

Victims Services NSW Department of Justice



Central Referral Point

Data Report 2017-18



Note: Data for this annual report was extracted from the CRP throughout 2017/18. The CRP is a live data collection platform and NSW Police Force (NSWPF) and other agencies continue to make contributions throughout the reporting period. Data is subject to change due to deletion and back-dating of referrals by NSWPF, ongoing data corrections/modifications by users, as well as the timing of extraction.

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Safer Pathway

Safer Pathway is a key element of the Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Blueprint for Reform (the Blueprint). Safer Pathway commenced in September 2014, and will operate state-wide by the end of 2018. Safer Pathway aims to provide a consistent, coordinated and collaborative, cross-agency response to all victims of domestic and family violence in NSW.

Domestic violence is an act of violence between persons in a domestic relationship as defined in the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Violence Act 2007*. Domestic relationships can include intimate relationships and family relationships.

A domestic relationship includes:

- married and de facto couples
- boyfriends and girlfriends
- LGBTI couples
- long term residents in the same residential facility
- carers
- relatives
- for Aboriginal people, extended family or kin

Domestic violence is complex and can include:

- physical abuse
- intimidation
- stalking
- sexual assault
- verbal abuse and/or threats
- psychological abuse
- threats to harm others, and/or causing harm to pets
- threats to damage property or actually damaging property
- financial deprivation and social isolation
- coercive control

This data report provides a snap shot of the Safer Pathway program in 2017/2018, using data extracted from the Central Referral Point (CRP).

Safer Pathway consists of a number of tools and services aimed at providing streamlined, consistent support to those impacted by domestic and family violence, including:

- the Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT)
- the CRP
- Local Coordination Points (LCP)
- Safety Action Meetings (SAM), and
- Information Sharing provisions under Part 13a of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007*.

Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS) host LCPs across NSW for female victims, and five NGOs, known as Local Support Services (LSS), host LCPs across NSW for male victims.

LCPs are being progressively rolled out across the state. As at March 2018, LCPs and associated SAMs are fully operational in 43 Safer Pathway sites. Refer to Appendix 1 for a list of SAM sites as they became operational. By late 2018, the roll out of Safer Pathway will be complete. If a LCP is not yet operational in a particular area, victims are referred to their local LCP.

Central Referral Point referrals 2017-2018

Background

A referral in the context of Safer Pathway refers to an individual incident of domestic and family violence. The majority of referrals come from the NSW Police Force.

Police are required to complete a DVSAT with the victim of every DFV incident reported to them. Based on the DVSAT, a victim can be assessed as either 'at threat' or 'at serious threat'.

Police are required to enter the completed DVSAT and key information about each victim, including name, address and contact details, into the police computer system, Web-COPS. Web-COPS then sends the information to the CRP, which sends a referral for each victim to the nearest specialist DFV service.

A very small number of referrals come from local court registrars. These referrals are made when a DFV victim makes a private application for an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) at a local court in NSW.

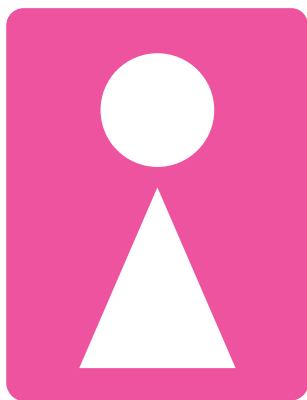
The CRP is an online referral platform managed by Victims Services, Department of Justice.

The CRP receives referrals for people who have experienced an incident of DFV, and sends these referrals to the specialist DFV service closest to where each victim lives. The aim of the CRP is to connect DFV victims with specialist services in a timely manner.

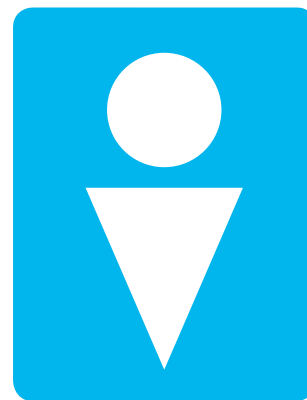
In the CRP 'referrer risk rating' means the level of threat to a victim's safety identified by police or local court registrars.

