

Getting serious about change: the building blocks for effective primary prevention of men's violence against women

This Joint Statement was prepared to inform the work of the Victorian Royal Commission into family violence, drawing on the significant research and practice expertise of the signatory organisations. It outlines the foundations that are necessary if we are to move beyond a small-scale, project-focused approach and begin the hard work of achieving measurable whole-of-population change.

1. **Develop a long term, bipartisan, whole of government and whole of community plan** – so that we have a shared roadmap for action to reduce and ultimately eliminate violence against women.
2. **Address structural and normative gender inequality as the key driver of men's violence against women, through an intersectional approach** – so that our policy, research and practice reflects global, national and local evidence on the underlying causes of the problem and what works to prevent it.
3. **Develop a monitoring, accountability and reporting framework** – so that implementation and decision making is guided by ambitious but achievable targets, with clear lines of reporting and accountability and progress tracked against shared objectives.
4. **Establish strong governance and quality assurance mechanisms** – so that leaders across all sectors with a role in preventing violence against women work together to develop and implement high quality actions, supported by agreed standards and frameworks.
5. **Significantly increase and sustain funding to support the above, and to ensure good programs are systematised and upscaled** – so that prevention activity doesn't stop because project funding comes to an end, and that the resources applied are commensurate to the scale and seriousness of the problem.
6. **Ensure universal reach through inclusive and tailored approaches** – so that people from all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, of different abilities, sexualities and ages, and across different locations and settings, participate in and benefit equally from activities aiming to promote gender equality and prevent violence against women.
7. **Engage communities through established organisations and networks** – so that we're not 'reinventing the wheel' but integrating the promotion of gender equality, respect and non-discrimination through the existing work and expertise of agencies and organisations.
8. **Build a skilled prevention workforce, within existing sectors, and as specialists** – so that we have skilled people and organisations that are ready to meet existing demand safely and effectively, and to expand the reach of current primary prevention activities.
9. **Undertake an intersectional gender analysis of all government policy, legislative development and budgeting** – to actively address the unequal gendered power relationships known to drive men's violence against women.
10. **Support ongoing research and evaluation for knowledge building and innovation** – so that we learn from implementation about what works and what doesn't work, and that we build capacity among practitioners and organisations for ongoing evaluation.

A Joint Statement from the following organisations and peak membership bodies: CASA Forum Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault; Domestic Violence Victoria; Multicultural Centre for Women's Health; No To Violence; Our Watch; Victorian Equal and Opportunity and Human Rights Commission; Women with Disabilities Victoria; Women's Health Association of Victoria; Women's Health Victoria.

We also acknowledge the participation of VicHealth in the drafting of this Joint Statement, and note that they indicate support for it in their own submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

