

# FAST FACTS ON FAMILY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



a guide for prevention practitioners

Safe and Equal acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional and ongoing custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay respects to Elders past and present. Sovereignty has never been ceded.

# PREVALENCE



We all deserve a world where we can live and love freely and fully, where families and relationships are safe and respectful, and people have everything they need to thrive.

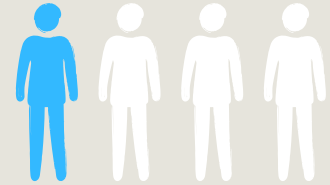


But men's violence against women is a significant social issue that continues to do profound harm.

**EVERY 9 DAYS A WOMAN IS KILLED BY HER CURRENT OR FORMER PARTNER<sup>1</sup>**

## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE:

Almost **1 IN 4 WOMEN**

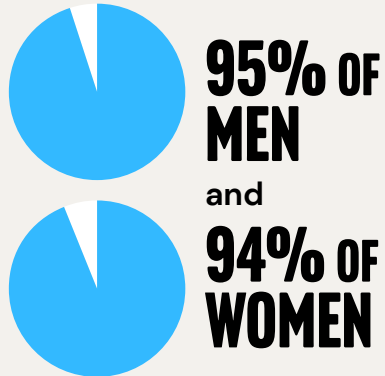


have experienced this since the age of 15<sup>3</sup>

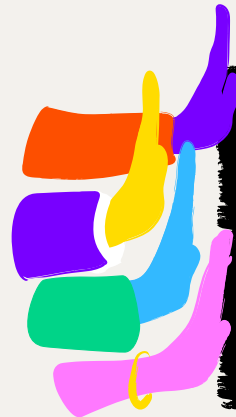
Almost **1 IN 14 MEN**



have experienced this since the age of 15<sup>3</sup>



who experienced violence since the age of 15 did so at the hands of a **MALE PERPETRATOR<sup>2</sup>**




We need to break down harmful gender stereotypes, and challenge ideas about masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control.

1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2019) *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story 2019*  
2 Diemer, K. (2015) *Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey: Additional analysis on relationship and sex of perpetrator*  
3 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023) *Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2021-2*

# PREVALENCE

## SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Almost  
**1 IN 5**  
**WOMEN**   
have experienced this  
since the age of 15<sup>1</sup>

Almost  
**1 IN 20**  
**MEN**   
have experienced this  
since the age of 15<sup>1</sup>

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

**1 IN 2**  
**WOMEN**   
have experienced this  
since the age of 15<sup>1</sup>

Almost  
**2 IN 5**  
**WOMEN**   
have experienced  
this in the last  
5 years<sup>2</sup> 

We need more data and a range of different types of research to fully understand the prevalence and perpetration of family and gender-based violence.<sup>3</sup>

- It is critical that we acknowledge violence, build understanding and bring it out into the open.
- We need to work across communities, organisations and society in all places that people live, learn, work, socialise and play, to stop violence from happening in the first place.

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023) *Personal Safety Survey*, Australia, 2021–22

<sup>2</sup> Australian Human Rights Commission (2022) *Time for Respect: Fifth national survey on sexual harassment in Australian workplaces*

<sup>3</sup> Safe and Equal (2023) *How to use statistics*

# PREVALENCE AND INTERSECTIONALITY



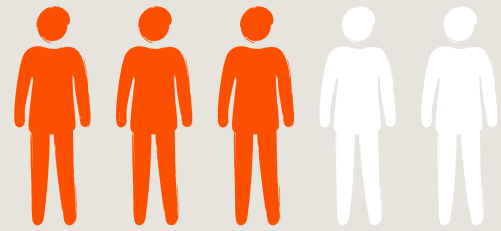
We all have a right to live safe, equal and fulfilling lives.

However, we know that overlapping forms of oppression influence experiences of family and gender-based violence. We must address these underlying social factors that drive violence, alongside gender.

**3 IN 5**

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN

have experienced physical or sexual violence from a male intimate partner



Compared to non-Indigenous women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience

**8 X** the rate of **HOMICIDE** + are **30 X** more likely to be **HOSPITALISED FOR ASSAULT**<sup>1</sup>

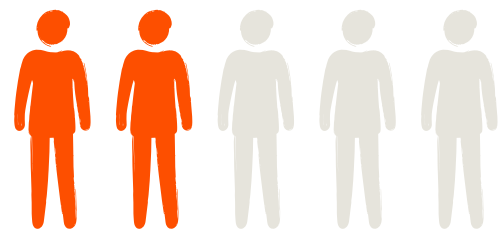
To stop this violence, we must address the ongoing impacts of colonialism and racism, alongside gender inequality.

