Sexual assault and domestic violence in the context of co-occurrence and re-victimisation

Dr Peta Cox
Senior Research Officer (Research Program)
ANROWS

Re-victimisation (when a woman, over her lifetime, experiences both sexual assault and domestic violence) and intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) are common patterns of violence which have severe, and often long-term, impacts on women. International research indicates that women who experience both domestic violence and sexual assault are not always adequately supported in “siloeed” domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Examining both co-occurrence and IPSV enables us to highlight the common impacts of domestic violence and sexual assault and provide concrete evidence of how these different scenarios of violence are linked at both the individual and societal level.

This presentation will examine:

- Characteristics of co-occurrence and re-victimisation.
- Impacts of co-occurrence and re-victimisation, including the disproportional impact on certain sub-populations.
- Limitations of existing research.

The discussion session will include:

- Brainstorming the policy and practice implications of understanding domestic violence and sexual assault as inter-related issues.
- Discussion of the feasibility of the recommendations made in the report.