



Submission to the *Independent  
Commission of Inquiry into  
Queensland Police Service  
responses to domestic and  
family violence*





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## ABOUT THE ONE IN THREE CAMPAIGN

One in Three is a diverse community group made up of male and female professionals – academics, researchers, social workers, psychologists, counsellors, lawyers, health promotion workers, trainers and survivor/advocates. The Campaign aims to raise public awareness of the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and abuse; to work with government and non-government services alike to provide assistance to everyone affected by family violence; and to reduce the incidence and impacts of family violence on Australian men, women and children. We believe our society has the capacity to support all victims of family violence, whether male or female, young or old, gay or straight, rich or poor, wherever they live.

One in Three is primarily a lobbying and advocacy organisation. While we would love to do more, and there is a desperate need for additional services, we lack the resources to provide our own services or work extensively with other NGOs to provide services.

The main resource we provide is our website [oneinthree.com.au](http://oneinthree.com.au). It provides:

- information about the experiences of male victims of family violence and the barriers they often face to disclosing;
- research and statistics about male victims;
- opportunities for men to tell their own personal story and read almost 300 accounts from other men;
- news from around the globe; and
- a comprehensive list of national and international resources to assist males in crisis.

We have produced some powerful videos<sup>1</sup> of men telling their personal experiences of family violence and abuse. We regularly give conference presentations, provide research assistance to students and give talks at high schools. We have produced a series of seven free digital poster designs<sup>2</sup> aimed at educating boys and young men about respectful and healthy relationships. Unless we give men and boys the courage and support to disclose their experience as victims of family violence, they will continue to suffer in silence.

We have collaborated with various NGOs to establish better services for male victims, most notably working with *Victims & Witnesses of Crime Court Support* (VWCCS), *NSW Police* and *Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service* to develop the *Insight* trial court support scheme for male victims of violence at the Downing Centre and Parramatta Courthouses in inner and western Sydney. The scheme operated between 2013 and 2015. Unfortunately, because of issues such as resistance to the scheme from other agencies including the Police, who failed to help advertise or promote the service, the work of the program was eventually folded into the day-to-day work of VWCCS.

Some other examples of collaborative work with NGOs include:

- assisting the *Men's Advocacy Network* in WA in developing the groundbreaking 2010 *Intimate Partner Abuse of Men*<sup>3</sup> report conducted by researchers from the School of Psychology and Social Science at Edith Cowan University

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h\\_VhEXei2s8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_VhEXei2s8)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.oneinthree.com.au/posters>

<sup>3</sup> Tilbrook, E., Allan, A. & Dear, G. (2010), [Intimate Partner Abuse of Men](#). East Perth: Men's Advisory Network, May 26, 2010.



- collaborating with the *Western Sydney Men's and Relationship Services Network* to produce a poster<sup>4</sup> listing domestic and family violence services available to male victims, which was distributed widely amongst service providers in Western Sydney.

**One in Three regularly lodges submissions, attends consultations and appears before government inquiries and royal commissions into family violence. As a result, many recent state and federal inquiries have acknowledged the existence and needs of male victims of family violence and have recommended that better support services be provided for them.**

For example:

- The 2012 NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into *Domestic violence trends and issues in NSW*<sup>5</sup> found that:
  - "There was a broad recognition among inquiry participants that women offenders and male victims do exist". "Of [reported] victims of domestic assault in 2010, 69.2% were female, while 30.8% were male."
  - "Male victims have been much less visible and able to access supports than should be the case"
  - "The experience of [males]... is equally as bad as that of other victims"
  - "We recognise the gap in services for male victims and encourage the government to examine how services can most appropriately be provided to male victims of domestic violence"
  - "Male victims... were identified during the inquiry as in need of special consideration with regard to domestic violence" along with "older people; young people; Aboriginal people; GLBTI people; people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; and people with a disability."
- The 2015 Victorian *Royal Commission Into Family Violence*<sup>6</sup> recommended that:
  - The Victorian Government publicise and promote the Victims Support Agency in any information campaign relating to family violence as the primary source of assistance for male victims. The agency should also provide appropriate online resources for male victims [within 12 months].
  - The Victims Support Agency continue to receive all police referrals (L17 forms) relating to male victims, including after the establishment of the Support and Safety Hubs. The agency and all other relevant support services should develop joint arrangements to ensure that male victims of family violence are supported in obtaining the help they need [within two years].
- The 2015 Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into *Domestic Violence in Australia*<sup>7</sup> recommended that:
  - The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government recognise the need to provide appropriate services to male victims of domestic and family violence.
- The 2021 Federal *Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence*<sup>8</sup> recommended that:

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.oneinthree.com.au/s/Domestic\\_Violence\\_Services\\_for\\_Male\\_Victims\\_2015.pdf](http://www.oneinthree.com.au/s/Domestic_Violence_Services_for_Male_Victims_2015.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> New South Wales Parliament (2012), Legislative Council, Standing Committee on Social Issues, [Domestic violence trends and issues in NSW](#) (Report ; no. 46), p.xxxii.

<sup>6</sup> State of Victoria (2016), [Royal Commission into Family Violence: Summary and recommendations](#), Parl Paper No 132 (2014–16), p93.

<sup>7</sup> The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee (2015), [Domestic violence in Australia](#), August 2015, p109.

<sup>8</sup> House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs (2021). [Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence](#). Canberra: Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.



- "...the next National Plan be inclusive of the diversity of victim-survivors. In particular, the next plan should recognise the rights and needs of women; children in their own right; men; older Australians; LGBTQI people; and people living with a disability."
- "...the next National Plan be named the National Plan to reduce family, domestic and sexual violence"
- "...the Australian Government commission research into the prevalence of family, domestic and sexual violence against men, and its impact on male victim-survivors...."
- "...the Department of Social Services review the adequacy of advice and referral services for men as victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence."

One in Three receives no funding and operates on an entirely voluntary basis.

## HOW MANY MALES ARE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE?

### ABS Personal Safety Survey

The following data taken from the most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics *Personal Safety Survey* (2016)<sup>9</sup> provides an overview of the experience of violence by adult males and females in Queensland over the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 1 – Experiences in the last 12 months, type of experience by sex of respondent, estimate – Queensland

	Males	Females
Violence by an intimate partner	18,400* (26.9%)	50,100 (73.1%)
Violence by a cohabiting partner	13,700* (24.9%)	41,300 (75.1%)
Violence by a current partner	6,200** (36.0%)	11,000* (64.0%)
Violence by a previous partner	12,400* (32.6%)	25,600 (67.4%)
Violence by a boyfriend/girlfriend or date	2,800** (21.5%)	10,200* (78.5%)
Emotional abuse by a partner	64,700 (39.6%)	98,700 (60.4%)
Emotional abuse by a current partner	38,300* (37.1%)	65,000 (62.9%)
Emotional abuse by a previous partner	25,800 (44.7%)	31,900 (55.3%)

\* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

### Homicide and Suicide Statistics

The most recent publicly available domestic and family violence homicide and domestic and family violence-related suicide statistics for Queensland adults from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2021 are as follows<sup>10</sup>:

<sup>9</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). [Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016](#) (Cat. No. 4906.0). Table 1.1 EXPERIENCES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, Type of experience by sex of respondent, Estimate - Queensland. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>10</sup> Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board (2021). [2020-21 Annual Report](#). Brisbane: Queensland Government.



