A national whole-of-government approach to preventing violence against women: Lessons from the Australian experience

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THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

 Violence against women: key statistics

 Since the age of 15:

 1 in 5 Australian women had experienced sexual violence
 1 in 3 Australian women had experienced physical violence
 1 in 4 Australian women had experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner

End violence against Women And Their Children
THE AUSTRALIAN POLICY CONTEXT

2014: TASKFORCE ON DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

2015: ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE

CHANGE the STORY

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

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Figure 2 The relationship between primary prevention and other work to address violence against women

**Tertiary prevention or response**
Supports survivors and holds perpetrators to account (and aims to prevent the *recurrence* of violence)

**Secondary prevention or early intervention**
Aims to ‘change the trajectory’ for individuals at higher-than-average risk of perpetrating or experiencing violence

**Primary prevention**
Whole-of-population initiatives that address the primary (‘first’ or underlying) drivers of violence
**CHANGE THE STORY**

### GENDERED DRIVERS of violence against women:

- **CONDONING of violence against women**
- **MEN’S CONTROL of decision-making and limits to women’s independence**
- **STEREOTYPED constructions of masculinity and femininity**
- **DISRESPECT towards women and male peer relations that emphasise aggression**

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Gender inequality sets the NECESSARY SOCIAL CONTEXT
CHANGE THE STORY

**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.
CHANGE THE STORY COMPANION PIECES

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

Putting the prevention of violence against women into practice

Counting on change
A guide for policy makers and practitioners to support implementation of violence against women programs

ABORIGINAL-SPECIFIC RESOURCE
EXPECTED RELEASE EARLY 2018

Our WATCH
End violence against Women And Their Children
ABORIGINAL SPECIFIC RESOURCE

Consultations are currently taking place across Australia
LESSONS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE

1. Culture change is long-term work
2. Ensure highest level of ministerial ownership and cross-portfolio engagement
3. Support the specialist VAW sector
4. Keep voices of victim/survivors central
5. Bring the public along
6. Build infrastructure first - ‘future-proof’ the reform pathway
7. Take an intersectional approach
8. Build a holistic system – response, early intervention, & prevention