

# Attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality among people in NSW:

Summary findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS)



**ANROWS**

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

In partnership with:



## Suggested citation

Parton, C. (2019). *Attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality among people in NSW: Summary findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS)* (ANROWS Insights, Issue 09/2019). Sydney: ANROWS.

## Acknowledgements

Proudly funded by the NSW Government.

This report draws on material produced as part of the 2017 NCAS main report: *Australians' attitudes to violence against women and gender equality. Findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey* by Webster, K., Diemer, K., Honey, N., Mannix, S., Mickle, J., Morgan, J., Parkes, A., Politoff, V., Powell, A., Stubbs, J. & Ward, A. The 2017 NCAS was an ANROWS led project in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales (UNSW), the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT) and the Social Research Centre (SRC) as research partners.

All statistical analyses for the NSW community report were conducted by the Social Research Centre. Thanks are extended to Dr Christine Coumarelos (ANROWS), Dr Nikki Honey (Social Research Centre), Cassandra Dawes (ANROWS) and Celeste Koens (ANROWS) for their support in the production of the report. Art direction and design by Eleanor Shepherd and Holly Windle.

## Acknowledgement of Country

ANROWS acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land across Australia on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present, and emerging. We value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and knowledge.

## Acknowledgement of lived experiences of violence

ANROWS acknowledges the lives and experiences of the women and children affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Caution: Some people may find parts of this content confronting or distressing.

Recommended support services include:  
1800RESPECT – 1800 737 732 and Lifeline – 13 11 14.

**Attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality among people in NSW: Summary findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS)**/Chloe Parton. Sydney, NSW: ANROWS. Pages ; 30cm. (ANROWS Insights, Issue 09/2019)

I. Women – Violence against – Australia – Public opinion. II. National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey (Australia: 2017). III. Family violence – Australia – Public opinion – Statistics. IV. Gender mainstreaming – Public opinion – Statistics.

I. Parton, Chloe.

ISBN: 978-1-925925-14-2 (print) | 978-1-925925-13-5 (online)

Creative Commons Licence 

Attribution Non-Commercial CC BY-NC 4.0 International  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>

The findings and views reported in this paper are those of the authors and cannot be attributed to the Australian Government, or any Australian state or territory government.

# Executive summary

Violence against women is prevalent in NSW and Australia. There is evidence to suggest that addressing the underlying factors that contribute to this violence can assist in prevention. Community attitudes supportive of gender inequality and violence against women are among such factors.

This report is a summary of the 2017 National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS) results for the NSW community, and follows reports on the Australian population and on demographic groups of interest.<sup>1</sup> The report is an activity initiated under the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children (The Blueprint)* (NSW Ministry of Health, 2016a). *The Blueprint* sets objectives for preventing family and domestic violence that include the measurement of attitudes that are

supportive of violence. The NCAS NSW community results provide a snapshot and way of measuring how knowledge and attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality have changed over time.

The NCAS is a population-based periodic telephone survey (landline and mobile) of a representative sample. In 2017, 17,542 people were surveyed across Australia, including 4,018 people from NSW. They were asked about their:

- knowledge of violence against women;
- attitudes towards this violence and gender equality; and
- intention to act if they were to witness abuse or disrespect towards women.

A combination of descriptive and multivariate statistical analyses were used to produce the findings in this report.



## Overall findings

The key findings for the NSW community are as follows:<sup>2</sup>

### Encouraging results

- The majority of people in NSW have a good understanding of violence against women and do not support this violence.
- The majority of people in NSW support gender equality and this support has increased between 2013 and 2017.
- The majority of people in NSW know that violence against women extends beyond physical violence, and this knowledge has increased between 2013 and 2017.
- The majority of people in NSW do not condone violence-supportive attitudes, and the proportion who do not condone such attitudes increased between 2013 and 2017.
- The majority of people in NSW would feel “bothered” if they witnessed verbal abuse (98%) or disrespect (77%) towards women. If witnessing verbal abuse, the majority also said they would act (72%) and would have the support of most or all of their friends (69%).

### Concerning results

- There is an ongoing decline in the number of people in NSW who recognise that men are more likely than women to perpetrate intimate partner violence (64% in 2017, compared to 70% in 2013 and 77% in 2009).

- While there is increasing support for gender equality overall, a concerning proportion believe that gender inequality is no longer a problem.
- A concerning number of people in NSW endorse attitudes that reflect mistrust of women’s reports of violence, support the idea that women use reports of violence for advantage over men and disregard the need for consent.
- Nearly one in five would not be bothered if a male friend told a sexist joke about women.
- More than one in five would not know how to act if witnessing verbal abuse towards a woman.

### Predictors

All demographic, contextual and attitudinal factors in the NCAS survey were examined to measure which were the strongest predictors of attitudes supportive of violence against women in NSW. The strongest predictors were people having:

- low support of gender equality; and
- low understanding of violence against women (relative to other respondents).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Further detailed findings about the Australian community as a whole, young people, people from non-main English-speaking countries and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are explored in dedicated reports. These, along with further detailed findings and methodological information, can be found at <http://ncas.anrows.org.au>.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout the report, statements of findings based on a single statistical analysis are provided together with the relevant statistics (e.g. percentages). Where statements summarise statistics from multiple analyses, the relevant statistics can be found in the tables and figures provided in the report. All statistically significant differences are noted in the tables and figures throughout the report.

<sup>3</sup> “High” and “low” classify respondents relative to one another. It would be wrong to say that any group has a high or low level of support.

## Implications for policy and practice

Overall, the 2017 NCAS results show improvements in attitudes towards violence and gender equality in the NSW community. However, there remain areas of concern. Continued effort is needed to make sure that positive changes in attitudes are reflected in a reduction of violence against women.

Based on the 2017 NCAS findings, key areas to focus NSW prevention efforts include:

- support initiatives at a national as well as local level given the similarity of findings for NSW compared to the Australian community;
- address gaps in knowledge about violence against women;
- challenge attitudes that minimise violence against women and mistrust women's reports of violence;
- encourage attitudes supportive of mutually respectful and consensual sexual relationships;
- ensure that people in NSW know where to get help for a domestic violence issue;
- include a focus on gender equality in prevention programming, especially as it relates to private life;
- build strategies to address 'backlash' towards gender equality into prevention programs and policies; and
- encourage bystander action by providing knowledge about the likelihood of support from friends as well as strategies about how to act.

# About the NCAS

The NCAS tells us:

- about people's understanding of, and attitudes towards, violence against women;
- about their attitudes towards gender equality;
- what influences their attitudes;
- if there has been a change over time; and
- whether people are prepared to intervene when witnessing abuse or disrespect towards women.

The 2017 NCAS is closely aligned with *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia (Change the Story)* (Our Watch, VicHealth & Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), 2015), which was developed to support achievement of the goals within the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022 (the National Plan)* (Council of Australian Governments (COAG), 2011). The NCAS also complements the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey (PSS), which asks people about their experiences of violence.

The NCAS is the world's longest-running survey of community attitudes towards violence against women. It was initially developed on behalf of the Australian Government in 1995, drawing on an earlier 1987 survey. The last two national surveys took place in 2009 and 2013 (led by VicHealth). Leadership of the NCAS was transferred to ANROWS in 2016 for the implementation of the 2017 survey and future waves of NCAS.

The NCAS is a resource for anyone wanting to understand and prevent violence against women. It can be used by educators, policymakers, program planners, researchers, journalists and students.

## Why measure attitudes to violence against women and gender equality?

Violence against women is a prevalent problem with significant health, social and economic costs for women and their children, as well as society as a whole (Webster et al., 2014; Webster, 2016). Gender inequality and disrespect of women increases the likelihood of this violence occurring (Webster & Flood, 2015).

There is evidence that violence against women can be prevented before it occurs by addressing the underlying factors that contribute to the problem (Our Watch, VicHealth & ANROWS, 2015). Prevention action complements but is separate from responses after violence has occurred. However, both forms of action are required to reduce the prevalence of violence over time.

Attitudes are shaped by the world around us, including our families and friends, communities and institutions such as schools and the media (Flood & Pease, 2009). Measuring community attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality is important as it can indicate levels of public awareness, highlight barriers for victims to report and monitor public intentions and barriers to intervening when witnessing violence or abuse towards women. Knowledge of community attitudes can also provide an indication of public support for prevention policy and interventions. In sum, attitudes may serve as a barometer of whether social progress is being made and where we may need to focus future effort.

Australian governments have made significant efforts to reduce violence against women and promote gender equality and respect. As part of addressing its commitment to the *National Plan*, the NSW Ministry of Health developed the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017–2021* (NSW Ministry of Health, 2016b) which includes an emphasis on increasing awareness of violence against women and support for gender equality. More recently, the NSW government also released the *NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018–2021* (New South Wales. Government, 2018a), which focuses on preventing and responding to sexual violence.

Despite prevention efforts, the number of women who have experienced violence in Australia is significant. One in four Australian women over the age of 18 have experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 15, and one in five have experienced sexual violence (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2017; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 2019). Also, one in six Australian women have experienced stalking, and more than half have experienced sexual harassment (ABS, 2017; Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), 2017; AHRC, 2018).

While affecting women across the social spectrum, violence against women is either more prevalent and/or more severe and prolonged among women with disabilities, women with limited access to resources such as education, housing, income and employment, as well as among women from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, rural and regional and some culturally and linguistically diverse communities (AIHW, 2019).

## The 2017 NCAS questionnaire

The questionnaire from the 2013 survey was redeveloped for the 2017 survey, retaining as many questions as possible to measure changes over time. The *NCAS Questionnaire Framework* provides an overview of the questionnaire (see Figure 1).

The core of the survey (represented in the centre column, Figure 1) involves four **components**<sup>4</sup> made up of questions designed to find out about people's:

- knowledge of violence against women (25 questions);
- attitudes toward gender equality (19 questions);
- attitudes toward violence against women (35 questions and 2 scenarios); and
- intentions if witnessing violence or disrespect toward women (two scenarios).<sup>5</sup>

Each component is further divided into **themes**. These reflect different aspects of knowledge and different ways attitudinal support for gender equality and violence against women can be expressed. The themes in the "bystander" component reflect the conditions known to increase the chances that people will take positive action as bystanders to violence and disrespect.

As well as measuring people's responses to individual questions, overall concepts are gauged using 15 **composite measures** (these may be referred to as scales or constructs). These are made up from selected questions using statistical methods (Rasch and Factor Analysis) to ensure they measure the concept accurately.<sup>6</sup>



### Box 1: How are composite measures used in NCAS?

The strength of a composite measure is that it can measure a complex overall topic or concept (such as support for gender equality) that would be difficult to measure with a single question or even several questions considered separately. These are used in the NCAS to:

- measure overall understanding and attitudinal support more validly;
- measure the change in overall concepts over time;
- find out how widely supported particular attitudinal concepts are held, so that greater
- focus can be placed on more troubling concepts in prevention work;
- explore factors that are related to knowledge, attitudes and action (for example, whether a person's age influences whether they are more likely to endorse gender equality overall; and
- explore relationships between concepts (e.g. to find out whether some aspects of attitudes towards gender equality are more strongly related to attitudinal support for violence against women than others).

As shown in Figure 1, the 2017 NCAS survey contained four composite measures: The Understanding of Violence against Women Scale (UVAWS), Gender Equality Attitudes Scale (GEAS), Community Attitudes Supportive of Violence against Women (CASVAW) and Intention to Act Construct (IAC).

The first component in the NCAS Framework, the knowledge **component**, has one **composite measure** that gauges people's overall understanding that violence against women extends beyond physical violence to also include psychological, social and financial means of control and intimidation. There are **composite measures** to gauge attitudes towards gender equality and violence against women overall, as well as the **themes** in each of these **components**. Drawing on questions from the bystander component, there is a composite measure of people's overall intention to take positive action if they witness violence or disrespect towards women.

Many factors influence knowledge and attitudes. Increasing understanding of these factors is an aim of the NCAS. The factors included in the 2017 NCAS are shown in the far left column (Figure 1) in the *NCAS Questionnaire Framework*. Information is collected from survey participants to measure each of these factors. This is then used in the analysis of their responses to the questions in the four core survey components. This includes questions about themselves, such as their age, occupation, education and whether they have a disability. Among the new factors measured in the 2017 NCAS are:

- people's levels of prejudice on the basis of other attributes (sexual orientation, Aboriginality, ethnicity and disability);
- their support for violence in general; and
- the gender composition of their friendship networks and workplaces.



### Box 2: Note on terminology:

Domestic violence, partner violence and violence against women

Many of the questions in the survey use the term **domestic violence** because this is the term used when they were first asked nationally in 1995. The terminology of domestic violence was retained in the questions in which it was used in 2013 to enable the 2017 results to be compared with previous NCAS waves. For accuracy, this term is used in this report when referring to the questions or findings.

The terms **intimate partner violence** and **family violence** are now commonly used in policy and research. Intimate partner violence is used to distinguish violence occurring between people in an intimate relationship. The term family violence may encompass violence between intimate partners, but also includes violence involving other family members (e.g. violence between siblings). The term intimate partner violence is used in this report except when referring to NCAS questions and findings that use the terminology of domestic violence.

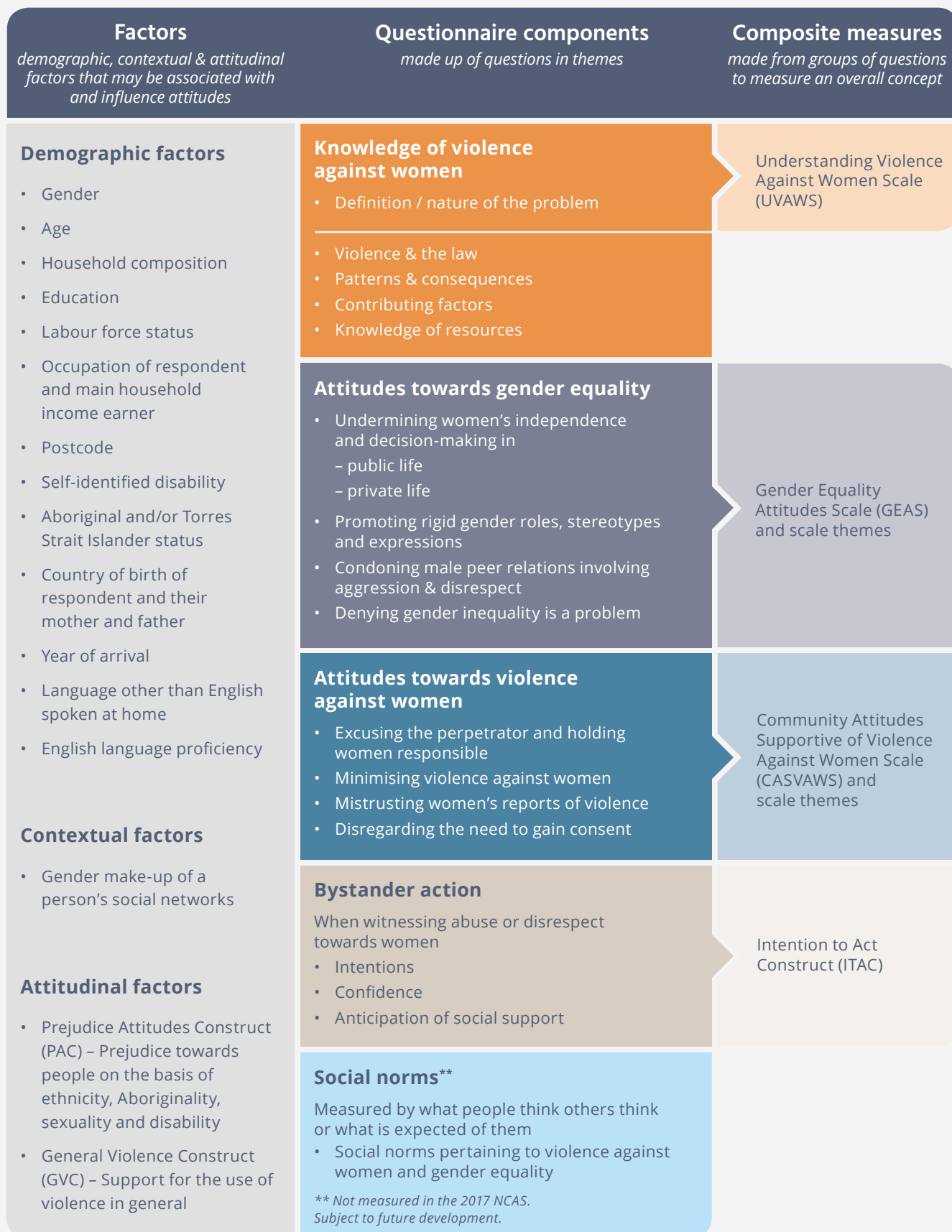
The NCAS encompasses four forms of violence: intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and stalking. As these are all forms of **violence against women**, this terminology is used when referring to two or more of these forms of violence.

<sup>4</sup> The fifth component listed in the NCAS Questionnaire Framework 'social norms', was not measured in the 2017 NCAS. Measurement of social norms is subject to future development in the NCAS.

<sup>5</sup> The Intention to Act Construct (IAC) was the only component that was entirely new to the 2017 NCAS questionnaire.

<sup>6</sup> Composite measures were developed using Rasch and Factor Analysis. Further information can be found in the 2017 NCAS Methodology Report at <http://ncas.anrows.org.au>.

**Figure 1: NCAS Questionnaire Framework**





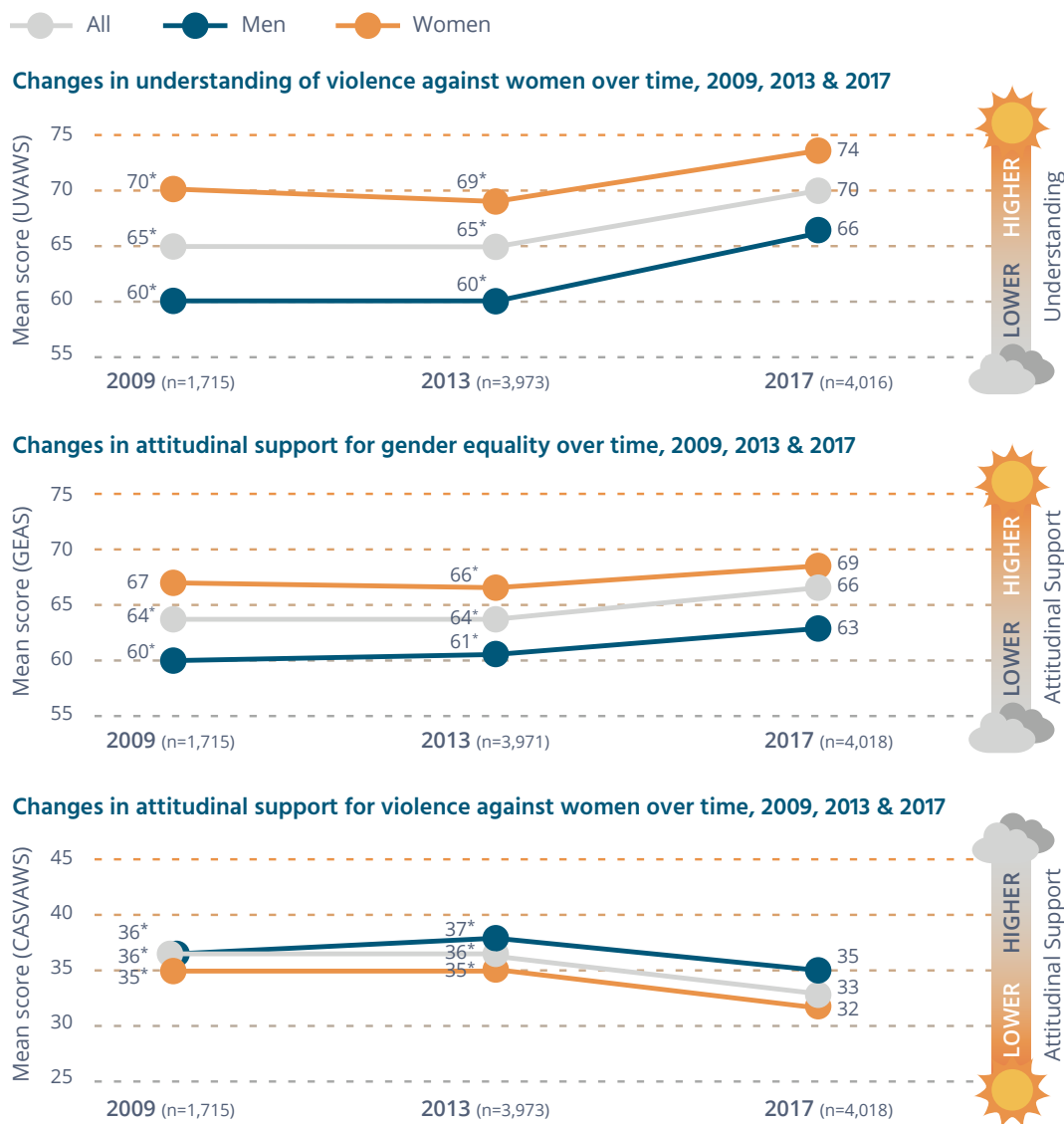
# The 2017 NCAS findings for NSW

## Change in knowledge and attitudes over time

Responses to individual questions show that the majority of people in NSW have a good understanding of violence against women, support gender equality, reject attitudes supportive of violence against women and say that they would act or would like to act when witnessing abuse and disrespect towards women.

To measure change over time at an overall level, statistical modelling was used to account for the fact that not every question was asked in every survey wave. Using the composite measures, each respondent was given a score based on their answers to questions in the measures. An average for the NSW population was then calculated. Scores range from 1 to 100.

**Figure 2: Changes in understanding and attitudes over time among people in NSW**



\* Difference between survey year and 2017 is statistically significant, p<.01.

Between 2013 and 2017 there was positive change on all three composite measures (see Figure 2).

- The average score for people in NSW on the measure of understanding violence against women increased from 65 to 70 (ranging from 1 to 100, with 100 indicating the highest level of understanding).
- The score for attitudinal support for gender equality increased from 64 to 66 (with 100 indicating the highest level of support for gender equality).
- The average score for attitudinal support for violence against women fell from 36 to 33 (a positive result, with 1

indicating the lowest level of endorsement for violence-supportive attitudes).

- Men and women in NSW have improved on all three measures between 2013 and 2017. However, compared to women, men have a lower level of understanding of violence against women, lower support for gender equality and a higher level of attitudinal support for violence against women.

The results show that there has been an improvement over time in knowledge and attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality among people in NSW.



## Knowledge of violence against women

Knowledge is among the factors influencing attitudes towards violence against women (Ajzen & Fishbein, 2009; Chaiken & Trope, 2004; Fazio, 1990) and is an important resource for both affected individuals and those around them to identify and respond constructively to the problem (Carlson & Worden, 2005; Powell, 2011). Knowledge of the law is important in encouraging individuals to report violence when it occurs and can play a role in shaping positive social

norms that take violence seriously (Salazar, Baker, Price, & Carlin, 2003). Increasing knowledge of violence against women within the NSW community is a key aim in the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children* (NSW Ministry of Health, 2016a) and the *NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018–2021* (NSW Government, 2018a).

**Table 1: Knowledge of violence against women among people in NSW**

	2009 Total n=1,715	2013 Total n=3,973	2017 Total n = 4,017 Men n = 1,976 Women n = 2,037		
<b>Understanding that certain behaviours are a form of domestic violence/violence against women (% agree)</b>					
<b>Physical forms of violence</b>					
Slaps or pushes to cause harm or fear	98	96	98	97*	99
Forces the other partner to have sex <sup>#</sup>	98	97	97	97	97
Tries to scare/control by threatening to hurt other family members <sup>#</sup>	98	97	98	97	99
Throws or smashes objects to frighten or threaten <sup>#</sup>	97	96	96	96	96
<b>Non-physical forms of violence</b>					
Repeatedly criticises to make partner feel bad or useless <sup>†</sup>	84 <sup>^</sup>	85 <sup>^</sup>	92	89*	95
Controls social life by preventing partner from seeing family/friends <sup>†</sup>	84 <sup>^</sup>	85	91	88*	95
Controls the other partner by denying them money	73	71 <sup>^</sup>	81	74*	87
Repeatedly keeps track of location, calls or activities through mobile phone or other devices without consent <sup>#</sup>	-	-	85	79	90
Stalking by repeatedly following/watching at home/work	91	89	91	89	94
Harassment by repeated emails, text messages <sup>†</sup>	87	85	89	87	91
<b>Knowledge of the prevalence of violence against women (% agree)</b>					
Violence against women is common <sup>#</sup>	74	66	73	66*	79
<b>Understanding of sexual violence (% agree)</b>					
If a woman doesn't physically resist—even if protesting verbally—then it isn't really rape <sup>#</sup>	-	11	9	10	7
Many allegations of sexual assault made by women are false <sup>#</sup>	-	-	15	17	12
It is a criminal offense for a man to have sex with his wife without her consent <sup>#</sup>	-	-	80	82	78
Women are more likely to be raped by someone they know than by a stranger <sup>#</sup>	73 <sup>^</sup>	65	62	62	62
<b>Knowledge of resources (% agree)</b>					
If I needed to get outside advice or support for someone about a domestic violence issue, I would know where to go <sup>#</sup>	64	57	60	60	60

<sup>#</sup> Asked of a quarter of the sample in 2017 (approximate n = 1005).

<sup>†</sup> Asked of half the sample in 2017 (approximate n = 2009)

\* Difference between men and women in 2017 is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

<sup>^</sup> Difference between year and 2017 is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

## Encouraging results: Knowledge of violence against women



- The majority of people in NSW have a good understanding of what constitutes violence against women (see Table 1).
- More people in NSW in 2017 than in 2013 recognise most of the behaviours constituting violence against women.
- There was a 10 percentage point increase between 2013 and 2017 in people in NSW recognising that denying a partner access to money is a form of domestic violence (71% to 81%).
- There was a 7 percentage point increase between 2013 and 2017 in people in NSW recognising that repeatedly criticising a partner to make them feel bad or useless is a form of domestic violence (85% to 92%).
- The majority of people in NSW (80%) recognise that non-consensual sex in marriage is illegal.
- The majority of people in NSW (73%) are aware that violence against women is common.

## Concerning results: Knowledge of violence against women



- Although there is a greater awareness of violence against women, there is a need for more knowledge of forms of abuse beyond physical violence.
- There has been a declining awareness of the gendered dynamics of intimate partner violence (see page 11).
- Only 62 percent of people in NSW are aware that women are more likely to be raped by someone they know than by a stranger (with 18% disagreeing and 16% responding that they did not know).
- While the majority of people in NSW are aware that non-consensual sex in marriage is illegal, 13 percent mistakenly believe that it is not illegal and a further 7 percent did not know.
- Two in five people in NSW would not know where to get outside help for a domestic violence issue.
- In 2017, men were less likely than women to have knowledge of verbal, emotional, social and financial abuse as forms of domestic violence, and had a lower awareness that violence against women is common (66% of men compared to 79% of women).

## Knowledge of the gendered pattern of intimate partner violence

Understanding the patterns of intimate partner violence is important because it reflects knowledge of the nature, severity and dynamics of violence itself. The response to intimate partner violence from someone who believes this form of violence tends to be mutual violence between two people with equal power is likely to be very different to someone who understands that a large proportion of partner violence involves unequal, gendered power dynamics. For example, men who perpetrate violence may use such attitudes to justify or minimise their behaviour (Meyer, 2018; Weldon & Gilchrist, 2012), women who experience violence may be less likely to seek help

(Egan & Wilson, 2012), and community members may be less likely to intervene in instances where they witness violence or disrespect towards women by men (Powell, 2011). As well as impacting individuals' responses to intimate partner violence, a lack of understanding of the gendered pattern of intimate partner violence may reduce the motivation of policy decision-makers to put direct resourcing towards actions that reduce partner violence affecting women (Stimson, MacKuen, & Erikson, 1995). The NCAS asked respondents about their knowledge of the gendered pattern of intimate partner violence.