Table 2 – Domestic &amp; family violence homicide; domestic &amp; family violence-related suicide statistics for Queensland adults

	Men	Women
Intimate partner homicide deaths	45 (24.2%)	141 (75.8%)
Family relationship homicide deaths	41 (57.7%)	30 (42.3%)
Collateral homicide deaths	27 (93.1%)	2 (6.9%)
Apparent suicides	215 (83.0%)	44 (17.0%)

### DVO Statistics

The most recent publicly available DVO statistics for Queensland<sup>11</sup> 2021-22 YTD (to 31 Jan 2022) are as follows:

Table 3 – Queensland courts domestic violence order statistics for Queensland

	Males	Females
Applications lodged: Gender of aggrieved	4,310 (26.2%)	12,083 (73.5%)
Orders made: Gender of aggrieved	3,198 (23.6%)	10,364 (76.4%)

We have attached a more in-depth, externally verified analysis of national Australian data from the latest ABS *Personal Safety Survey* and the Australian Institute of Criminology's *National Homicide Monitoring Program* as **Appendix A** to this submission.

The above figures and Appendix demonstrate that while males make up a minority of persons who experience domestic and family violence, they make up a significant proportion indeed - between one in five and more than half, depending on the type of measurement used. We have argued for the past 13 years that one in three is a reasonable assessment when all statistics are combined.

## MANY MALES NEVER REPORT THEIR VICTIMISATION NOR SEEK HELP

Male victims of domestic and family violence and abuse – like women – often face many barriers to disclosing their abuse. However, male victims face a set of unique barriers which make them much less likely to report their victimisation.

Men are 2 to 3 times more likely than women to have *never* told anybody about experiencing partner violence<sup>12</sup>. 54.1% of males who have experienced current partner violence have *never* told *anybody* about it, along with 20.9% of males who have experienced previous partner violence.

<sup>11</sup> Queensland Courts (2022). [Queensland Courts' domestic and family violence \(DFV\) statistics](#). Brisbane: The State of Queensland (Queensland Courts).

<sup>12</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013), [Personal Safety Survey, Australia](#), 2012, cat no 4906.0, ABS, Canberra. Table 23 EXPERIENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE SINCE THE AGE OF 15, Whether ever told anyone about partner violence. 54.1% of males and 25.6% of females have never told anyone about violence by their current partner since the age of 15. 20.9% of males and 6.7% of females have never told anyone about violence by their previous partner since the age of 15.



Men are also around 50% more likely than women to have *never sought advice or support* about experiencing partner violence<sup>13</sup>. 68.1% of males who have experienced current partner violence have *never sought advice or support*, along with 59.2% of males who have experienced previous partner violence.

Many barriers to male victims disclosing their abuse are created or amplified by the lack of public acknowledgement that males can also be victims of family violence, the lack of appropriate services for male victims and their children, and the lack of appropriate help available for male victims from existing services. Such barriers include:

- not knowing where to seek help
- not knowing how to seek help
- feeling there is nowhere to escape to
- feeling they won't be believed or understood as victims
- feeling that their experiences would be minimised or they would be falsely blamed for the violence and/or abuse
- feeling that services would be unable or unwilling to offer them appropriate help
- fear that they would be falsely arrested because of their gender and that their children would be left unprotected from the perpetrator.

Many male victims face barriers to disclosing their abuse because of the challenges such disclosure brings to their sense of manhood. Such barriers include:

- shame, embarrassment and/or social stigma
- shame at feeling unable to protect themselves and/or feeling less independent
- fear of being laughed at or ridiculed
- fear of being called 'weak' or 'wimpy'
- disbelief, denial, and making excuses for their partner's violence and abuse.

Some people may raise the question, "have male victims who don't seek advice or support done so because the violence they experienced was so minor or trivial?" There doesn't appear to be evidence to support this theory. The only Australian study we are aware of to have explored this question is the large-scale South Australian *Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Survey*<sup>14</sup> which found that "females (22.0%) were more likely to report the [domestic violence] incident(s) to the police than males (7.5%)". Respondents who did not leave their partner as the result of the violence were asked their reasons for staying in the abusive relationship. 28 per cent of males and 20.8 per cent of females answered "violence not serious enough" – slightly higher for males but not significantly so. Respondents who had left or stayed apart because of the violence and abuse were asked their reasons for leaving. 50 per cent of males and 64.1 per cent of females answered "continuation of violence/abuse" – once again slightly higher for females but not significantly so.

Internationally, Watson & Parsons' *Domestic Abuse of Women and Men in Ireland: Report on the National Study of Domestic Abuse*<sup>15</sup> (a large-scale community survey) found that "women are more likely than men to report [severe abuse] to the Gardaí

<sup>13</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). [Personal Safety Survey, Australia](#), 2016 (Cat. No. 4906.0). Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics. Table 17.1 EXPERIENCE OF CURRENT PARTNER VIOLENCE SINCE AGE 15, By sex of respondent, Estimate. 102,400 males in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a current partner, while 150,300 males had experienced violence by a current partner since the age of 15. 126,900 females in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a current partner, while 275,000 females had experienced violence by a current partner since the age of 15. Table 18.1 EXPERIENCE OF PREVIOUS PARTNER VIOLENCE SINCE AGE 15, By sex of respondent, Estimate. 235,300 males in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a previous partner, while 397,300 males had experienced violence by a previous partner since the age of 15. 506,800 females in 2016 did not seek advice or support after incident of violence by a previous partner, while 1,372,900 females had experienced violence by a previous partner since the age of 15.

<sup>14</sup> Dal Grande et al. (1999). [Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Survey](#). Adelaide: South Australian Department of Human Services.

<sup>15</sup> Watson, D., & Parsons, S. (2005). [Domestic Abuse of Women and Men in Ireland: Report on the National Study of Domestic Abuse](#). Dublin: National Crime Council.



[Irish Police]. Over a quarter of women reported their experience to the Gardaí compared to about one man in 20" (a statistically significant difference).

## COERCIVE CONTROL AFFECTS MALES TOO

Some claim that coercive control – a pattern of abuse that degrades, humiliates and isolates victims, and takes away their freedom and autonomy – is predominantly or almost exclusively perpetrated by men towards women and children.

