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## Children growing up in DV refuges

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GIVIT

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# Children growing up in DV refuges

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At-risk women and children are being forced to stay in domestic violence refuge centres for up to two years, as the state's housing crisis means they have nowhere else to go.

DV shelters typically provide temporary shelter for families fleeing abusive situations but insiders say the length of stay for some victims is growing.

Marnie Greer from 54 Reasons, which provides domestic and family violence services, said it used to be that families were staying in refuge shelters for three to six months.

"In the last few years we've seen people stay for more likely a year, six months if we're lucky, if we're able to help someone move on to housing, but yeah, generally a year," she said.

"In some cases we've even had people stay for two years in refuge."

Queensland Director for 54 Reasons Mena Waller said their refuges were designed to provide three to six months of accommodation.

"Unfortunately we are seeing many women and children

who have escaped violence spending much longer in our accommodation while they wait for housing," Ms Waller said. "Some children are essentially growing up in refuges, which is not what anyone wants to see."

Many of the children residing in these refuges don't have access to the resources they need to learn and grow.

Givit Queensland engagement officer Danielle Draper said her organisation had seen a rise in requests for donations of essential items for people in crisis accommodation.

"We know that these centres were established as short-term transitional housing, but with people spending years in this type of accommodation Givit has seen a sharp rise in donation requests for basic items such as grocery and fuel vouchers," Ms Draper said.