### Does knowledge reflect the evidence? Who is more likely to commit domestic violence?

#### THE EVIDENCE

-  **Men** are more likely than women to perpetrate intimate partner violence and are more likely to use frequent, prolonged and extreme violence (Bagshaw, Chung, Couch, Lilburn, & Wadham, 2000; Belknap & Melton, 2005; Cox, 2015; Holtzworth-Munroe, 2005; Kimmel, 2012).
-  **Men** are more likely than women to sexually assault their partner (Swan, Gambone, Van Horn, Snow, & Sullivan, 2012).
-  **Men** are more likely than women to subject their partner to controlling and coercive behaviours (Caldwell, Swan, & Woodbrown, 2012).
-  **Women** are more likely than men to use violence against their partner in self-defence or in response to a loss of control or dignity from ongoing violence or control by their partner (Cercone, Beach, & Arias, 2005; Dobash, Dobash, Cavanagh, & Lewis, 2004; Holtzworth-Munroe, 2005; Larance & Miller, 2016; Mennicke & Kulkarni, 2016; Velonis, 2016).



#### WHAT PEOPLE IN NSW BELIEVE

While many people in NSW (64%) recognise that “mainly men” or “men more often” commit acts of domestic violence than women, the number of people that recognise this has **dropped 6 percentage points** since the 2013 NCAS (70%). This decline has been occurring since 2009, when 77 percent<sup>^</sup> of people in NSW recognised this fact.



### Does knowledge reflect the evidence? Who is more likely to suffer physical harm from domestic violence?

#### THE EVIDENCE

-  **Women** are more likely than men to suffer physical harm, including injuries requiring medical treatment, time off from work and days in bed (Belknap & Melton, 2005; Myhill, 2015).
-  **Women** are more likely than men to be the victims of domestic homicide (Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network, 2018; Chan & Payne, 2013).




#### WHAT PEOPLE IN NSW BELIEVE

While most people in NSW (81%) recognise that women are more likely to suffer physical harm from domestic violence than men, the number of people in NSW who recognise this has **dropped 6 percentage points** since the 2013 NCAS (87%). This decline has been occurring since 2009, when 91 percent<sup>^</sup> of people in NSW recognised this fact.



### Does knowledge reflect the evidence? Who is more likely to experience fear from domestic violence?

#### THE EVIDENCE

-  **Women** are more likely than men to report experiencing fear as a result of violence (Bagshaw et al., 2000; Caldwell, Swan, & Woodbrown, 2012; Heady, Scott, & De Vaus, 1999; National Crime Prevention, 2001).



#### WHAT PEOPLE IN NSW BELIEVE

Less than half (46%) of all people in NSW recognise that levels of fear from domestic violence are worse for women, and this number has **declined by 6 percentage points since 2013** (52%). This decline has been occurring since 2009, when 57 percent<sup>^</sup> of people in NSW recognised this fact.

<sup>^</sup> Difference between 2009 and 2017 is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

## What are attitudes supportive of violence against women?

These are attitudes that:



**Excuse the perpetrator and hold women responsible** by shifting responsibility for violence from the perpetrator to the victim by holding women responsible for the violence occurring, or for not preventing it. Attitudes excusing the perpetrator suggest that there are factors that make some men unable to control their behaviour.



**Disregarding the need to gain consent** by denying the requirement for men to secure positive consent in sexual relationships. These attitudes rationalise men's failure to actively secure consent either as a 'natural' aspect of masculinity (e.g. men's uncontrollable sexual drive), or logical due to stereotypes around female sexuality (e.g. the idea that women do not have the right to withhold consent if they have been sexually assertive).



**Minimise violence against women** by denying its seriousness, downplaying the impact on the victim, or making the violence and its consequences seem less significant or complex than they really are.



**Mistrust women's reports of violence** by suggesting women lie about or exaggerate reports of violence in order to 'get back at' men or gain tactical advantage in their relationships with men. Such attitudes have been referred to as part of a backlash.

Individuals who hold such attitudes are not necessarily violence prone or would openly condone violence against women. However, when such attitudes are expressed by influential individuals or are held by a large number of people, they can contribute to a culture in which violence is at best not clearly condemned, or at worst, is actively condoned or encouraged.

Attitudes that support violence against women (themes)



Attitudes that undermine gender equality (themes)

## What are attitudes that undermine gender equality?

These are attitudes that:



**Undermine women's independence and decision-making in public life** by suggesting men make better leaders, decision-makers or are more suited to holding positions of power and responsibility.



**Undermine women's independence and decision making in private life** by agreeing that men should have greater authority to make decisions and control in the private realm of intimate relationships, family life and household affairs.



**Promote rigid gender roles, stereotypes and expressions** by reflecting the idea that men and women are naturally suited to different tasks and responsibilities, and have naturally distinctive—often oppositional—personal characteristics (e.g. 'women are emotional and are therefore better childcarers', while 'men are rational and are therefore better politicians').



**Condone male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women** by accepting as normal, natural or harmless men's aggressive and disrespectful behaviour towards/about women by men in peer group settings (e.g. locker room talk).



**Deny gender equality is a problem** through denial that gender inequality, sexism, or discrimination against women continue to be problems in society. These attitudes often reflect hostility towards women and resentment towards improvements, or action for the improvement of women's rights. They are sometimes referred to as reflecting a 'backlash' towards women's advancement.

## Attitudes to gender inequality

Promoting gender equality is pivotal to reducing violence against women. Gender inequality, and attitudes supporting gender inequality, provide the social conditions in which violence against women is more likely to occur (Webster & Flood, 2015). This is a position supported by many expert bodies (Michau, Horn, Bank, Dutt, & Zimmerman, 2015; United Nations Women, 2015; World Health Organisation (WHO), 2010) and which underpins both the *National Plan* and *Change the Story*, as well as NSW violence prevention policy frameworks in the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016–2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children (NSW Ministry of Health, 2016a)* and the *NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018–2021 (NSW Government, 2018a)*. Monitoring changes in attitudes to gender equality over time is an important way of tracking the conditions that increase the likelihood of violence against women in NSW.

Achieving gender equality is also important for other reasons, including its link to the wellbeing of women, men and their families; the protection and promotion of human rights; and for its benefits for wider society, including improved productivity, creativity and economic development (VicHealth, 2017a; VicHealth, 2017b). This is recognised in the *NSW Women's Strategy 2018–2022 (NSW Government, 2018b)*, which prioritises improvement to equality through women's economic opportunity and advancement, health and wellbeing, and participation and empowerment.

The aspects of gender equality found to be linked to violence against women have been identified in research compiled for *Change the Story (Our Watch et al., 2015)*. The NCAS questions that were used to measure attitudes towards gender equality were selected from existing studies.

**Table 2: Attitudes to gender equality among people in NSW**

	2009 Total n=1,715	2013 Total n=3,973	2017 Total n = 4,017	Men n = 1,976	Women n = 2,037
<b>Promoting rigid gender roles, stereotypes and expressions (% agree)</b>					
If a woman earns more than her male partner, it is not good for the relationship <sup>-</sup>	-	-	9	7	10
A man should never admit when others have hurt his feelings	-	-	6	9	4
When a couple start dating, the woman should not be the one to initiate sex <sup>-</sup>	-	-	11	9	12
I think it is embarrassing for a man to have a job that is usually filled by a woman <sup>-</sup>	-	-	6	8	5
A woman has to have children to be fulfilled <sup>-</sup>	12	13	9	12	7
<b>Undermining women's independence and decision-making in public life (% agree)</b>					
In the workplace, men generally make more capable bosses than women	-	-	16	19*	12
Men, rather than women, should hold positions of responsibility in the community	-	-	11	13	9
On the whole, men make better political leaders than women	22	26 <sup>^</sup>	15	18	13
Women are less capable than men of thinking logically	-	-	7	10	3
<b>Undermining women's independence and decision-making in private life (% agree)</b>					
Men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household	17	19	17	22*	12
Women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship	27	30	27	34*	20
<b>Condone male peer relations involving aggression and disrespect towards women (% agree)</b>					
I think there is no harm in men making sexist jokes about women when they are among their male friends <sup>-</sup>	-	-	23	30	16
I think it's okay for men to joke with their male friends about being violent towards women	-	-	2	3	1
I think it's natural for a man to want to appear in control of his partner in front of his male friends <sup>-</sup>	-	-	34	33	35
<b>Denying gender inequality is a problem (% agree)</b>					
Many women exaggerate how unequally women are treated in Australia <sup>-</sup>	-	-	39	45	34
Many women mistakenly interpret innocent remarks or acts as being sexist	-	-	49	54	44
Many women fail to fully appreciate all that men do for them <sup>-</sup>	-	-	35	37	33
Women often flirt with men just to be hurtful	-	-	19	20	19
Discrimination against women is no longer a problem in the workplace in Australia	10	14 <sup>^</sup>	10	13	8

<sup>-</sup> Asked of half the sample in 2017 (n = approximately 2,009).

<sup>^</sup> Difference between year and 2017 is statistically significant, p ≤ 0.01.

\* Difference between men and women in 2017 is statistically significant, p ≤ 0.01.

## Encouraging results: Gender equality

- The majority of people in NSW agree that both men and women can play a range of roles regardless of their gender (see Table 2).
- There was an 11-point decrease between 2017 and 2013 in people who think that men make better political leaders than women (from 26% to 15%).
- Very few people in NSW (2%) think that it is okay for men to joke with their male friends about being violent towards women.

## Concerning results: Gender equality

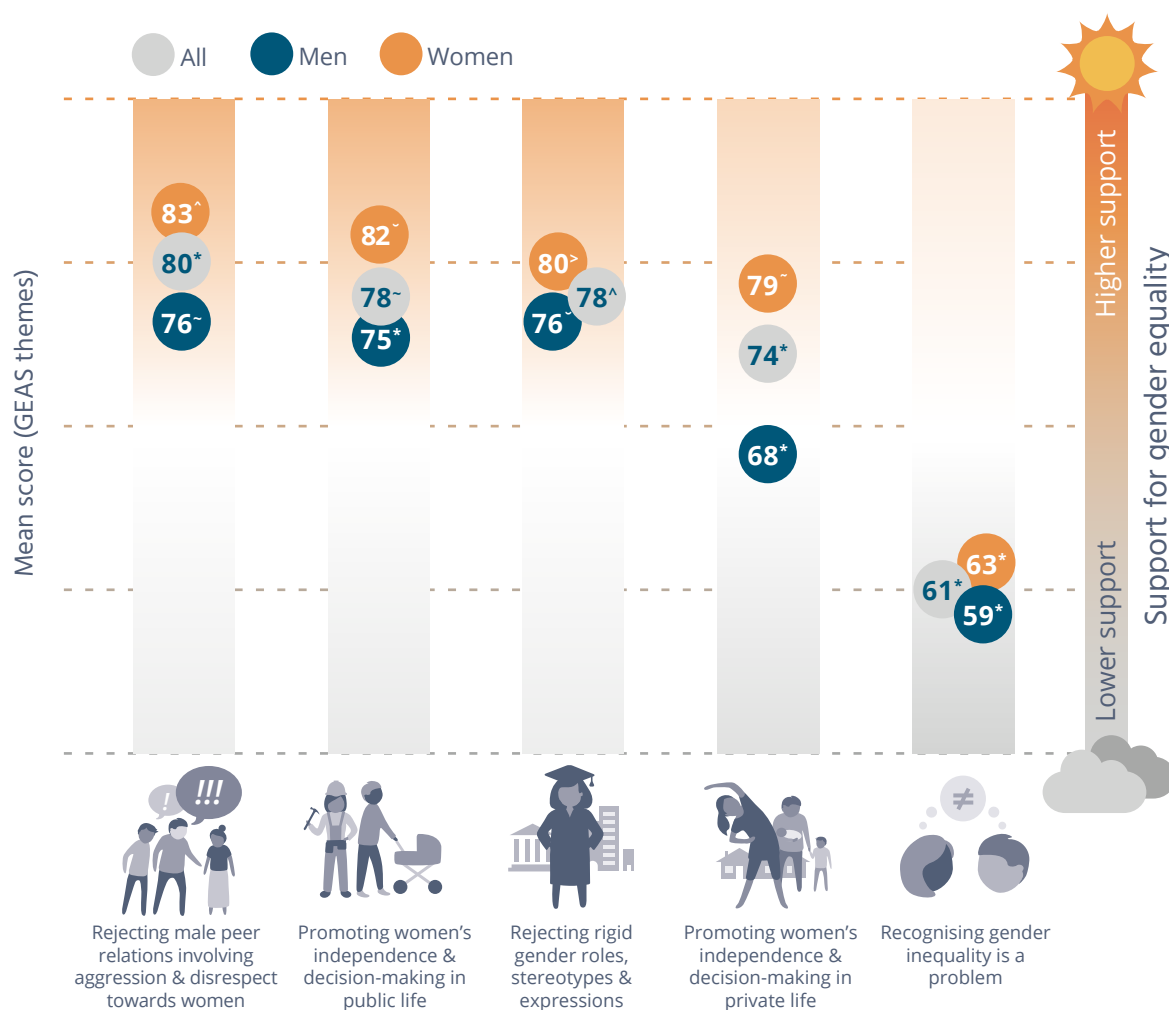
- Nearly one in four people in NSW think that there is no harm in men making sexist jokes about women among friends.
- More than one in six people think men make more capable bosses and nearly one in seven think that men make better political leaders.
- Just over one in three people in NSW think that it is natural for a man to want to appear in control of his partner in front of his friends.
- Nearly two in five people in NSW think that women exaggerate gender inequality in Australia.
- Nearly half of people surveyed in NSW think that women misinterpret remarks or acts as being sexist.
- In 2017, men were less likely than women to agree with items endorsing equality in the private sphere and more likely to agree that men make more capable bosses (19% of men compared to 12% of women).

## Which aspects of gender equality are most widely supported by people in NSW?

To find out which aspects of gender equality were more or less likely to be supported by people in NSW overall, each respondent was given a score based on their answers to questions in each theme. An average for the NSW population was then calculated. Scores range from 1 to 100, with 1 signifying the lowest level of support for gender equality (a negative result) (see Figure 3).

This information is useful, as it tells us which aspects of attitudes to gender equality most need to be addressed in prevention programs and interventions within NSW.

**Figure 3: Relative attitudinal support for gender equality among people in NSW, by themes (means<sup>e</sup>)<sup>+</sup>**



<sup>e</sup> The data used in this figure are means, not percentages. They rank the themes relative to one another, rather than showing an absolute level of attitudinal support for each theme in the population.

<sup>+</sup> All differences between men and women are statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

<sup>\*</sup> Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

<sup>^</sup> Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample, with the exception of "Promoting women's independence & decision making in public life", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

<sup>></sup> Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample, with the exception of "Promoting women's independence & decision making in private life", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

<sup>~</sup> Difference between this theme and all others in this sample, with the exception of "Rejecting rigid gender roles, stereotypes and expressions", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

<sup>~</sup> Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample, with the exception of "Rejecting male peer relations involving aggression & disrespect towards women", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .



### Key findings:



- People in NSW are least likely to support the idea that gender inequality is a problem compared to the other themes.
- People in NSW have greater support for women's independence and decision-making in public life compared to women's independence and decision-making in private life.

### Concerning results:



- Men have lower support for gender equality than women across all five themes. This difference is particularly notable regarding support for gender equality in private life (men reported a mean score of 68 compared to 79 for women).



# Attitudes to violence against women

Attitudes can be used to monitor social progress and highlight where to focus future efforts. Attitudes may also contribute to violence against women indirectly because they influence social norms or expectations of what is acceptable behaviour. These expectations in turn influence behaviour itself (Ajzen & Fishbein, 2005). Community attitudes can influence how professionals respond to violence against women, as well as the responses of neighbours, friends, family members and work colleagues. Holding violence-supportive attitudes can influence whether women experiencing violence seek help due to the normalisation and minimising of violence, attitudes that hold women

responsible for violence and mistrust of their reports of violence (Ahrens, 2009; Egan & Wilson, 2012; Giles, Cureen, & Adamson, 2005; Weiss, 2009). Such attitudes may be adopted by men who use violence to excuse their behaviour.

The four themes in this component have been formed by synthesising previous research findings on attitudes towards violence against women, selecting groups of questions that reflect them, and then confirming through the NCAS that these themes are similar to the way the Australian public thinks about violence against women.

**Table 3: Attitudinal support for violence against women among people in NSW**

	2009 Total n=1,715	2013 Total n=3,973	2017 Total n=4,018	2017 Men n=1,976	2017 Women n=2,037
<b>Excusing the perpetrator and holding women responsible (% agree)</b>					
<b>Attitudes excusing the perpetrator and holding women responsible for abuse or managing its consequences</b>					
A lot of what is called domestic violence is really just a normal reaction to day-to-day stress and frustration	-	-	20	26	15
Domestic violence can be excused if it results from people getting so angry that they temporarily lose control	20	22 <sup>^</sup>	13	16	11
Domestic violence can be excused if the violent person was themselves abused as a child	-	12 <sup>^</sup>	9	10	8
Domestic violence can be excused if, afterwards, the violent person genuinely regrets what they have done	21	24 <sup>^</sup>	16	19	12
Sometimes a woman can make a man so angry that he hits her when he didn't mean to	-	-	21	25	17
Women who flirt all the time are somewhat to blame if their partner gets jealous and hits them	-	-	14	17	12
<b>Attitudes concerning the family and intimate partner violence</b>					
Domestic violence is a private matter to be handled in the family	13	17	13	16 <sup>*</sup>	10
It's a woman's duty to stay in a violent relationship in order to keep the family together	7	9 <sup>^</sup>	4	6 <sup>*</sup>	2
<b>The role of alcohol and other drugs in excusing the perpetrator or holding women responsible</b>					
Domestic violence can be excused if the victim is heavily affected by alcohol	8	11	6	7	4
Domestic violence can be excused if the offender is heavily affected by alcohol	6	8	6	7	5
A man is less responsible for rape if he is drunk or affected by drugs at the time <sup>#</sup>	8	10	6	7	4
If a woman is raped while she is drunk or affected by drugs she is at least partly responsible	15	19 <sup>^</sup>	13	13	14
<b>Minimising violence against women (% agree)</b>					
<b>Minimising the impacts and consequences of recurring intimate partner violence</b>					
A female victim who does not leave an abusive partner is partly responsible for the abuse continuing	-	-	33	36	29
I don't believe it's as hard as people say it is for women to leave an abusive relationship	-	-	16	20	11
If a woman keeps going back to her abusive partner then the violence can't be very serious	-	-	12	15	10

Table 3 continued on next page

Table 3 continues from previous page

	2009	2013	2017		
	Total n=1,715	Total n=3,973	Total n=4,018	Men n=1,976	Women n=2,037
It's acceptable for police to give lower priority to domestic violence cases they've attended many times before	-	-	12	13	10
Women who stay in abusive relationships should be entitled to less help from counselling and support services than women who end the relationship	-	-	11	13	10
In domestic situations where one partner is physically violent towards the other it is entirely reasonable for the violent person to be made to leave the family home <sup>#</sup>	91	88	88	84*	93
<b>Minimising sexual violence by claiming that women lie</b>					
If a woman claims to have been sexually assaulted but has no other physical injuries she probably shouldn't be taken too seriously	-	-	5	6	5
Women who wait weeks or months to report sexual harassment are probably lying <sup>#</sup>	-	-	10	13	7
Women who wait weeks or months to report sexual assault are probably lying	-	-	11	14	8
<b>Minimising violence against women by placing it beyond the law</b>					
Women who are sexually harassed should sort it out themselves rather than report it <sup>#</sup>	12 <sup>^</sup>	11	6	8	5
In my opinion, if a woman reports abuse by her partner to outsiders it is shameful for her family	-	-	13	14	12
It is a serious problem when a man tries to control his partner by refusing her access to their money <sup>#</sup>	-	-	80	76	85
<b>Mistrusting women's reports of violence (% agree)</b>					
Many women tend to exaggerate the problem of male violence	-	-	24	30	19
Women going through custody battles often make up or exaggerate claims of domestic violence in order to improve their case <sup>#</sup>	48	51	44	51*	37
A lot of times, women who say they were raped had led the man on and then had regrets	-	36	30	32	28
It is common for sexual assault accusations to be used as a way of getting back at men	-	-	39	43	36
<b>Disregarding the need to gain consent (% agree)</b>					
Women find it flattering to be persistently pursued, even if they are not interested <sup>#</sup>	-	-	21	25	18
If a woman sends a nude image to her partner, then she is partly responsible if he shares it without her permission <sup>#</sup>	-	-	30	27	33
Women often say 'no' when they mean 'yes'	14	17	13	14	11
Since some women are so sexual in public, it's not surprising that some men think they can touch women without permission	-	-	20	19	22
If a woman is drunk and starts having sex with a man, but then falls asleep, it is understandable if he continues having sex with her anyway	-	-	10	11	9
When a man is very sexually aroused, he may not even realize that the woman doesn't want to have sex	-	-	27	27	28
Rape results from men not being able to control their need for sex <sup>#</sup>	34	42 <sup>^</sup>	29	29	30

<sup>#</sup> Asked of a quarter of the sample in 2017 (approximate n = 1005).

<sup>^</sup> Difference between year and 2017 is statistically significant, p ≤ .01.

\* Difference between men and women in 2017 is statistically significant, p ≤ .01.

## Encouraging results: attitudes to violence against women



- An increasing majority of people in NSW reject attitudes supportive of violence against women (see Table 3).
- There is public support (88%) in NSW for interventions in which a violent partner is removed from the home.
- Few people in NSW think that women who wait to report violence are lying (10% with regard to sexual harassment and 11% with regard to sexual assault).
- Few people in NSW think that violence against women can be excused by alcohol (6% when the offender is affected by alcohol and 6% when the victim is affected by alcohol).
- A small and declining number of people (4%) think that women have a duty to stay in a violent relationship to keep the family together.
- The majority of people in NSW reject the idea that women should not have access to support with a domestic violence issue (12% agreed it was “acceptable for police to give lower priority to domestic violence cases they’ve attended many times before” and 11% agreed that “women who stay in abusive relationships should be entitled to less help from counselling and support services” than those who leave).

## Concerning results: Attitudes to violence against women



- One in five people in NSW believe that domestic violence is a normal reaction to daily stress and that women can make men so angry that he hits her without meaning to.
- One in three people in NSW believe that women who do not leave an abusive partner are partly responsible for the abuse continuing.
- One in eight people in NSW believe that if a woman is raped while she is drunk or affected by drugs, she is at least partly responsible.
- One in five people in NSW do not agree that financial control is a serious issue.
- Nearly two out of five people in NSW think that it is common for women to make up sexual assault allegations to get back at men.
- Nearly one in three people in NSW think that if a woman sends a nude image to her partner, then she is partly responsible if he shares it without her permission.
- A concerning number of people in NSW hold attitudes that are suggestive of attributing sexual aggression in part to men’s “natural sex drive”, with 29 percent agreeing that rape results from men not being able to control their need for sex and 27 percent agreeing that when sexually aroused men “may not realize the woman does not want to have sex”.
- In 2017, men were more likely than women to endorse items supportive of intimate partner violence being a private, family matter. Men were also more likely to endorse that women make up or exaggerate claims of domestic violence to improve their case in custody battles (51% of men compared to 37% of women), and less likely to support interventions in which a violent partner is removed from the home (84% of men compared to 93% of women).

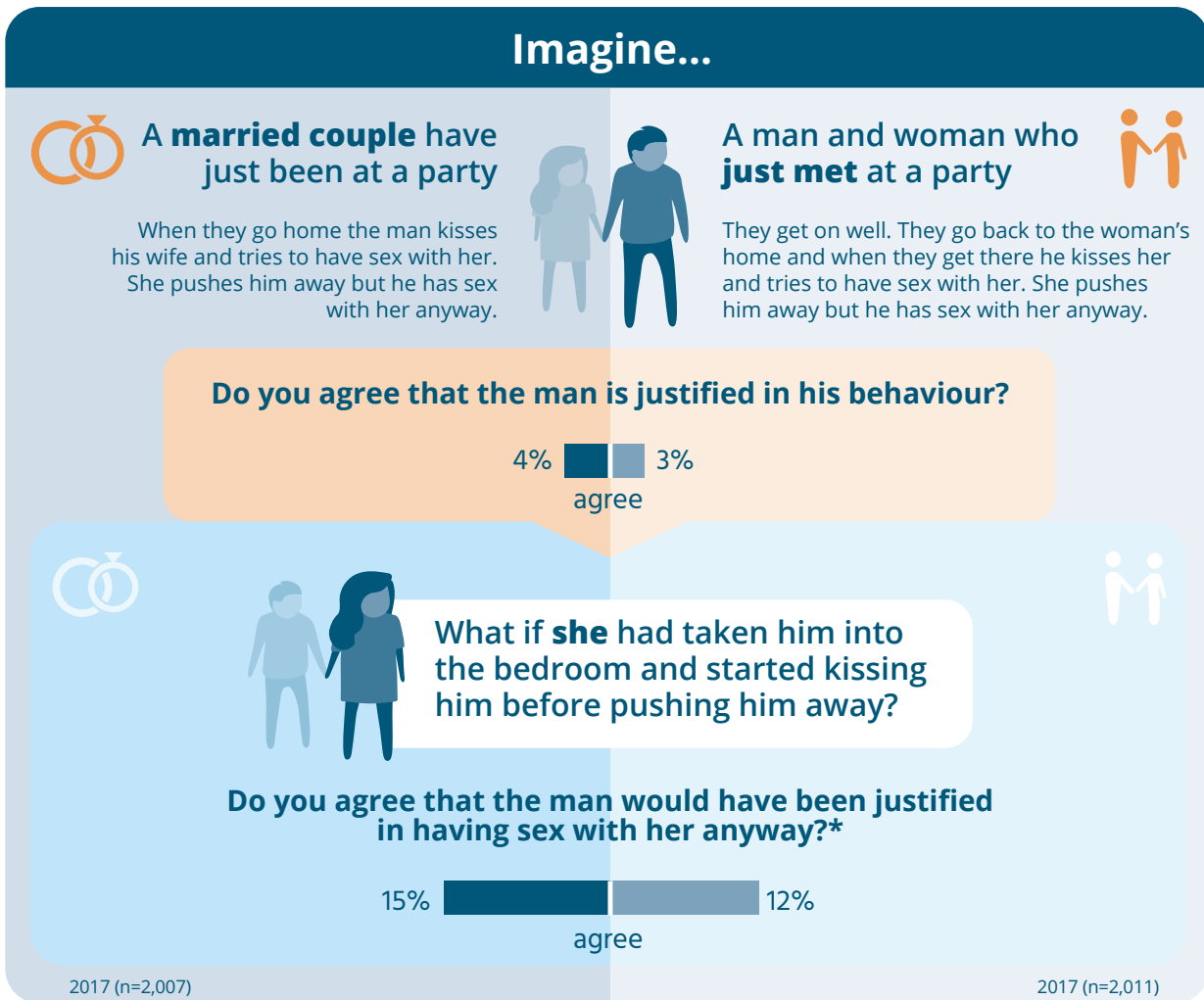
## Circumstances in which people justify non-consensual sex

In the 2017 NCAS, scenarios were introduced to investigate whether Australians would justify non-consensual sex in different circumstances. Scenarios were used to test two research questions:

1. Are Australians more likely to justify non-consensual sex among a married couple (a context in which people sometimes believe women forgo their sexual autonomy), as opposed to people that just met?

2. Are Australians more likely to justify non-consensual sex in a circumstance where a woman had initiated intimacy as opposed to when she did not? This tests the belief that once a woman consents to one element of sexual expression, she is automatically consenting to further sexual activity.

**Figure 4: Impact of situational factors on attitudes towards consent among NSW respondents, 2017 (% agree)**



\*Difference between the scenarios where a woman initiated intimacy compared to when she did not is statistically significant,  $p \leq 0.01$ .

Both scenarios describe criminal offences. These findings are important because they indicate that a concerning number of people in NSW are unclear about what constitutes consent (see Figure 4), and about the line between consensual sex and coercion (Muehlenhard, Humphreys, Jozowski, & Peterson, 2016; Warren, Swan, & Allen, 2015). Non-consensual sex can range from rape or coerced sex, to non-consensual acts within an initially consensual sexual encounter. Gendered power dynamics, expectations and stereotypes related to sexuality influence how consent is understood and negotiated (e.g. men are seen as sexually aggressive, or “in control”, while women are often portrayed as passive or submissive in sexual matters) (Hust, Rodgers, & Bayly, 2017). These dynamics

and expectations can contribute to some people failing to see the need to gain consent or to assuming that if a person consents to one thing, they are consenting to any sexual contact. Consent must always be an ongoing and respectful process of negotiation. Ensuring ongoing positive consent is important as people have the right to change their minds, or the situation may change to one where they are no longer comfortable. NSW is currently running an education campaign under the *NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018–2021* to address public awareness of sexual consent (NSW Government, 2018a). The community campaign includes content on what constitutes sexual assault, understanding consent and situations where someone cannot consent, and negotiating consent to participate in sexual activities.

