

KEY FINDINGS

Attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality among people from non-English speaking countries

Findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS)

Background

Attitudes towards violence against women and towards gender equality are key drivers of violence against women. Attitudes can influence the responses of service providers, as well as those of family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues of those affected. Attitudes can also influence perpetrators and women subject to violence.

One way that we can track attitudes over time is through the [National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey \(NCAS\)](#), a telephone survey which is conducted periodically. In 2017, more than 17,500 Australians aged 16 and over were surveyed, and the findings were published as [Australians' attitudes to violence against women and gender equality](#).

Among the 17,500 people surveyed were 2926 people who identified that they were born overseas in a country where English is not the main language spoken. A separate report, *Attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality among people from non-English speaking countries*, explored the responses of this sub-group.

This paper summarises the key findings of this report, and their implications for policy and practice.

Key findings

1. Overall, people born in non-main-English-speaking countries (N-MESCs):
 - support gender equality
 - have a good understanding of the nature of violence against women
 - reject attitudes that support violence against women.
2. A concerning minority tend to blame victims and excuse perpetrators of violence against women.
3. A sizeable minority hold gender stereotypes that limit men and women.
4. Among people born in N-MESCs, those most likely to have low understanding or concerning attitudes are:
 - recent arrivals
 - people with low levels of proficiency in English
 - men
 - people in low-skilled and male-dominated occupations
 - people experiencing disadvantage; and
 - people 65 years and older.

Implications for policy and practice

1. Programs addressing attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality need to be tailored to individual migrant and refugee communities.
2. Programs addressing attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality need to be led by community members.
3. Female community leaders are well placed to lead these conversations. Men and boys should be engaged in ways that align with a feminist approach.
4. People with low levels of proficiency in English can be reached by in-language programs, resources, and media campaigns.
5. Programs intended to reach recent arrivals should consider that many recent arrivals are people on temporary visas who are not entitled to access settlement services. Alternative avenues are required.
6. Work with older people could include the facilitation of inter-generational dialogue.
7. Work with refugee communities could include the experience of war/conflict as a part of the larger context of peoples' lives and their refugee journeys.

Source

Webster, K., Vaughan, C., Yasmin, R., Diemer, K., Honey, N., Mickle, J., Morgan, J., Parkes, A., Politoff, V., Powell, A., Stubbs, J., & Ward, A. (2019). *Attitudes towards violence against women and gender equality among people from non-English speaking countries: Findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS)* (ANROWS Insights, Issue 02/2019). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.

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