DFV CRP referrals in 2017/2018 = 131,465

- Total female referrals: 93,765
- Total male referrals: 37,700



Female referrals:
71.32%



Male referrals:
28.68%

The number of referrals to the CRP from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2018 (n=131,465) is similar to the number of referrals received 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2017 (n=132,070).

All CRP referrals from 15 September 2014¹ to 30 June 2018 = 397,175

- Total female referrals: 285,600
- Total male referrals: 111,575

¹ Safer Pathway commenced on 15 September 2014

Gender of DFV victims

The dynamics of DFV are complex. As shown in this report, female victims are more likely to experience violence in intimate partner relationships, while male victims are more likely to experience violence at the hands of another family member. The CRP currently does not capture the gender of the alleged perpetrator of each DFV incident. However, frontline staff report that many male victims experience violence perpetrated by a male family member.

The data reports reflect all domestic and family violence incidents attended to by NSW Police Force. Male victims in this context have consistently made up approx. 28 per cent of the overall referrals received in the CRP, half of which are for intimate partner violence.

Safer Pathway delivery partners continue to strive to make functionality enhancements to the CRP database to provide a more comprehensive understanding of DFV incidents that occur across the state.

Police referrer risk rating, 2017/2018

- Total female Serious Threat referrals: 6,217 (6.63% total females)
- Total male Serious Threat referrals: 914 (2.42% total males)

Safer Pathway Safety Action Meeting (SAM) sites

Victims assessed as 'at serious threat' are referred to SAMs to receive prioritised assistance in addition to safety planning, supports and referrals. At SAMs, senior government agency and service provider representatives meet to share relevant information in relation to the current threat and to develop coordinated safety action plans.

Safety action plans facilitate immediate action for high-risk victims, such as ADVOs, variations of ADVOs, changing of locks, temporary accommodation, and applications for housing or relocation to another area. Safety action plans may also involve actions for perpetrators such as submission of reports for breaches of AVOs or parole. The plan also works towards longer-term outcomes by providing referrals to counselling, mental health services, case management and other support.

Safer Pathway is underpinned by an amendment to the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007*. The amendment added Part 13A, allowing service providers to share relevant information about victims and perpetrators for the purpose of preventing or lessening serious threats to the life, health or safety of domestic and family violence victims. This includes information about the victim, children, perpetrator or another person.

Safer Pathway is rolling out across NSW in stages. 'Safer Pathway sites' refer to sites where Safer Pathway is operating fully and SAMs have commenced. Once Safer Pathway is operational state-wide, future data reports will refer only to 'Safer Pathway sites'.

On average, Campbelltown LCP (n=357) and Penrith LCP (n=337) received the highest number of female referrals. Similarly, the highest number of male referrals, on average per month, were received at Campbelltown (n=149) and Penrith (n=148).

Figure 1: Average number of referrals received in each Safer Pathway/SAM site, per operational month, 2017/2018

LCP	Female	Male
Albury	115	37
Armidale	129	47
Ashfield Burwood	212	100
Bankstown	202	91

LCP	Female	Male
Bathurst	222	47
Blacktown	217	112
Blue Mountains	77	54
Bourke	64	18
Broken Hill	126	31
Campbelltown	357	149
Coffs Harbour	200	77
Deniliquin	33	13
Dubbo	160	48
Far South Coast	70	30
Gosford	181	80
Goulburn	57	26
Griffith	104	36
Hunter Valley	260	90
Illawarra	203	74
Lismore	140	52
Liverpool	223	93
Moree	82	22
Mt Druitt	290	111
Newcastle	273	122
Newtown	132	58
Northern Beaches	191	82
Nowra	121	48
Orange	102	37
Parramatta	270	134
Penrith	337	148
Port Macquarie	200	72
Queanbeyan	67	28
St George	184	93
Sutherland	140	65
Tamworth	158	50
Taree	104	42
Toronto	182	72
Tweed	115	45
Wagga Wagga	185	61
Walgett	43	15
Waverley	203	89
Wollongong	124	56
Wyong	253	99

Revictimisation

In 2017/2018 there were 131,465 referrals, representing 92,848 victims.