### Encouraging results: Non-consensual sex scenario



- The majority of people in NSW do not justify non-consensual sex (95–93%), with only 3–4 percent of respondents justifying the scenario, regardless of whether the couple had just met.

### Concerning results: Non-consensual sex scenario



- A greater proportion of people in NSW justify non-consensual sex in a scenario where the woman initiates intimacy, with 12–15 percent justifying this scenario compared to 3–4 percent where a man initiates intimacy.
- A concerning number of people in NSW are unclear about what constitutes consent, and about the line between consensual sex and coercion.

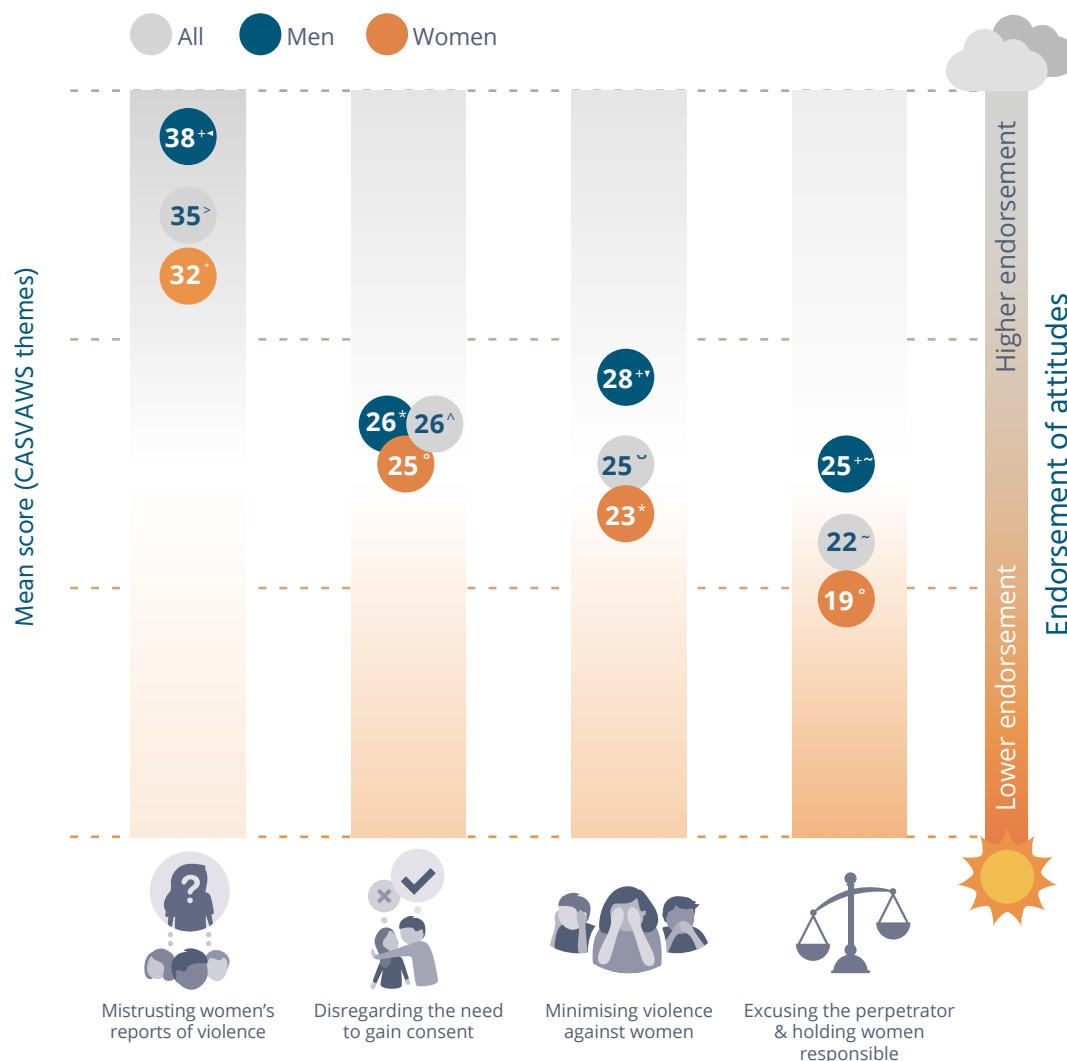
## Which aspects of attitudinal support for violence against women are most widely supported by people in NSW?

To investigate which aspects of attitudinal support for violence against women are more or less likely to be supported by the community overall, an average score for the NSW population was developed for each theme using the same approach as for the gender equality themes (page 15). Scores range from 1 to 100, with 1 signifying the lowest level

of endorsement of attitudes supportive of violence against women (a positive result) (see Figure 5).

This information is useful, as it tells us which aspects of violence-supportive attitudes most need to be addressed in prevention programs and interventions.

**Figure 5: Relative endorsement of attitudes supportive of violence against women, by themes (mean)<sup>e</sup>**



<sup>e</sup> The data used in this figure are means, not percentages. They rank the themes relative to one another, rather than showing an absolute level of attitudinal support for each theme in the population.

+ Difference between men and women is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

\* Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

^ Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample, with the exception of "Minimising violence against women", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

> Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample, with the exception of "Excusing the perpetrator & holding women responsible", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

~ Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample, with the exception of "Mistrusting women's reports of violence", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

~ Difference between this theme and all other themes in this sample, with the exception of "Disregarding the need to gain consent", is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

° Difference between this theme and "Minimising violence against women" in this sample is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

• Difference between this theme and "Mistrusting women's reports of violence" in this sample is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

• Difference between this theme and "Disregarding the need to gain consent" in this sample is statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .



## Key findings:



- People in NSW have the lowest level of support for the theme “Excusing the perpetrator and holding women responsible”, compared to other themes.
- “Mistrusting women’s reports of violence” was more likely to be endorsed by people in NSW than other attitudes.

## Concerning results:



- Men have a higher level of support for attitudes that endorse violence against women across themes. However, there was no difference between men and women on the theme “Disregarding the need for consent”.

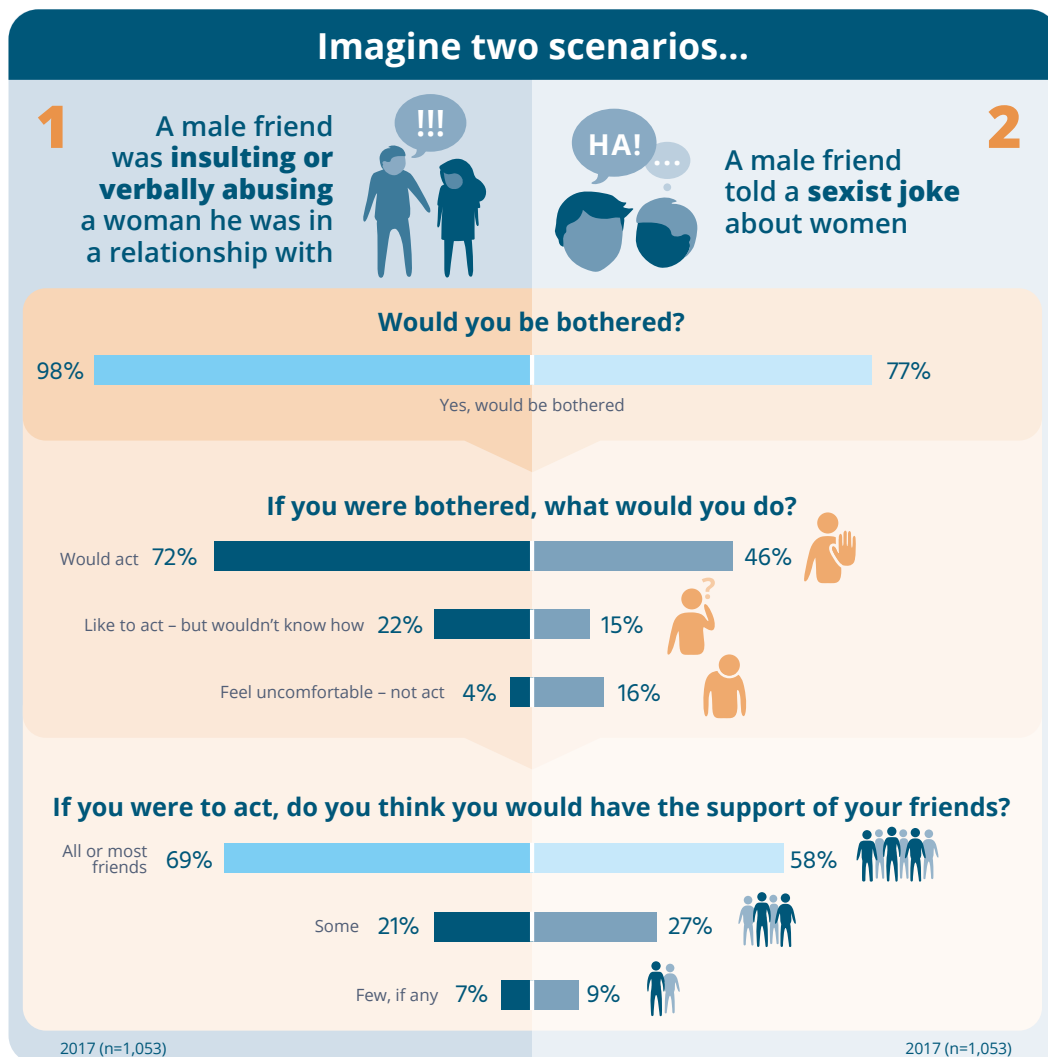
## Bystander action

Encouraging the community to act in response to witnessing violence and disrespect towards women has been identified as a promising approach for the prevention of violence against women for a number of reasons. First, only a very small proportion of violence comes to the attention of police and other relevant authorities. Secondly, many of the precursors to violence are not in themselves officially able to be sanctioned. Thirdly, disapproval shown by those around us has been found to be one of the most effective forces to

prevent violence against women (Powell, 2011). Increasing knowledge of how to be an effective bystander in the community is identified as an action in the *NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018–2021* (NSW Government, 2018a).

The 2017 NCAS included questions on respondents’ anticipated responses should they witness two scenarios in a social setting (see Figure 6). These focus on verbal abuse and disrespect of women rather than physical violence itself.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 6: Reactions among NSW respondents to scenarios in a social setting involving the telling of a sexist joke and the verbal abuse of a partner, 2017**



<sup>7</sup> Percentages may vary from totals due to rounding and do not add to 100 percent due to a small proportion of respondents that did not respond to the question.

## Encouraging results: Bystander action



- The majority of people in NSW would be bothered if they heard a male friend telling a sexist joke (77%) or verbally abusing a partner (98%).
- The majority of people in NSW say that they would act if they saw a male friend verbally abusing a partner (72%).
- The majority of people thought they would have the support of all or most of their friends if they did act (58% in response to a sexist joke and 69% in response to verbal abuse).

## Concerning results: Bystander action



- Fewer people in NSW would feel bothered if they heard a male friend tell a sexist joke (77%) compared to witnessing verbal abuse of a partner (98%).
- People in NSW tend to underestimate the amount of support they would have from friends (i.e. more people said they would be bothered than said they would have the support of all or most of their friends).
- One in five people in NSW would like to act, but do not know how, if witnessing the abuse of a partner, and more than one in seven would like to act, but not know how, if witnessing a sexist joke.

# Demographic factors influencing understanding and attitudes

The previous sections explored knowledge and attitudes among people in NSW, along with differences between men and women. This section examines differences between people in NSW in particular groups and contexts. This is done by comparing the proportion of people in NSW in the higher and lower categories of knowledge, attitudinal support for violence and gender equality and intention to act as a bystander.<sup>8</sup> This information is useful as it can help to target efforts to prevent violence against women within NSW.

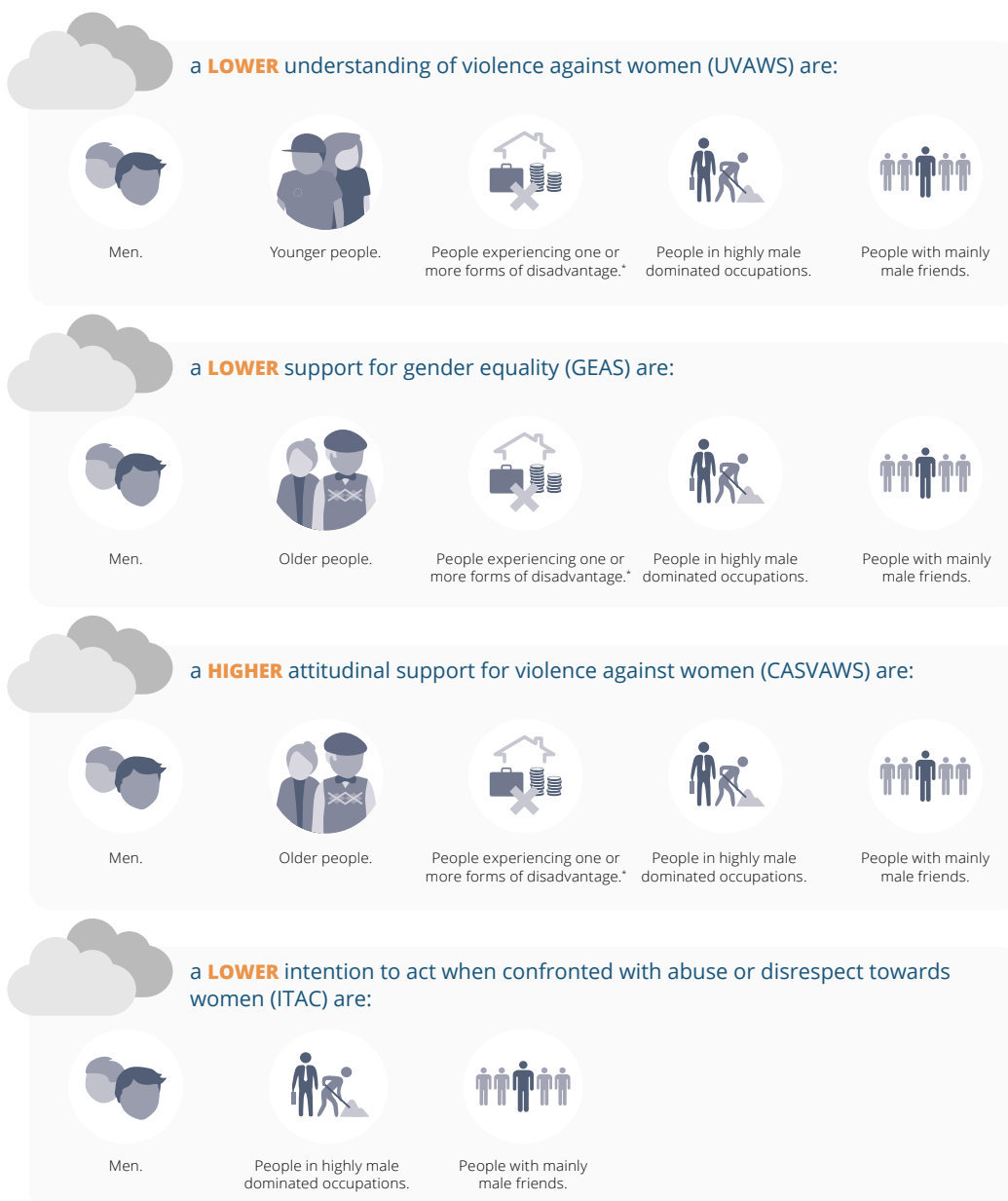
Differences are reported for factors listed in the *NCAS Questionnaire Framework* where sample sizes were sufficient to do so (i.e. sufficient to enable base sizes of thirty or more for each variable being compared).

