



A national whole-of-government approach to preventing violence against women: Lessons from the Australian experience

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Loksee Leung, Senior Data and Evaluation Advisor, Our Watch



THE AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

Violence against women: key statistics

657
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
MATTERS
ARE DEALT WITH
EVERY DAY BY
AUSTRALIAN POLICE



Every week one
**WOMAN IS
MURDERED**
by her current
or former partner



Since the age of 15:



1 in 5

Australian women
had experienced
sexual violence

1 in 3

Australian women
had experienced
physical violence

1 in 4

Australian women had
experienced *physical
or sexual violence*
by an intimate
partner

**Our
WATCH**

End violence against
Women And Their Children

THE AUSTRALIAN POLICY CONTEXT



CHANGE THE STORY

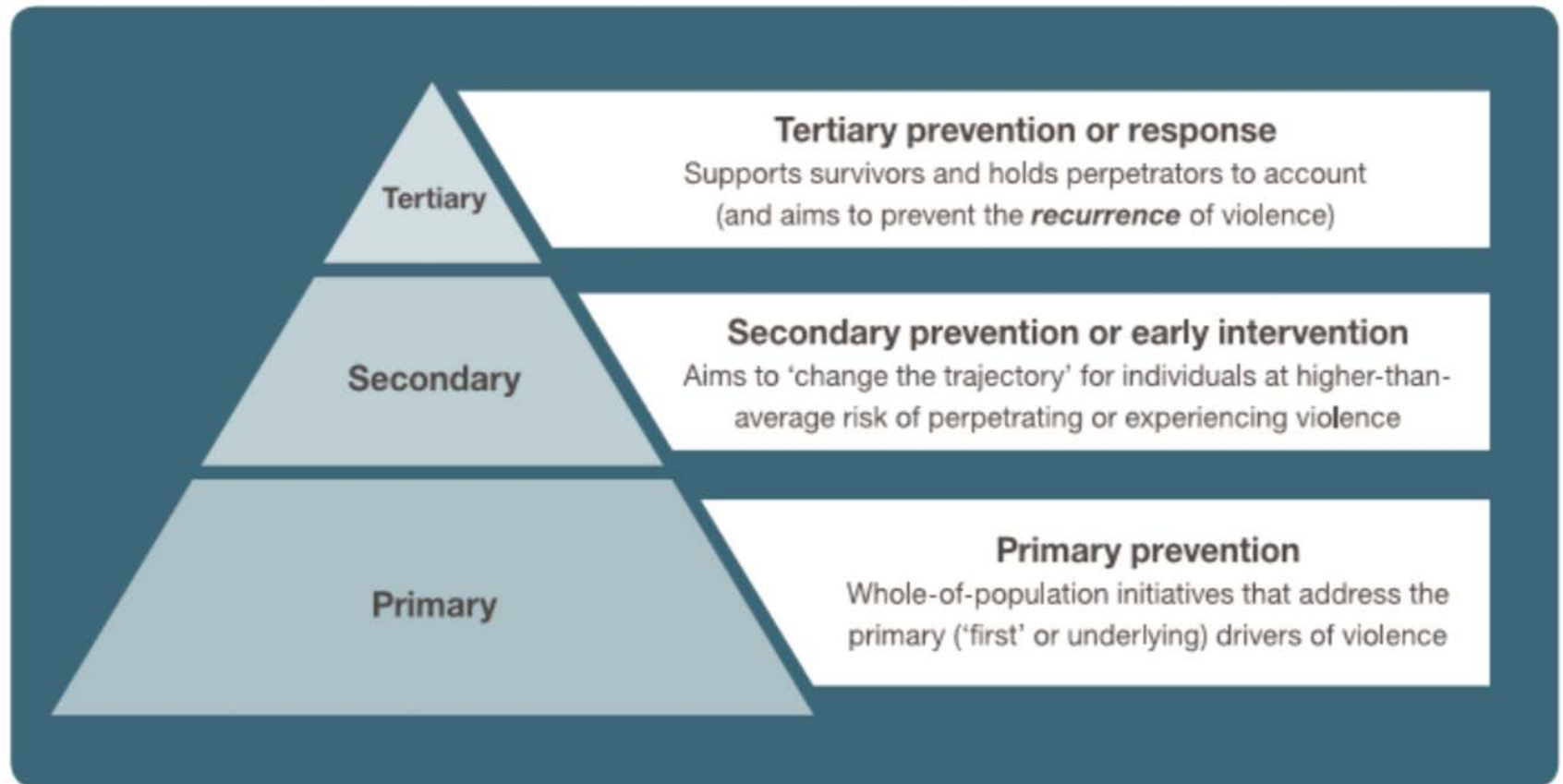


Figure 2 The relationship between primary prevention and other work to address violence against women



