Promoting women's economic security following domestic and family violence

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Economic security is central to women's capacity to transition from violent relationships and to achieve wellbeing following domestic and family violence. Poor economic wellbeing resulting from violence has significant national as well as individual impacts, and generates high costs relating to health, labour market participation, and income support. Based on qualitative and quantitative research conducted for ANROWS, this presentation explores the economic impact of violence, and discusses ways service systems can better respond.

First, analysis of survey data shows how domestic violence exacerbates measures of financial hardship and confirms the long-term nature of these economic effects. The second part draws on interviews with leading practitioners and advocates to explore ways to improve and better coordinate system responses to the economic impacts of violence. Such responses include promoting community and professional awareness of economic abuse; improving capacity to address financial matters (including housing needs) in initial and ongoing responses to violence; preventing and redressing the economic losses associated with violence; improving access to quality employment opportunities for women across the life-course; and preventing economic abuse post-separation.