

1. Acknowledge God's power

Loving and Just God,

As we enter May – Australia's Domestic Violence Prevention Month, we feel heavy and deeply saddened. We lament the deaths of so many women already to Domestic Violence in our nation this year. So, we come before you now with prayers of intercession.

We know, above all else, you are all-powerful. As it says in Psalm 24:

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all who live in it."

Remind us when we feel disheartened that you are the creator of our world and are not absent from it but all-powerful in it.

2. Pray for God's kingdom to come

Lord, we know the prevalence of domestic abuse in our country is not as you would have it, so we pray:

**"Your Kingdom Come,
Your Will be done,
On earth as in heaven"**

3. Pray for individuals and communities

Now, we pray for the individuals, families and communities who are impacted by domestic and gender-based violence – we cry out together for relief and justice.

For those experiencing Domestic Violence

Firstly, we bring to you those currently experiencing domestic violence and abuse in its many forms.

We ask that you provide a refuge to those needing safety. Provide people, communities and organisations that can give assistance and freedom. Protect them and bring them to a home that is safe.

Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and abuse.

God, we know that Domestic abuse deeply alters one ability to see things clearly and to trust; it strips us of our dignity, autonomy, and self. Would you enable those experiencing this horror to trust those who can help them and discern their safest way forward.

For those who have escaped DV:

Gracious God, we bring before you all people who have escaped Domestic violence; we know that the scars and trauma are carried with them. Comfort them and send healing for physical, spiritual, mental and financial wounds.

Good Shepherd, we know that you leave none behind; equip and guide them with courage as they rebuild their lives.

For Impacted Children:

Secondly, Lord, we bring before you the Children and the teens who experience Domestic violence either perpetuated against them or someone in their homes.

We pray for Christ's transformation in their homes so that they may find places of love and protection.

Give these children a village of support and the courage to speak up and know they are not alone.

Christ, we know that it's not always possible for children to remain with their parents; we pray for all the kids and teens living in one of the out-of-home care options in this country.

May your Spirit be their comfort and advocate. We ask that these teens and children experience places without adult worries and concerns – the freedom to be young and playful.

For families and communities:

God, you created us for relationship and interconnectedness, so we pray finally for the many families and communities that are affected by the ripples of domestic violence.

We ask for your Spirit to lead those supporting a loved one through domestic abuse - guide them in gentleness and understanding. Give them the wisdom to offer support and safety in appropriate ways.

May your profound comfort come upon those who have lost a loved one to Domestic violence as they endeavour to continue without their beloved.

Prince of peace, some individuals and families must come to terms with one of their loved ones being the perpetrator of Domestic violence; gift to them wisdom and peace in knowing how to navigate that relationship while upholding your justice.

4. Pray for those in power and places of support:

Jesus, we know in this heartbreaking situation, there are those in power who can bring profound change.

Holy Spirit, protect and encourage our leaders to be unafraid in the face of great challenges - may they understand and be spurred to action by the tragedy of Domestic abuse that is currently plaguing our nation.

Embolden them to allocate funding, develop policies, and implement preventative measures that end domestic and gender-based violence in Australia.

We pray that our government would advocate for equal opportunities and safety for women in word and action.

And, in our own small spheres, God, may we be the leaders and advocates we seek.

We uphold the many people and organisations across Australia who are on the ground supporting those affected by DV; we know that it's a role that brings much stress, worry and hardship – offer to them your mercy, rest, and resources.

5. Pray for the church to continue to bring hope

Finally, God, we pray for your church in Australia to be known as a people of Hope – Let us continue to be light bearers and hope bringers to our country

We repent of the ways we have given into the darkness and perpetuated ideologies that have protected abusers and left behind those most in need of our support.

Transform us now, guide us to be communities that champion and display respectful relationships and healthy Christ-like masculinity.

Let us shine Your redeeming hope into this place of injustice. Let us proclaim in word and action that you have come to bring justice to those who experience domestic abuse and make all things new.

Help us work together across individual churches, unions, dioceses, and bodies to be united in your calling. Remind us of and convict to be one body a light unto the world.

We bring all these things to you in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ
Who lived, died, and rose again that we might know You.
Amen