Almost

**2 IN 5**

## WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

have experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 15<sup>2</sup>



To stop this violence, we need to challenge ableism, and how this overlaps and interacts with gender inequality.<sup>3</sup>

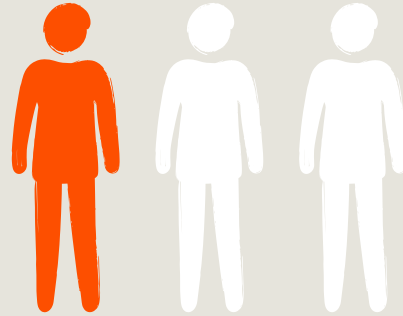
1 Kripps, K. (2023) *Indigenous women and intimate partner homicide in Australia: confronting the impunity of policing failures*  
2 Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health (2021) *Nature and extent of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against people with disability in Australia*  
3 Our Watch (2022) *Changing the Landscape*

# PREVALENCE AND INTERSECTIONALITY

1 IN 3

## REFUGEE AND MIGRANT WOMEN

living in Australia have experienced domestic and family violence<sup>1</sup>



Those on temporary visas report higher levels of abuse. This is enabled by discriminatory migration policies and practices<sup>1</sup>

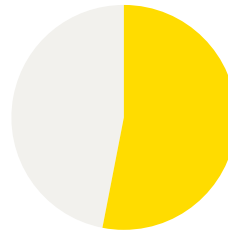
To stop this violence, we must address racism and discrimination based on myths and misconceptions about cultural differences, to create an inclusive and gender equal society.<sup>2</sup>

More than

2 IN 5

## LGBTIQ PEOPLE

reported ever being in an intimate relationship where they were abused in some way by their partner/s<sup>3</sup>



For bisexual women, and trans and gender diverse people (particularly trans women), rates of intimate partner violence are even higher<sup>4</sup>

**53.2% OF TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE** reported experiencing sexual violence or coercion<sup>5</sup>

To stop this violence, we must work together to challenge rigid gender norms, alongside heteronormativity and cisnormativity.

**We must work together to break down these multiple and overlapping forms of structural and systemic inequality and oppression, and build a world where everyone is celebrated for being unique.**

1 Segrave, M., Wickes, R. and Keel, C. (2021) *Migrant and refugee women in Australia: The safety and security study*

2 Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (2017) *Intersectionality matters*

3 Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (2020) *Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia*

4 Rainbow Health Australia (2020) *Pride in Prevention*

5 Kirby Institute (2018) *Australian Trans and Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey*

# IMPACTS OF FAMILY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



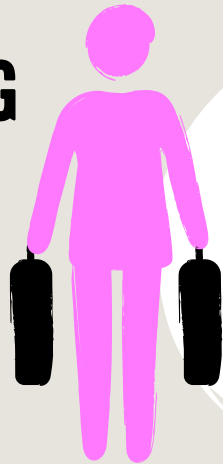
We all have the right to live free from violence, but anyone who experiences violence should be able to access support so they can be safe while they recover and go on to live happy, healthy, full and free lives.

Unfortunately, the impacts of family and gender-based violence mean this is not currently a reality for many people, and these experiences are disproportionately gendered.

**NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SAFETY AND THEIR HOME**

**OF ADULTS SEEKING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES**

due to family and domestic violence in 2018–19



**90% WERE WOMEN<sup>1</sup>**



**FAMILY VIOLENCE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

Of women who temporarily left violent partners, and later returned, 15% returned because they had no money and nowhere to go<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2019) *Specialist homelessness services annual report 2018–19*

<sup>2</sup> Summers, A. (2023) *The Choice: violence or poverty: A report into domestic violence and its consequences in Australia today*

# IMPACTS OF FAMILY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



**ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
AND THEIR CHILDREN WOULD HAVE  
SAVED AROUND  
\$22 BILLION  
in 2015-16<sup>1</sup>**



Most importantly, ending family and gender-based violence saves lives, and alleviates the impacts on victim-survivors, families, friends and communities.

**!** We need to address the impacts of violence through a range of sustainably-funded, safe and inclusive services for victim-survivors, and we need to work together to prevent this violence from happening in the future.

<sup>1</sup> KPMG (2016) *The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia*

# ATTITUDES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY



We all deserve to experience and express healthy and equitable attitudes towards gender, and feel supported to just be ourselves.