A research brief<sup>16</sup> recently published by the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre challenges this assertion:

In their study Walker et al (2020) explored behaviours that men considered 'boundary crossing' (for example impeding their right to safety, privacy, self-esteem). In their sample 55.4 per cent of men talked of a pattern of abusive behaviours which for them constituted boundary crossing. These behaviours included physical, sexual, and controlling abuses which for some also included undermining their relationship with their children alongside filing false accusations against them. Over ninety per cent of the men in this work report having told a friend or family member about their experiences and those who did so were met with very mixed responses. The impact of kinds of behaviours documented by Walker et al (2019) on men has been expressed by Bates (2020) as spending their lives 'walking on eggshells', by Westmarland et al (2021) as 'living a life by permission', with Bates and Carthy (2020) drawing particular attention to the impact that such abuse has on older men with one of their respondents stating, 'she had me believing I had Alzheimer's'. In sum Graham-Kevan et al. (2021) suggest that the impact of these kinds of behaviours (all of which fit under the rubric of coercive control) resulted in 8 out of 10 men in their sample displaying symptoms not unlike post-traumatic distress.

In 2014 Elizabeth Bates from the University of Cumbria, along with Nicola Graham-Kevan and John Archer from the University of Central Lancashire published their study titled *Testing predictions from the male control theory of men's partner violence*<sup>17</sup>:

The aim of this study was to test predictions from the male control theory of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Johnson's (1995) typology. A student sample (N = 1104) reported on their use of physical aggression and controlling behaviour, to partners and to same-sex non-intimates. Contrary to the male control theory, women were found to be more physically aggressive to their partners than men were, and the reverse pattern was found for aggression to same-sex non-intimates. Furthermore, there were no substantial sex differences in controlling behaviour, which significantly predicted physical aggression in both sexes. IPV was found to be associated with physical aggression to same-sex non-intimates, thereby demonstrating a link with aggression outside the family. Using Johnson's (1995) typology, women were more likely than men to be classed as "intimate terrorists", which was counter to earlier findings. Overall, these results do not support the male control theory of IPV. Instead, they fit the view that IPV does not have a special aetiology, and is better studied within the context of other forms of aggression.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies' *Experiences of Separated Parents Study (Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments)*<sup>18</sup> is based upon interviews with a nationally representative sample of 6,079 parents who had separated between 1 July 2012 and 31 December 2013.

<sup>16</sup> Walklate, S. (2022). [Can men be victims of coercive control? Making sense of men's experiences of coercive control](#). Melbourne: Monash University.

<sup>17</sup> Bates, E. A., Graham-Kevan, N. and Archer, J. (2014), [Testing predictions from the male control theory of men's partner violence](#). *Aggr. Behav.*, 40: 42–55. doi:10.1002/ab.21499.

<sup>18</sup> Kaspiw, R., Carson, R., Dunstan, J., De Maio, J., Moore, S., Moloney, L. et al. (2015). [Experiences of Separated Parents Study \(Evaluation of the 2012 Family Violence Amendments\)](#). Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.



Fathers were statistically significantly more likely than mothers to report having often felt controlled or coerced after experiencing physical violence or emotional abuse since separation. When it came to severity, fathers were also more likely than mothers to report experiencing the highest level of fear, control and coercion (10 on a 10-point scale) that they felt arising from the focus parent's behaviour since separation. Experiences of control and coercion were statistically significantly higher for fathers than mothers.

Researchers at Deakin University investigating Alcohol/Drug-Involved Family Violence in Australia<sup>19</sup> surveyed a representative sample of 5,118 Australians and found that males accounted for between 11% and 37% of victims in incidents attended by police, and 24% of intimate partner violence victims and 34% of family violence victims in a panel survey. It also found that "there were no significant differences in the proportion of male and female respondents classified as engaging in no, low, and high Coercive Controlling Behaviours ( $p > 0.05$ )."

## PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MALE VICTIMS

Thankfully public awareness of male victims of DFV in Queensland has increased over recent years, starting with statements made in October 2015 by Premier Palaszczuk, reported in the Brisbane Times<sup>20</sup>:

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has admitted she "changed her language" around domestic violence after hearing of the men it impacted.

Ms Palaszczuk, who has led a government-wide response to domestic violence issues after receiving the 'Not Now, Not Ever' report commissioned by the previous administration, said violence against men did need to be recognised while speaking with a male domestic violence survivor at the Bundaberg community cabinet event.

"I do understand that there are a number of men have gone through or are going through [domestic violence]," she said.

"I actually did change my language when it did become public because it was brought to my attention that there was some serious issues surrounding some men in our community needing help as well.

"I do think that is something we do need to address a bit more."

Tragically, awareness has increased further after a number of severe cases of DFV homicide against males in Queensland over the past few years which have been widely reported in the media.

News.com.au<sup>21</sup> reported in March 2022 that:

In the early hours of Thursday morning, as Stanley Obi slept next to his next to his partner in the couple's New Beith home, his scorned ex-girlfriend was plotting a twisted attack.

Sarah Mudge had crept into the property where Mr Obi and his new girlfriend were beginning a new chapter in their lives.

She carried petrol that would be poured over the 33-year-old and his partner. In another room, three of Mudge's children slept peacefully — Mr Obi had recently won custody of the children.

<sup>19</sup> Miller, P, et al (2016), [Alcohol/Drug-Involved Family Violence in Australia \(ADIVA\) Final Report](#), Deakin University.

<sup>20</sup>

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/premier-anastacia-palaszczuk-changes-language-about-violence-against-men-20151018-gkc3e9.html>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.news.com.au/national/brisbane-man-stanley-obis-act-of-bravery-in-face-of-jilted-ex/news-story/bf4e5bec61afe03ef0f753766eec7286>





As Mudge began “throwing petrol around”, friends say Mr Obi performed an act of bravery by “shielding his family” that likely saved the life of his partner.

Mudge is believed to have set her former lover alight in an act of rage that would end his life. She would also die inside the house as it burned. But Mr Obi’s new girlfriend and the three children managed to escape with their lives.

The Guardian reported in June 2021 that:

A mother allegedly ambushed her former partner and stabbed him to death in front of their young son in Brisbane.

Queensland police allege the 53-year-old woman lay in wait for the man at his home in a unit block in Newmarket on Wednesday night.

As the father and son walked towards the building stairwell from a car, the 51-year-old was attacked, it is alleged.

Police claim the woman sprayed him with an unknown substance and stabbed him repeatedly, including in the neck, as he tried to get away and ran into the street.

“He attempted to flee and ... he got a short distance away onto the roadway and we will allege it was there that he was further injured with ... a knife,” Det Supt Tony Fleming said on Thursday. “The child was seen running away from that.”