For most victims (n=71,277) there was one referral for a domestic or family violence incident in 2017/2018 but it is acknowledged that some of these victims may also have experienced additional incidents in previous or future years, outside the scope of this report.

In Figure 2 below, it can be seen, for example that 13,213 victims experienced two incidents (=26,426 referrals); 9,815 of these victims were female and 3,398 were male victims. 49 victims experienced 10 incidents and one victim experienced 22 incidents in 2017/2018.

Figure 2: Victims experiencing multiple CRP referrals, 2017/2018

Number of incidents	Total number of referrals	Female victims	Male victims	Total number of victims
1	71,277	46,415	24,862	71,277
2	26,426	9,815	3,398	13,213
3	13,161	3,464	923	4,387
4	7,632	1,569	339	1,908
5	4,740	777	171	948
6	2,916	410	76	486
7	1,855	227	38	265
8	1,288	147	14	161
9	711	74	5	79
10	490	42	7	49
11	264	22	2	24
12	240	17	3	20
13	104	6	2	8
14	84	6	0	6
15	135	8	1	9
16	80	4	1	5
19	19	1	0	1
21	21	1	0	1
22	22	1	0	1
Total	131,465	63,006	29,842	92,848

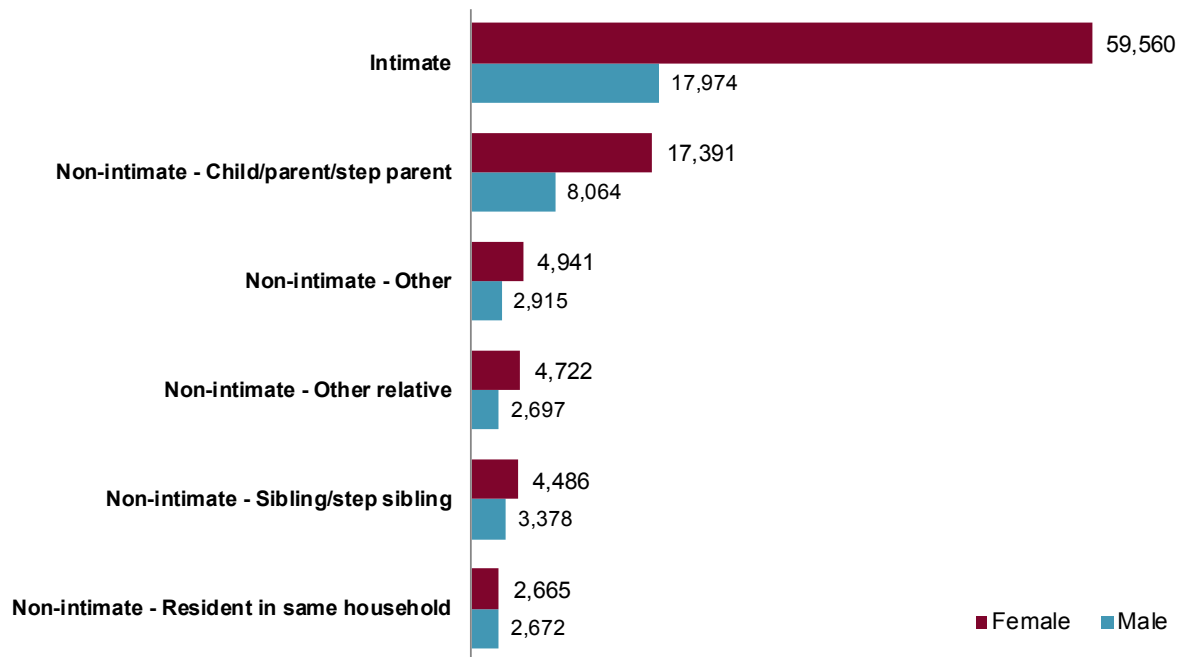
Relationship type

A victim is a person aged 16 or older in a domestic relationship with the alleged perpetrator. The definition of a domestic relationship in the CRP reflects the legal definition under the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal) Violence Act 2007*. Domestic relationships can include intimate relationships and family relationships.