Rigid and binary ideas about gender drive violence by pushing people into roles and behaviours that limit their lives and their potential, and risk them hurting both themselves and others.



Condoning violence, or denying what the weight of evidence tells us about men's perpetration of violence against women, only makes things worse.



Violence against trans and gender diverse people, and trans women in particular, is inextricably linked to these attitudes.



Understanding and attitudes regarding violence against women and gender inequality have improved slowly but significantly over time.



However, in 2021, fewer people recognised that men are more likely to commit domestic violence, and that women are more likely to experience physical harm from domestic violence.<sup>1</sup>



We need to challenge false ideas that violence is experienced equally – when prevalence, severity and impacts are clearly gendered.

# ATTITUDES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Most people recognised that experiences of family and gender-based violence can be different for different people, and that it isn't always physical.

84%

## AGREED THAT HARRASSMENT

via repeated emails, text messages was always or usually

A FORM OF VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup>



89%

## RECOGNISED IN PERSON STALKING

as always or usually

A FORM OF VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup>



82%

## AGREED THAT CONTROLLING A PARTNER BY DENYING THEM MONEY

is always or usually

A FORM OF ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup>



78%

## AGREED THAT REPEATEDLY CRITICISING A PARTNER

to make them feel bad or useless is always or usually

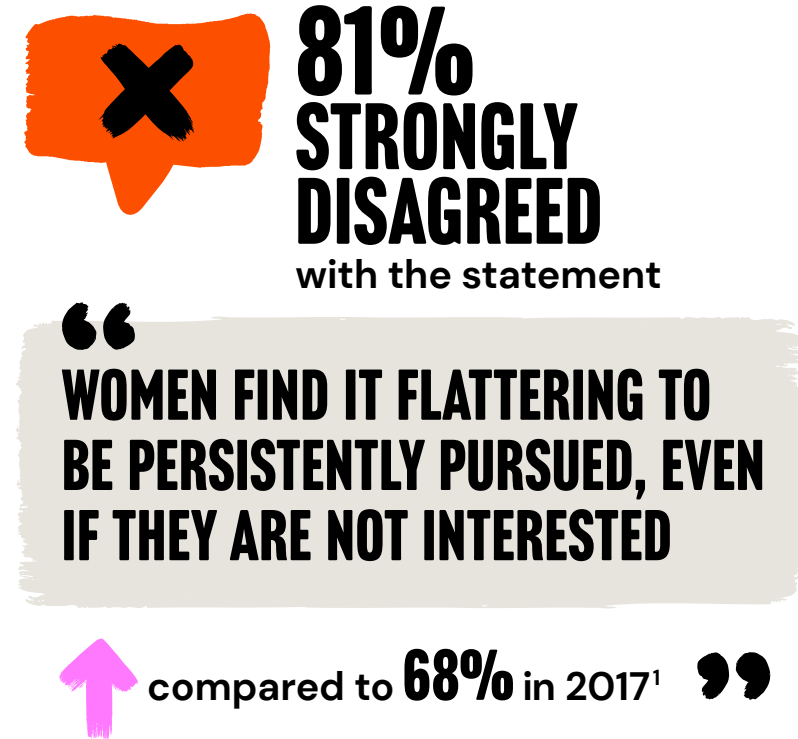
A FORM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup>



To end family and gender-based violence, we must challenge ideas that limit women's independence and autonomy and continue to build understanding that healthy and respectful relationships are not based on control.

# ATTITUDES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Many problematic attitudes are shifting in positive directions:



This shows that change is possible. But some attitudes are slower to change, and many problematic attitudes remain amongst a sizeable minority.



<sup>1</sup> ANROWS (2023) 2021 National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey

# ATTITUDES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY



Creating communities that are safer for women requires dismantling myths and fallacies around sexual assault.



There are many reasons why the vast majority of sexual assaults are not reported to police, and it is very rare that reports are found to be untrue.

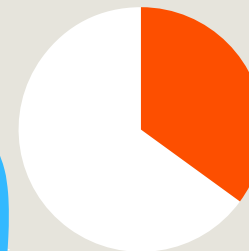


**BUT**



**14%** of respondents **AGREED THAT WOMEN MAKE FALSE ALLEGATIONS<sup>1</sup>**

**AND**



**35% AGREED** that sexual assault allegations are **COMMONLY USED AS A WAY OF GETTING BACK AT MEN<sup>1</sup>**

# ATTITUDES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

We must increase a range of inclusive education programs around consent and shift attitudes so that everyone can engage with sex enthusiastically and happily, if they want, with a partner who feels respected and is just as keen.