**Despite these high-public-profile cases, there has still been inadequate police recognition when it comes to police publicity and materials like DFV awareness posters in police stations, which can discourage males from reporting or feeling that they will be believed. And there appears to still be some reluctance to acknowledge the existence and needs of male victims during formal government inquiries.**

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

We would like to address the following terms of reference of this Independent Commission of Inquiry:

- (a) Whether there are any cultural issues within the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that negatively affect police investigations of DFV**
- (b) The capability, capacity and structure of the QPS to respond to DFV.**

## EXPERIENCES OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH THE QPS

When we were made aware of this Independent Commission of Inquiry, we asked the 8,191 members of our Facebook community (of which some 14.2 per cent, or 1,163 are located in Queensland) whether anyone had any reports they wished to share about the Queensland Police Service and their response to male victims of family violence. Two people responded with their experiences, which are outlined below as case studies one and two.

Case study three below is one of almost 300 stories that male victims of domestic and family violence have left on our website [oneinthree.com.au/stories](http://oneinthree.com.au/stories) since our foundation in November 2009. It is a typical example of the experiences of male victims. Even though this case occurred a decade ago, the sex discrimination encountered by Michael is a systemic issue that we encounter time and again.



## CASE STUDY 1 – HEATHER’S PERSONAL STORY

This is an outline of my experience of QPS and a male DFV victim. The victim is a close friend who has openly shared his experiences with me, and is ok with me sending this through and sharing this portion of his story.

The perpetrator is a female police officer who was denied direct access to QPS through the period when they had relaxed some entry criteria. She gained access with false documentation through the indigenous pathway which required indigenous descent (this officer is not indigenous, and her step-father for a portion of her teenage years is her connection to the indigenous community). Her abusive behaviour stems back long before her entry to QPS.

My first call to QPS was on 7th March 2021 concerned with behaviours coming from the perpetrator. The lady I spoke to at Policelink was honest and said she wasn’t sure how to deal with it, not was the senior officer on the day. They arranged for senior officer to call me later that day, who said we just need a good lawyer and go to family court. (Without children involved, her behaviours would be classed as blackmail, financial abuse, intimidation, gaslighting, but as she uses the children as her weapon in each of these cases, it is seen as a family law matter).

At a loss, in May 2021, I sent a letter to my local parliament member, who forwarded it onto the police minister (I can provide some more details of that letter if you need, but I did mention my concern on the agendas empowering women to make themselves the portrayed victim).

In June 2021, after a serious injury in her care involving one of the children and her failing to give information, abusive messages and blackmailing tactics, I called Policelink again. Again, they were quite concerned about the behaviours and spoke to ethical standards while I was on hold. They arranged for myself and the victim to attend a station close to me, but not have the police attend my home as I live in the local catchment of the station the offending officer worked. When we attended the station, we were again told that there is nothing they could do, but they did create a report on the mother taking the child in a racing ATV buggy with more than the designed capacity and also no safety equipment which resulted in the above accident.

In late June, I was called by a senior sergeant that works in DFV command in the city as he had my letter that I sent to the minister. He took the details of that letter seriously, and arranged for a local DFV officer to be in contact with me. In July 2021, I had a meeting with this officer for nearly 2 hours, and she saw the issues we were facing and told me that there would need to be a DVO taken out on the offender. But she had to also meet with the victim.

Once the victim had met with the officer, for the first time ever, he felt heard and thought he might get some help and be able to live a normal life. The officer drafted a PPN for him to confirm he details were correct. Unfortunately this was the last of the help received. This officer had to go on personal leave, and the case was handed back to the practice manager overseeing the DFV perpetrator. From this time, we had to chase for details of who was taking over the investigation. The victim attended one meeting on his own and was told that while the behaviours are not appropriate, there isn’t a lot they can do. After more concerning behaviours and requests for why things changed so dramatically and no new investigation was completed, we were invited back for another meeting, that I also went to. Over the course of the next 4 weeks, we were told that she is a model officer (yet they claim to not know her personally), we were advised by them that there is no difference in the process of a DVO applied for by the police, and one applied for privately (this is not true until the DVO is issued, if the police apply, they present to the DFV court on behalf of the victim), we were also told that they had not accessed the mountains of evidence supplied on a shared access drive, nor had they got the file from the officer that did the initial investigation and deemed it warranted for a PPN to be issued.

This is a battle I am continuing to fight. The children have suffered other injuries while in the offender’s care, but they are being investigated by her colleagues and treated accordingly. The gaslighting, the alienation, the victim-blaming, the threats have all intensified as she knows she is protected both by the force, and by the agendas of the taskforce.



To add some more context, here are the bodies of the letters I had sent to the Minister.

Initial letter:

I wish to bring to your attention some issues I have faced when trying to report an ongoing case of domestic violence, a situation that has intensified in nature with the perpetrator's perceived powers since joining the Queensland Police Service. I am not the victim, but a close friend of the victim. I have witnessed my friend on the receiving end of a large number of domestic violence behaviours including coercive control, financial abuse, obtaining money by deception, withholding children, threatening to withhold and relocate the children to force compliance, attempted alienation from family, constant belittling, intimidation and gaslighting. I have also witnessed the perpetrator lying under oath in court, and providing false information on legal documents.

I personally reported this behaviour via Policelink in March 2021. The over-the-phone help I received to support my friend was encouraging until I mentioned my friend is male, the perpetrator is female, and a frontline police officer.

The staff member on the Policelink line was honest. She advised me that she was not sure how to move forward with this situation in order to protect my friend and his children from more severe backlash and would seek advice from her superiors. After holding for a few minutes, the staff member let me know that she would need to talk this through with other senior officers and someone would call me back to let me know how to proceed, as it was not something that she was familiar with, and neither was the superior on duty at that time.

After receiving a call later that afternoon from a senior officer within my region, I was told that my friend just needs to pay a good lawyer and battle it through the family court system with little acknowledgment of these unacceptable behaviours of family violence. The engagement of a lawyer and family court proceedings were already in progress at that time, and had triggered these behaviours to increase in occurrence and intensity. However, this advice does not help with the mounting financial and psychological costs incurred to fight the false information being put forward in the regularly occurring attacks while waiting for a trial date to be set. Nor are there any repercussions for the perpetrator who is being protected by her position of authority and power.

At the time I contacted Policelink, it was based purely on the behaviours I had witnessed. It was before articles were released in the media about some female officers being accepted into the Queensland Police Service through a quota system, rather than on individual merit. Additionally, the more recent reports detailing acceptance of officers who are deemed high risk on psychological assessments, and some officers had returned low scores with reasoning management abilities, creates a larger concern for officers and the community's safety in their attempts to protect us. The officer in this situation has been overheard bragging that her time in the academy was fast tracked, and that she will also be fast-tracked through the ranks to be placed in a Sargent and/or prosecutor position within 5 years.

