




Violence against women (VAW) takes many forms

- Physical or sexual violence
- financial or emotional abuse

VAW is known by many names and comes in many forms –

- family and domestic violence; intimate partner violence
- sexual assault; sexual harassment,
- dating violence; unwanted kissing and sexual touching
- Rape; sex-trafficking; homophobia; threats against children, femicide.


- It is well-recognised that one effect of this behaviour is to control through fear, and to place the safety and well-being of women and children at risk.



Headline statistics


- 89 Australian women were killed by their current or former partner between 2008-10. This equates to nearly one woman every week¹.
- 2012 ABS Personal Safety Survey revealed that since age 15:
 - 1 in 4 Australian women had experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner.
 - 1 in 4 Australian women had experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner.
 - 1 in 3 Australian women had experienced physical violence.

1 Australian Institute of Criminology



Violence affects different women differently

- Violence against women affects different groups of women and children differently
- Certain groups of women in society are even more seriously impacted than others.
- The intersection of gender with factors such as disability, English language fluency, ethnicity, physical location, sexuality, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, and migration experience, act to increase vulnerability to the risk and effects of violence.




...of all victims of violence – whether women or men – report experiencing violence from a male perpetrator



Australian attitudes to VAW 2013

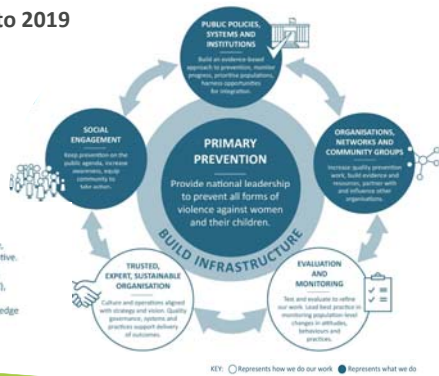
- Up to 28% of Australians endorse attitudes supportive of male dominance of decision-making in relationships
- People aged 16-24 have a lower level of understanding of violence against women and are more likely to excuse it. They are more likely to endorse relationships where men exert power over women.
- 16% believe women say “no” when they mean yes (14% in 2009).
- 68% believe violence against women is common (74% in 2009).



Our Watch - What we do!



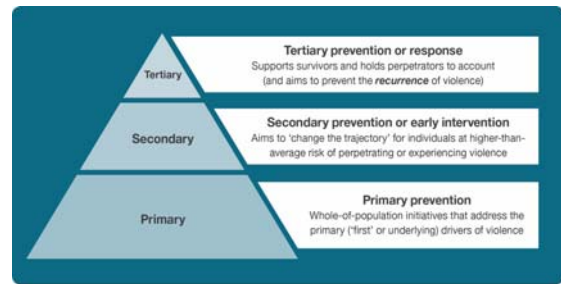
Our strategy to 2019



Our Values

We will be respectful, passionate, accountable, open and collaborative. Our practice will be grounded in evidence (local and international), underpinned by evaluation and contribute to the growing knowledge base about primary prevention.

What do we mean by primary prevention?



Violence against women is preventable – we can stop it before it starts



Common misconceptions

Prevention does not work **MYTH**

People can't change their behaviour **MYTH**



Prevention does work. People can change.

Successful prevention campaigns include:

- Tobacco control
- Road trauma and drink driving
- Skin cancer prevention
- Immunisation
- Cardiovascular disease
- Childhood infectious diseases
- Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)
- HIV/AIDS control





The high price of domestic violence



- Violence against women and their children is costing Australia **\$21.7 billion** each year
- The report *A high price to pay: the economic case for preventing violence against women* released by PwC, VicHealth and Our Watch found that the cost of pain, suffering and premature mortality constitutes the largest proportion of the total cost of all violence at 48 per cent, equating to \$10.4 billion.
- Governments, both State and Commonwealth then bear 36 per cent or \$7.8 billion in order to deliver health services, criminal justice and social welfare for victims

If we don't take action to prevent violence against women, by 2045, it will cost Australia more than **\$320 billion**




Change the story

A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia

Element 1 - Key drivers- summary of the evidence

Gendered drivers

Particular expressions of gender inequality consistently predict higher rates of violence against women:

- 1 **Condoning of violence against women**
- 2 **Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life**
- 3 **Rigid gender roles and stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity**
- 4 **Male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women.**

Reinforcing factors - within the context of the gendered drivers - can increase frequency or severity of violence:

- 5 **Condoning of violence in general**
- 6 **Experience of, and exposure to, violence**
- 7 **Weakening of pro-social behaviour, especially harmful use of alcohol**
- 8 **Socio-economic inequality and discrimination**
- 9 **Backlash factors (increases in violence when male dominance, power or status is challenged).**

Higher probability of violence against women

Source: Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia. Our Watch, ANROWS and VicHealth (2015).



