# COVID-19 Domestic Violence Funding

**caxton**
legal centre inc

## IMPACT REPORT

In 2020, Caxton Legal Centre received additional funding to increase services to people impacted by domestic and family violence exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdown.
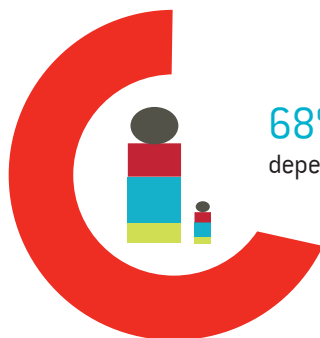
## More legal advice for vulnerable people

With this funding, Caxton provided extra legal advice appointments by telephone. Assistance was also provided to clients with socially distanced court procedures.
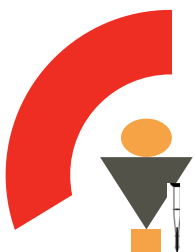
## Impact at a glance

The COVID-19 Domestic Violence Funding, allowed us to provide an extra 325 people with legal advice and representation. We were also able to prepare court documents or correspondence for 86 clients.

**94%** were affected by domestic and family violence

**68%** were caring for dependent children

**29%** identified as living with a disability or mental illness

### COVID-19 Funding Helps Rebecca Achieve Safety

During the pandemic it became important for women to have extra casework assistance to stay safe. Two years ago, a Domestic Violence Order was made against Barry to protect Rebecca from long-term verbal, psychological and physical abuse, and coercive control. Barry had recently applied for a variation to remove all but the mandatory conditions.

Barry has been found guilty of three charges of breach of the Domestic Violence Order, including continuously harassing Rebecca by sending her text messages and emails; stalking her and setting up surveillance cameras; and emailing Rebecca's boss threatening to commit suicide. Their children were witnesses to many of these incidents.

Barry's application was listed for a final hearing. Rebecca was struggling to justify why she did not feel safe without the extra conditions. The COVID-19 funding allowed us to prepare Rebecca's affidavit, explaining why it was not safe to vary the order. This strong written evidence empowered Rebecca to successfully represent herself at the hearing.

Rebecca wrote to us: 'I just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for the work on my affidavit. You really did take the time to fully understand all the intricacies and sum it all up in a ... crafted manner. You guys are an incredible service. Thank you so much!'