I understand police officers are bound by laws and have their own internal regulations to follow. I hold a high respect for them and their work, even if I do feel let down by this situation, and all the media attention surrounding domestic and family violence encouraging us to seek help. We have tried and got turned away as the victim is male. I understand this situation is in the minority, but it is not a justifiable reason to not be heard.

The current agendas promoting justice for female victims of domestic violence are important for genuine victims. However, on the flip side, it is an empowerment to female offenders. The system allows them to create false accusations as there are no repercussions for doing so. It empowers women to use trigger words to become the portrayed victim, an act I have witnessed personally by one person, and I hear of it occurring, often being encouraged, regularly within the community to gain control over their (ex) partners. The true victims of this act have nowhere safe to be heard. They are being silenced by agendas out of fear. The fear of being falsely labelled a perpetrator and receiving the punishment for a crime they did not commit.



My questions are: When does it become a criminal matter for a male victim? When will pleas by a male victim impacted by domestic violence be judged equal to that of a female victim? Is it when the perpetrator actually commits a physical act of violence? Is it when the perpetrator's physical actions mirror the abusive verbal and written communications? Is it when children are moved against court orders and are forcibly returned? Is it when a male victim can no longer handle the manipulation and takes his own life, leaving his shattered family and friends to pick up the pieces and share his story?

When are women perpetrators going to be held accountable for their actions against their male partners/ex partners? When do those in law enforcement positions face the same scrutiny as the general public when accusations are made against them without the protection of their uniform? Instead of reacting after an unfathomable act of violence, how can victims in the minority be heard now? When will justice be granted for all that need protection?

I would like to meet with someone to show evidence of the behaviours I have witnessed. I have permission from the victim and I will redact names from correspondence to retain some confidentiality. I need assistance to determine if these behaviours are deemed satisfactory for someone who took an oath to protect and serve our community. Alternatively, please advise where I can go to seek help without just being told to get a good lawyer. We are facing a battle against two systems that do not interlink. One of those systems is set up to protect its own members without question, and the other has a high financial cost for the innocent along with a lengthy timeframe for the truth to be heard. Both systems have a strong gender bias, that places the innocent minority parties in more danger.

#### Follow up email

Whilst this correspondence is purely driven by my concerns as a third party and I will obtain no personal benefit from it, I hope to get some form of response and guidance on how to proceed with this matter.

Further to the contents of the letter, there is a long history of abusive behaviours from this officer, some noted on the victim's file when he requested police assistance, but chose not to proceed with the domestic violence order due to fear of losing all contact with his children. With the current intensity of this person's behaviour, and validated concerns for the day to day well being of the children, I fear reporting it again will be met in the same manner as detailed in my original correspondence.

Behaviours of concern that I have witnessed from the officer against one ex partner include coercive control, financial abuse, obtaining money by deception, withholding children, threatening to withhold and relocate the children to force compliance, attempted alienation from family, constant belittling, intimidation and gaslighting. The victim of these behaviours has a large collection of written correspondence to verify these occurrences. I have also witnessed this officer lying under oath in court, and providing false statements on legal documents. I have been advised of past behaviours that include throwing objects at a car in a fit of rage, throwing a dog over a balcony, again in a fit of rage, uninvitedly entering her ex-partners home through the night and sitting by his bed (he was alerted by his dog laying over him in a protective manner). There have also been threats to physically harm people who communicate with her ex-partner.

The officer was also accepted into the force through the Indigenous Pathways Program. This program requires indigenous descent which the officer does not have. She has a loose association with a father figure from a portion of her life, but she does not identify as Indigenous in her day to day life other than for financial gain.

Additionally the officer has continuously hidden health related information regarding the children and dismissed concerns regarding their safety. Historically, reports of some concerns made to the Department of Child Safety



were dismissed at the time of notification, but occurred at a later date in a DVO she had placed on a new partner. More recent concerns raised are met with abusive written and verbal communication.

I understand this situation is in the minority, but I don't understand how it is justifiable for someone who is employed to uphold the law can act in this manner and be protected for their actions? How is it right that a police officer can knowingly play the lengthy federal system against the state police system where she is protected, all while using her children's well being as the pawn in her game? Or how is it justice that a male cannot seek protection for himself and his children without fear of backlash, and just be told you have to pursue the matter in the lengthy and costly family court system.

## CASE STUDY 2 – ANONYMOUS' PERSONAL STORY

I was told two weeks ago that I cannot see the DV Liaison Officer [at the Police Station] even having a current order protecting myself and the children because, "She only deals with females mate!". After 30 minutes of, once again, "Why do you want help? What do you want us to do? Blah blah". Then, after offering the recordings of the family centre that DV Connect referred me to stating they don't help males (and saying they help less-in-need females), the Police told me to call DV Connect again before I walked out. General duties staff are not trauma-informed at all, especially when dealing with males.

## CASE STUDY 3 – MICHAEL'S PERSONAL STORY

[Posted December 2012 to the [oneinthree.com.au](http://oneinthree.com.au) website].

I'm currently working in Mental Health and have a degree in Psychology. I too have been the victim of domestic violence. In short I have had contact with DV Connect (QLD) who asked me, "what did you do to deserve that" and "are you scary to look at". I've also been in court defending an AVO unfounded, though when my ex-partner admitted to punching me, breaking a plate over my head and throwing full cans of drink at my head the magistrate suggested, "ohh she wont do that again – you have separated". We have a 10 month old son that I need to pick up 3 times a week... total cost in court \$5,000. I've also had the QLD Police Service tell me to "grow some balls" when asking for help to collect my son. Family Relationship Centres also have not one brochure that is available for men suffering domestic violence.

Just as a side note I issued a DVO on my ex-partner for various physical assaults, etc, and the constant emotional and psychological abuse. She is now suggesting that I can only access my son if I come to the door alone, even after her initial DVO stating that I was controlling, jealous, abusive and she felt threatened by me. The outcome is that the temporary order I sought was rejected as the magistrate believes it was not necessary that we meet in a public place so as to facilitate handover. Hoping that someone will see some sense and the truth will come out. So at this stage I'm now left with the option of going to the front door alone and risking another barrage of abuse or as she has done previously issue another DVO on me, or not seeing my little boy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The three case studies provided in our submission provide evidence that,

- There appear to be cultural issues within the QPS where general duties staff lack a trauma-informed approach to male victims of DFV and can be unhelpful, insensitive, dismissive, and discriminate on the basis of the victim's sex.
- There appear to be serious issues of conflict-of-interest and/or corruption when members of the QPS are accused of DFV offences and appear to be shielded from investigation and/or prosecution because they are members of the QPS.

