

RESPECT 2040

Respect 2040 is a group of Barwon South West organisations, governments, health services, community groups, education providers and schools, 100% united in our commitment to end violence against women.

www.respect2040.com

Barwon South West thrives when women, girls and gender diverse people are safe, respected and equally able to reach their full potential.

Family Violence

Violence against women is a problem of epidemic proportions in Australia, including in Barwon South West. It is a serious violation of women's human rights, and extremely costly to society.

This violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, social, cultural, spiritual, financial, and technology-facilitated violence or abuse, and stalking.

Violence against women occurs in the home, workplaces, online spaces, social settings and public spaces, in residential care, and institutions.

It includes intimate partner violence, sexual assault, workplace sexual harassment and street harassment. It can be a one-off incident, or an ongoing pattern of deliberately coercive and controlling behaviour.¹

On average, **1 WOMAN** a week is killed by a current or former partner.¹

1 in 3 WOMEN has experienced physical violence.²

65% of women with disabilities report at least 1 experience of violence since age 15.³

In 2022, violence against women and their children is estimated to have cost the Australian economy **\$13.6 billion**⁵

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are **3x** more likely to experience violence than non-indigenous women.⁴

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Family violence is the **leading cause of homelessness** for women and children

Almost **2 in 5 women** been sexually harassed at work in the last 5 years



Violence against women contributes to more death, disability and illness in women aged 25 to 44 than any other preventable risk factor

1 in 5 Women have been sexually assaulted

Violence against women affects staff retention, presenteeism, absenteeism, morale and undermines productivity

5.

Intersectionality

Gender inequality is a driver of violence against women. This inequality is not experienced in the same way by every woman. **Intersections between overlapping systems of social injustice, discrimination and oppression – such as racism, ableism, homophobia or transphobia - can compound the impacts of inequality and gendered violence.** Any factor that restricts women's access to social, political and economic power increases their risk of experiencing violence. This is why action to end violence against women must incorporate intersectional approaches that reduce the risk of violence for all women.²



- More than **2 in 5 LGBTIQ people** reported having been in an intimate relationship where they were abused by their partner/s.
- **1 in 3 refugee** and migrant women living in Australia have experienced domestic and family violence.
- Most family and gender-based violence is perpetrated by cisgender men.

It is vital to challenge and address all forms of discrimination and oppression to prevent violence against women.

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Rurality

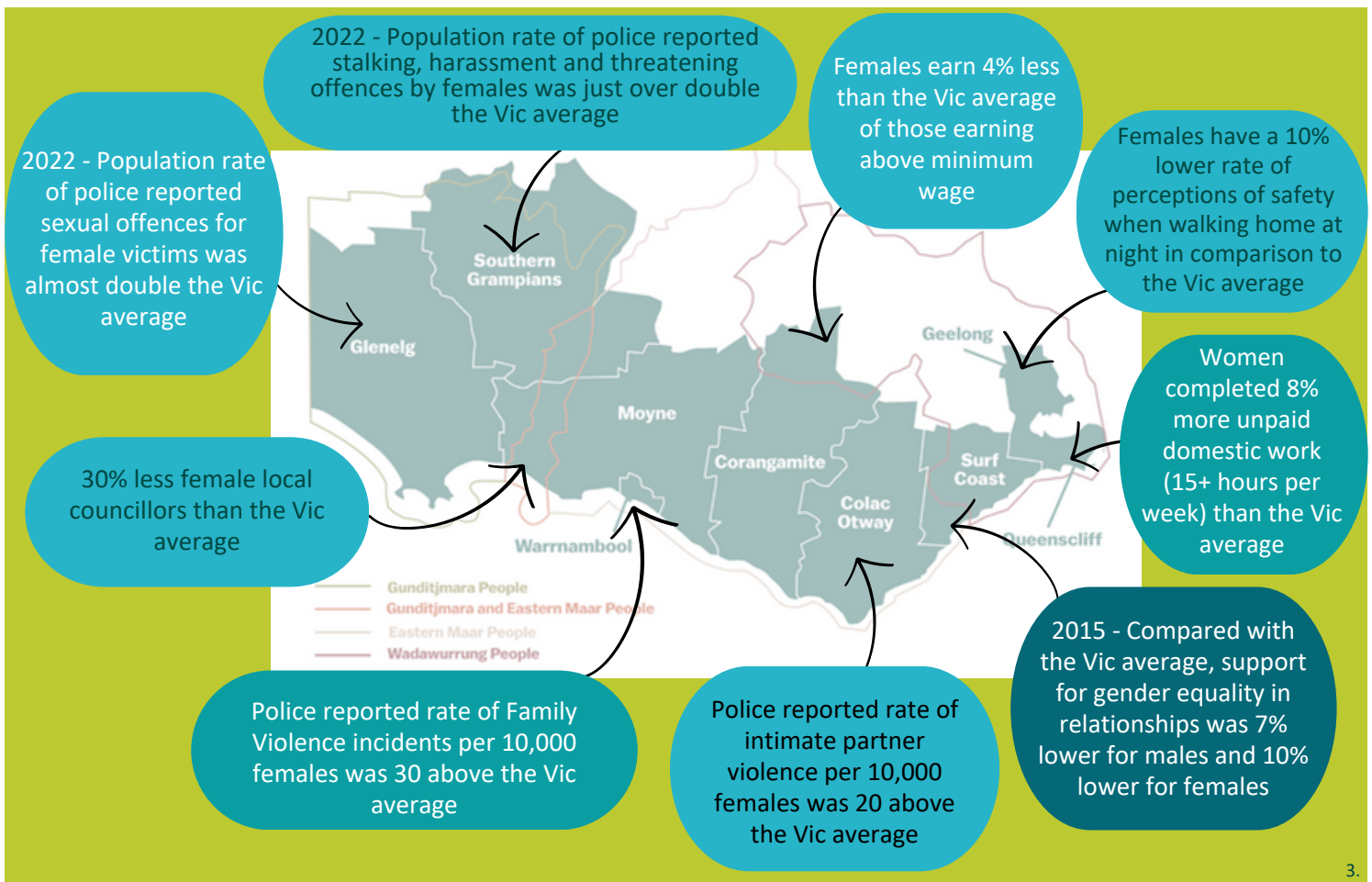
Rates of family violence in regional, rural and remote locations are higher than in urban areas. Geographical factors, social norms and attitudes specific to life in these communities influence the experience of violence.²



