

Australians' attitudes to violence against women and gender equality

Findings from the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS)

#NCAS



In partnership with:



National Community Attitudes Survey of 17,500 Australians about their:

- **Knowledge** of violence against women
- Attitudes that are **supportive of violence** against women
- Attitudes that **undermine gender equality**
- **Bystander** intention to intervene in abuse and disrespect



ENCOURAGING RESULTS

Knowledge of violence against women

Overall Australian's understanding of VAW has improved

- 97% recognise **slaps or pushes** and **forced sex** as domestic violence
- 93% recognise that a woman **doesn't have to resist physically** to indicate non-consent to sex
- 92% recognise emotional abuse such as repeated criticism to make a partner feel bad or useless as domestic violence
- 91% recognise **social control** as domestic violence



CONCERNING RESULTS

Knowledge of violence against women

- **1 in 5** do not understand financial control as a form of domestic violence (19%)
- **1 in 3** are unaware that women are more likely to be raped by someone known to them, rather than by a stranger (36%)
- **1 in 3** are unaware that it is mainly men who commit acts of domestic violence (36%)
- **2 in 5** would not know where to get outside help about a domestic violence issue (40%)



ENCOURAGING RESULTS

Attitudes supportive of violence against women

- Fewer Australians in 2017 excuse domestic violence as either a loss of control (12%), if a violent person shows regret (14%), as the result of childhood abuse (8%), or if the offender is affected by alcohol (5%) than in previous surveys
- Fewer Australians believe domestic violence is a private matter (12%) or that it's a woman's duty to stay in a violent relationship (4%)



CONCERNING RESULTS

Attitudes supportive of violence against women

- 2 in 5 Australians believe that women make up false reports of sexual assault in order to punish men (42%)
- Nearly 1 in 4 believe that many women exaggerate the problem of male violence (23%)
- 1 in 5 Australians believe domestic violence is a normal reaction to stress (20%)
- Nearly 1 in 3 Australians believe that a lot of times, women who say they were raped had led the man on and then had regrets (31%)

Overall, Australians are more likely to mistrust women's reports of violence, and disregard the need to gain sexual consent – than they are to minimise violence, or to excuse the perpetrator.



ENCOURAGING RESULTS

Attitudes undermining gender equality

- Most Australians agree that men and women can play a range of roles regardless of gender
- Fewer Australians in 2017 believe that men make better political leaders than women (14% vs 27% in 2013)
- Fewer believe that a woman has to have children to be fulfilled (8% vs 12% in 2013)
- Nearly all Australians reject the idea that it is okay for men to joke with their male friends about being violent towards women (97%)



CONCERNING RESULTS

Attitudes undermining gender equality

- 1 in 3 Australians believe that it's natural for men to want to appear in control of a partner when in front of his friends (34%)
- 2 in 5 believe that many women exaggerate how unequally women are treated in Australia
- 1 in 4 believe that women prefer a man to be in charge of a relationship (25%)
- More than 1 in 10 believe that men generally make better bosses than women (14%)

Overall, Australians are more likely to support gender equality in public life, while still undermining women's independence in intimate relationships and denying that gender inequality continues to be a problem

Imagine two scenarios...

1

A male friend was **insulting or verbally abusing** a woman he was in a relationship with



2

A male friend told a **sexist joke** about women

Would you be bothered?

98%



76%

Yes, would be bothered

If you were bothered, what would you do?

Would act 70%



45%

Like to act - but wouldn't know how 22%



13%

Feel uncomfortable - not act 5%

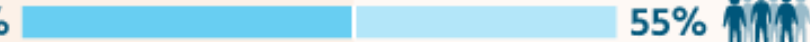


5%

18%

If you were to act, do you think you would have the support of your friends?

All or most friends 69%



55%

Some 22%



29%

Few, if any 7%



7%

11%

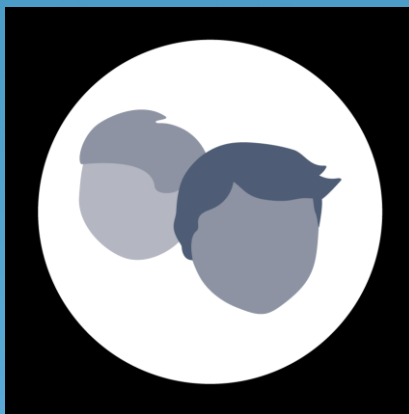
2017 (n=4,468)

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Those more likely to have concerning attitudes are:



People
aged 65
plus



Men



People in
highly male
dominated
occupations



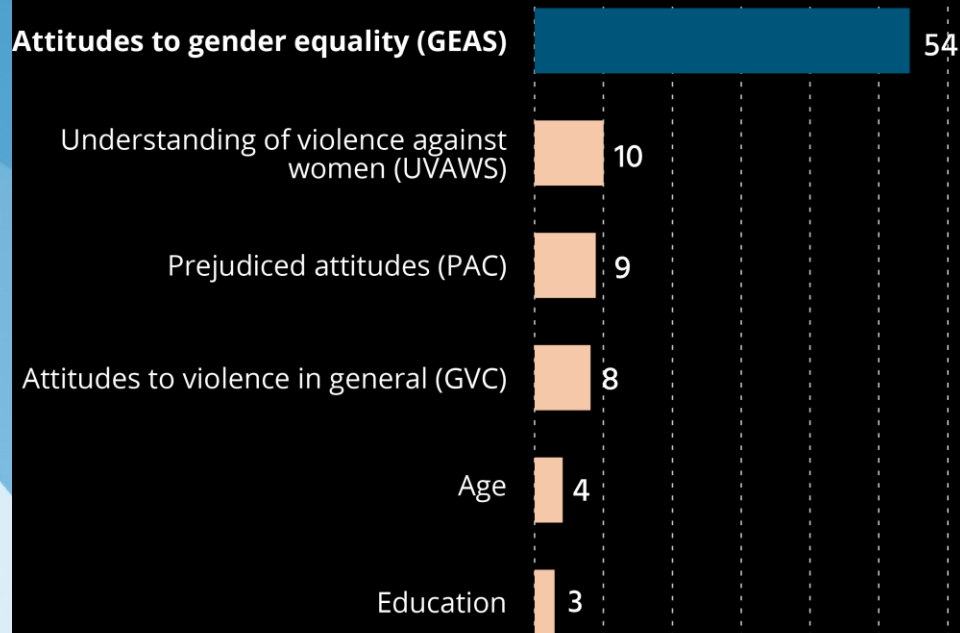
People with
mainly
male
friends



People
experiencing
multiple
disadvantage

Top predictors of attitudinal support for violence

Top 6 predictors of attitudinal support for violence against women



Influence of gender equality themes in predicting attitudinal support for violence against women