Sexual assault and harassment are serious and unacceptable actions that persist because of problematic norms that deny women's autonomy, their rights to their own bodies and their right to refuse sex.



Preventing sexual violence also means acknowledging both the overlapping and specific drivers of unacceptably high rates of sexual violence experienced by trans and gender diverse people.

We know what needs to change in order to create a better future. We need people to reject violence and inequality, and be ready to step forward and be part of a movement for change. This means recognising the gendered nature and reality of violence. Changing attitudes will mean greater safety and freedom for all women, for all trans and gender diverse people, and for men as well.

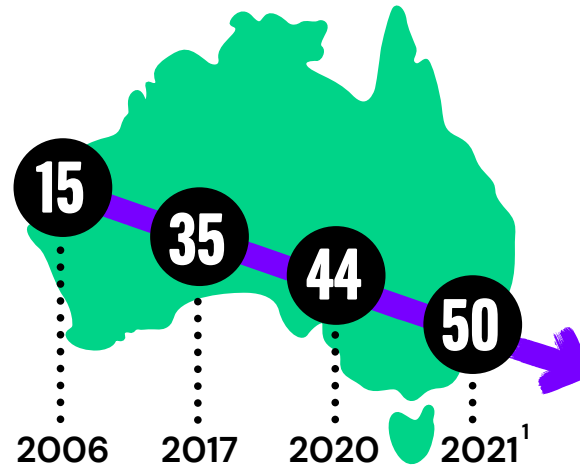
# GENDER EQUALITY



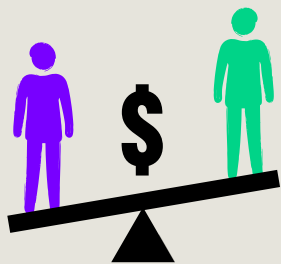
Achieving gender equality across all facets of our society is necessary for preventing and ending family and gender-based violence.



Unfortunately,  
**AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL RANKING  
FOR GENDER EQUALITY  
HAS DECLINED**  
over the past several years



But change is possible with the right action. Just look at our neighbours: New Zealand is ranked #4 in 2021 and is among the world's most gender equitable countries.



Women are paid less on average than men for the same full-time role across every industry and occupation in Australia.<sup>2</sup>



**We need to increase pay in undervalued industries, and end pay discrimination.**

<sup>1</sup> World Economic Forum (2021) *Global Gender Gap Report*

<sup>2</sup> Workplace Gender Equality Agency (2021) Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023) *Average weekly earnings*

# GENDER EQUALITY

There is increasing attention being paid to improving gender equality within workplaces.

**BUT**

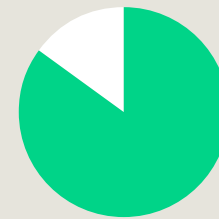
**WOMEN REMAIN UNDER-REPRESENTED IN KEY-DECISION MAKING ROLES ACROSS ALMOST ALL INDUSTRIES IN THE WORKFORCE<sup>1</sup>**



This is even more so for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and women from multicultural backgrounds.<sup>2</sup>



**85%**



of 'culturally and racially marginalised' women **FELT THEY HAD TO WORK TWICE AS HARD AS OTHER EMPLOYEES** to get the same treatment or evaluation<sup>3</sup>

**We need to tackle the multiple forms of discrimination so that people of all genders can equally participate in leadership and decision-making roles.**

<sup>1</sup> Workplace Gender Equality Agency (2021)

<sup>2</sup> Australian Human Rights Commission (2018) *Leading for Change: A blueprint for cultural diversity and inclusive leadership revisited*

<sup>3</sup> Diversity Council of Australia (2023) *Culturally and racially marginalised women in leadership*

# GENDER EQUALITY



During Covid-19, more women lost their jobs, had hours reduced or shouldered the burden of unpaid caring responsibilities.<sup>1</sup>



This also impacted on mental health:



**WOMEN REPORT HIGHER RATES OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, SUICIDALITY AND SELF-HARM** compared to men<sup>2</sup>



**Gender inequality creates the environment for violence against women, and it also makes the impacts of violence worse.**

Together, we can and must create a gender equal society that is truly inclusive. We need long-term efforts to shift gender-based oppression and discrimination. This must go hand-in-hand with efforts specifically targeted at the prevention of violence against women, and all forms of family and gender-based violence.

<sup>1</sup> Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (2020) *Affected communities: Workplace gender equality*  
<sup>2</sup> ABS (2022) *National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing*