

Practitioner support guide

Why men, and what can men do to prevent violence against women?

PRACTITIONER REFLECTIONS VIDEO SERIES - CHAPTER 1

Purpose of the support guide

This is a support guide for the video *Men in focus: Practitioner reflections*, Chapter 1. The guide includes:

1. Introduction to Chapter 1.
2. Tips for explaining how men can be involved in preventing men's violence against women.
3. Additional resources on how to be an ally.
4. Supports available.



**Men in focus
evidence review**

ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story/men-in-focus

About Chapter 1

This video is relevant to anyone working with men and boys and seeking to challenge and transform masculinities in the prevention of men's violence against women. Chapter 1 features practitioners discussing why and how men can be a part of the solution to preventing men's violence against women. Chapter 1 also makes a call to action for men to be active allies in ending men's violence against women.

Key messages

#1 Men need to engage with the prevention of men's violence against women

#2 Men care about equality and this work is for everyone

#3 Give men and boys pathways into preventing men's violence against women

CHAPTER 1

Key messages for practitioners

#1 Men need to engage with the prevention of men's violence against women

- Most of the violence perpetrated against women, trans and gender diverse people, and men, is by men. In fact, of the people who have experienced violence since the age of 15 years, 95% of women and 93% of men experienced violence from a male perpetrator.¹ Therefore, we must engage men and boys in the prevention of men's violence against women.
- Primary prevention activities need to be implemented at every level of society, in all of the spaces that we live, work, and play and where important decisions get made that affect us all.
- Ben Brown and Craig Rigney articulate the need for men to contribute to prevention, which has been led by women and gender diverse people for decades:

"I think men do actually play a vital role in this space, and we shouldn't leave all of the work for preventing violence against women to women or gender diverse people"

Ben Brown (he/him).

AFL Player, Melbourne Football Club.

"This is a men's issue. So as individuals, we need to talk about that more."

Craig Rigney. Kurna/Ngarrindjeri man.

CEO, KWA Aboriginal Corporation.

Prompting question

Why do you think it's important for men to be involved in primary prevention work?
What messages have you found effective when trying to engage men in this work?

#2 Men care about equality and this work is for everyone

- There is a collective responsibility to help prevent violence against women. As Jackson Fairchild says:

"I think it's really important that men and boys in Australia engage with this conversation, and really engage their curiosity. I think that there's really transformative benefits for everyone by getting involved in this, and women are calling out and asking for men to take action."

Jackson Fairchild (they/them).

Primary Prevention Leader.

- Research from VicHealth's *Framing gender equality: Message guide* shows that we can motivate men's support for preventing men's violence against women by promoting women's safety and gender equality as important human rights issues for women and girls. Men are more responsive to this framing rather than framing that focuses only on how gender equality benefits men and boys, or benefits everyone.
- For more information, watch Jackson Katz's *Violence against women – it's a men's issue*.

Prompting question

What motivates you to do your work with men and/or in primary prevention? Ask other practitioners of different genders in your workplace about what drives their belief in the importance of working together for gender equality.

¹ Our Watch calculation from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2023). *Personal Safety Survey 2021-22*, ABS.

#3 Give men and boys pathways into preventing men's violence against women

- Many men and boys want to take action to address gender inequality and to prevent men's violence against women. They don't always know how to get started or what to do though.
- Think about how you can structure opportunities for men and boys to take real action in proactive ways that are accountable to women and work together with people of all genders.
- Point out that men can use their positions of power and influence to promote the leadership of women and people of all genders and how this will contribute to addressing the gendered drivers of violence against women. For example, Ben Brown recommends that we:

"Look at the ways that men can assist women to pick up positions of power within our organisations, within our governments. Maybe it is that men recognise that mothers are still doing the majority of work as parents - so we need to look at flexible work arrangements, so we can have women in executive positions in organisations or within the government, so the decisions that are made at the top level aren't all being made by men. And if men are leading that work and we're not leaving all of that to women it'll make the change come more quickly."

Ben Brown (he/him).

AFL Player, Melbourne Football Club.

- Opportunities to engage men in promoting gender equality do not necessarily have to be formal 'work'. It is important to consider gender inequality in our personal lives as well. As Mack Kohn says in the video:

"And there's also many different ways that you can create change within whether it's your friendship group, your family, within your community. Whether that is making that change within yourself and reflecting that to others, or it is calling it out."

Mack Kohn (he/they).

Program Coordinator – R4Respect, YFS.

- For a step-by-step guide on creating grassroots primary prevention initiatives that engage men, refer to Hewson-Munro and McCook's *Working together with men 2.0* for tools and templates to ensure that prevention initiatives remain accountable to women.

Prompting question

How have you seen people in your own life or in the media challenging gender stereotypes or promoting more expansive and diverse ways to be a man? How are they doing this? What lessons can we learn from these men to engage others?



Additional resources

Here's a selection of resources from page 84 of the *Men in focus practice guide: Addressing masculinities and working with men in the prevention of men's violence against women* on how men and boys can be active bystanders and allies to women and gender diverse people:

Active bystander resources

- Our Watch – [Doing Nothing Does Harm](#)
- VicHealth – [How to be an active bystander](#)
- Rule of Thumb podcast – [Season two takes you beyond a bystander](#)

Aspiring ally resources

- HealthWest video – [Tips for allyhood](#)
- Hannah Gadsby video – [‘The good men’ and misogyny](#)
- Michael Flood – [XY Online](#)
- Steven Roberts – [A very personal call to action for non-violent men to denounce men's violence](#)

Support is available

Violence against women is widespread across our society and impacts the lives of many people.

If the content in these resources raises any issues for you, the following supports are available:

1800 RESPECT

☎ 1800 737 732 ⌚ 24-hours 📍 1800respect.org.au

Free national family and domestic violence telephone, online chat, and online video counselling services.

Australian Human Rights Commission National Information Service (NIS)

☎ 1300 656 419 or 02 9284 9888
📍 humanrights.gov.au/complaints

Information and referrals regarding workplace sexual harassment, for individuals and employers.

Men's Referral Service

☎ 1300 766 491 ⌚ 24-hours 📍 ntv.org.au/mrs

Information and referral for men who are concerned about their use of violent or abusive behaviour.

13 Yarn

☎ 13 92 76 ⌚ 24-hours 📍 13yarn.org.au

Crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

QLife

☎ 1800 184 527
⌚ 3pm-midnight, 7 days a week 📍 qlife.org.au

LGBTIQA+ peer support and referrals for people wanting to talk about a range of issues.

Find out more at ourwatch.org.au



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**Our
Watch**
Preventing violence
against women