Are we there yet? Monitoring progress towards the prevention of violence against women in Australia

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Our WATCH
End violence against Women And Their Children

Our Watch: a national organisation for the primary prevention of violence against women

- Non-government organisation, but with government members

- Our specialist focus is **primary prevention**

- Our areas of work:

  o evidence development

  o policy advice to governments

  o support and tools for practitioners and communities

  o social marketing campaigns and media work

- *Change the story*: world's first evidence-based framework for primary prevention. Identifies the underlying **gendered drivers** of violence against women, and **actions** to address these

GENDERED DRIVERS
of violence against women:

| CONDONING of violence against women | MEN'S CONTROL of decision-making and limits to women's independence | STEREOTYPED constructions of masculinity and femininity | DISRESPECT towards women and male peer relations that emphasise aggression |

Gender inequality sets the NECESSARY SOCIAL CONTEXT

Violence against women
IS PREVENTABLE
if we all work together

NO TO VIOLENCE

ACTIONS
that will prevent violence against women:

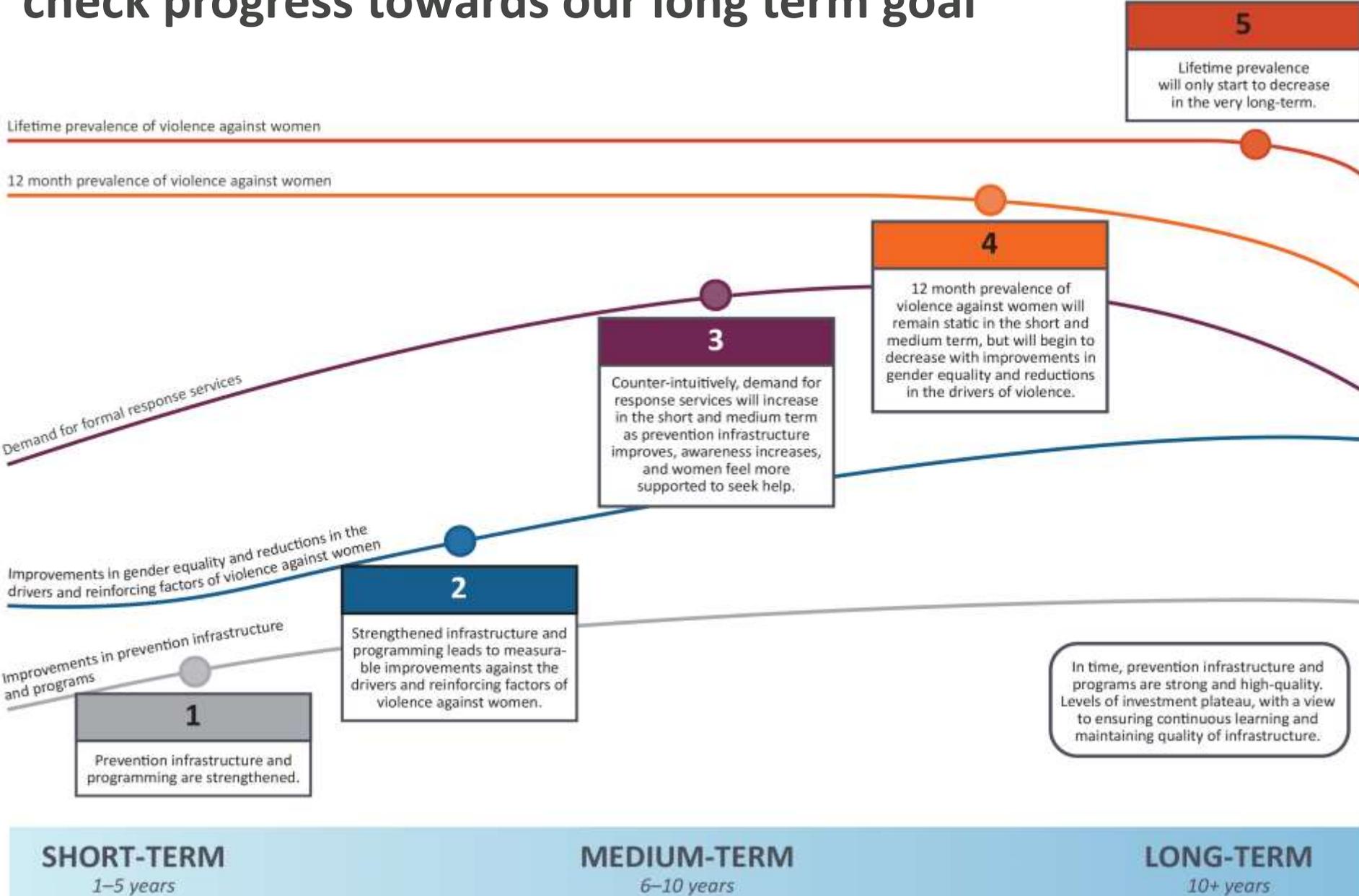| CHALLENGE condoning of violence against women | PROMOTE women's independence & decision-making | CHALLENGE gender stereotypes and roles | STRENGTHEN positive, equal and respectful relationships |

