Are we there yet? Monitoring progress towards the prevention of violence against women in Australia

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Our Watch: a national organisation for the primary prevention of violence against women

- Non-government organisation, but with government members
- Our specialist focus is **primary prevention**
- Our areas of work:
  - evidence development
  - policy advice to governments
  - support and tools for practitioners and communities
  - social marketing campaigns and media work
- **Change the story**: world’s first evidence-based framework for primary prevention. Identifies the underlying **gendered drivers** of violence against women, and **actions** to address these
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

Gender inequality sets the NECESSARY SOCIAL CONTEXT
Violence against women is preventable if we all work together.

Actions that will prevent violence against women:

- Challenge condoning of violence against women
- Promote women’s independence & decision-making
- Challenge gender stereotypes and roles
- Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relationships

Promote and normalise GENDER EQUALITY in public and private life.
What is *Progress in prevention*?

- **Counting on change** – framework for monitoring and evaluating progress on prevention actions in *Change the story*

- *Progress in prevention*: first report tracking national level change

- Monitoring change against measures and indicators for:
  - The gendered drivers of violence against women
  - Intersecting and reinforcing factors
  - Prevalence

- Begins assessment of how primary prevention infrastructure is developing (incl. policy, leadership, programming, workforce)

- Demonstrates:
  - *how* national monitoring and reporting can be done,
  - *what measures and data* can be used, and
  - *what such a report it looks like*

- Intended as the first in a series
Tracking short and medium term measures as a way to check progress towards our long term goal

1. Prevention infrastructure and programming are strengthened.
2. Improved prevention infrastructure and programs lead to measurable improvements against the drivers and reinforcing factors of violence against women.
3. Counter-intuitively, demand for response services will increase in the short and medium term as prevention infrastructure improves, awareness increases, and women feel more supported to seek help.
4. 12 month prevalence of violence against women will remain static in the short and medium term, but will begin to decrease with improvements in gender equality and reductions in the drivers of violence.
5. Lifetime prevalence will only start to decrease in the very long-term.

In time, prevention infrastructure and programs are strong and high-quality. Levels of investment plateau, with a view to ensuring continuous learning and maintaining quality of infrastructure.
ULTIMATE GOAL
Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities

LONGER-TERM MEASURES
What will be the outcomes in the longer-term?
- REDUCED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY INTIMATE PARTNER
- REDUCED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY NON-INTIMATE PARTNER
- REDUCED SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ONLINE TROLLING

MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES
What changes should we aim for and measure in the medium-term?
- REDUCED ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- WOMEN HAVE GREATER DECISION-MAKING POWER
- MORE POSITIVE, EQUAL, AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS
- REDUCED ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE IN GENERAL
- MEN & BOYS ARE ENGAGED AND BACKLASH IS REDUCED
- MORE POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS OF MASCULINITY
- GENDER ROLES ARE LESS RIGID
- REDUCED EXPERIENCES OF OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE
- REDUCED HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL
- GREATER SOCIAL & ECONOMIC EQUALITY

PROCESS MEASURES
What is being done to support change?
- LEADERSHIP FROM GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY
- POSITIVE REFORMS IN POLICIES AND LAWS
- A GROWING EXPERT WORKFORCE FOR PREVENTION
- SETTING STANDARDS & WORKING TOGETHER
- SHARED WAYS OF EVALUATING AND COMMUNICATING FINDINGS
- DELIVERING QUALITY PREVENTION PROGRAMS
Methodology - part 1: medium and long-term measures

Desktop analysis of select indicators from existing population-level quantitative datasets that assess trends over time

11 Domains
39 Indicators

PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (5 INDICATORS IN TOTAL)

- INDICATOR: Proportion of women subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence, by a current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months.
  SOURCE: Personal Safety Survey

- INDICATOR: Proportion of women subjected to sexual violence, by persons partner other than an intimate partner in their lifetime.
  SOURCE: Personal Safety Survey

DRIVERS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (23 INDICATORS IN TOTAL)

- INDICATOR: Community attitudes towards violence against women
  SOURCE: National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS).

- INDICATOR: Proportion of time women spend in unpaid care work compared to men.
  SOURCE: Household Income and Labour Dynamics Australia

REINFORCING FACTORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (10 INDICATORS IN TOTAL)

- INDICATOR: Percentage of women who experienced violence reporting that children heard or saw the violence.
  SOURCE: Personal Safety Survey

- INDICATOR: Percentage of population who express denial of continued gender inequality and hostility towards women.
  SOURCE: National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS)
Methodology - part 2: prevention infrastructure

- Measures progress towards the prevention infrastructure required to provide the foundations for sustained and meaningful population-level change

- Exploratory, qualitative approach, using mixed methodologies (case studies, survey, interviews, policy analysis, analysis of existing evaluations, some analysis of secondary data). Designed to establish a baseline and set the foundations for future monitoring

- 6 domains; approximately 30 indicators
What are we learning?

Report not be public until June 2020, so findings not finalised yet.

Medium and long term measures - picture likely to be mixed. Range of publicly available datasets indicate positive shifts on some measures, for example in attitudes (see National Community Attitudes Survey). But on other measures, change has not yet been observed.

However we’re still working to bring all the indicators and measures together, and analyse these as a whole, together with the qualitative information we’re collecting on the infrastructure measures, in order to create a full picture,

The ability to conduct this kind of holistic, multi-dimensional analysis across all these domains, is what makes the project unique and valuable,
Infrastructure measures: emerging lessons

- Infrastructure develops in different ways in different contexts and is not necessarily linear or predictable

- Analysis of this process will highlight:
  - where mutually reinforcing work is required
  - where there are dependencies between and across the different infrastructure domains
  - dependencies between the infrastructure domains and the drivers

- Mechanisms for data collection and monitoring are part of the infrastructure needed, so work to develop these, as we are doing in this project - is also contributing to building the infrastructure
Challenges

• Limitations of population level data:
  o Lack of data for every indicator
  o Doesn’t enable nuanced understanding of results for population sub-groups

Strengths of the approach

• Multi-dimensional analysis demonstrates scale and diversity of effort required to prevent violence against women
• Helps identify gaps in population level strategy
• Advocacy tool
• Accountability
• Blueprint for measuring complex social and political phenomena
Possible implications for other countries

- Globally, this is one of the few initiatives to build evidence on primary prevention progress at a national population level. Our Watch is keen to keep sharing the lessons we’re learning.

- Demonstrates importance and value of monitoring and provides a general approach that could be used elsewhere. But we acknowledge the detail of approaches in different country contexts would need to be quite different.

- In less resourced contexts where there is little available population level data, options could include:
  - starting with an assessment of prevention infrastructure (including research and data infrastructure)
  - drawing on available administrative data, or data being collected for SDG monitoring.
Thank you

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