Our recommendations follow that,





- (i) QPS members be provided with training about the nature of DFV (that it can happen to anyone, whether male or female, young or old, gay or straight, rich or poor, wherever they live); that any member of the public who presents as a victim of DFV be treated with the sensitivity and respect they deserve; and that QPS members are not to discriminate against victims of DFV on the basis of sex (or any other characteristic)
- (ii) This inquiry devise a clear and transparent independent mechanism whereby members of the QPS who are alleged to have perpetrated DFV can have complaints lodged against them which are investigated fairly and promptly, with appropriate penalties to be issued against any QPS member who is found guilty of committing such an offence.

We hope this information is of use to the Inquiry. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Greg Andresen  
Senior Researcher  
24th June 2022



## APPENDIX A - MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY NATIONAL STATISTICS

### Male victims of family violence: key statistics

Research from the 2016 ABS Personal Safety Survey and Australian Institute of Criminology shows that both men and women in Australia experience substantial levels of violence.

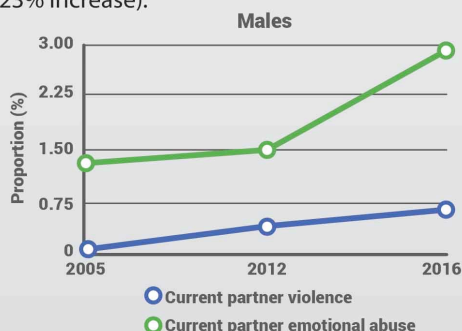
Males make up a significant proportion of victims of family and sexual violence, yet are excluded from government anti-violence programs.

32 males were killed in domestic homicide incidents between 2018-2019.

***This equates to one death every 11 days.***

### EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

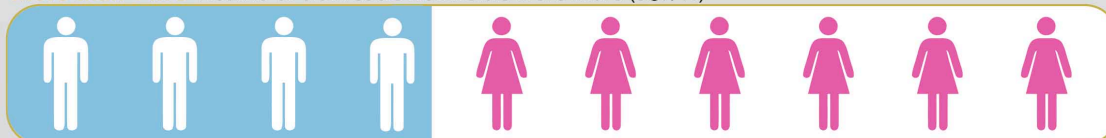
The proportion of men experiencing **current partner violence** in the last 12 months between the 2005 and 2016 ABS Personal Safety Surveys rose **more than five-fold** (a 552% increase), while the proportion of men experiencing **emotional abuse** from a current partner in the last 12 months **more than doubled** (a 223% increase).



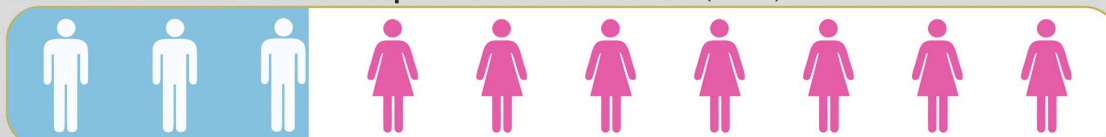
**The majority of men that experienced intimate partner violence experienced it by a female perpetrator (93.6%).** The remainder were in same-sex relationships with male perpetrators\*.

### DURING THE PERIOD 2018-2019:

**More than 1 in 3** victims of **domestic homicide** were male (38.1%)



**More than 1 in 4** victims of **intimate partner homicide** were male (27.1%)



\* Some men may have experienced violence by both a male and female intimate partner.



For more information and research about male victims of family violence, or for media comment visit [www.oneinthree.com.au](http://www.oneinthree.com.au)

If you are experiencing family violence, seek support, call MensLine Australia on 1300 78 99 78

Information has been sourced from the ABS and the AIC. Produced by the One in Three Campaign ([oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs](http://oneinthree.com.au/infographicrefs))

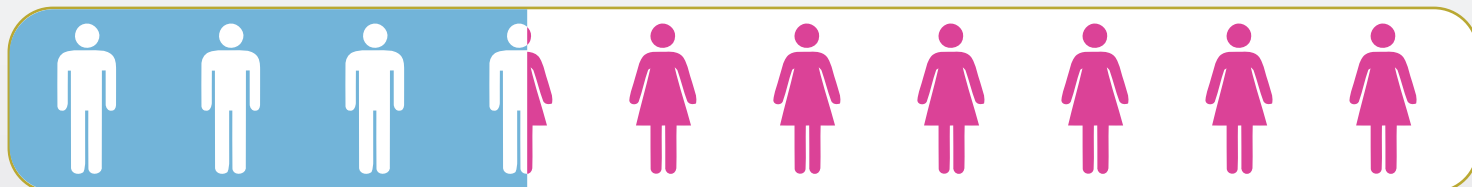


# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

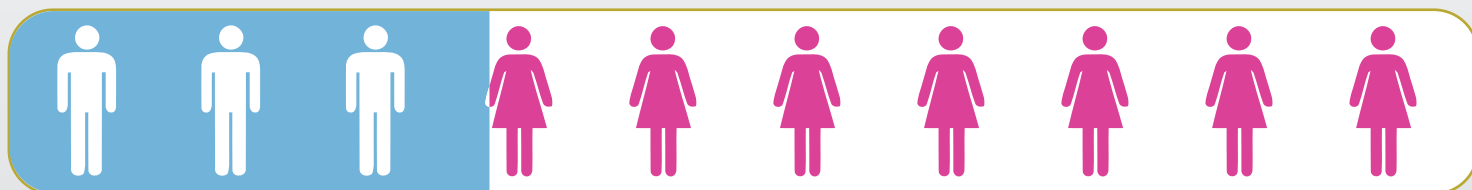
## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS\*:

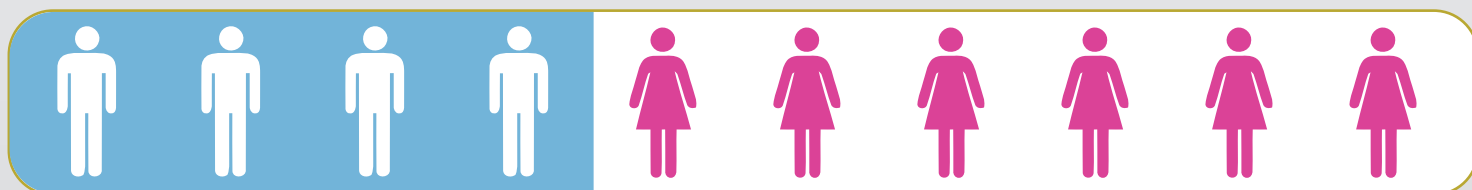
Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from an **intimate partner** were male (35.3%)