For all referrals, female and male, 59% (n=77,534) are 'intimate relationship' type (as identified by the police referrer). See Figure 3 below. There is a higher number and proportion of female referrals relating to intimate relationship type:

- 64% (n=59,560) of female referrals and 48% (n=17,974) of male referrals are intimate relationship type. Most non-intimate referrals (n=25,455; 47% non-intimate) relate to a child/parent/step parent relationship.

Figure 3: CRP referrals 2017-2018, by relationship type and gender

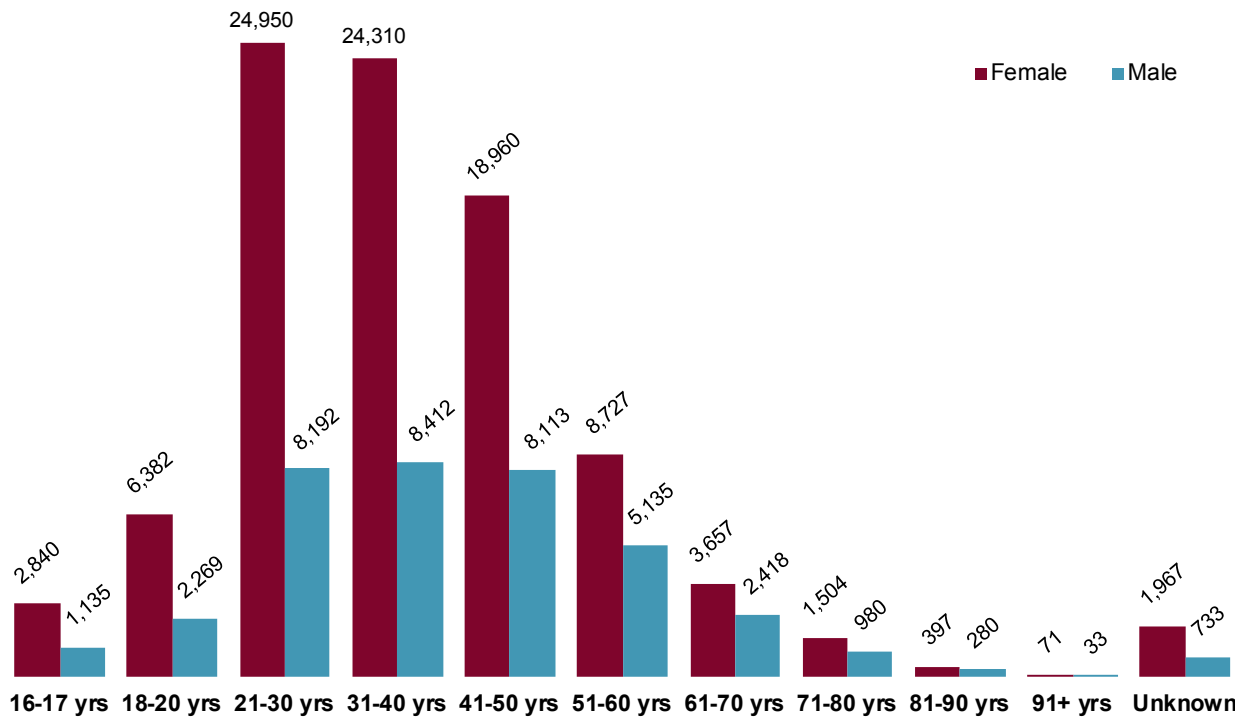


Age of victims

For female victims, the age group with the highest number of referrals is 21-30 years (n=24,950), followed by 31-40 years (n=24,310).

