

ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY
to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

Media Release

Friday 16 May 2014

Governments unite to launch national research body aimed at improving women's safety

A national research organisation funded jointly by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments has been launched today to undertake research aimed at addressing the high rates of domestic, family and sexual violence against women and their children and improving outcomes for victims.

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) was established in 2013. It is the first of its kind in Australia and was officially launched at Parliament House, Canberra by Federal Minister for Social Services Kevin Andrews and Federal Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women Michaela Cash. They were joined by state and territory ministers from across Australia, including New South Wales Minister for Women, The Hon. Pru Goward, and by representatives from the services sector, women's organisations and researchers.

The establishment of ANROWS delivers on a key commitment under the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*.

Research over the past seven years shows violence against women remains alarmingly high. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey 2012 found one in five (19%) Australian women had been subjected to sexual violence, and one in six (17%) had experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner.

The survey found no reduction in the rates of women who reported partner violence between the 2005 ABS Personal Safety Survey and that undertaken in 2012, despite numerous programs and initiatives aimed at addressing the issue.

Today's launch also marked the announcement of the *National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*, addressing the four key areas of experience and impacts of violence against women, gender inequality and prevention, effectiveness of service responses and interventions, and the impact of systems (see below for summary). The National Research Agenda was produced by ANROWS on behalf of the Australian governments to develop a cohesive and comprehensive national evidence base to support the National Plan.

ANROWS will undertake a program of research under the National Research Agenda, with the ANROWS Research Priorities for 2014-15 also announced at today's launch. ANROWS will work with governments and non-government agencies, researchers, and practitioners to undertake high quality research that aims to

influence policy, service provision and professional practice. Applications are now open for ANROWS research grants in priority areas.

Minister Goward, today announced the New South Wales Government has partnered with the Commonwealth, and its state and territory counterparts because it knows that a united approach is required to address this nationally critical issue.

“Violence against women is an issue prevalent in every community and deserves a coordinated, national response. This is why the New South Wales Government is proud to announce its investment in this important research body.

“To develop policy that makes a real difference to reducing violence against women, we need to really understand the issue. ANROWS will provide targeted research to communities at a state and national level, providing insight that will allow us to ensure the policies and practices we implement are delivering real results,” Ms Goward said.

“This is a serious issue that has seen little improvement in recent years, which is why a new approach is needed.

“The \$491,250 contribution from the New South Wales Government is an investment in the future safety of all women in Australia, and builds on the \$9.8 million the NSW Government is already investing in domestic violence initiatives,” Ms Goward said.

The New South Wales Government is investing \$491,250 a year, as a part of the total contribution from all governments of \$3 million per annum over three years to enable the organisation to begin its own research projects and provide funding for other researchers. The Commonwealth has also invested an additional \$1 million per annum over 3 years to support specific research on interventions with perpetrators of violence against women. The investment in ANROWS is a part of the \$170 million National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

ANROWS Chair Emeritus Professor Anne Edwards said the creation of this research organisation marks a turning point in how we respond to reducing violence against women.

“The organisation is unique in Australia as it aims to combine the capabilities and views of the many groups involved in working to reduce violence against women and their children across the country, ensuring a comprehensive and relevant body of research is undertaken. It will have a significant national and international leadership role in research on violence against women,” Professor Edwards said.

ANROWS CEO, Heather Nancarrow, said improving outcomes for women will be a priority for the organisation.

“We’ll go beyond identifying what works, with the research assessing what works best and for whom. For example, a high security refuge may be important for many women escaping domestic and family violence, but for others it may be preferable to investigate how they can stay safely in the family home,” Ms Nancarrow said.

More information about the National Research Agenda, grant applications and ANROWS' research priorities is available at anrows.org.au.

- ENDS -

For media enquiries or to arrange an interview, please contact

Minister Goward:

Nick Tyrrell

+61 467 733 876

Kate Murphy, Haystac

+61 405 766 434

NOTES TO EDITORS

National Research Agenda – Key themes

The National Research Agenda will inform the development of ANROWS's Research Program and provide a framework for, and guidance on, priority areas of research and research themes for academics, researchers, organisations and governments across Australia. More information is available at anrows.org.au

Strategic Research Theme	Area of research
Experience and impacts	Prevalence and incidence of violence against women <i>e.g. Prevalence and incidence in various sub-populations</i>
	Disclosure and reporting <i>e.g. Factors that facilitate and impede disclosure; barriers to reporting to social networks, health and social services</i>
	Intersections: context, vulnerability and risk <i>e.g. Intersections such as alcohol consumption and abuse, drug use, trauma, post-traumatic stress and health issues</i>

	<p>Building bridges: co-occurrence and re-victimisation <i>e.g. Prevalence and incidence of co-occurrence</i></p> <p>Experiences, effects and impacts <i>e.g. Rural and remote women, Indigenous women, and women with disability; intergenerational impact; economic costs</i></p>
Gender inequality and primary prevention	<p>Gendered nature of violence against women <i>e.g. Links with gender inequality; gender roles, stereotype and myths; objectification of women and girls</i></p>
	<p>Social determinants of violence against women <i>e.g. Intersection with social inequality; poverty; unequal access to resources; discrimination; culture.</i></p>
	<p>Design, evaluation and monitoring of primary prevention programs <i>e.g. Efficacy and outcomes of primary prevention; links between community attitudes and behaviours</i></p>
Service responses and interventions	<p>Service responses to women and their children <i>e.g. Effectiveness of current service delivery models; cultural appropriateness; specialist compared to mainstream services</i></p>
	<p>Characteristics of men who use violence <i>e.g. Identifying characteristics of those at risk of perpetrating; undetected men who use violence; adolescent violence</i></p>
	<p>Interventions targeting men who use violence <i>e.g. Standardised treatment models and efficacy of programs across jurisdictions; court-mandated programs</i></p>
Systems	<p>Criminal justice and legal systems <i>e.g. Law reform and legal responses to domestic and family violence; restorative justice in Indigenous communities</i></p>
	<p>Pathways, intersections and integrated responses <i>e.g. Integrated service models and collaborative approaches, especially in child protection, health and legal/justice systems</i></p>
	<p>Government policy <i>e.g. Violence against women policy; community education campaigns; economic analyses of policy and programs</i></p>