

Women's Safety Assessment of public events in the ACT

Women and girls are the best sources of information on when and where they feel safe, so it is important to obtain information from them about what factors make them feel unsafe at public events in the ACT and to understand what improvements might be needed.

This Women's Safety Assessment provides a range of questions for women to consider and use in assessing how safe they feel at public events in the ACT.

You can use the results of this safety assessment to help make public events in the ACT safer by letting the ACT Office for Women know about public events where you had concerns by sending a notification to women@act.gov.au.

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Name of event and date: _____

1. ACCESSIBILITY

Is it easy to move around the event area with a physical limitation or disability?

Are there disabled toilets available and are they easy to access?

Are the paths well lit and even, and are there curb cuts at intersections and corners?

Are there an adequate number of parking spaces for people with a disability?

2. PUBLIC TRANSPORT / VENUE PARKING

Is the parking in a safe location? Is there adequate security present?

Are the bus stops in a safe location? Is the event easily accessible from parking/public transport?

3. LIGHTING

How well does the lighting illuminate the area including the entrance/exits? After dark?

How well does the lighting illuminate the footpaths? Is there anywhere where the lighting is obscured? (eg. trees or bushes)

Are there any specific areas that are not adequately lit?

Are the public amenities well lit?

4. AMENITIES

Are the women's toilets in a safe location? Would you feel safe using them?

Are the toilets visible to others or isolated from view? Could you see and hear people around you and do you feel you could be seen and heard by others?

Are there enough benches strategically placed for those who might need to sit?

5. SIGNS, SIGNALS AND MAPS

Are there enough signs to help you navigate the event venue? (e.g. street/building names, parking, entrances/exits, toilets)?

Are there enough signs, signals and maps and are they easy to read? (ie. well lit, large enough text)

Are there visual symbols to represent important information (ie. emergency assistance, telephones, toilets)?

6. ISOLATION (feeling alone in the area)

Were there any specific areas where you felt vulnerable? If yes, where?

Did you felt isolated in a particular area of the event (where you could not see and hear people around you and could not be seen and heard by others if you called out for help)?

7. POSSIBLE ENTRAPMENT SITES

Are there areas where you would be hidden from view from others? (ie. between garbage bins, unlocked equipment or utility sheds, laneways, doorways, isolated parking lots or bus stops)

Are there areas where your visibility is obstructed or you are hidden by fences, trees or bushes, cars or other vehicles?

Could you tell what is at the end of a path or walkway? (ie. on the way to the toilets, carpark, bus) If not what would make it easier to see ahead?

Do you believe that you could easily escape from an unsafe situation at this event?

8. SECURITY

Are there security guards and cameras in areas where they are needed? (both outside and inside the venue event)

Would you feel safe attending this event at night?

SUMMING UP YOUR FINDINGS OVERALL

What are your overall feelings about the safety of the event venue?

Do you have any specific recommendations? What improvements would you like to see?

Do you have any other comments/ particular concerns you would like to share about safety in this public space/event?

You can help Women's Health Matters to advocate for improved safety for women at ACT's public events by sending us the results of your survey by either:

- Scanning the Assessment results and emailing them to admin@womenshealthmatters.org.au ; or
- Posting the results to PO Box 385, Mawson, ACT, 2607.