

Building the
evidence to
stop violence
before it
starts

Primary prevention of violence against women with disability.

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Primary prevention of violence against women with disability: Evidence synthesis



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‘No More Excuses’ – Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women with Disability

A report prepared by:
The University of Melbourne for Respect Victoria

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Acknowledgements

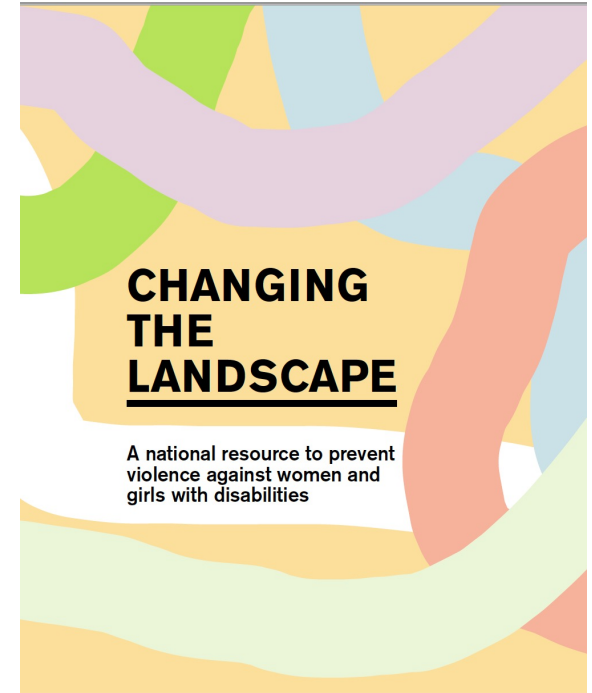
We extend our heartfelt thanks to:

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Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032

CLOSED



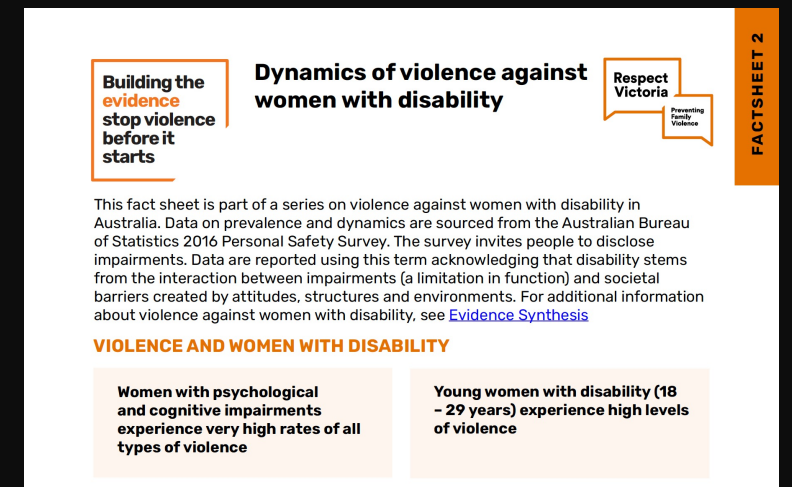
Womenwithdisabilitiesvictoria
empowering women



Evidence synthesis

Analysis of the ABS Personal Safety Survey (2016):

- > prevalence, nature and dynamics of violence against women with disability in Australia
- > important to have up-to-date population-level data
- > need to invest in better data but it shouldn't be a barrier to action



- > international academic literature and research reports
- > interventions, services or programs were varied
- > programs teaching women with disability to recognise violence and enact safety skills for self protection against violence
- > unlikely to result in significant and sustained reductions in violence
- > most current investment is not 'primary' prevention – does not target underlying drivers of violence against women with disability
- > disconnect between evidence and practice



What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women with Disability: An Evidence Summary



FACTSHEET 3

This fact sheet is part of a series on violence against women with disability in Australia. It summaries global evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to prevent violence against women with disability. For additional information, see [Evidence Synthesis](#)

Why is it important to review the evidence?

Violence against all women is preventable. Women with disability experience high rates of violence but much less is known about what works to prevent violence and abuse from happening in the first place.

What kind of research was included in the review?

The review was conducted by searching international research papers (peer-reviewed using scientific research processes) and research reports (typically community generated and reviewed using community processes; sometimes referred to as 'grey' literature) for evaluated interventions or programs. The search included interventions or programs that:

Enabling safe, respectful and inclusive service provision that:

- > empowers women
- > challenges negative stereotypes
- > fosters social inclusion
- > supports decision-making and independence

ACTION 2.

ESSENTIAL

Challenge the acceptance and normalisation of violence against women and girls with disabilities

ACTION 3.

ESSENTIAL

Improve attitudes towards women and girls with disabilities by challenging ableist and sexist stereotypes

ACTION 4.

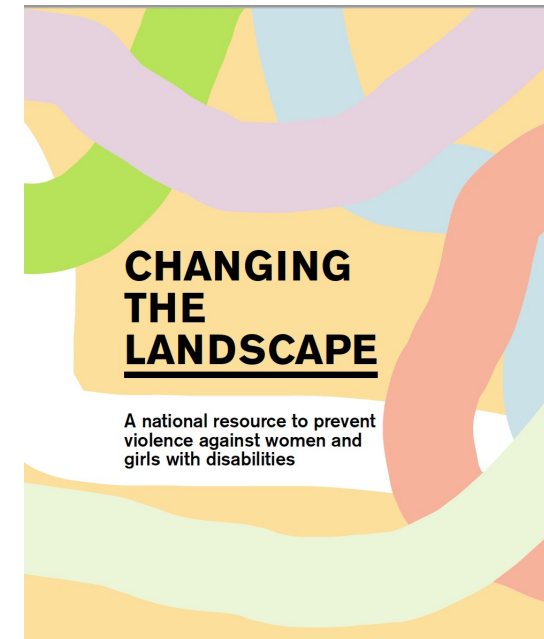
ESSENTIAL

Promote the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all aspects of life

ACTION 5.

ESSENTIAL

Promote women and girls with disabilities' independence, agency and participation in leadership and decision-making



Policy scan and stakeholder interviews

what are the key policy, legal and regulatory frameworks for disability support workers in Victoria, both at the commonwealth and state level?

how do these frameworks intersect with family violence policy and practice?

what are the opportunities within the disability support workforce and regulatory environments to embed primary prevention initiatives?

what is the capacity of the workforce to support primary prevention in the context of the individualisation and marketisation of disability care?

Policy scan:

the gendered nature of violence and the heightened risk for women and girls with disability is rarely acknowledged

NDIS regulatory frameworks fall far short of addressing structures and practices in the provision of care that enables violence

the Victorian Disability Abuse Prevention Strategy was the only strategy with actions to address the prevention of violence against women with disability

Stakeholder interviews:

The potential for primary prevention in paid support relationships

The nature and conditions of (gender inequitable) work under the current market mode

Cultures of disrespect – violence in and around the support relationship

The role of training within a broader system of change

Women and girls with disability should play a central role in building evidence and in the design, delivery and evaluation of evidence-informed policies and practices in primary prevention. While participatory and co-produced approaches to research are an important vehicle for change, there is also a need to invest in the leadership and careers of women with disability in research and policy.

Individual:

- investigate the implications and feasibility of training that supports workers to deliver safe, respectful, inclusive, and equitable services being linked to registration with the Victorian Disability Worker Commission
- better understand the perspectives of women with disability and support workers including incentives for registration and training

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Relationship:

- explore how women with disability and their paid support workers navigate the support relationship and what works to build relationships of empowerment, trust and respect

Organisational:

- exploring sector-specific and intersectional workplace-based gender equality initiatives that address ways in which gender and social inequality disproportionately impacts on women in the disability support workforce
- considering opportunities for leadership, enhanced training pathways and recognition of women's skills and qualifications in the disability sector

Policy:

- support Commonwealth and state-based disability, family violence and violence against women policy frameworks to draw on evidence on the intersecting drivers and explanatory factors for violence against women with disability and what works to prevent it

Society

- the feasibility of incorporating ableism, discrimination, and disability inclusion into the Respectful Relationships curricula in Victoria