

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

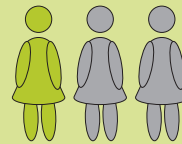
Violence against women affects all communities regardless of class, race or culture. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women<sup>1</sup> defines violence against women as:

*“physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family and in the general community, including battering, sexual abuse of children, dowry-related violence, rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state.”*

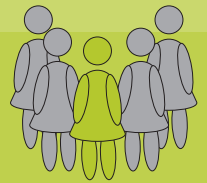
## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA<sup>2</sup>



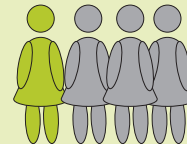
### SINCE THE AGE OF 15:



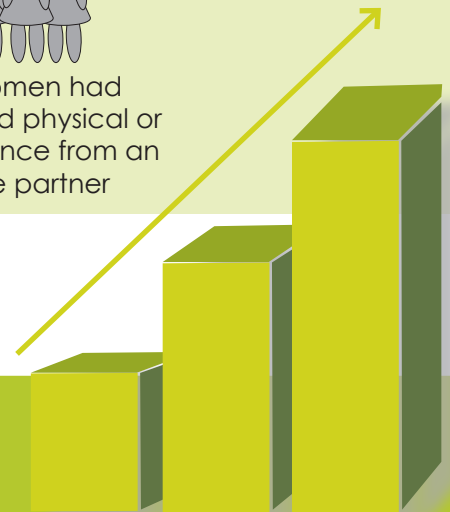
**1 IN 3** women have experienced physical violence



**1 IN 5** women have experienced sexual violence



**1 IN 4** women had experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE SOUTH EAST

In 2013/14, there were more than **15,000 CALLOUTS** to family incidents in the South East region. Police callouts to family violence incidents in the South East have **DOUBLED** over the last decade<sup>3</sup>. The actual figure is likely to be much higher as **58%** of women who have experienced violence have never contacted police<sup>4</sup>.

Violence against women is serious, prevalent and driven by **GENDER INEQUALITY**.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Violence against women: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey, 2012 / Peta Cox. Sydney : ANROWS, c2015

<sup>3</sup> Correlation between Selected Social Conditions, 2010 / Hayden Brown. Melbourne : City of Greater Dandenong, c2010

<sup>4</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012a, Personal Safety Survey, Cat. No.4906.0, Australian Bureau of Statistics, <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>

## HOW CAN YOU PLAY A PART IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

- If you see or hear something sexist – like a joke, an email or a passing comment – say something! You're probably not the only one who thinks it's wrong. To find out more head to [www.ourwatch.org.au/Preventing-Violence](http://www.ourwatch.org.au/Preventing-Violence)
- Talk to your friends and family about your commitment to prevent violence against women and join in with community awareness raising events – such as the 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-Based Violence campaign [www.whise.org.au/news/16\\_Days\\_of\\_Activism.html](http://www.whise.org.au/news/16_Days_of_Activism.html)
- If a friend, a family member or a workmate tells you that she's experienced violence, the most important thing you can do is listen to her, believe her and make sure she knows you're there to support her. For more family violence information and support try: [www.asksomeone.org.au](http://www.asksomeone.org.au)

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

### **Women's Health in the South East**

For more information about what is happening in the South East region.  
[www.whise.org.au](http://www.whise.org.au)

### **ANROWS**

For statistics, research and further evidence.  
[www.anrows.org.au](http://www.anrows.org.au)

### **Change the Story**

The National Framework for the prevention of violence against women and their children.  
[www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/1462998c-c32b-4772-ad02-cbf359e0d8e6/Change-the-story-framework-prevent-violence-women-children.pdf.aspx](http://www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/1462998c-c32b-4772-ad02-cbf359e0d8e6/Change-the-story-framework-prevent-violence-women-children.pdf.aspx)

### **The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

1993 - the first global instrument explicitly addressing violence against women.  
[www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm](http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm)