

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ17-000150

Topic: Violence Against Women Campaign

Hansard page: 130

Senator David Leyonhjelm asked:

Can you give a citation for the claim that disrespect and gender inequality is where violence against women begins and is at the heart of the issue?

Answer:

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) has consolidated results from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey comparing male and female lived experiences of violence. See <http://media.aomx.com/anrows.org.au/s3fs-public/Key%20statistics%20-%20all.pdf>.

The analysis demonstrates the gendered nature of domestic, family and sexual violence by highlighting the overwhelmingly disproportionate nature of the lived experience.

By way of comparison, since the age of 15, Australian women have experienced significantly greater sexual violence (1 in 5 compared to 1 in 22 for Australian men), physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner (1 in 6 compared to 1 in 19 for Australian men), and greater emotional abuse (1 in 4 compared to 1 in 7 Australian men).

Since the age of 15, Australian men are more likely to have experienced physical violence (1 in 2 compared to 1 in 3 Australian women) however, this includes situations outside of domestic and family violence settings. It is three times more likely for a person of either sex to experience violence from a male rather than female perpetrator.

The World Health Organisation's *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: Taking action and generating evidence* cites a number of studies supporting violence against women as a consequence of gender inequality, including Jewkes & Morrell 2010¹, Russo & Pirlott 2006² and Taft 2009³.

In addition, Our Watch has cited a number of domestic sources that identify a correlation between violence against women and disrespect and gender inequality: Michael Flood 2007⁴ and Anita Harris et al. 2015⁵.

¹ Jewkes R, Morrell R (2010). Gender and sexuality: emerging perspectives from the heterosexual epidemic in South Africa and implications for HIV risk and prevention, *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 13:6.

² Russo NF, Pirlott A (2006). Gender-based violence: concepts, methods, and findings. *Annals of the New York Academy of Science*, 1087:178–205.

³ Taft CT et al. (2009). Intimate partner violence against African American women: an examination of the socio-cultural context. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 14:50–58.

⁴ Flood M, 2007, *Background Document for the VicHealth Violence Against Women Prevention Framework*, Unpublished Paper.

⁵ Harris, A, Honey, N, Webster, K, Diemer K & Politoff, V 2015, Young Australians' attitudes to violence against women: Findings from the 2013 National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women. Survey for respondents 16–24 years, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Melbourne, Australia.