Element 1 – How we understand violence against women and their children



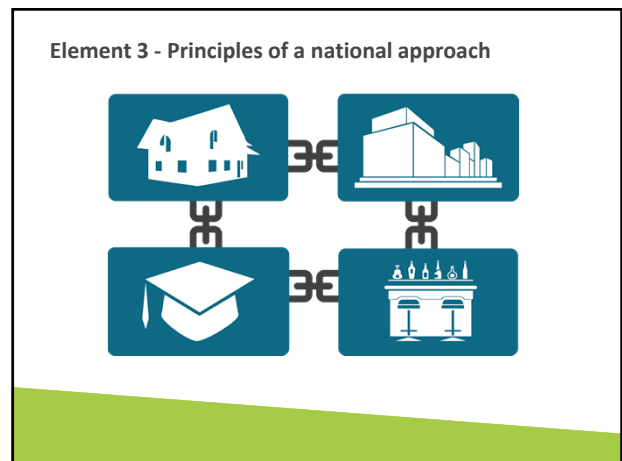
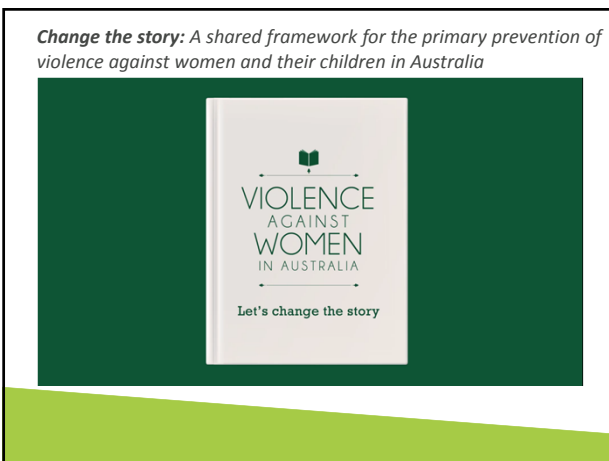
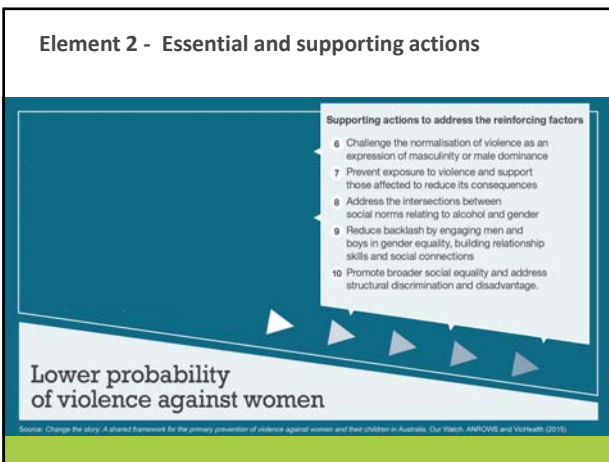
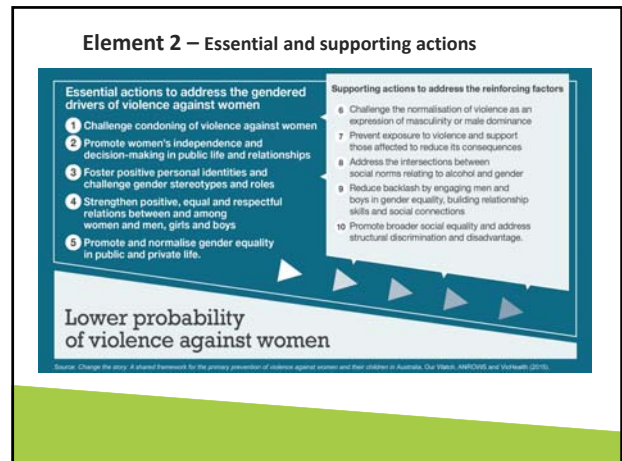
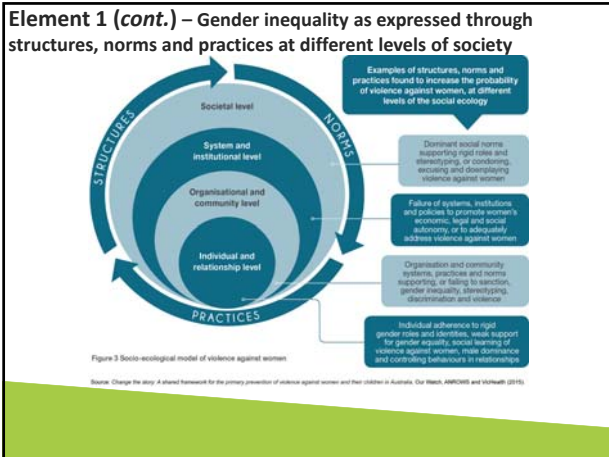


Figure 4 Gender inequality as the necessary condition or root cause of violence against women.





Faith based contexts are a key setting

- This setting includes places, networks and associations that are brought together on the basis of faith, religion or belief.
- These environments are a powerful influence on social norms and beliefs and their leaders can play a key role in building respectful relationships.
- Organisations in this sphere can also affect individuals and communities through the delivery of programs and services.

Safety is built on respect and equality



Change is happening



New Resources from Our Watch



Element 4 - What we need to make this national approach work

A prevention infrastructure

- Mechanisms for coordination and Quality Assurance
- Expert workforce
- Political, sector and civil society leadership
- Policy and legislative reform
- Shared monitoring, reporting and evaluation frameworks



Elements 5 & 6 - Action by multiple stakeholders

- Primary responsibility is with government, but everyone must play a part
- Need mutually reinforcing strategies at all levels of the social ecology, in multiple settings where people live, work and play
- Partnerships and collaboration are essential
- That we do not have to do it all at once – this is a **long haul journey that we all need to travel together.**



Our ongoing work ...

- Guide to prevention monitoring – to help measure progress against the drivers of violence
- *Putting the prevention of violence against women into practice: how to change the story* – a 'how-to' guide for practitioners
- Change the story practitioner workshop – a two day course to build capacity for those engaged in prevention work
- Dedicated resource for preventing violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- Next stage of *The Line* (with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and culturally and linguistically diverse young people)
- Support to good practice: Respectful Relationships Education nationwide
- Working with the media
- Working with sporting organisations



More information

Website - www.ourwatch.org.au

Facebook - www.facebook.com/OurWatchAus

Twitter - [@OurWatchAus](https://twitter.com/OurWatchAus)



Thank you

