



Patricia
Giles
CENTRE



Safe at Home

Patricia Giles Centre is committed to ending family and domestic violence in our community. For over 30 years we have been providing a range of services for women and children experiencing and escaping family violence and abuse. We help them find safety, security and stability. We support and empower them to get mentally and physically well so they can get their lives back on track. And we educate and collaborate – always working towards a future free from family and domestic violence.

Safe at Home

The **Safe at Home** program concentrates on assisting women and children affected by family and domestic violence to remain safely in their home. By offering a holistic and client-centred service we provide a range of practical supports and regular assistance to enable women to build a safe life for their family.

The issue

Many women and children flee their own homes to escape violence. In addition to the mental and physical distress caused, this results in disconnection from family, friends and community supports and financial hardship being compounded. It also ultimately serves to further punish the victim.

Sometimes the only way women and children can be safe is in a refuge. In other circumstances a better option might be for them to remain in their home while the violent perpetrator leaves.

The stark reality is, irrespective of the option chosen, many perpetrators may still target their families causing women and children to be in a constant state of fear, often for many years.

Our solution

Our solution is to provide a range of practical and emotional supports to keep women and children safe in their own home. By providing assistance over 12 to 18 months we can build a safe, trustworthy and collaborative relationship with our clients. Our resilience program aimed at empowering women, also supports women to remain in their own home.

Following the first referral we provide a risk assessment in their home and develop a personalised in-depth safety plan. We then assist them to implement that plan. Safety plans can include measures such as identifying safe areas within the home, safe escape routes, and safe places to go outside their home. We also assist clients to inform neighbours, schools, family and friends so they are alert to any issues.

A large factor in safety planning is assessing and improving the physical security of the home. Our support can include:

- engaging a locksmith to change and upgrade locks, deadbolts and patio bolts,
- upgrading security screens,
- installing security lighting, and
- providing security cameras and the technology to monitor them.



Natalie's story

Natalie (not her real name) had survived a physically and emotionally abusive relationship. She and her four children had moved out of the family home, however her ex-husband discovered her address by placing a tracker on her car, and continued to stalk and harass the family. Both Natalie and her 16 year old daughter had applied for, and been granted an interim VRO. Her ex-husband contested the VRO and as he had a pattern of violent behaviour, was an old-hand at the justice system. He dragged proceedings out as long as possible increasing her sense of vulnerability. His behaviour escalated and Natalie lived in constant fear.

Natalie was referred to our **Safe at Home** program. After meeting her and hearing her story we developed an individualised safety plan, helping her put it into place. This plan included ensuring Natalie's mobile phone was fully charged and within reach, keeping all windows and doors locked, informing trustworthy neighbours of the situation, informing the school, advocating for the police to provide a duress alarm, and funding the installation of security cameras.

By working with Natalie we encouraged her to believe in her own strategies, strengths and coping mechanisms. She became more confident and began to independently deal with issues as they arose. And importantly, the security measures we put in place kept Natalie and her family safe at home.

You can help

The need is constantly growing as more women find out about **Safe at Home** and we are asking for your support.

The cost of us providing **Safe at Home** support for one family is \$5,850. Video cameras add another \$900.

We have a fundraising target of \$25,000 for our **Safe at Home** program. The more we raise, the more women and children we can help.

Your donation to Patricia Giles Centre's **Safe at Home** program has an immediate and direct affect for women and children targeted by a violent perpetrator. By providing funds used to cover the costs of providing safety support and purchase essential security equipment and systems you are helping to keep them safe in their own homes.

Our services

Patricia Giles Centre offers a suite of services to assist women and children affected by family and domestic violence including:

- safe crisis accommodation
- housing support
- women's and children's counselling
- group programs
- advocacy, resources and support

To make real difference in the lives of woman and children affected by family and domestic violence we offer a range of programs you can donate to.

- Safe at Home
- Empowerment Program
- Circle of Security
- New Start Kits

Contact us

Please contact us to see how you can help.

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