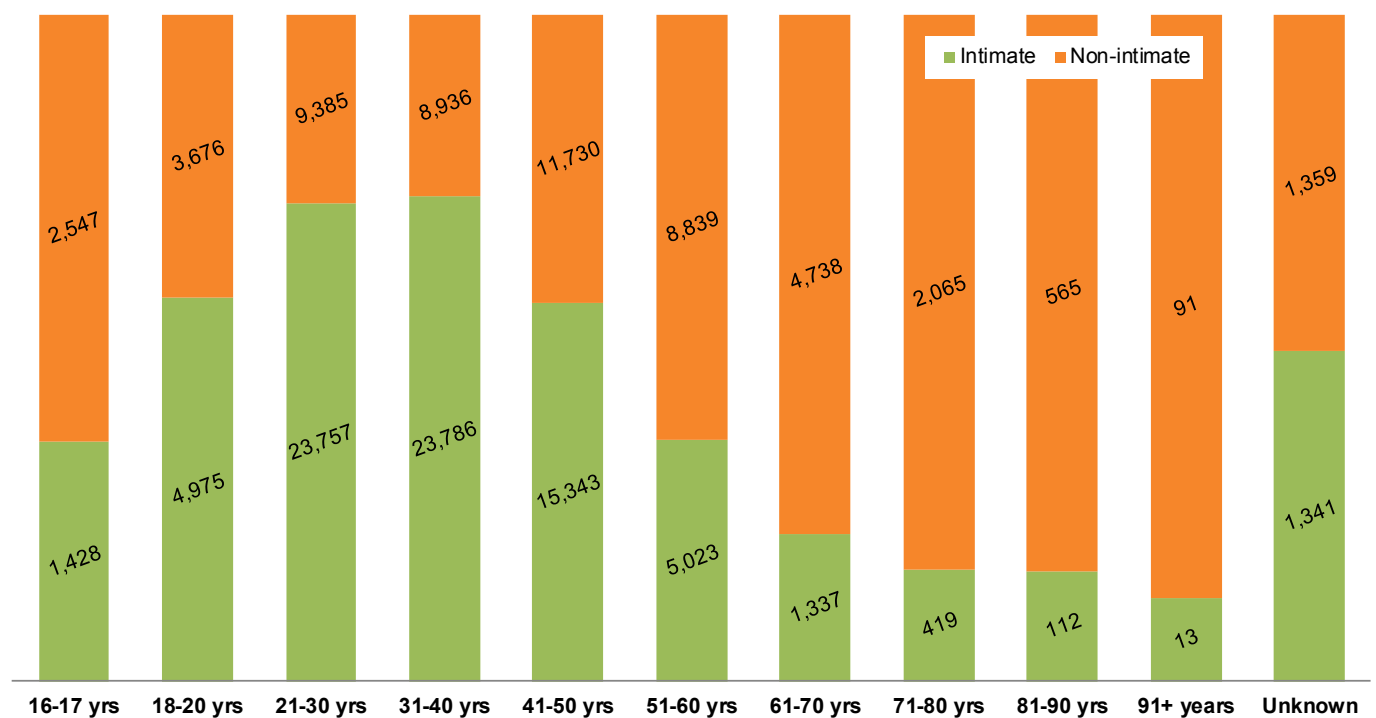
For male victims the age group with the highest number of referrals is 31-40 years (n=3,412), followed by 21-30 years (n=3,192).

Figure 4: CRP referrals 2017-2018, by age group and gender



A higher proportion of referrals for intimate relationships was received for victims aged 18 to 50 years (Figure 5 below). Young people aged 16 to 17 years and victims aged 51 years and above were more likely to be the victim of domestic and family violence in non-intimate relationships.

Figure 5: CRP referrals 2017-2018, by age and relationship type



Older victims

7.8% (n=10,271) of referrals were received for older victims, 60 years and above. For older victims there is a higher proportion of family (non-intimate) violence than for other age groups. Figure 6 indicates that 79% of the referrals for older victims relate to a non-intimate child/parent relationship. Although the relationship type category of “Non-intimate – Child/parent/step parent” does not indicate if the victim was the child or the parent. It is presumed that for the majority of the older victims the family violence is from a child towards their parent.

Figure 6: CRP referrals 2017-2018 – Older victims aged 60 years and above, by gender and relationship type

Relationship type	Female	Male	Total
Intimate	1238	882	2120
Subtotal intimate	1,238	882	2,120
Non intimate – Child/parent/step parent	2,981	2,000	4,981
Non intimate – Other	372	262	634
Non intimate – Other relative	1,126	501	1,627
Non intimate – Sibling/step sibling	180	125	305
Non intimate – Resident in same household	273	331	604
Subtotal non-intimate	4,932	3,219	8,151
Grand total	6,170	4,101	10,271

Indigenous status

In 2017-2018 there were 12,501 (9.5%) referrals where the victim identified with an Indigenous status.

