

Resource 1:

2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS) key findings

This series of key messages drawn from the NCAS Summary report are a great starting point to share and promote within your respective communities. The list is divided into encouraging and concerning results and also includes an explanation of the predictors of these attitudes, to provide a picture of Australians' current attitudes. This information can be utilised for example in Powerpoint presentations, funding grant applications, staff emails and community newsletters. For full findings and explanation of these findings see the [NCAS Summary Report](#) and [2017 NCAS Main Report](#).

Encouraging results

- Most Australians have accurate knowledge of violence against women and do not endorse this violence.
- Most Australians support gender equality and were more likely to support gender equality in 2017 than they were in 2013 and 2009.
- Australians were more likely to understand that violence against women involves more than just physical violence in 2017 than they were in 2013 and 2009.
- Australians were less likely to hold attitudes supportive of violence against women in 2017 than they were in 2013 and 2009.
- There was improvement in knowledge and attitudes related to 27 of the 36 questions asked in 2013 and again in 2017.
- There was improvement in knowledge and attitudes related to 9 of the 11 questions asked in the 1995 NCAS and again in 2017.
- If confronted by a male friend verbally abusing his female partner, most respondents said they would be bothered (98%), would act (70%) and would feel they would have the support of all or most of their friends if they did act (69%).

Concerning results

- There continued to be a decline in the number of Australians who understand that men are more likely than women to perpetrate domestic violence.
- A concerning proportion of Australians believe that gender inequality is exaggerated or no longer a problem.
- Among attitudes condoning violence against women, the highest level of agreement was with the idea that women use claims of violence to gain tactical advantage in their relationships with men.
- 1 in 5 Australians would not be bothered if a male friend told a sexist joke about women.

If confronted by a male friend verbally abusing his female partner



98%

of respondents said they would be bothered



70%

of respondents said they would act



69%

of respondents feel they would have the support of all or most of their friends if they did act

1 in 5

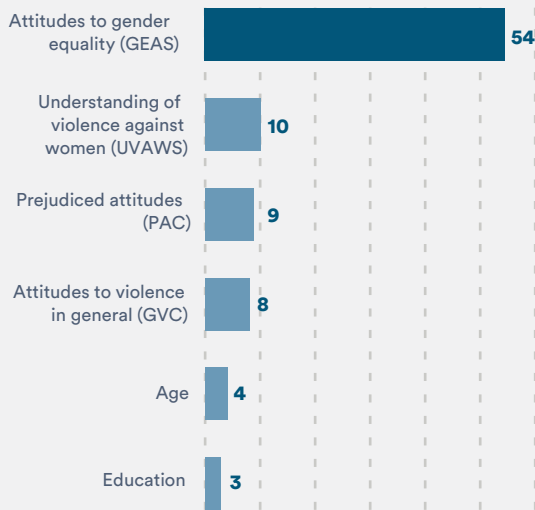
Australians would not be bothered if a male friend told a sexist joke about women

Predictors

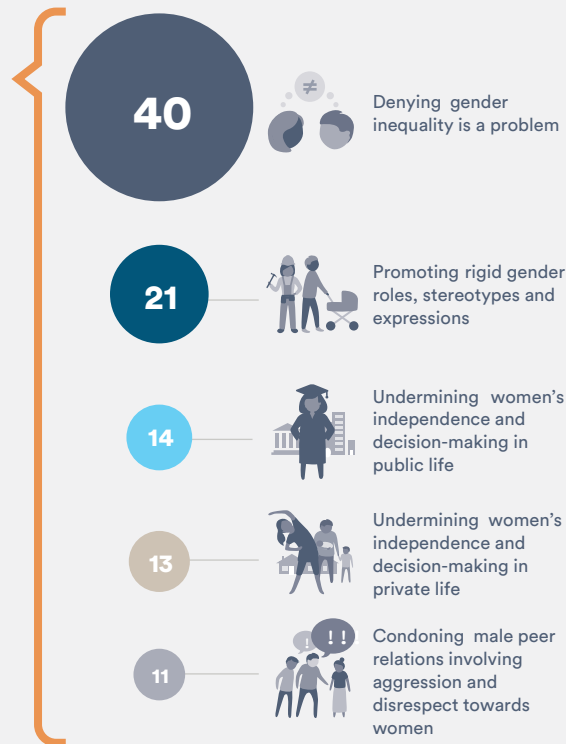
The NCAS examined the factors or ‘predictors’ that were most strongly related to attitudes supportive of violence against women. The strongest predictor was attitudes to gender equality, followed by level of understanding of the nature of this violence.

Specifically, people who were more likely than others to support violence against women were also more likely to support gender inequality and to have a lower understanding of this violence.

Top 6 predictors of attitudinal support for violence against women. ⁱ



Influence of gender equality themes in predicting attitudinal support for violence ⁱⁱ



ⁱ Figures indicate the percentage of variance explained.
^j Percentages do not equal 100% due to rounding

The numbers in this figure show how strongly each factor contributes to attitudes towards violence against women, after the impact of other factors included in the survey have been taken into account. It is expressed as a percentage of the ‘influence’ contributed by all the factors considered in the analysis.

Reference: Image from ANROWS. (2018). *Are we there yet? Australians’ attitudes towards violence against women & gender equality: Summary findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS)*. Sydney: ANROWS.

This resource is one of ten resources within the toolkit- Re-shaping Attitudes: A toolkit for using the National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS) in the primary prevention of violence against women. For more information, please visit www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/research

Suggested citation

Respect Victoria, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Swinburne University of Technology, (2020) Re-shaping Attitudes: A toolkit for using the National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS) in the primary prevention of violence against women, Respect Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.

For more information or to provide feedback on this resource or toolkit, please contact research@respectvictoria.vic.gov.au.

