

# **1. Symptoms** what is happening?

- Fatigue
- Pain on or around your period and ovulation
- Pain during or after sex
- Pain with bowel movements
- Pain when urinating
- Have trouble holding on when you have a full bladder or increased urgency.
- Heavy or irregular bleeding

# **2. Next steps** getting a referral

- Tracking your symptoms
- Booking an appointment with your GP
- Sharing your completed symptom list with the GP
- Ask your GP for a referral to a gynaecologist





- Period pain that puts your life on hold is not normal
- Teenagers are not too young to have endometriosis
- Pain levels are not related to the extent of the disease
- Endometriosis does not always cause infertility
- Getting pregnant is not a cure for endometriosis
- A hysterectomy is not a cure for endometriosis
- Endometriosis is not an STI; you cannot catch it
- Endometriosis cannot be prevented
- There is no cure for endometriosis





### **Endometriosis** what is it?

Endometriosis is an inflammatory condition in which cells SIMILAR to the endometrium grow in other locations in the body. Endometriosis is commonly found in and around the pelvis but can also be seen in other parts of the body, including the bowel, bladder, and as far away as the lungs and the brain.

The delay in diagnosis has reduced in recent years, but it still takes an average of 6.5 years to be diagnosed with endometriosis. Symptoms can occur as early as eight years of age.

Recent statistics (AIHW 2023) found that 1 in 7 (14%) of women, girls and those assigned female at birth (AFAB) will be diagnosed with endometriosis by the age of 44 to 49.

Around half of those living with endometriosis are challenged by fertility, but 70% will go on to have children.

### Impact

how does it affect those living with endometriosis?



- Difficulty concentrating
- Disrupting friendships and social life
- School absences
- Academic performance
- Mental health

## **About** who are we?

Endometriosis Australia has been the leading organisation in Australia for awareness, education, and research funding for endometriosis since 2013.

We are committed to empowering those impacted by endometriosis with the knowledge to be in control of their healthcare and promote patientcentred solutions.

#### **CONTACT US**

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