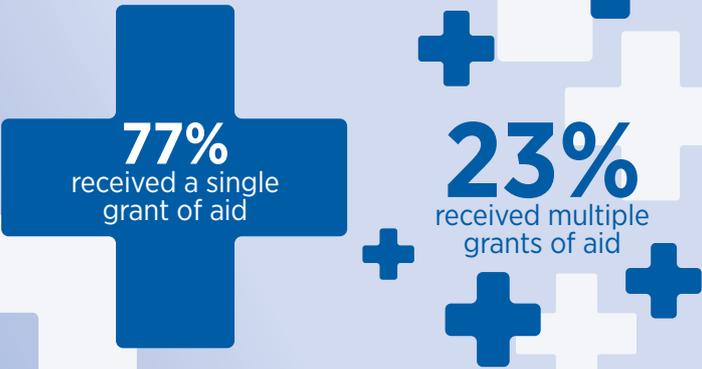


Characteristics of legally aided respondents charged with breaches of family violence intervention orders

MOST OF OUR CLIENTS DO NOT RETURN ON A SECOND BREACH CHARGE



HIGH LEVELS OF DISADVANTAGE AND DISABILITY AMONG MULTIPLE CHARGE CLIENTS¹



9 out of 10 were unemployed



3 out of 10 reported a disability

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLIENTS CHARGED WITH MORE THAN ONE BREACH

90% were male

10% were female



3 out of 10 were aged between 25 and 34 years

5%

identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, this group makes up less than 1% of Victorians

A multiple charge client is

2x

more likely to have an acquired brain injury



of female clients on a support benefit received the Disability Support Pension



of male clients on a support benefit received the Disability Support Pension

PRIOR HISTORY OF LEGAL PROBLEMS

98%

of multiple charge clients experienced a legal problem before their first family violence breach grant



2 out of 3 of these matters involved allegations of threatening or violent offences (crimes against the person)

¹ Our clients generally must demonstrate disadvantage to qualify for assistance.

This research examined data taken over seven years to 2015 to reveal the common characteristics of more than 15,000 clients charged with breaching family violence intervention orders². It was undertaken with the aim of helping Victoria Legal Aid and other services dealing with family violence to identify those more likely to keep using family violence, respond more effectively to reduce the risk of it continuing, and better promote victim safety.

RESPONDING TO DEMAND IN FAMILY VIOLENCE

- In 2014–15, VLA and community legal centres provided more than **21,100 duty lawyer services** for family violence intervention orders. However, between VLA and community legal centres, lawyers were only able to assist 39 per cent of people who were eligible for help..
- Over the last five years there has been a **24 per cent increase** in family violence duty lawyer services and a **173 per cent increase** in duty lawyer services for breaches of intervention orders.
- Family violence calls to our Legal Help phone line **almost doubled** over four years.

² Data related to clients receiving legal advice, duty lawyer services or a grant of aid.