

Bsafe offers an intervention to **prevent** further violence and enables women and children to remain in their **own homes** and **communities**.

Bsafe

from family violence

What is Bsafe?

Bsafe is a personal alarm system and risk management option primarily for people escaping family violence and sexualised assault perpetrated by intimate partners.

Bsafe uses the same concepts and technology used to enable elderly people to remain safe and independent in their own homes. The only difference is that the system is set up for the response centre to alert the police, not the ambulance.

How does it work?

Bsafe utilises a mobile unit with GPS tracking supplied by VitalCall, Australia's pioneer in personal emergency response systems.

How Bsafe works in 3 steps:

1. The user presses the SOS button on the device, which discreetly sends an alarm to the 24 – hour VitalCall response centre
2. The response centre calls the user's mobile phone to check on their safety and verify the activation
3. If there is no answer or the client does not indicate their correct password, VitalCall immediately alert 000 (Triple Zero) for a police response while continuing to monitor and record the call*

*Such recordings can later be used as evidence for court proceedings.

Bsafe – a tool for keeping women and children safe

Bsafe provides an effective, integrated, multi-agency response to victims of family violence. It increases the detection and accountability of perpetrators and strengthens the relationship between the police, family violence, health and community sectors and the community.

Bsafe:

- Improves safety and security for victims of family violence and sexualised assault
- Reduces fear of crime
- Improves response and risk assessment
- Reduces the incidence of family violence within the community
- Leads to early intervention and arrest of repeat offenders
- Supports victims testimonies within the judicial system
- Increases levels of security within the home and the community

**Australian
Crime and Violence
Prevention Awards
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Winner**

Bsafe features

- Easy to use
- Discreet
- Small, lightweight and portable
- Accurate GPS position (within 2-4 metres)
- Alarms actioned by VitalCall's professional response centre
- Instantaneous transmission
- Alert notification via SMS and e-mail to close contacts

Have a Blackberry? The Bsafe app for Blackberry is the right choice!

- Easy to use (4 rapid pushes of the alarm key)
- Discreet
- Alarms actioned by VitalCall in the Response Centre
- All-in-one device with GPS mobile phone
- Instantaneous transmission via GPRS/3G



A team approach

Collaboration is vital for family violence support services. An understanding of the gendered nature and complexities of family violence and sexualised assault, and an understanding of the tactics used by perpetrators underpins the effectiveness of Bsafe.

The Bsafe team

- Health, housing, government and community based services
- Specialist Family Violence Services
- Sexual Assault Services
- Victims of Crime
- Victoria Police
- Bsafe kit recipients
- VitalCall
- Regional managing agency

'I now feel safe to walk my dog and ride my bike. I feel safer to go outside my home for work. I sleep better when it's beside my bed'

Anne, 3 children

How much does Bsafe cost?

Bsafe is proven to be a cost effective way to keep women and children safe in their home and community.

The total for the first year is \$1020.00 and each year thereafter the cost is \$600.00.

Who is Bsafe for?

Bsafe recipients require an Intervention Order that excludes a violent ex-partner from their premises. Recipients must be at risk of the Intervention Order being breached.

A Family Violence Comprehensive Risk Assessment is conducted with a family violence worker who determines the level of risk and if the Bsafe unit is an appropriate intervention.

Rural and regional women

Rural women are most vulnerable when it comes to men's violence. With limited access to emergency and specialist services, opportunities for real safety planning are precarious. Bsafe's ability to support women through the VitalCall operator until police arrive increases women and children's feelings of safety in times of crisis and is a real deterrent to violent ex-partners.

Need more information?

Contact
**Women's Health
Goulburn North East
Hume region, Victoria
on 03 5722 3009
or www.whealth.com.au**



History

Bsafe is based on a Swedish model of personal safety for victims of family violence that uses a personal alarm system to alert police. In 2007 Women's Health Goulburn North East, in partnership with the Victoria Police piloted the Bsafe project in the Hume region. The outcome was overwhelmingly positive. The evaluation showed twenty-seven women had reported a decrease in Intervention Order breaches, of whom sixteen reported breaches had ceased completely. Bsafe units are now available to children.

'In my 13 years of working in the homelessness/family violence sector, Bsafe is the most practical effective and useful tool I have come across for women escaping family violence.'

(Service manager)