## Key findings:



Overall, differences between groups in the population are relatively small or modest.<sup>9</sup> Demographic characteristics that showed a difference between groups are described below.

### Those more likely to have either:



\* E.g. low education, living in a disadvantaged area, being unemployed, or having little to no English language proficiency.

<sup>8</sup> "High" and "low" classify respondents relative to one another. It would be wrong to say that any group has a high or low level of support.

<sup>9</sup> All differences between groups discussed in this section are statistically significant,  $p \leq .01$ .

## Knowledge and attitudes among people and in places

**Gender:**<sup>10</sup> Compared to women, men reported lower understanding of violence against women and support for gender equality, higher endorsement of violence-supportive attitudes and lower intention to act in bystander situations.

**Age:** ◊ People aged 65 years and older reported higher violence-supportive attitudes than those less than 65 years. In addition, people aged 75 years and older reported lower support for gender equality than those 18–74 years. However, young people aged 18–24 reported lower understanding of violence against women than people aged between 35–74 years.

**Education:** People with lower levels of education reported lower support for gender equality and higher endorsement of violence-supportive attitudes compared to those with a university qualification.

**Employment:**◊ People who were employed had lower support for attitudes supportive of violence against women than those with lower levels of employment (i.e. people who were unemployed, engaged in home duties, students or retired). However, people who were employed, students or engaged in home duties were more likely to have attitudes supportive of gender equality than people who were retired. In addition, students were more likely to have a lower understanding of violence against women than people who were employed or retired.

**Aboriginality:**◊ People who self-identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander reported higher understanding of violence against women compared to non-Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders.

**Migration:** People who were born in a non-main English speaking country reported lower understanding of violence against women, lower support for gender equality and higher levels of attitudes supportive of violence than people who were born in Australia.

**English language proficiency:**◊ People in NSW with low English language proficiency reported lower understanding of violence against women, lower support for gender equality and higher violence-supportive attitudes compared to those proficient in English.

**Remoteness:** People in outer regional areas reported higher understanding of violence against women than people in major cities. In addition, people in outer regional areas reported lower levels of attitudes supportive of violence against women than both people in major cities and inner regional areas.

**Area disadvantage:**<sup>11</sup> People in the areas of greatest disadvantage had lower support for gender equality and higher levels of violence-supportive attitudes compared to people in the most advantaged areas.

## Knowledge and attitudes in social contexts and occupations

**Occupation:** ◊ People in male-dominated industries (e.g. machinery operators and drivers, technicians and tradespeople, or labourers) reported lower understanding of violence against women, lower support for gender equality and higher endorsement of attitudes supportive of violence against women.

People in the male-dominated industry of technicians and tradespeople reported a lower likelihood of acting in a bystander situation than those who worked as administrators.

**Gender composition of social network:** ◊ Overall, there were more concerning responses from men and women with male-dominated social networks. For example, men and women with mainly or totally male social networks reported a lower understanding of violence than women who had an equal composition of men and women in their social network. Men also reported lower support for gender equality than women with an equal composition of men and women in their social network. Men with social networks comprised of mostly men or an equal composition of men and women reported higher violence supportive attitudes than women with mainly or totally female social networks. Finally, men with social networks that were equally comprised of men and women or mostly men reported a lower likelihood of acting in a bystander situation than women who had an equal composition of men and women in their social network.

<sup>10</sup> Respondents to the NCAS survey were asked what gender they identify with and responses were recorded as either male, female, other or chose not to answer. There was insignificant data available to create an additional category of respondents who did not identify as male or female.

<sup>11</sup> Measured with an ABS product which categorises postcode areas based on their distance from facilities and services.

◊ The following groups were comprised of a base sample of less than 100 and caution is needed when interpreting results: 16–17 year olds, those with little to no English language proficiency, people who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, those who were unemployed, people in the occupations of sales workers, machinery operator and drivers or labourers, men with a social network gender composition of mainly or totally women, and women with a social network gender composition of mainly or totally men. The group men with a social network composition of mainly or totally men had a base sample of less than 100 only in the intention to act measure.

# Predictors of attitudinal support for violence against women

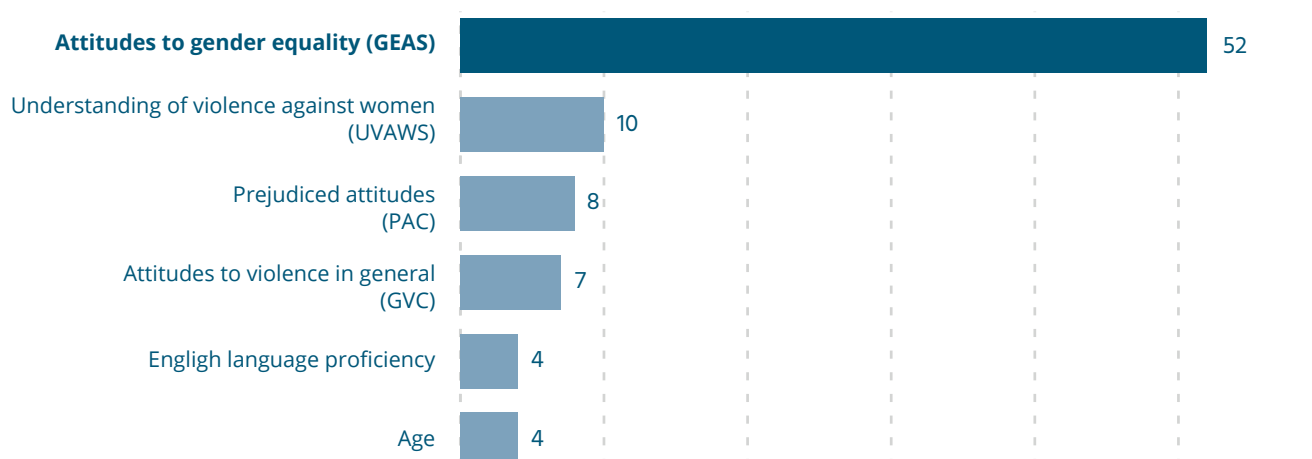
A statistical technique (multiple linear regression analysis) was used to assess which factors measured in the 2017 NCAS were the strongest predictors of attitudinal support for violence against women among people in NSW. This technique measures the strength of influence of each factor after the influence of other factors has been taken into account. All of the demographic, contextual and attitudinal factors in the survey were included in the analysis.

The six strongest predictors of attitudes towards violence against women are in Figure 7 below. Having a low level of support for gender equality is the strongest predictor for attitudinal support for violence, followed by a low understanding of violence against women, holding prejudiced attitudes towards people with other attributes and having a high level of support for violence in general. Demographic

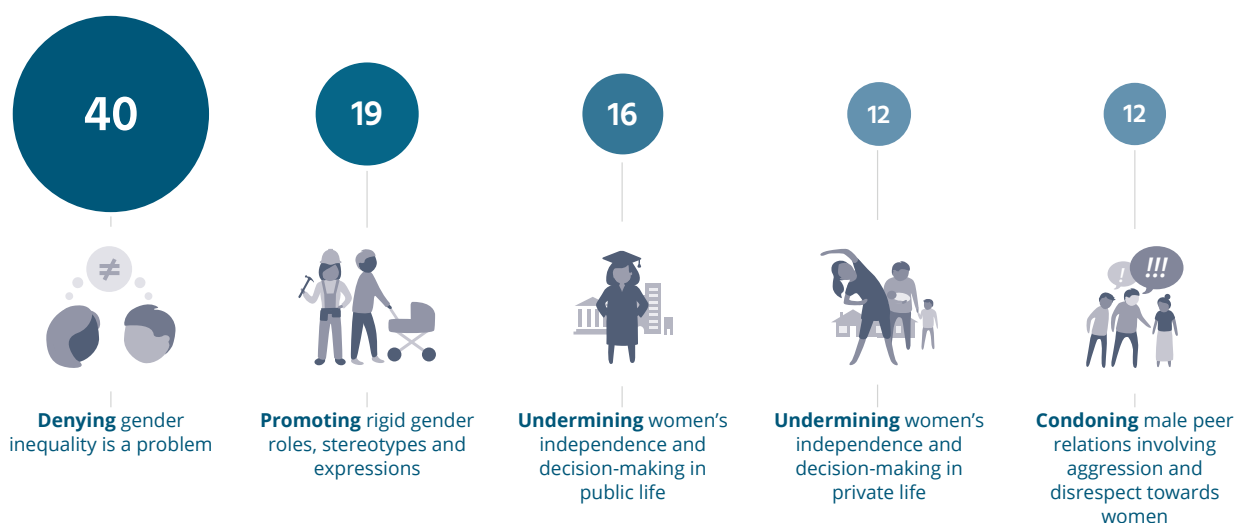
factors were relatively weaker predictors of violence-supportive attitudes. However, having little to no English language proficiency and age (65 years plus) are the two strongest demographic predictors of violence-supportive attitudes.

The analysis also investigated the extent to which attitudes to gender equality themes predict whether people in NSW hold attitudes supportive of violence against women (see Figure 8). “Denying gender inequality is a problem” was the strongest predictor of attitudinal support for violence. This was followed by “promoting rigid gender roles, stereotypes and expressions” and “undermining women’s independence and decision-making in public life”, after the influence of other themes was taken into account.

**Figure 7: Top 6 predictors of attitudinal support for violence <sup>i r</sup>**



**Figure 8: Influence of gender equality themes in predicting support for violence <sup>i m</sup>**



<sup>i</sup> Figures indicate the percentage of variance explained.

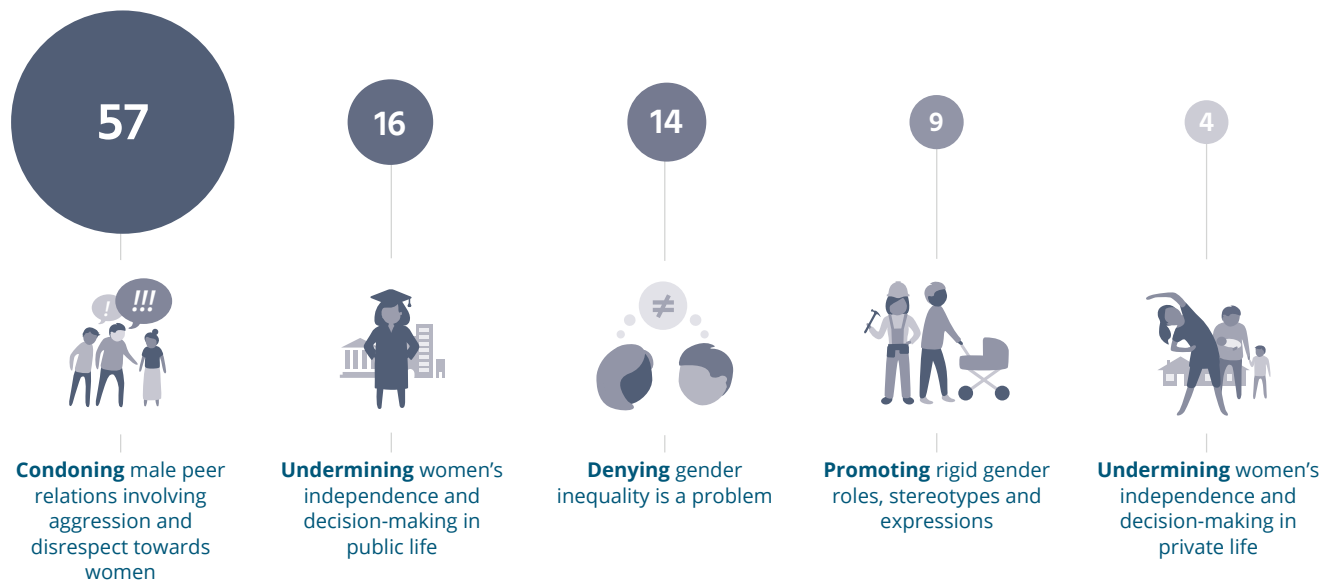
<sup>r</sup> Figure includes the six strongest predictors and is not inclusive of all predictors identified in the analysis.

<sup>m</sup> Percentages do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Individual gender equality themes were also investigated to see the extent to which the themes predicted the intention to act in bystander situations (see Figure 9). “Condoning male peer relations involving aggression and disrespect towards

women” was the strongest predictor of lower intention to act among people in NSW. This was followed by “undermining women’s independence and decision-making in public life” and “denying gender equality is a problem”.

**Figure 9: Influence of gender equality themes in predicting intention to act as bystanders<sup>i</sup>**



<sup>i</sup> Figures indicate the percentage of variance explained.

### Key findings:

#### Attitudinal predictors



- Having lower support for gender equality was the strongest predictor of endorsing violence supportive attitudes. This was followed by having lower understanding of violence against women, holding prejudicial attitudes towards others and support for violence in general.
- When the influence of individual gender equality themes is taken into account, the theme of “denying gender equality is a problem” was the strongest predictor of violence-supportive attitudes.
- When the influence of individual gender equality themes is taken into account, the theme of “condoning male peer relations involving aggression and disrespect towards women” was the strongest predictor of the intention to act in bystander situations.

