



National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

May 2014

ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

Executive summary

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* (the National Plan) was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments and released in February 2011. It sets out a framework to coordinate actions across the Commonwealth, state and territory governments of Australia to reduce violence against women and their children.

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), formerly the National Centre of Excellence to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (NCE), is one of the key commitments of the National Plan. The first major task of ANROWS was to produce the National Research Agenda on behalf of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments of Australia. The purpose of the National Research Agenda is to develop a cohesive and comprehensive national evidence base that is relevant to policy and practice and actively contributes to the National Plan outcomes. It will do this by providing strategic direction and identifying research opportunities and priorities that are nationally applicable.

The National Research Agenda will inform the development of the ANROWS Research Program as well as provide a framework for, and guidance on, priority areas of research and research themes for academics, researchers, organisations and governments across Australia.

ANROWS designed a multi-stage process to produce the National Research Agenda that included:

- Reviewing the National Plan and related policy documents.
- Commissioning two gap analyses of Australian research on violence against women, the first on national statistical collections and the second on research since 2000.
- National stakeholder consultation and engagement which included 127 written submissions and six stakeholder roundtables involving over 75 participants.

As illustrated in the summary on the following two pages, the National Research Agenda organises identified research priorities for policy and practice within a framework of four Strategic Research Themes (SRTs), which relate to all of the National Plan's six national outcomes:

1. Communities are safe and free from violence.
2. Relationships are respectful.
3. Indigenous communities are strengthened.
4. Services meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence.
5. Justice responses are effective.
6. Perpetrators stop their violence and are held to account for their actions.

National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children summary (May 2014)

Strategic Research Theme	Area of research	Topics (brief summary)*
SRT 1 Experience and impacts (All National Plan outcomes)	1.1 Prevalence and incidence of violence against women	Prevalence and incidence of violence against women in various sub-populations.
	1.2 Disclosure and reporting	Factors that facilitate and impede disclosure; barriers to reporting to social networks, health and social services; partial and indirect disclosure; disclosure in sub-populations.
	1.3 Intersections: context, vulnerability and risk	Use of technology; intersections such as alcohol consumption and abuse, drug use, trauma, post-traumatic stress, health issues, and natural disasters; sub-populations.
	1.4 Building bridges: co-occurrence and re-victimisation	Meta-analysis of national and international studies; prevalence and incidence of co-occurrence.
	1.5 Experiences, effects and impacts	Rural and remote women, Indigenous women, and women with disability; longitudinal analyses; economic participation; intergenerational impacts; women compared to men; economic costs; disease burden.
SRT 2 Gender inequality and primary prevention (National Plan outcomes 1,2,3)	2.1 Gendered nature of violence against women	Links with gender inequality; gender roles, stereotype and myths; objectification of women and girls; pornography; gender-neutral approaches; continuum of violence; comparisons between forms of violence.
	2.2 Social determinants of violence against women	Intersection with social inequality; poverty; unequal access to resources; discrimination; culture - including impact on perpetration, vulnerability and risk.
	2.3 Design, evaluation and monitoring of primary prevention programs	Meta-analysis of national and international programs; efficacy and outcomes of primary prevention including longitudinal studies; links between community attitudes and behaviours; sub-populations.

* Common across all SRTs is the need to focus research effort on “what works” and on marginalised groups and under-researched populations. Although specific initiatives for sub-populations are identified in each SRT, research effort should target the following sub-populations across all four SRTs: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women; rural and remote women; women with disability; younger women (18-24 year age group especially); older women; culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women; gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (GLBTIQ) women; immigrant women; women without children; and children.

SRT 3 Service responses and interventions (National Plan outcomes 1,3,4,6)	3.1 Service responses to women and their children	Effectiveness of current service delivery models including longitudinal studies; cultural appropriateness; sub-populations; specialist compared to mainstream services.
	3.2 Characteristics of men who use violence	Identifying characteristics of those at risk of perpetrating; typologies of perpetrators; sub-populations; undetected men who use violence; adolescent violence.
	3.3 Interventions targeting men who use violence	Standardised treatment models and efficacy of programs across jurisdictions; sub-populations; court-mandated programs; programs removing men from the home; unintended outcomes.
SRT 4 Systems (National Plan outcomes 3,4,5,6)	4.1 Criminal justice and legal systems	Law reform and legal responses to domestic and family violence across jurisdictions; Family Law; restorative justice in Indigenous communities; interactions with police; intersections between legal, police and child protection systems; co-occurrence of forms of violence.
	4.2 Pathways, intersections and integrated responses	Integrated service models and collaborative approaches, especially in child protection, health and legal/justice systems; first-responder agencies; screening and risk assessment tools; pathways between mainstream and specialist agencies; sub-populations including innovative service responses.
	4.3 Government policy	Violence against women policy; community education campaigns; economic analyses of policy and programs; intersection with broader government policy.