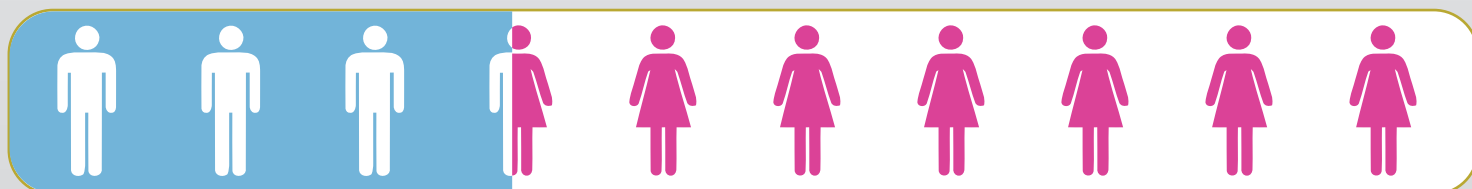
Almost 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from a **cohabiting partner** were male (32.7%)



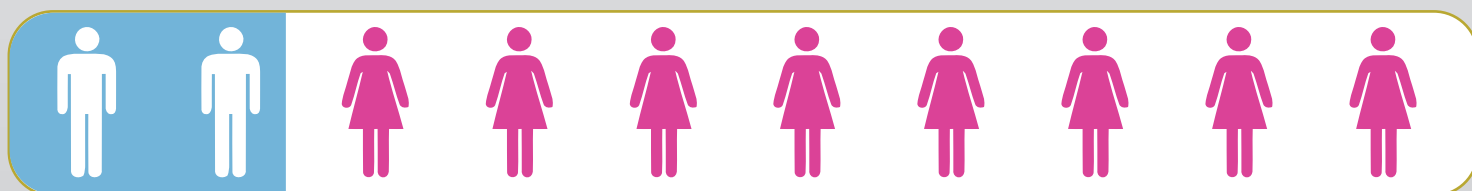
Almost 2 in 5 persons who experienced violence from a **current partner** were male (39.9%)\*\*



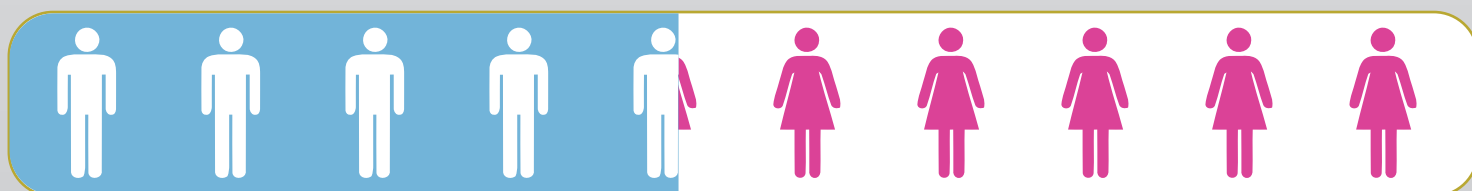
Over 1 in 3 persons who experienced violence from a **boyfriend/girlfriend or date** were male (34.3%)\*\*\*



Almost 1 in 5 persons who experienced violence from a **previous partner** were male (18.8%)\*\*\*\*



Almost half the persons who experienced violence from a **known person** were male (45.5%)



\* Last 12 month data are better measures of current rates of violence than are lifetime data ("since the age of 15"), as lifetime data include incidents that happened many years ago.

\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25.5% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (34.8% of persons since the age of 15 were male with no RSE warning)

\*\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 40.1% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (20.0% of persons since the age of 15 were male with no RSE warning)

\*\*\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 26.7% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (22.5% of persons since the age of 15 were male with no RSE warning)



For more information and research about male victims of family violence,  
or for media comment visit [www.oneinthree.com.au](http://www.oneinthree.com.au)

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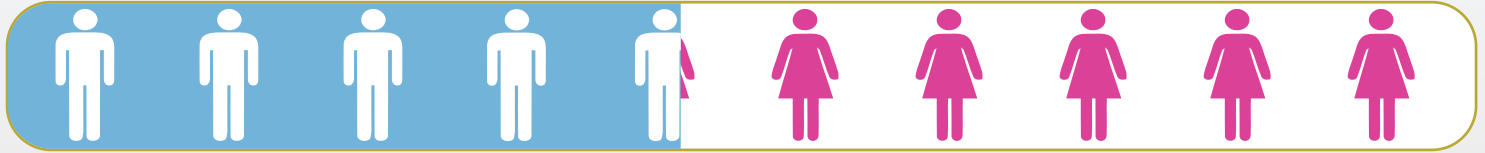


# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

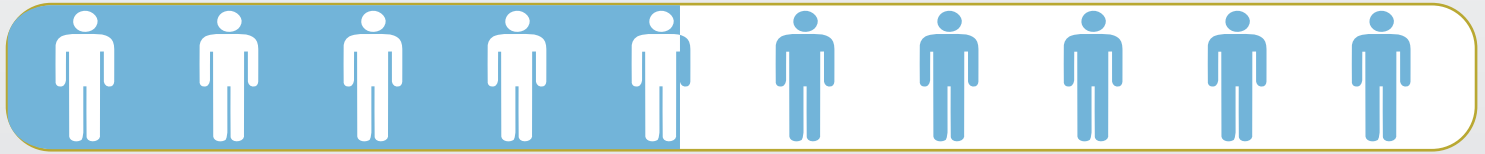
## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS\*:

**Almost half** the persons who experienced emotional abuse by a **partner** were male (45.8%) (47.7% of persons who experienced it by a **current partner** and 43.4% by a **previous partner**)



**Almost half of these males** experienced **anxiety or fear** due to the emotional abuse (41.4% of males who experienced current partner abuse and 43.1% of males who experienced previous partner abuse)



13.8% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner **deprive them of basic needs** such as food, shelter, sleep, or assistive aids, compared to 6.4% of women.



8.9% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner **threaten to take their child/ren away from them**, compared to 4.6% of women.



38.5% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a previous partner had their partner **lie to their child/ren** with the intent of turning them against them, compared to 25.1% of women.



7.3% of men that experienced emotional abuse by a current partner had their partner **lie to other family members or friends** with the intent of turning them against them, compared to 6.6% of women.



10.1% of men that experienced current partner emotional abuse had their current partner **keep track of where they were and who they were with**, compared to 9.9% of women.



\* Last 12 month data are better measures of current rates of violence than are lifetime data ("since the age of 15), as lifetime data include incidents that happened many years ago.