CHANGE THE STORY

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

Our
WATCH
End violence against
Women And Their Children

CHANGE THE STORY

Gendered drivers

Particular expressions of gender inequality consistently predict higher rates of violence against women:

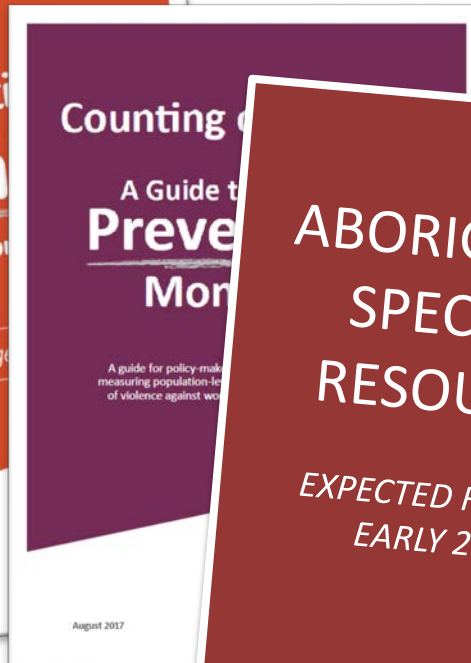
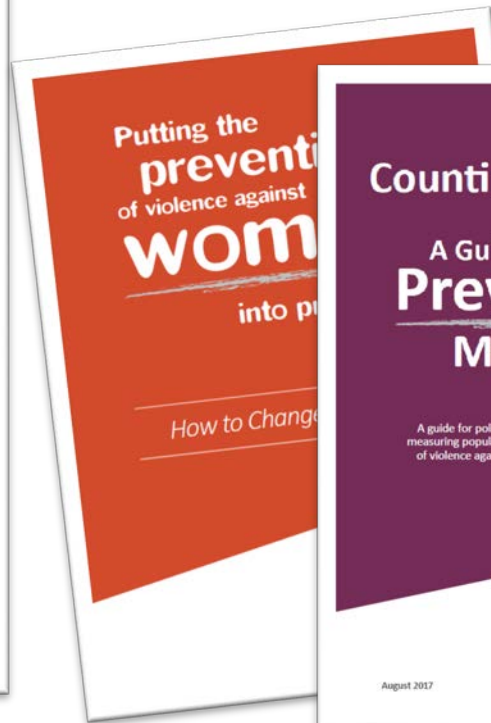
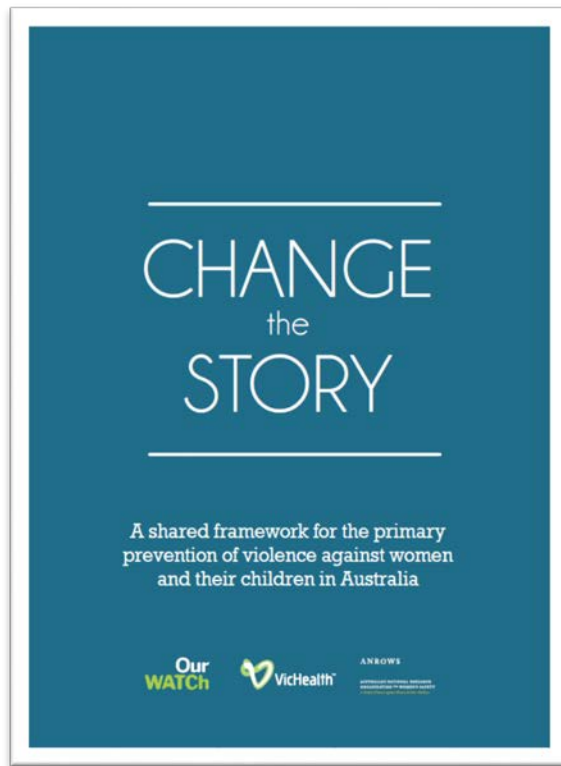
- 1 **Condoning of violence against women**
- 2 **Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life**
- 3 **Rigid gender roles and stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity**
- 4 **Male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women.**

Reinforcing factors – within the context of the gendered drivers – can increase frequency or severity of violence:

- 5 **Condoning of violence in general**
- 6 **Experience of, and exposure to, violence**
- 7 **Weakening of pro-social behaviour, especially harmful use of alcohol**
- 8 **Socio-economic inequality and discrimination**
- 9 **Backlash factors (increases in violence when male dominance, power or status is challenged).**

Higher probability
of violence against women

CHANGE THE STORY COMPANION PIECES



ABORIGINAL SPECIFIC RESOURCE





LESSONS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE

1. Culture change is long-term work
2. Ensure highest level of ministerial ownership and cross-portfolio engagement
3. Support the specialist VAW sector
4. Keep voices of victim/survivors central
5. Bring the public along
6. Build infrastructure first - 'future-proof' the reform pathway
7. Take an intersectional approach
8. Build a holistic system – response, early intervention, & prevention