Women in regional and rural locations encounter additional barriers to escaping men's violence, including geographic and social isolation, limited private finances, challenges with anonymity and privacy, limited crisis accommodation and transport, and less access to support and health services than in metropolitan areas.⁶

Violence against women in Barwon South West

- From 2021 to 2023 there was a 5.3% increase in police recorded family violence incidents (per 100,000 people) compared with a decrease of -.04% in inner city Melbourne.*
- From 2021 to 2023 there were three times the number of police recorded family violence incidents in comparison to inner city Melbourne.
- From 2022 to 2023 family violence incident rates increased about twice the amount of the Victorian average.³



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* LGAs include: Hobsons Bay, Melbourne, Darebin, Yarra, Moreland, Merri-Bek, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong.

'Change the Story' identifies four Gendered Drivers of violence against women. Violence is not caused by just one driver and increases when more drivers are present.⁴

GENDER DRIVERS of violence against women:

CONDONING
of violence against women

MEN'S CONTROL
of decision-making and limits to women's independence

STEREOTYPED
constructions of masculinity and femininity

DISRESPECT
towards women and male peer relations that emphasise aggression

Gender inequality sets the **NECESSARY SOCIAL CONTEXT**

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Preventing Violence Against Women

We need to promote respectful relationships, break down rigid gender stereotypes, and challenge ideas about masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control. Gender equality is a human right and is essential for preventing gender-based violence, building safer and healthier communities and advancing the economy.

Essential actions to address the gendered drivers of violence against women

- 1 Challenge condoning of violence against women
- 2 Promote women's independence and decision-making in public life and relationships
- 3 Foster positive personal identities and challenge gender stereotypes and roles
- 4 Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relations between and among women and men, girls and boys
- 5 Promote and normalise gender equality in public and private life.

Supporting actions to address the reinforcing factors

- 6 Challenge the normalisation of violence as an expression of masculinity or male dominance
- 7 Prevent exposure to violence and support those affected to reduce its consequences
- 8 Address the intersections between social norms relating to alcohol and gender
- 9 Reduce backlash by engaging men and boys in gender equality, building relationship skills and social connections
- 10 Promote broader social equality and address structural discrimination and disadvantage.

Lower probability of violence against women

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Actions need to be implemented at every level of society

- Using legislative, institutional, policy and program responses.
- By governments, organisations and individuals.
- Where people live, work, learn and socialise.
- Tailored to the context and needs of different groups.

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RESPECT 2040

Working together to end gendered violence

The Respect 2040 partnership has been designed to bring the best skills, resources and people together to authorise a coordinated, coherent and long-term approach to sustaining actions to address violence against women in Barwon South West.



References:

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2. Campo, A & Tayton, S. 2015, Domestic and family violence in regional, rural and remote communities, Australian Institute of Family Studies
3. Family Violence Data | Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, 2023
4. Our Watch, Change the story: a shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia.
5. Safe and Equal, Fast Facts on Family and Gender Based Violence.
6. Women's Health Victoria 2015, Rural women and health, Women's Health Victoria. – Melbourne
7. Image credit - Centre for Non-Violence. *Working to End Violence*. Found: <https://www.cnv.org.au/working-end-violence-against-women>
8. Image credit - Women's Health in the North.