Figure 7: CRP referrals 2017-2018, by Indigenous status

Indigenous	Female	Male	Total
Aboriginal	9,819	2,290	12,109
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	204	61	265
Torres Strait Islander only	99	28	127
Subtotal Indigenous	10,122	2,379	12,501
Unknown	18,057	8,011	26,068
No	65,586	27,310	92,896
Grand total	93,765	37,700	131,465

Caution should be used with this data as the Indigenous status of a victim is not a mandatory question for police to complete when making a referral, and there is a high proportion of referrals where the Indigenous status is unknown.

Incident type

The majority of referrals in the CRP relate to incidents of DFV attended by, or reported to, police. An incident can involve an assault or other criminal offence, or a verbal argument. Based on the circumstances of each incident, police may or may not apply for an AVO for the victim or lay criminal charges against the alleged perpetrator.

A large percentage of referrals relate to verbal arguments only, however all personal violence incidents that occur within a domestic relationship are received through the CRP.

The external referrals are sent from local court registrars, when a victim applies for a private AVO at a local court.

50% (n=65,136) of all (male and female) referrals were identified as 'Domestic violence – verbal argument' by the police referrer and a further 14% (n=17,825) as 'Domestic violence – no offence'. Therefore, in approximately 64% of referrals no offence was recorded.

For female and male referrals there are some differences with the proportion of types of incidents. In particular, male referrals had a higher proportion (53%) of domestic violence – verbal argument incidents compared to female referrals who had 48% of referrals relating to domestic violence – verbal argument.

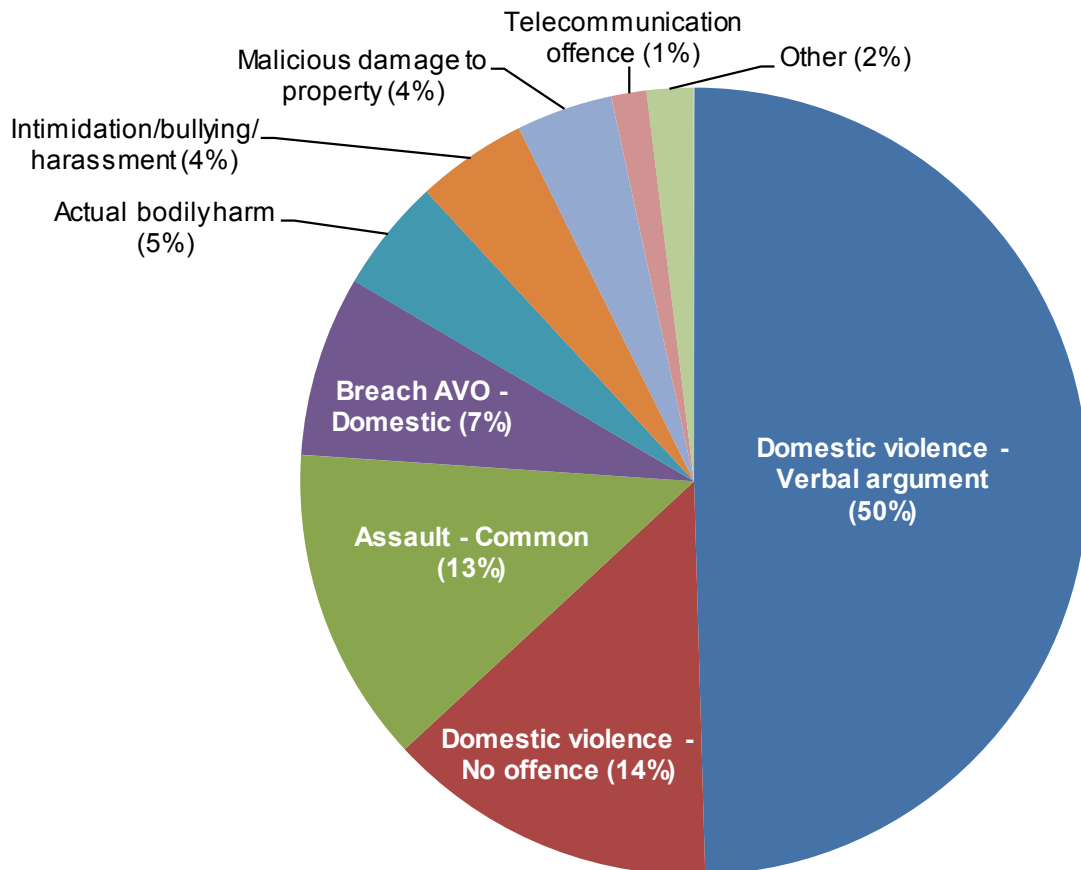
Breach of AVO-domestic was higher for female referrals (9%) compared to male referrals (4%).

Figure 8: CRP referrals 2017-2018, by incident type

Incident type	Female	Male	Total
Domestic violence – Verbal argument	45,314	19,822	65,136
Domestic violence – No offence	12,952	4,873	17,825
Assault common	12,073	4,976	17,049
Breach AVO - Domestic	8,098	1,630	9,728
Actual bodily harm	4,024	2,096	6,120
Intimidation/bullying/harassment	4,419	1,556	5,975
Malicious damage to property	3,692	1,493	5,185
Telecommunication offence	1,347	556	1,903
Sexual offence	668	39	707
Grievous bodily harm	145	151	296
Break and enter	207	74	281
Stealing	160	73	233
Armed with intent	110	120	230
Other	146	91	221
Stalking	137	28	165
Trespass	99	39	138
Fraud	27	5	48
Attempt suicide	17	19	36
Stolen vehicle	23	10	33
Breach AVO – Personal	27	5	32
Kidnapping	26	4	30

Incident type	Female	Male	Total
Resist arrest/assault officer	8	18	26
Family law	16	7	23
Robbery	15	8	23
Fire	15	7	22
Total	93,765	37,700	131,465

Figure 9: CRP referrals 2017/2018, by main incident types



Reasons for closure

Referrals and information were provided for 41,489 victims. 4,513 referrals were already engaged with services.

Figure 10: CRP referrals 2017-18, reasons for closure

Reasons for closure	Female	Male	Total
Contact – already engaged with services	3,033	1,480	4,513
Contact – no consent	4,323	3,980	8,303
Contact – no engagement	6,329	2,626	8,955
Contact – no services required	11,561	9,364	20,925
Contact – referrals/information provided	36,167	5,322	41,489
Subtotal contact made	61,413	22,772	84,185
No contact – identified voicemail	4,420	1,559	5,979
No contact – incorrect referral	196	171	367
No Contact – missing phone number	1,903	1,570	3,473
No contact – no contact details at all	940	703	1,643
No contact – phone disconnected	3,341	1,250	4,591
No contact – phone rang out	6,362	2,704	9,066
No contact – phone turned off	2,537	1,123	3,660
No contact – unidentified voicemail	9,303	4,658	13,961
No contact – wrong phone number	2,209	928	3,137
Subtotal unable to contact	31,211	14,666	45,877
Victim deceased	7	5	12
Open	1,066	325	1,391
Grand Total	93,697	37,768	131,465

Caution should be used with this data as there is inconsistency amongst users with data entry for 'reasons for close'. Open cases do not have a case closure reason recorded and will include a significant proportion of referrals where information, or support was given but not included in this table.

