women with Disability

If an older woman or woman with disability you are supporting tells you that they are experiencing DFSV:



It is important that you feel confident about how to respond.



Don't interrupt them.



Make sure you take time to listen properly.



Try not to make them repeat information they've already shared. This might make them feel not believed or could lead them to change their response.



Allow the older woman or woman with disability to tell you what has happened/ is happening.



When listening, avoid asking leading questions. If asking questions, try to use open-ended questions.



Show that you believe what they are saying to you.



Affirm that they have done the right thing in disclosing their experience.

Don't ask	Ask like this
Did this happen yesterday?	Which day did this happen?
Did this happen in the kitchen?	Where were you when this happened?
Was it Jack who did this to you?	Who did this to you?

Asking leading questions can negatively impact the options for responding to DFSV. For example, leading questions could potentially damage a police investigation.



For more information and resources on identifying and responding to DFSV of older women and women with disability, visit adc.nsw.gov.au

Any concerns about the immediate safety of an older woman or woman with disability should be reported to **emergency services (000)**.

This project is proudly supported by the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner.