

A quick guide to domestic abuse discrimination laws.

It is now unlawful to discriminate against a person because they have experienced domestic or family violence.

This information is designed to assist employers, service providers, landlords and other organisations to understand the new protections for victim-survivors of domestic abuse.



What is domestic abuse discrimination?

Domestic abuse discrimination means treating someone unfavourably because they are, or have been, subjected to domestic abuse.

Discrimination can be direct, such as refusing a service, accommodation or employment, or indirect, such as treating someone unfairly if their experience of domestic abuse means they cannot meet the same requirements as others.

Where can domestic abuse discrimination occur?

Protections apply in all areas of public life in the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA), including:

- At work.
- When applying for a job.
- During the provision of goods and services.
- When looking for a place to live.
- In education.

Exceptions apply for some charities and working with children where they live.

What are my responsibilities?

The domestic abuse discrimination laws work the same as those relating age, race, sex, disability and other grounds under the Equal Opportunity Act.

If your business already has measures in place to ensure it is treating people fairly, then complying with the new laws is easy.

Update your equal opportunity practices to reflect the new protections for domestic abuse discrimination and educate workers and others involved in your business about the new rights and obligations.

What happens when discrimination occurs?

If a person believes they were discriminated against because of their experience with domestic abuse, they can make a complaint to Equal Opportunity SA about you or your business.

Equal Opportunity SA's role is to work with the parties to resolve discrimination complaints. It does this through conciliation. Some complaints may also be referred to a tribunal.

Visit Equal Opportunity SA's website for information on the complaints process and how to respond to a complaint about your business.

Contact us

Equal Opportunity SA

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