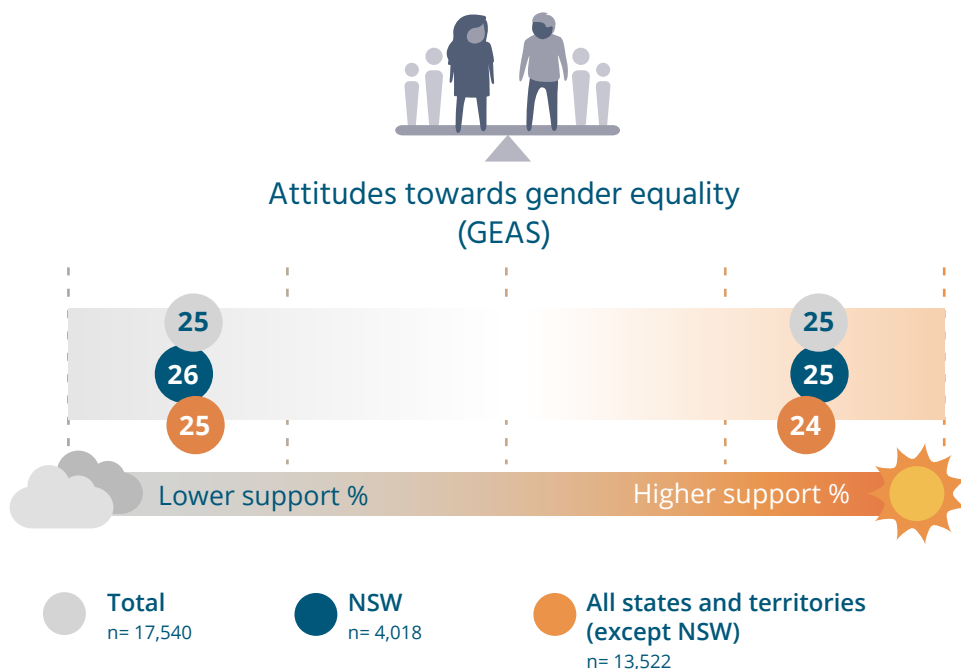
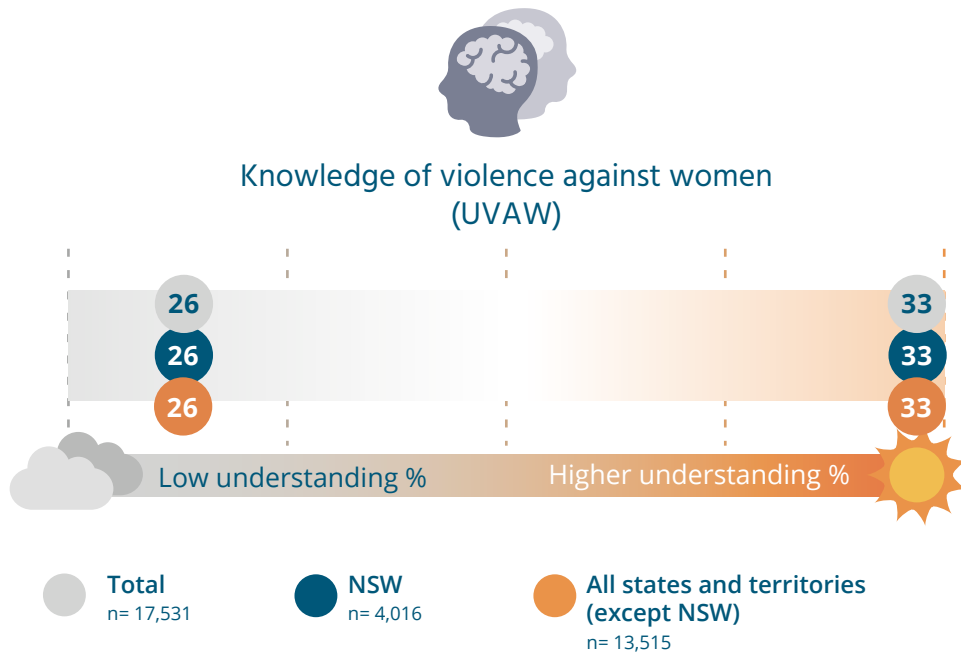
# How does NSW compare to the rest of Australia?

To see how NSW compares to the rest of Australia, results for the four composite measures were examined (see Figures 10-13). This included the UVAWS (measuring understanding of violence against women), GEAS (measuring support for gender equality), CASVAWS (measuring attitudes towards violence against women) and the ITAC (measuring intention to act in response to witnessing disrespect or abuse towards women). This is achieved by comparing the proportion

of people in NSW with the proportion of people in the remaining states and territories in Australia in the higher and lower categories of knowledge, attitudinal support for violence and gender equality and intention to act as a bystander.<sup>12</sup>

This information is useful for identifying any major differences between NSW and the rest of Australia.

**Figures 10-13: Comparison between NSW and the remaining Australian states and territories in knowledge and attitudes**

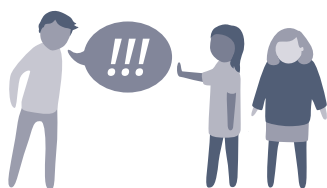
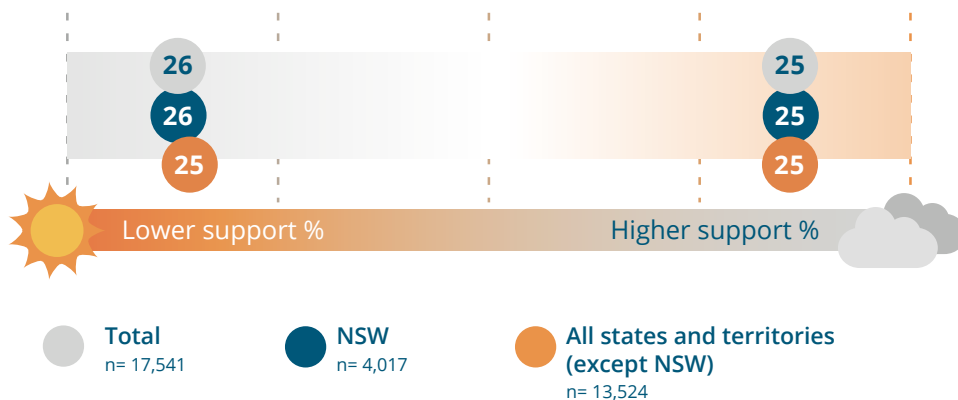


<sup>12</sup> "High" and "low" classify respondents relative to one another. It would be wrong to say that any group has a high or low level of support.

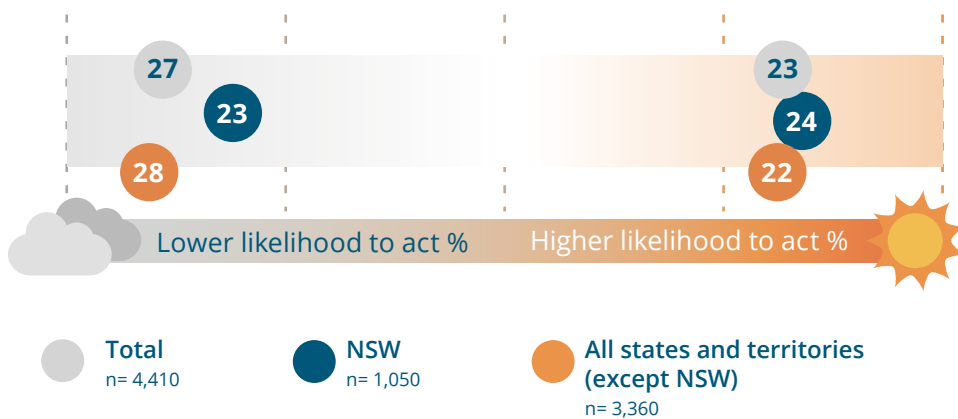




### Attitudes supportive of violence against women (CASVAW)



### Bystander action (ITAC)



#### Key findings:



There were no differences between NSW and the remaining states and territories in Australia on any of the four composite measures.

# The findings: factors to keep in mind

The 2017 NCAS survey was developed, implemented and analysed using rigorous, well-accepted methods and procedures. It has a large sample size and includes both landline and mobile phone interviewing. This helps ensure the sample is as diverse and representative as possible. As a periodic survey, the NCAS is able to measure changes in knowledge and attitudes over time. However, as in the case with all research, the NCAS has some limitations, as follows:

- It is not possible to reach everyone contacted by the randomly generated telephone numbers and about half (48%) of those reached declined to participate. The proportion of telephone numbers called that resulted in an interview (the response rate) was 17 percent. This is comparable to other similar surveys across the world. Sample weighting was used to correct the impact of any known imbalances in the sample.
- Well-established statistical modelling was used to investigate some of the more complex questions. As with any statistical modelling, some assumptions were made (e.g. in measuring change over time at the overall level, see page 8).
- Although cognitive testing of the questions was undertaken to be sure they were well understood, responses to surveys on complex social issues can be influenced by language proficiency or cultural differences. Some people may give an answer based on what they believe is socially acceptable, rather than what they really think.
- When a relationship is found between two variables (i.e. education and attitudes) it is important to be aware that this does not necessarily mean that one causes the other.
- Some of the base sample sizes were relatively small for particular demographic groups (i.e. less than 100 people) within the NSW community analysis (marked with the symbol †). This is because some demographic groups comprise a relatively small proportion of the NSW population. In addition, some questions were only asked of a proportion of respondents (i.e. a quarter or half of the sample). Caution is needed when interpreting these findings, as there is a higher likelihood the results are due to chance than results based on larger sample sizes.

# Implications for policy and practice

Attitudes are one way to measure progress in addressing the factors leading to violence against women. Similar to the Australian community as a whole (Webster et al., 2018), the findings in this report suggest that there is positive change in the NSW community's:

- understanding of violence against women;
- attitudes to gender equality; and
- attitudes supportive of violence against women.

This suggests NSW is making progress towards achieving positive results. However, the 2017 NCAS findings for NSW also point to particular areas of concern. Continued effort is needed to make sure that changes in attitudes are reflected in a reduction of violence and do not deteriorate due to negative influences.

As a range of factors influence violence against women, not just attitudes, there is a need for a coordinated approach using many different strategies to prevent violence against women. The findings in this report can be used as a guide to action to address these areas with the aim of increasing wellbeing and enhancing women's safety across the NSW community.

**The 2017 NCAS findings for NSW are similar to the Australian community**, with no differences identified in responses to measures of understanding violence against women, gender equality, violence-supportive attitudes and the intention to act. This suggests that trends towards positive change that are occurring at a national level are also occurring within NSW. However, there are also similar areas of concern and evidence of "backlash" to the gains made in knowledge of violence against women, gender equality and violence-supportive attitudes (Webster et al., 2018). These findings provide evidence for supporting prevention initiatives at a national as well as local level.

**In prioritising efforts to strengthen knowledge, attitudes and bystander interventions, there would be benefits in:**

- Addressing gaps in knowledge of violence against women including forms of abuse beyond physical violence, knowledge of the gendered nature and dynamics of intimate partner violence and knowledge of sexual violence (i.e. knowledge that women are a greater risk of being assaulted by someone they know).
- Challenging public attitudes that normalise violence and minimise the impacts and consequences of violence for women.
- Ensuring that people in NSW know where to get help if they or someone they know is experiencing domestic violence.
- Encouraging attitudes that foster mutually respectful and consensual sexual relationships.
- Including a focus on prevention programming that addresses all aspects of gender inequality, including achieving gender equality within private life.
- Addressing public mistrust of women's reports of sexual violence and challenging the idea that women use claims of violence to gain an advantage over men.
- Encouraging more bystander action by providing knowledge of the likelihood of support from friends as well as how to act when witnessing disrespect or abuse towards women.

- Addressing attitudes that condone "male peer relations involving aggression and disrespect towards women", as this was the strongest predictor among people in NSW of the intention to act.

The significance of attitudes in themes suggestive of "backlash" indicate the need to build strategies to address "backlash" into prevention programs and policy. "Backlash" can be seen as attitudes that deny gender inequality is a problem, support sexism, discrimination or hostility against women, or those that demonstrate resentment towards women's rights (Dragiewicz, 2011; Kimmel, 2017). It is possible that "backlash" has contributed in part to the ongoing prevalence of violence, despite an overall increase in public support for gender equality (Webster et al., 2018).

**The strongest predictors of attitudinal support for violence against women among people in NSW in order of influence are:**

- having a low level of support for gender equality;
- low understanding of violence against women;
- holding prejudiced attitudes; and
- having a high level of support for violence in general.

These findings suggest that prevention efforts should focus on these attitudes above individual demographic characteristics (e.g. age).

**The influence of attitudes towards gender inequality on attitudes supportive of violence against women among people in NSW** supports the recommendation of expert bodies that approaches which transform gendered social norms are needed to prevent violence against women (WHO, 2013). Like the *National Plan* and *Changing the Story* framework, the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017–2021* (NSW Ministry of Health, 2016b) and *NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018–2021* (NSW Government, 2018a) both include an emphasis on challenging social norms and promoting gender equality. The 2017 NCAS NSW community findings suggest that addressing gender inequality should include actions that challenge the idea that gender inequality is no longer a problem and promote equality in the private sphere.

**The majority of people in NSW reported that they would be bothered by witnessing abuse or disrespect towards women.** However, there is further work to be done as many people in NSW underestimate the support they would receive from friends if they did act in these scenarios. In addition, many people reported that they would not know what to do if they witnessed abuse or disrespect. As part of encouraging the NSW community to act in bystander situations, the findings suggest that addressing attitudes that "condone male peer relationships involving aggression and disrespect of women" is important, as this was the strongest predictor of the intention to act.

There were relatively small and modest differences between people on **measures of understanding violence against women, gender equality, violence-supportive attitudes and the intention to act based on demographic characteristics.** However, the NSW survey results do show that some groups of people may benefit from targeted

interventions. These include the following cohorts:

- men and boys;
- men and women in male-dominated workplaces and social networks;
- older people (65 years plus);
- people who are first-generation migrants from non-main English-speaking countries and those with lower levels of English proficiency;<sup>13</sup> and
- people experiencing additional forms of disadvantage, including area disadvantage, low levels of education and low levels of employment.

