Domestic and family violence is a serious and widespread problem across Australia. It has an enormous impact on individuals, families and their communities. It is preventable. All people can play a role in the prevention of domestic and family violence, including young people.

R4Respect is a unique education strategy led by young people to support other young people to develop the values, knowledge and skills they need for respectful relationships. The aim is to prevent anti-social behaviour at a young age as this can feed the cycle of domestic and family violence.

R4Respect evaluates its work. A recent survey taken among high school students who took part in activities run by our Youth Ambassadors showed that 89.5% believed the program had given them a better understanding of respectful relationships and domestic violence. A further 85% said they would recommend more programs like R4Respect in their schools.

In partnership with Griffith University, R4Respect has evaluated the youth-led model of change. The young people and stakeholders involved provided very positive feedback about the impact of peer-led activities. They also suggested that the program could improve with greater capacity — more young people and a more solid financial base.

Can you help to sustain and build R4Respect?

R4Respect is supported by a team of Youth Ambassadors (aged 16-24) from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds. They use digital communication strategies, school activities and community outreach to promote the values and attitudes that help young people understand what is ok and what crosses the line into harmful and violent behaviour.

This youth-driven program is based in Logan, Queensland, but its reach has no boundaries. Through social media and educational activities, young people can be exposed to the R4Respect messages no matter where they live.
1. Creative input from young people
Young people engaged in the program are supported with a 12 month Youth Ambassador scholarship. The Youth Ambassadors contribute to the development of new innovative digital strategies and peer-to-peer activities that foster respectful relationships among young people.

2. Peer Education
Youth Ambassadors undertake activity-based learning derived from evidence-based programs, such as: Building Respectful Relationships - stepping out against gender-based violence and Love Bites.

3. Public Awareness
Youth Ambassadors engage in the promotion of R4Respect’s key messages through media, advertising and public events – including cultural and community events in Logan and beyond.

4. Engage with others
Schools, local youth groups, community organisations, corporations, government departments and local councils are encouraged by Youth Ambassadors to promote the R4Respect messages and activities.

WHAT WE DO

OUR MESSAGES
The R4Respect Youth Ambassadors have developed four key messages based on what respect in relationships means for them.

- We all have the right to be free of abuse and violence.
- Respect means being fair and valuing others as equals.
- Value diversity. Value culture. Celebrate difference.
- Negotiate through disagreements. Don’t hit out.

The #RU4Respect? pledge strategy enables other young people to develop their own messages of what respect in relationships means for them.

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE?
R4Respect shares a goal that young people need to “become agents of change instead of targets to be changed” (Centre for the Study of Social Policy, 2007). It is well recognised that youth-led action will be far more effective in gaining the interest of and in promoting learning of, young people.