



How Your Company Can Help Women and Children Live Free from Family Violence

How your company can make a difference

safe steps Family Violence Response Centre is always seeking partnerships with corporate, business and community groups to help support our vital work to support women and children experiencing family violence.

There are many opportunities for your organisation to get involved and assist **safe steps**.

safe steps' corporate partnership program establishes both short and long term collaborative partnerships with organisations who want to support our work to prevent - and one day, eliminate - violence against women and their children. Corporate partnerships can be tailor-made to suit your social responsibility needs and to ensure the most productive partnership possible.

About safe steps

From grassroots beginnings over 40 years ago, **safe steps** Family Violence Response Centre has grown to become **the leading first response service in Victoria** for women and their children experiencing family violence.

Today, **safe steps** Family Violence Response Centre provides 24/7 expert intervention, support, advocacy and referral pathways to women and children throughout Victoria to ensure that those at highest risk receive an immediate family violence response to keep them from harm.

safe steps supports women and children at the highest risk in our community. We are the service that all other services refer to when they have reached capacity, or the risk is too high or the needs too complex. We do not turn any women at risk away.

safe steps responds to women and children at risk by:

- Providing a specialist family violence response 24/7 including public holidays and weekends when other services are closed
- Providing comprehensive risk assessment carried out by skilled, specialist practitioners
- Assisting women to develop a safety plan
- Referring and linking women and children to support options in their community, including specialist family violence services and generalist supports
- Providing safe emergency accommodation
- Supporting women into refuge or other accommodation options.



Why partner with safe steps

- By supporting **safe steps**, your organisation is supporting social change to prevent and eliminate violence against women.
- **safe steps** will work with you to design an individual program that fulfils your organisational needs, matches your values and produces the outcomes you want.
- **safe steps** has serviced the community for over 40 years and is a respected and trusted organisation.
- Our communications and fundraising team will work closely with you to develop and grow a strong, long-term relationship.
- **safe steps** has a national reach.

safe steps is the only Victorian family violence state-wide service that is available to help women and children 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Some important facts about the work of safe steps

Both the incidence and severity of violence against women and children is getting worse than it has ever been recorded before. In 2016, it was reported that nearly two women a week were murdered due to family violence.

- **safe steps** provides over 29,000 emergency accommodation beds each year to women and children who need assistance to escape immediate risk of serious injury or death. Women and children accommodated by our service are those who require high security accommodation in an undisclosed location.
- On any given day, **safe steps** receives over 170 calls from women seeking help. Last financial year, we received over 91,000 calls for assistance. This is a 46 per cent increase on the 15/16 financial year.
- More than 80 per cent of women contacting **safe steps** have experienced more than one of the risk indicators resulting in likely serious injury or death; including threats to kill, strangulation, sexual assault, threats with a weapon and stalking.
- 16% more women and children were supported by **safe steps** in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16
- **safe steps** was able to help more women than ever before - assisting 9,071 women plus their children with information, emergency accommodation or other supports
- In peak times, **safe steps** responds to a call for assistance, from women at risk every three minutes.



- Over 50 per cent of people placed in safe accommodation by **safe steps** are children.
- **safe steps** is the first point of call for women and children experiencing family violence, as well as the entry point for all Victorian women's refuge accommodation.
- **safe steps** responds to crisis referrals from the Victoria Police where a woman requires an immediate intervention within the metropolitan area.

A few ideas to get you started

Book a speaker

Looking for a speaker? We'd love to talk to your workplace, group, conference, seminar or workshop on the impact of family violence on individuals, families, community and the economy.

Topics include:

- What is family violence?
- What is gender equality?
- How to recognise family violence?
- What to do if someone you know may be living with a violent partner
- Impact of family violence on individuals, children, families, workplace and the community
- What to do if someone you know may be living with a violent partner
- Respectful relationships
- Personal experience of family violence
- How you can help **safe steps**

Whether delivering a presentation to a high level conference or to a small community, our speakers are trained to give informative, evidence based talks suitable for any target audience. We can tailor a presentation to meet the needs of your group.

Please note workplace professional development is also available.



Casual day

Casual Days – where staff donate a gold coin to wear casual dress to work – are an easy way to raise funds to help women and children experiencing family violence. Simply put on your jeans (or whatever your theme is) and you are helping people in need.

Cost offset

You can help **safe steps** Family Violence Response Centre meet some of its day-to-day running and promotional costs. Perhaps you can negotiate the extension of a service your company uses to include **safe steps**? Or use your purchasing power to reduce the cost of a particular good or service to the **safe steps**. Any assistance is always appreciated.