Promote and normalise GENDER EQUALITY in public and private life

What is *Progress in prevention?*

- *Counting on change* – framework for monitoring and evaluating progress on prevention actions in *Change the story*

- *Progress in prevention*: first report tracking national level change
- Monitoring change against measures and indicators for:
  - The gendered drivers of violence against women
  - Intersecting and reinforcing factors
  - Prevalence
- Begins assessment of how primary prevention infrastructure is developing (incl. policy, leadership, programming, workforce)

- Demonstrates:
  - *how* national monitoring and reporting can be done,
  - *what measures and data* can be used, and
  - *what such a report it looks like*
- Intended as the first in a series

Tracking short and medium term measures as a way to check progress towards our long term goal

5
Lifetime prevalence will only start to decrease in the very long-term.

Lifetime prevalence of violence against women

12 month prevalence of violence against women

4
12 month prevalence of violence against women will remain static in the short and medium term, but will begin to decrease with improvements in gender equality and reductions in the drivers of violence.

3
Counter-intuitively, demand for response services will increase in the short and medium term as prevention infrastructure improves, awareness increases, and women feel more supported to seek help.

Demand for formal response services

Improvements in gender equality and reductions in the drivers and reinforcing factors of violence against women

Improvements in prevention infrastructure and programs

2
Strengthened infrastructure and programming leads to measurable improvements against the drivers and reinforcing factors of violence against women.

In time, prevention infrastructure and programs are strong and high-quality. Levels of investment plateau, with a view to ensuring continuous learning and maintaining quality of infrastructure.

1
Prevention infrastructure and programming are strengthened.

SHORT-TERM
1–5 years

MEDIUM-TERM
6–10 years

LONG-TERM
10+ years

ULTIMATE GOAL ▶
Australian women and thier children live free
from violence in safe communties

LONGER-TERM MEASURES ▶
What will be the outcomes in the longer-term?

REDUCED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY INTIMATE PARTNER

REDUCED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY NON-INTIMATE PARTNER

REDUCED SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ONLINE TROLLING

MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES ▶
What changes should we aim for
and measure in the medium-term?

REDUCED ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WOMEN HAVE GREATER DECISION-MAKING POWER

MORE POSITIVE, EQUAL, AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

REDUCED ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE IN GENERAL

MEN & BOYS ARE ENGAGED AND BACKLASH IS REDUCED

MORE POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS OF MASCULINITY

GENDER ROLES ARE LESS RIGID

REDUCED EXPERIENCES OF OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE

REDUCED HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL

GREATER SOCIAL & ECONOMIC EQUALITY

PROCESS MEASURES ▶
What is being done
to support change?

LEADERSHIP FROM GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY

POSITIVE REFORMS IN POLICIES AND LAWS

A GROWING EXPERT WORKFORCE FOR PREVENTION

SETTING STANDARDS & WORKING TOGETHER

SHARED WAYS OF EVALUATING AND COMMUNICATING FINDINGS

DELIVERING QUALITY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Methodology - part 1: medium and long-term measures

Desktop analysis of select indicators from existing population-level quantitative datasets that assess trends over time

