

The logo for Respect Victoria, featuring two overlapping speech bubble shapes. The larger, top-left bubble contains the text "Respect Victoria" and the smaller, bottom-right bubble contains the text "Preventing Family Violence".

**Respect
Victoria**

**Preventing
Family
Violence**

Progress on Preventing Family Violence and Violence Against Women in Victoria

First Three-Yearly Report to Parliament

Purpose and scope

- Legislative responsibility for Respect Victoria under the ***Prevention of Family Violence Act 2018***
- Covers prevention effort in Victoria over the period **late 2018 to late 2021**
- Informed by data, project reports, evaluations, research findings, stakeholder survey and key informant interviews

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Key findings

- Primary prevention has **advanced significantly**; change is underway but **not yet as widescale and sustainable** as needed.
- A **large number of promising initiatives and projects** have been implemented. However this work has been too short-term and limited in scope.
- Increase in Victorians **actively challenging** attitudes and behaviours that condone violence.
- Victorians rank family violence as a **high priority issue**, but outdated attitudes remain.

Key findings

- Significant work has begun with **particular populations**. This work needs further development and embedding.
- There have been clear advances in creating an effective **prevention system**, but stronger coordination is required.
- **Significant investment** resulted in more Victorians engaged in prevention. Further investment – commensurate with size and scale of the task - is required.



Community-level indicators of progress

71%

say they would act
if they witnessed a male friend verbally abusing a woman in a relationship.

1 in 6

men and

1 in 10

women believe that domestic violence is a private matter to be handled in the family.

1 in 4

Victorians believe that men should take control in relationships and be head of the household, with more men (29%) holding this view than women (18%).

7.5%

of Australians believe that people experiencing sexual harassment should sort it out themselves rather than report it.

More than

80%

of people agree that it is a serious problem when a man tries to control his partner by refusing her access to their money.

Family violence is ranked by Victorians as a high priority social issue.

9 in 10

people perceive someone physically abusing their partner as a serious issue.

Future priorities: Strengthen statewide prevention systems and capacity

- Increase **coordination** of prevention strategy and implementation
- **Investment** commensurate with the scale of the problem and the gains to be made
- Strategic **workforce and sector development**
- Plan and deliver for **collective impact**
- Strengthen **data collection, evaluation** and **research** mechanisms



Future priorities: Drive real and sustained change in the community, organisations and institutions

- Intensify efforts to **shift social norms** that drive violence
- Stronger focus on **policies and systems** to undermine the power and control that underpins violence
- Better balance **population-wide and targeted approaches** to address particular forms of violence
- Focus more on changing **social norms around masculinity** and men's and boy's attitudes, behaviours and perspectives



Future priorities: Expand the scope, scale and effectiveness of targeted prevention action

- Drive more **strategic, longer term, coordinated whole-of-government** prevention
- Stronger focus on **whole of setting scale up**
- Design and test **saturation** to build evidence about what works
- Strengthen a focus on **intersectional practice**
- Enable **consistency and quality** of practice and evaluation