There are a range of overheads you can help us with, including: -

- Mailing costs
- Printing and design
- Stationery
- telephone costs
- taxi vouchers

Donations and gifts

Your company may like to make a gift to a specific **safe steps** project or program you or your staff have a particular interest in. **safe steps** can provide you with all the information you require to make a decision about what your company would like to support. We can arrange a visit by one of our workers to talk to your staff about issues regarding family violence and what **safe steps** is doing to make a difference in the community. All gifts of \$2 and over are fully tax deductible.

Fundraising

Your company or group can hold its own **safe steps** fundraising activity. We can work with you to decide on an area that is meaningful to your staff and help you plan for a successful event.

Some possible ideas include: -

- Casual clothes day



- Chocolate or lolly drive
- A Friday sausage sizzle or BBQ
- Afternoon or morning teas
- Swear jars
- Late for meetings penalty jar
- Raffles
- Footy tipping competition
- Spare change money in a money box
- Guessing games (Snakes in a jar count etc).

Please contact us for some creative brainstorming for a fundraising activity that is meaningful to your staff.

Gifts-in-kind

safe steps regularly needs Gifts-in-Kind support. That is, donations of items such as basic mobile telephones, sim cards, gift cards, (For a list of our current needs, please check our website). Similarly, donating items for a **safe steps** event raffle/auction to help raise funds is another way your organisation can assist. Eg, Holidays, Gift Vouchers, Electrical goods.

Hosting corporate fundraising events

Perhaps your company could sponsor and host a Networking/Fundraising event inviting your customers, clients, suppliers...even competitors, with proceeds going to help women and children through **safe steps**.

Events you could consider hosting: -

- Conferences
- Corporate dinners or luncheons
- Trivia or film nights
- Sporting events such as golf days
- Product launches
- PR events



Mail outs

We strive to stay in regular contact with our supporters and to educate people about family violence issues and **safe steps** programs. Unfortunately this can prove costly and we are limited in what we can do. You can help in many ways.

- Sponsor a **safe steps** appeal mail-out
- Include a **safe steps** brochure in your company mail outs to clients, customers or suppliers.
- Have a **safe steps** brochure designed or printed by your company's suppliers

Sponsorship

Your company can sponsor **safe steps** events, fundraising appeals and campaigns. With the gift of sponsorship, you can help us reach thousands more people around Victoria, as well as promote your own company through naming rights and promotional opportunities.

Spread the word

Like most not for profit organisations, **safe steps** uses social media to engage with the community and share our news and views in our campaign to keep women and children safe from violence. You can help us spread the word that violence of any type is totally unacceptable and is not okay in our community. So join us in taking a stand against family violence.

- Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/safestepsFV
- Follow us on Twitter - [@safestepsFV](https://twitter.com/safestepsFV)
- Follow our CEO, Annette Gillespie on Twitter - [@safestepsCEO](https://twitter.com/safestepsCEO)
- Connect via LinkedIn - www.linkedin.com/company/safe-steps-family-violence-response-centre
- Capture and share via Instagram – [Instagram.com/safestepsFV](https://www.instagram.com/safestepsFV)

Volunteering

Volunteering opportunities will vary throughout the year depending on what activities are planned and what our needs are at the time.

Examples of opportunities include:

- Administration



- Fundraising Events
- Community Events
- Research
- Driving and Delivering
- Archiving and Records Management

Walkers

From time to time we require people to distribute flyers and other printed material to letterboxes around Melbourne. It's a great team-building exercise in more ways than one - your staff can keep fit and help out at the same time.

Word of mouth

At **safe steps**, we spend very little to no money on advertising and marketing, so spreading the word about the work people like you make possible through our services and programs, helps a great deal. By introducing the work of **safe steps** to your contacts, or by including information about **safe steps** and providing links to the **safe steps** website on your company internet/intranet site, you help us help more people in need. Not only that but you also highlight your company's responsible corporate citizenship role.

Workplace giving programs

You don't need to wait until the end of the financial year to save tax. **safe steps** can help you save tax immediately by helping you set up a Workplace Giving Program in your workplace. This program offers employees the opportunity to automatically deduct donations to **safe steps** from their pre-tax pay. The benefits to staff are immediate as you don't need to wait until the end of the financial year to claim your deduction.

For more information, please contact:

Kristine Robertson, Manager Marketing, Fundraising & Communications
Phone: 03 9928 9613 Email: fundraising@safesteps.org.au