The results for the NSW community also identified strengths among particular communities that could be harnessed in prevention work. People who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander reported higher levels of understanding of violence against women. In addition, people in outer regional areas reported higher levels of understanding of violence against women and lower violence-supportive attitudes. This suggests that there may be pre-existing knowledge and attitudes within these communities that could be drawn on as part of strengths-based approaches to further enhance attitudinal change.

In addition to attitudinal research at a national level, there is a need for further research within the NSW community. This includes ongoing research and monitoring to make sure that any prevention and intervention efforts undertaken have an impact on community attitudes and responses to violence. Further, research is needed to continue to track how knowledge and attitudes within NSW are changing over time.

---

<sup>13</sup> The 2017 NCAS sub-population report for people from non-main English-speaking countries provides further detail. The report is available at <http://ncas.anrows.org.au>.

# Background

The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) funds the NCAS as part of the *National Plan*.

## Conducting the NCAS

People aged 16 years and over were randomly selected from across Australia and invited to participate in a 20-minute interview. The 2017 NCAS collected information through mobile (60%) and landline (40%) telephone interviews with a representative sample of 17,542 Australians aged 16 years and over. This included 4,018 people within NSW who participated in the survey. Interviewing was available in 12 community languages using translated versions of the questions and in-house bilingual interviewers or interpreters. As noted in “The findings: factors to keep in mind”, a response rate of 17 percent was achieved, which is comparable to other similar surveys internationally (Kohut, Keeter, Doherty, Dimock, & Christian, 2012; Riggie, Rostosky, & Reedy, 2005; Shih & Fan, 2018).

A commonly used statistical technique called “data weighting” was used to adjust the data collected to take account of the unequal chances of being selected and the effects of non-coverage and non-response. This process involved aligning the sample to external population benchmarks so that it mirrored the population as a whole as closely as possible and strengthened the ability to draw conclusions from the survey as being representative of the total population. However, wherever sample numbers are described in the report, these are based on “unweighted data” responses. This is to show how many people have answered the question.

## Analysing and reporting the results

To ensure that results are due to an actual difference rather than chance, tests of statistical significance were carried out. In addition, a test referred to as Cohen's test of effect size was also used to discern results that are likely to have a degree of importance.<sup>14</sup> This was used to avoid reporting differences between groups that were trivial in size. All significance testing reported in this report is at the 99 percent confidence level ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), which has a smaller likelihood of identifying statistically significant findings due to chance than other commonly used confidence levels (e.g. 95 percent). All statistically significant differences are noted in the tables and figures throughout the report.

When comparisons are being made between groups and the effective base size of the groups is small, we cannot be sure that the difference detected is not due to change. For this reason, significant differences involving an effective base size less than 30, are not reported. Those with an effective base size between 30 and 100 are identified with a footnote indicating that they should be interpreted with caution.

In the NSW 2017 NCAS report, change over time is reported for:

- individual questions that were retained from the 2013 questionnaire and questionnaires from previous NCAS waves; and
- the composite measures of understanding violence against women, attitudes to gender equality and community attitudes supportive of violence against women.

For each of the measures, a score was calculated for each respondent and an average produced for each wave of the survey (2009, 2013 and 2017). The results for each wave were then compared.

Demographic differences other than gender (e.g. age, occupation) are reported based on composite measures only as this was more valid and straightforward than reporting on individual items. Individual respondents were given a score on each of the composite measures. To compare groups, the sample as a whole was divided into four based on their composite measure score. For example, the first quarter were labelled as having “low endorsement” while the fourth quarter were labelled as having “high endorsement”. As this approach produces variation between groups at the highest and lowest quartiles, with minimal variation in the middle quartiles, only the “high” and “low” categories are reported.

A form of multivariate analysis called multiple linear regression was used to explore the relationship between factors after the influence of other factors was taken into account (see the section “Predictors of attitudinal support for violence against women”).

More information including full methodological details can be found in the NCAS Methodology Report at <http://ncas.anrows.org.au>.

<sup>14</sup> A Cohen's effect size of 0.2 was identified as the threshold, as anything smaller than this is generally regarded as trivial (Fritz Morris, & Richler, 2012).

# References

- Ahrens, C. E. (2006). Being silenced: the impact of negative social reactions on the disclosure of rape. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 38(3-4), 263–274.
- Ajzen, I., & Fishbein, M. (2005). The influence of attitudes on behavior. In D. A. Albarracín, B. T. Johnson, & M. P. Zanna (Eds.), *The handbook of attitudes* (pp. 173–222). New York: Psychology Group, Taylor and Francis.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2017). 4906.0 – Personal safety, Australia, 2016. Retrieved 20 July, 2018 from <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4906.0>
- Australian and Family Violence Death Review Network. (2018). *Australian and Family Violence Death Review Network: Data report*. Retrieved 20 July, 2018 from [http://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/resources/e7964843-7985-4a25-8abd-5060c26edc4d/website+version+-+adfvdn\\_data\\_report\\_2018\\_.pdf](http://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/resources/e7964843-7985-4a25-8abd-5060c26edc4d/website+version+-+adfvdn_data_report_2018_.pdf)
- Australian Human Rights Commission. (2017). *Change the course: National report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities*. Retrieved 10 June, 2018 from <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination/projects/university-sexual-assault-and-sexual-harassment-project>
- Australian Human Rights Commission. (2018). *Everyone's business: Fourth national survey on sexual harassment in Australian workplaces*. Retrieved 2 October, 2018 from <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination/publications/everyones-business-fourth-national-survey-sexual>
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2019). *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019*. Cat. no. FDV 3. Canberra: AIHW.
- Bagshaw, D., Chung, D., Couch, M., Lilburn, S., & Wadham, B. (2000). *Reshaping responses to domestic violence*. Adelaide: University of South Australia.
- Belknap, J., & Melton, H. (2005). Are heterosexual men also victims of intimate partner abuse? Retrieved 20 November, 2018 from <https://vawnet.org/material/are-heterosexual-men-also-victims-intimate-partner-abuse>.
- Caldwell, J. E., Swan, S. C., & Woodbrown, D. V. (2012). Gender differences in intimate partner violence outcomes. *Psychology of Violence* 2(1), 42–57.
- Carlson, B. E., & Wordon, A. P. (2005). Attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence: results of a public opinion survey: I. Definitions of domestic violence, criminal domestic violence, and prevalence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 20(10), 1197–1218.
- Cercone, J. J., Beach, S. R., & Arias, I. (2005). Gender symmetry in dating intimate partner violence: Does similar behavior imply similar constructs? *Violence and Victims*, 20(2), 207–218.
- Chaiken, S., & Trope, Y. (Eds.). (1999). *Dual process theories in social psychology*. New York: Guildford Press.
- Chan, A., & Payne, J. (2013). *Homicide in Australia: 2008–09 to 2009–10 National homicide monitoring program annual report*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Council of Australian Governments. (2011). *The national plan to reduce violence against women and their children: Including the first three-year action plan*. Canberra: FAHCSIA.
- Cox, P. (2015). *Violence against women in Australia: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012*. Sydney: ANROWS.
- Dobash, R. E., Dobash, R. P., Cavanagh, K., & Lewis, R. (2004). 'Not an ordinary killer—just an ordinary guy: when men murder an intimate woman partner. *Violence Against Women*, 10(6), 577–605.
- Dragiewicz, M. (2011). *Equality with a vengeance: Men's rights groups, battered women, and antifeminist backlash*. Northern University Press: Boston.
- Egan, R., & Wilson, J. C. (2012). Rape victims' attitudes to rape myth acceptance. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 19(3), 345–357.
- Fazio, R. H. (1990). Multiple processes by which attitudes guide behavior: The MODE model as an integrative framework. In M. Zanna (Ed.), *Advances in experimental social psychology* (pp. 75–109), San Diego: Academic Press.
- Flood, M. G. & Pease, B. 2009, 'Factors influencing Attitudes to violence Against Women', *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 10(2), 125–142.
- Fritz, C. O., Morris, P. E., & Richler, J. J. (2012). Effect size estimates: Current use, calculations, and interpretation. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 141(1), 2–18.
- Giles, J. R., Cureen, H. M., & Adamson, C. E. (2005). The social sanctioning of partner abuse: perpetuating the message that partner abuse is acceptable in New Zealand. *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, 26, 97–116.
- Headey, B., Scott, D., & De Vaus, D. (1999). Domestic violence in Australia: are men and women equally violent? *Australian Social Monitor*, 2(3), 57–62.
- Holtzworth-Munroe, A. (2005). Male versus female intimate partner violence: Putting controversial findings into context. *Journal of Marriage and Family Violence*, 67(5), 1120–1125.
- Hust, S. J. T., Rodgers, K. B., & Bayly, B. (2017) Scripting sexual consent: Internalized traditional sexual scripts and sexual consent expectancies among college students. *Family Relations*, 66, 197–210.
- Kimmel, M. S. (2005). *The gender of desire: Essays on male sexuality*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- Kimmel, M. (2017). *Angry white men: American masculinity at the end of an era*. New York, NY: Nation Books.



- Kohut, A., Keeter, S., Doherty, C., Dimock, M., & Christian, L. (2012). *Assessing the representativeness of public opinion surveys*. Retrieved 12 October, 2014 from <https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/legacy-pdf/Assessing-the-Representativeness-of-Public-Opinion-Surveys.pdf>
- Larance, L. Y., & Miller, S. L. (2016). In her own words: Women describe their use of force resulting in court-ordered intervention. *Violence Against Women, 23*(12), 1536–1559.
- Mennicke, A., & Kulkarni, S. (2016). Understanding Gender Symmetry within an Expanded Partner Violence typology. *Journal of Family Violence, 31*(8), 1013–1018.
- Meyer, S. (2018). Motivating perpetrators of domestic and family violence to engage in behaviour change: The role of fatherhood. *Child & Family Social Work, 23*(1), 97–104.
- Michau, L., Horn, J., Bank, A., Dutt, M., & Zimmerman, C. (2015). Prevention of violence against women and girls: Lessons from practice. *The Lancet, 385*(9978), 1672–1684.
- Myhill, A. (2015). Measuring coercive control: What can we learn from national population surveys? *Violence Against Women, 21*(3), 355–375.
- Muehlenhard, C. L., Humphreys, T. P., Jozkowski, K. N., & Peterson, Z. D. (2016). The complexities of sexual consent among college students: A conceptual and empirical review. *The Journal of Sex Research, 53*(4–5), 457–487.
- National Crime Prevention. (2001). *Young people and domestic violence: National research on young people's attitudes and experiences of domestic violence*. Canberra: Crime Prevention Branch, Commonwealth Attorney's Department.
- New South Wales. Ministry of Health. (2016a). *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children*. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health.
- New South Wales. Ministry of Health. (2016b). *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017–2021*. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health.
- New South Wales Government. (2018a). *NSW Sexual Assault Strategy 2018-2021*. Sydney: NSW Government.
- New South Wales Government. (2018b). *NSW Women's Strategy 2018-2022: Advancing Economic and Social Equality in NSW*. Sydney: NSW Government.
- Our Watch, VicHealth & ANROWS. (2015). *Change the story: a shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia*. Melbourne: Our Watch.
- Powell, A. (2011). *Review of bystander approaches in support of preventing violence against women*. Melbourne: VicHealth.
- Riggle, E. D., Rostosky, S. S., & Reedy, C. S. (2005). Online surveys for BGLT research: Issues and techniques. *Journal of Homosexuality, 49*(2), 1–21.
- Salazar, L. F., Baker, C. K., Price, A. W., & Carlin, K. (2003). Moving beyond the individual: Examining the effects of domestic violence policies on social norms. *American Journal of Community Psychology, 32*(3–4), 253–263.
- Shih, T. H., & Fan, X. (2008). Comparing response rates from web and mail surveys: A meta-analysis. *Field Methods, 20*(3), 249–271.
- Stimson J. A., MacKuen, M. B., & Erikson, R. S. (1995). Dynamic representation. *American Political Science Review, 89*(3), 543–565.
- Swan, S. C., Gambone, L. J., Van Horn, M., Lee, S., Snow, D. L., & Sullivan, T. P. (2012). Factor structures for aggression and victimization among women who used aggression against male partners. *Violence Against Women, 18*(9), 1045–1066.
- United Nations Women. (2015). A framework to underpin action to prevent violence against women. Retrieved 10 June, 2018 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/11/prevention-framework#view>
- Velonis, A. J. (2016). 'He never did anything you typically think of as abuse': Experiences with violence in controlling and non-controlling relationships in a non-agency sample of women. *Violence Against Women, 22*(9), 1031–1054.
- Warren, P., Swan, S., & Allen, C. T. (2015). Comprehension of sexual consent as a key factor in the perpetration of sexual aggression among college men. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma, 24*(8), 897–913.
- Weiss, K. G. (2009). 'Boys will be boys' and other gendered accounts: An exploration of victims' excuses and justifications for unwanted sexual contact and coercion. *Violence Against Women, 15*(7), 810–834.
- VicHealth. (2017a). *Behavioural Insights and gender equality*. Melbourne: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.
- VicHealth. (2017b). *Gender Equality, Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017–2019*. Melbourne: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.
- Webster, K. (2016). *A preventable burden: Measuring and addressing the prevalence and health impacts of intimate partner violence in Australian women*. Sydney: ANROWS
- Webster, K., Diemer, K., Honey, N., Mannix, S., Mickle, J., Morgan, ... Ward, A. (2018). *Australians' attitudes to violence against women and gender equality. Findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS)* (Research report, 03/2018). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.
- Webster, K., & Flood, M. (2015). *Framework foundations 1: A review of the evidence on correlates of violence against women and what works to prevent it*. Melbourne: ANROWS & VicHealth.
- Webster, K., Pennay, P., Bricknall, R., Diemer, K., Flood, M., Powell, ... Ward, A. (2014). *Australians' attitudes to violence against women: Findings from the 2013 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS)*. Melbourne: VicHealth.



Weldon, S., & Gilchrist, E. (2012). Implicit theories in intimate partner violence offenders. *Journal of Family Violence*, 27(8), 761–772.

World Health Organization. (2010). *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence*. Geneva: WHO.

World Health Organization. (2013). 16 ideas for addressing violence against women in the context of the HIV epidemic – A programming tool. Retrieved 20 July, 2017 from [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/95156/9789241506533\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=4522B672490BFA00F138FE813243D0A8?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/95156/9789241506533_eng.pdf;jsessionid=4522B672490BFA00F138FE813243D0A8?sequence=1)

This page has intentionally been left blank.

This page has intentionally been left blank.



# ANROWS

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