# Community readiness assessment template

| Stage | Description | Sample Answers | Activity ideas for each stage |
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| 1. No awareness | No knowledge, concern, resources or interest in the issues of violence against women. | These are new issues. | Start talking with individuals and existing groups in the community about the issue to gain their support on violence against women.  Provide information on violence against women to local leaders to gain their interest in acting on the issue. |
| 1. Denial/ resistance | The issues of violence against women can’t or shouldn’t be addressed. | There are no issues of violence against women at all. | Continue actions from previous stage.  Put information local newsletters and respected publications, Facebook, etc.  Provide more formal articles to newspapers and other media outlets about how the issue affects the community.  Communicate strategically with influencers and opinion leaders. |
| 1. Vague awareness | Little knowledge about violence against women and not much motivation. | Maybe violence against women is a problem. We should probably work on it. | Community awareness raising - start to present information at community events and approach community groups who are interested but not previously thought of as part of prevention, the ‘unusual suspects’  Be more creative in your messaging by using stories, stickers posters and billboards as people will have some awareness of the issue as people will be able to pick up on more creative efforts beyond factual information.  Begin to initiate your own events, try to think of events that are enjoyable but also contain clear messaging, ideally with a call to action.  Publish articles and stories and try and ensure the content is relatable and links to your own community context. |
| 1. Pre-planning | Limited knowledge about violence against women, but with an interest in what can be done. | violence against women is an important issue, what can we do? | Review your community’s current efforts including, awareness raising events, forums, education programs etc. to understand what has worked and who has benefited.  Conduct local focus groups to discuss issues and develop strategies.  Develop a local service directory.  Increase your engagement with local media, think about local radio stations and other platforms |
| 1. Preparation | There is evidence that most community members have heard of the issues and want to develop existing efforts or start new ones. | We want to do more, and we know there is more we can do. | Hold public forums to test ideas for projects as well as to continue to disseminate information about violence against women.  Ask key community leaders to speak out in support of violence against women prevention at important events. |
| 1. Initiation | There is a basic understanding, and the community and leaders see it as their responsibility. | We know violence against women is an issue and we have the resources to do something about it. | If the community is at this stage they will likely have already participated in violence against women activities as they are aware it is an issue and have some knowledge of it. At this stage council may want to consider:  Community education programs on respectful relationships and other social norm shifting areas.  Skill building in-service training for service workers on key issues – for example handling disclosures  Communications planned and released new activities  Promoting and providing the community with updates on the successes and progress of existing activities  Undertake consultations to understand service gaps and improve existing service  Start planning to expand of scale current activities - begin library or Internet search for additional resources and potential funding.  Council may want to start to evaluation current programs or services. |
| 1. Stabilisation | There is a grounded understanding of the issues as well as long-term vision. Leaders have taken the responsibility to provide support. | We have taken responsibility and we are looking to the future. | Conduct training for community professionals and community members.  Promote evaluations of activities through print or digital media  Adapt activity delivery based on feedback through regular meetings with the steering committee.  Publicly recognise community members who volunteer and support activities.  Publicise progress and future events |
| 1. Confirmation/ expansion | There is support and considerable knowledge. Leaders play a key role in improving and supporting new efforts. | How well are our current programs working, and how can we make them better? | Council may want to formalise relationships with service providers through MOU’s  Consider working with other councils or networks on joint activities  Develop and strengthen the intersectional approach to preventing violence against women. Consider who is most at risk, which groups are facing a double burden of disadvantage or discrimination, who is being left out of current efforts?  Build a community of practice to share knowledge and learning  Use evaluation data to modify efforts |
| 1. High level of community ownership | There is considerable and detailed knowledge, leaders are continually reviewing evaluations, and resources are being allocated. | How can we keep momentum going? | Consider ways to diversify funding – through the private sector or government grants.  Try more advanced training for professionals and community members or build on the ones you have delivered. Try new ways to re-assessment the issue and progress made.  Try using external evaluators for bigger activities. |