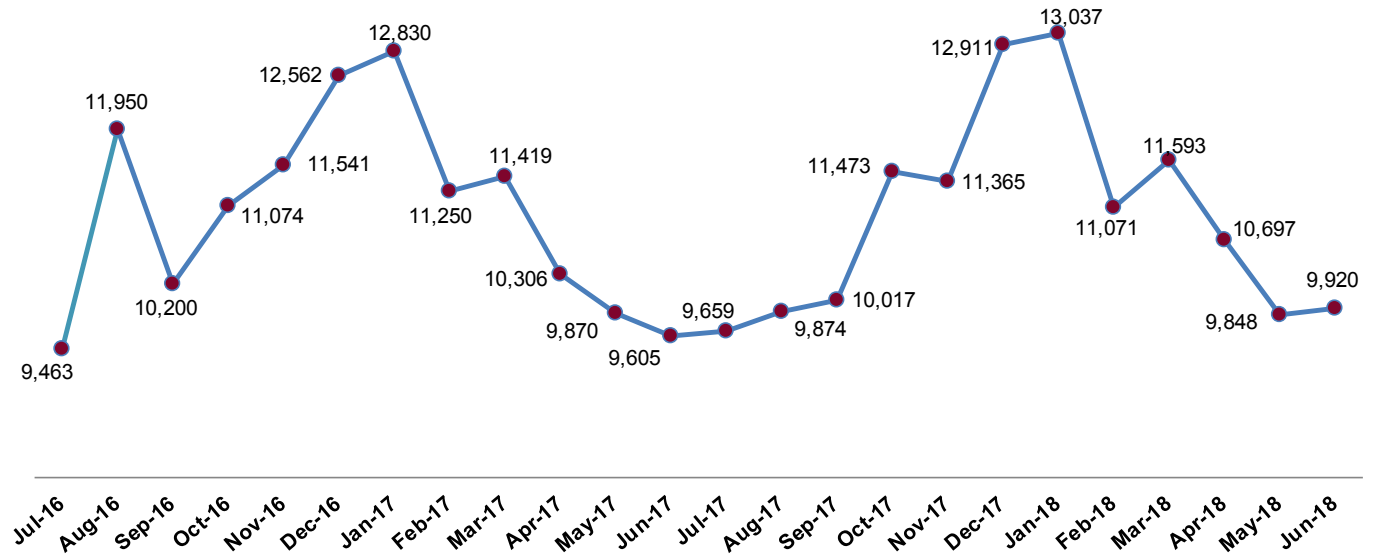
Referrals by police regions

Due to the changes in police boundaries and the establishment of PDs and PACs in early 2018, data is not included in this report regarding referrals received from each LAC/PAC/PD in 2017/18. Future reports will include this data.

All CRP referrals for two years – 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018

Figure 11 below shows the number of referrals received each month in the CRP over a two year period, from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018. In both years the number of referrals increased in the summer months.

Figure 11: CRP referrals 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018, by month



Appendix 1 – Safer Pathway Sites at 30 June 2018

Date	Safer Pathway sites operational
1 Jul 2016 – 31 Oct 2016 (6 sites)	Bankstown, Broken Hill, Orange, Parramatta, Tweed, Waverley.
1 Nov 2016 – 28 Feb 2017 (18 sites)	Bankstown, Blacktown, Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Deniliquin, Far South Coast, Mt Druitt, Newcastle, Newtown, Nowra, Orange, Parramatta, Taree, Tweed, Wagga Wagga, Waverley, Wollongong, Wyong.
1 Mar 2017 – 31 Aug 2017 (27 sites)	Bankstown, Blacktown, Bourke, Broken Hill, Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour, Deniliquin, Far South Coast, Griffith, Hunter Valley, Lismore, Mt Druitt, Newcastle, Newtown, Northern Beaches, Nowra, Orange, Parramatta, Queanbeyan, St George, Tamworth, Taree, Tweed, Wagga Wagga, Waverley, Wollongong, Wyong.
1 Sep 2017 – 28 Feb 2018 (34 sites)	Albury, Armidale, Bankstown, Blacktown, Bourke, Broken Hill, Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Far South Coast, Griffith, Hunter Valley, Illawarra, Lismore, Liverpool, Mt Druitt, Newcastle, Newtown, Northern Beaches, Nowra, Orange, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, St George, Tamworth, Taree, Tweed, Wagga Wagga, Waverley, Wollongong, Wyong.
1 Mar 2018 – 30 Jun 2018 (43 sites)	Albury, Armidale, Ashfield/Burwood, Bankstown, Bathurst, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Bourke, Broken Hill, Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Far South Coast, Gosford, Goulburn, Griffith, Hunter Valley, Illawarra, Lismore, Liverpool, Moree, Mt Druitt, Newcastle, Newtown, Northern Beaches, Nowra, Orange, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, St George, Sutherland, Tamworth, Taree, Toronto, Tweed, Wagga Wagga, Walgett, Waverley, Wollongong, Wyong.