11 Domains
39 Indicators
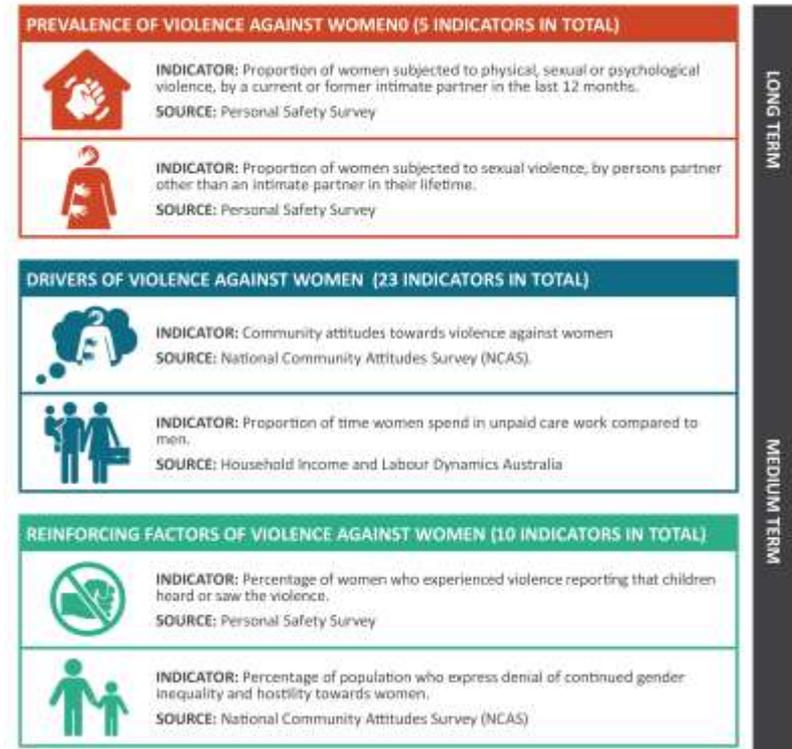
Methodology - part 2: prevention infrastructure

- Measures progress towards the prevention infrastructure required to provide the foundations for sustained and meaningful population-level change

- Exploratory, qualitative approach, using mixed methodologies (case studies, survey, interviews, policy analysis, analysis of existing evaluations, some analysis of secondary data). Designed to establish a baseline and set the foundations for future monitoring

- 6 domains; approximately 30 indicators

PROCESS MEASURES ▶ What is being done to support change?

LEADERSHIP FROM GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY | POSITIVE REFORMS IN POLICIES AND LAWS | A GROWING EXPERT WORKFORCE FOR PREVENTION | SETTING STANDARDS & WORKING TOGETHER | SHARED WAYS OF EVALUATING AND COMMUNICATING FINDINGS | DELIVERING QUALITY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

PREVENTION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS (43 SUGGESTED MEASURES)

POSSIBLE MEASURE: An increasing number of university/TAFE courses include preservice qualification standards and competencies on prevention.

POSSIBLE MEASURE: Governments (federal, state/territory, and local) have a dedicated policy for primary prevention, aligned with *Change the story*.

PROCESS MEASURES

What are we learning?

Report not be public until June 2020, so findings not finalised yet.

Medium and long term measures - picture likely to be mixed. Range of publicly available datasets indicate positive shifts on some measures, for example in attitudes (see National Community Attitudes Survey). But on other measures, change has not yet been observed.

However we're still working to bring all the indicators and measures together, and analyse these as a whole, together with the qualitative information we're collecting on the infrastructure measures, in order to create a full picture,

The ability to conduct this kind of holistic, multi-dimensional analysis across all these domains, is what makes the project unique and valuable,

Infrastructure measures: emerging lessons

- Infrastructure develops in different ways in different contexts and is not necessarily linear or predictable

- Analysis of this process will highlight:

  - where mutually reinforcing work is required

  - where there are dependencies between and across the different infrastructure domains

  - dependencies between the infrastructure domains and the drivers

- Mechanisms for data collection and monitoring are part of the infrastructure needed, so work to develop these, as we are doing in this project - is also contributing to building the infrastructure

LEADERSHIP FROM GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY   POSITIVE REFORMS IN POLICIES AND LAWS   A GROWING EXPERT WORKFORCE FOR PREVENTION   SETTING STANDARDS & WORKING TOGETHER   SHARED WAYS OF EVALUATING AND COMMUNICATING FINDINGS   DELIVERING QUALITY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Challenges

- Limitations of population level data:

    o   Lack of data for every indicator

    o   Doesn't enable nuanced understanding of results for population sub-groups

Strengths of the approach

- Multi-dimensional analysis demonstrates scale and diversity of effort required to prevent violence against women

- Helps identify gaps in population level strategy

- Advocacy tool

- Accountability

- Blueprint for measuring complex social and political phenomena

Possible implications for other countries

- Globally, this is one of the few initiatives to build evidence on primary prevention progress at a national population level. Our Watch is keen to keep sharing the lessons we're learning

- Demonstrates importance and value of monitoring and provides a general approach that could be used elsewhere. But we acknowledge the detail of approaches in different country contexts would need to be quite different

- In less resourced contexts where there is little available population level data, options could include:

    - starting with an assessment of prevention infrastructure (including research and data infrastructure)

    - drawing on available administrative data, or data being collected for SDG monitoring.

Thank you

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