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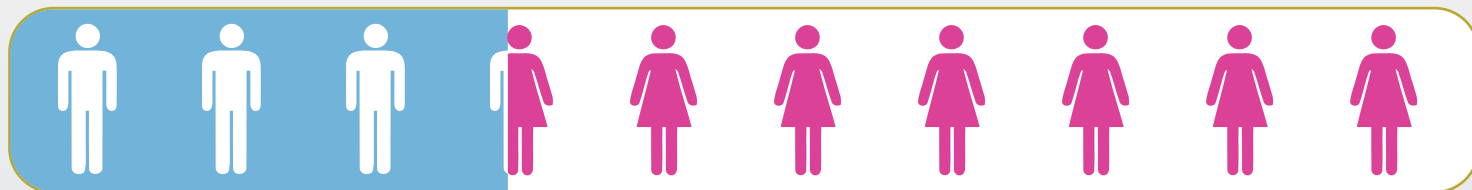


# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS\*:

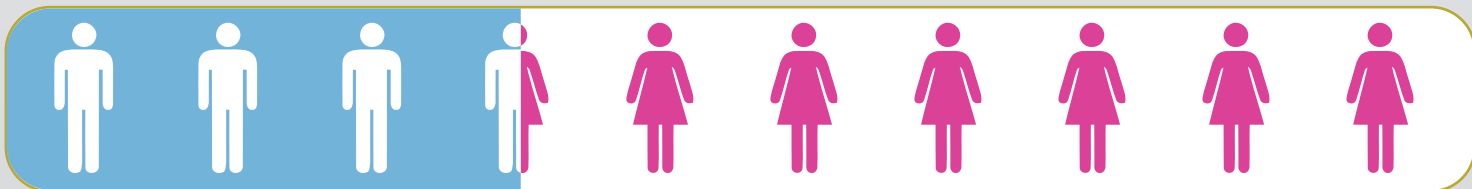
**Over 1 in 3** persons who experienced **sexual harassment** were male (34.0%). Most males who experienced sexual harassment were harassed by a female perpetrator (72.2% were harassed by a female while 48.2% were harassed by a male\*\*).



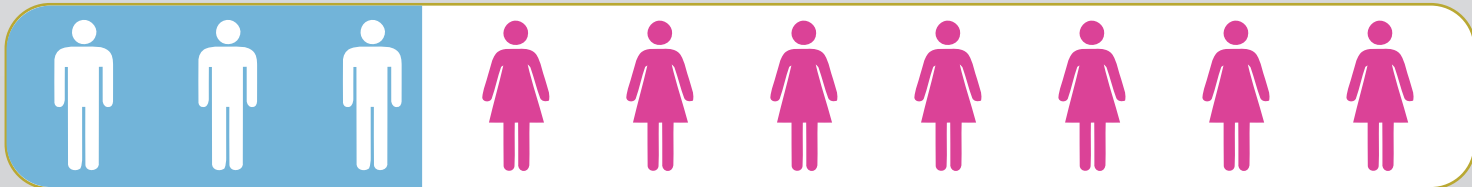
**The largest category** of increase in sexual harassment between 2012 and 2016 was in **males harassed by a female perpetrator**, which rose by a massive 67.5%. Females harassed by a male perpetrator rose by 15% during the same period.



**Over 1 in 3** persons who experienced **stalking** were male (35.0%). Most males who experienced stalking were stalked by a male perpetrator (68.9% were stalked by a male while 36.3% were stalked by a female\*\*\*).



**Almost 1 in 3** persons who experienced **sexual assault** were male (28.4%). Most males who experienced sexual violence were assaulted or threatened by a female perpetrator (82.9%\*\*\*\*).



**6 per cent** of all males experienced **violence** compared to 4.7% of all females.



\* Last 12 month data are better measures of current rates of violence than are lifetime data ("since the age of 15"), as lifetime data include incidents that happened many years ago.

\*\* Proportions don't add up to 100% because some respondents may have been sexually harassed by both a male and a female perpetrator.

\*\*\* Proportions don't add up to 100% because some respondents may have been stalked by both a male and a female perpetrator.

\*\*\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25.0% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS (55.2% of males experienced sexual violence from a female since the age of 15 with no RSE warning).



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or for media comment visit [www.oneinthree.com.au](http://www.oneinthree.com.au)

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# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### MEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED PARTNER VIOLENCE ARE:

**2 to 3 times** more likely than women to have **never told anybody\*** about experiencing

- Current partner violence



- Previous partner violence



**Around 50% more likely** than women to have **never sought advice or support** about experiencing

- Current partner violence



- Previous partner violence



**Almost 20% more likely** than women to have **not contacted police** about experiencing

- Current partner violence



- Previous partner violence



**Less than half as likely as women** to have had a **restraining order** issued against the perpetrator of

- Previous partner violence



\* This data is taken from the 2012 ABS PSS, as it was not published in the 2016 ABS PSS.

\*\* Estimate has a Relative Standard Error (RSE) of 25.2% and should be used with caution due to the relatively small number of males surveyed by the ABS



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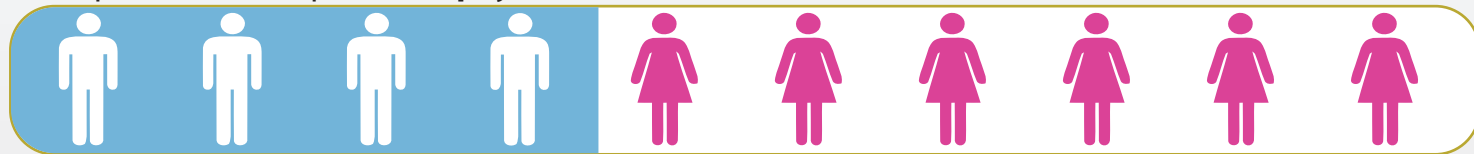


# MALE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY STATISTICS

## EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE BY GENDER

### BEFORE THE AGE OF 15:

**2 in 5** persons who experienced **physical and/or sexual** abuse were male (40.1%)



Around 1 in 20 persons (4.5%) witnessed **violence towards their father** by a partner and more than 1 in 10 persons (11.3%) witnessed **violence towards their mother** by a partner.



### SINCE THE AGE OF 15\*:

While a greater percentage of males experienced violence from an intimate partner or family member of the same sex than did females, the majority of males experienced family violence **perpetrated by a female**. The **perpetrators of family violence** against males by gender, ranked in order of prevalence, were as follows:

#### Violence since the age of 15. Violence by relationship to and sex of perpetrator, estimate, males (n)

Violence perpetrated by female previous partner



Violence perpetrated by father



Violence perpetrated by female current partner



Violence perpetrated by girlfriend or female date



Violence perpetrated by other relative or in-law (male)



Violence perpetrated by brother



Violence perpetrated by mother



Violence perpetrated by male intimate partner



Violence perpetrated by other relative or in-law (female)



\* Lifetime data (since the age of 15) is used here because the ABS didn't publish data from the last 12 months.



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