

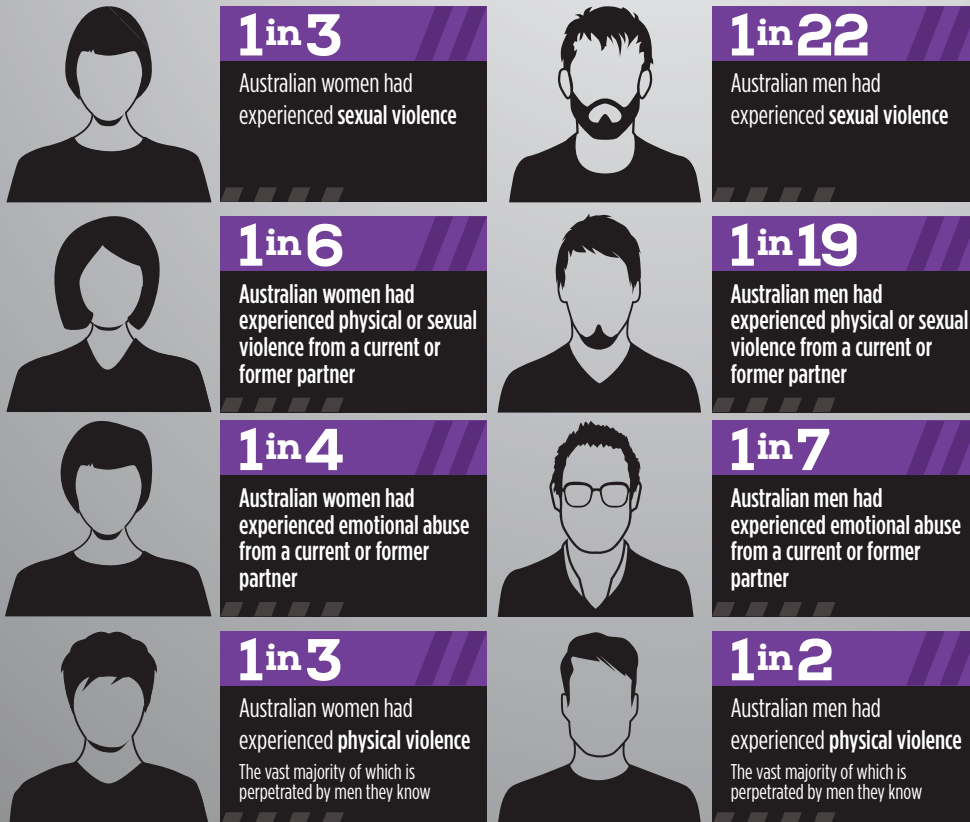
Family Violence Awareness 16 Days of Activism

Family violence is a problem that affects all of us: women, children and men. As a union with many male members, we want to raise awareness and be part of eliminating family violence for our benefit and for the benefit of the community at large.

As a union we strive to improve quality of life for working people. We know that we can drive change that benefits us all. We all need to learn, understand and make a difference individually. It is up to all of us to oppose violence against women and promote a culture of non-violence and respect in our community.

How common is violence against women?

Rates of violence against men and women since the age of 15:



Women of all ages, cultures, backgrounds and economic situations in Australia can experience violence.

Every week in Australia a woman is murdered by her partner or ex-partner.

Violence against women includes...

- Economic, psychological, emotional, physical and sexual abuse
- Intimate partner violence is often used to describe violence against a current or previous partner.
- Family violence and domestic violence are broader terms that refer to violence between family members as well as violence between intimate partners.



- Eight out of ten women aged 18 - 24 were harassed on the street in the past year
- At least one woman a week is killed by a partner or former partner in Australia.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of death and injury in women under 45



Who commits violence against women?

Research shows that most violence against women is perpetrated by a man who is known to them, such as a current or former intimate partner, an acquaintance or a relative. In comparison, men were more likely to be assaulted by a stranger (70% of assaults) and

in the majority of cases by a male perpetrator. Intimate partner violence is most often confined to the home, 'unseen' by others and the community, and can include multiple forms of assault, abuse and threats that can escalate in severity over time.

What causes violence against women?

Violence against women exists due to:

- Inequalities between men and women across all levels of society (eg: relationships, workplaces, media, sport)
- Explicit and subtle power imbalances between women and men
- Rigid expectations and attitudes (stereotypes) about what it means to be a 'man' or a 'woman'

*** Alcohol, other drugs and mental health issues are not the underlying causes of violence against women, but contribute to the frequency or severity of violence. The use of violence against women is a choice that men make. Men always have a choice.



While most men do not use violence against women, all men can play a part in preventing it

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- We can declare that violence against women is never acceptable.
- Work alongside women in ending violence against women.
- We should be talking, with our mates, our sons, our families. Women and girls need respect and need to be treated as equals. We also need to be having the public conversations, using our influence where we can.
- Men need to help other men understand that violence against women is fuelled by attitudes and beliefs that women are worth less than men, or are the property of men

GENDERED VIOLENCE AT WORK

Domestic and family violence is not just a private or personal issue. Almost two thirds of women who experience violence at home have paid jobs, that's 800,000 women in Australia.

At work, a recent survey in Victoria found that 64% of working women have experienced bullying, harassment, sexism and violence in their workplace. It is a serious OHS issue for working people, and as a union we cannot accept it.



If you are in need of urgent assistance call '000'

The National Sexual Assault, Family and Domestic Violence Counselling Line - **1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)** - is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for any Australian who has experienced, or is at risk of, family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

National: **Mates in Construction - 1300 642 111**

In Victoria: **Incolink (24/7): 1300 000 129**

MUA Contact: **Hunterlink - 1800 544 654**

Hunterlink: **(02) 4929 6625**