

Follow-up information requested by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs for the inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence – Friday 16th October, 2020

Witnesses: Prof Deborah Loxton, Peta Forder, Natalie Townsend

This document has been provided in response to questions raised by the Committee during proceedings held Friday 16th October, 2020. The Committee Chair asked about the costs of analysing data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH). The witnesses took this question on notice. The costs included below were calculated for various research questions, based on inquiries made by the Committee during proceedings.

The analyses proposed below will build on the current evidence base by increasing understanding of the extent of the problem of family, domestic and sexual violence; exploring the complex relationships between violence and health and wellbeing; and identifying various factors which may assist in recovery from these experiences by augmenting interventions and service provision.

Analysis 1

What circumstances precede experiences of family, domestic, and sexual violence?

Existing ALSWH data can be used to determine the circumstances of women that precede their experiences of violence. Identification of factors which precede violence may be useful for prevention campaigns and in determining where women might be most at risk of violence. This analysis involves complex longitudinal modelling for data from women born 1989-95 and 1973-78, collected over 7 and 25 years, respectively.

Cost: \$141,231.87

Analysis 2

What are the factors which exacerbate the effect of family, domestic and sexual violence on women's health and wellbeing over the life course?

What are the factors that help to mitigate the impact of family, domestic and sexual violence on women's health and wellbeing over the life course?

ALSWH data have demonstrated the very long-term impact of violence on women's health and wellbeing. Identification of factors that exacerbate this detrimental impact will inform the development of strategies to reduce that impact. Identification of factors that mitigate the detrimental impact of violence on health and wellbeing will inform policies and programs that will assist women to recover from experiences of violence. These analyses can be augmented by interviewing participants to gain insight into the lived experience of recovering from the impact of violence. Full recovery from violence appears to be rare, based on population level results, and supplementing the existing quantitative data with qualitative data in this way will provide a more nuanced understanding of the mechanisms that underlie recovery from violence. This cost includes analysis of existing data and the collection and analysis of supplementary qualitative data.

Cost: \$337,478.31

Analysis 3

What are the healthcare costs attributable to experiences of family, domestic and sexual violence?

ALSWH data are linked with Medicare and hospitals data. Analyses will be undertaken using these data to determine healthcare costs attributable to experiences of violence. The increased financial costs attributable to experiences of violence highlight that an investment could be made toward mitigating the impact of violence and assisting women to recover from these experiences, which, in the long-term, would save the economy money.

Cost: \$129,522.92

Analysis 4

What is the prevalence of reproductive coercion?

What are the factors that are associated with reproductive coercion?

ALSWH will collect data about reproductive coercion in the ninth survey of women born 1973-78 in 2021. Data will be available for analysis in 2022. These data will be analysed to determine the prevalence and correlates of reproductive coercion.

Cost: \$61,668.25

Analysis 5

What are the effects of multiple experiences of family, domestic and sexual violence across the life course?

Data collected over 25 years from women born 1946-51 and 1973-78, and over 7 years for women born 1989-95, will be analysed to determine the impact of multiple experiences of violence over the lifespan and at different life stages. The associations between different types of violence will also be explored. For example, associations between abuse experienced in childhood and abuse in adulthood. Results will highlight those experiences that leave women at risk of further violence.

Cost: \$169,212.68

Analysis 6

What impact has COVID-19 had on the prevalence of family, domestic and sexual violence?

How has COVID-19 changed how women experience acts of family, domestic and sexual violence?

How has COVID-19 changed the recovery process for women who have experienced acts of family, domestic and sexual violence?

ALSWH has collected preliminary quantitative data on interpersonal violence experienced during the COVID-19 crisis from three subsamples of women enrolled in the study. More detailed follow-up data will be collected as part of the main ALSWH surveys. However, the unique nature of the pandemic and associated policies require more timely and detailed research. This costing is for a mixed-methods (survey and interview) study with ALSWH participants who reported experiencing interpersonal violence during the pandemic.

Cost: \$213,306.77

Analysis 7

What is the lived experience of women who have experienced and recovered from violence? A narrative analysis of 25 years of existing qualitative data

ALSWH has collected qualitative data over its 25-year term from all four cohorts of women (born 1921-26, 1946-51, 1973-78, and 1989-95). Over 114,000 written comments from over 33,000 women comprise the qualitative dataset. These data will form the sampling frame, from which data that mentions any form of violence will be drawn. Thematic and narrative analyses will be undertaken to describe the lived experience of violence and recovery from violence among Australian women aged 18 to 99. The results of these analyses will provide insight into factors that promote recovery from experiences of violence.

Cost: \$172,092.58