

**South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission**  
**Report on Domestic Violence in CALD Communities**

The South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission has three key Strategic Priorities.

- Economic development and participation
- Ageing
- Domestic violence

The Commission established Working Groups for each of the Strategic Priorities.

The Commission recognises that it has expert knowledge of multicultural and ethnic affairs but relies on others for expert input in other matters.

Therefore, in considering the strategic priority areas the Working Groups have gathered information from people and organisations which have policy, funding and service delivery responsibilities and expertise in each of the areas.

Organisations providing expert input on domestic violence in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities included:

- Australian Migrant Resource Centre
- Australian Refugee Association
- Central Domestic Violence Service
- Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
- Migrant Women's Support Service Inc.
- Multicultural Communities Council
- Multicultural Youth SA
- Office for Women
- South Australian Police
- Zahra Foundation.

**Domestic Violence in CALD Communities**

The focus of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission has been on domestic violence in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and not on domestic violence more generally. Nevertheless, it is recognised that issues associated with domestic violence in CALD communities need to be understood in the broader context of domestic violence.

A common theme of presentations to SAMEAC was that since the death of Zahra Abrahamzadeh and the subsequent Coroner's report, domestic violence in South Australia has been made a higher priority.

South Australia Police advised SAMEAC that following the death of Zahra Abrahamzadeh, in 2013 SAPOL conducted an internal review and established a new Domestic Violence Portfolio, led by the Deputy Commissioner, to enhance policing services and responses to domestic violence. The Domestic Abuse Portfolio Governance Committee, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, has the purpose of ensuring an effective executive oversight of SAPOL's commitment, approach and response to domestic abuse. In addition, the Family and Domestic Violence Branch was established in November 2014 to support governance, accountability and consistency in service delivery to victims of domestic abuse.

SAPOL also advised that additional training was delivered to police in 2015 to refresh knowledge about domestic violence dynamics, risk assessment processes and updated practices. A new training course (the Domestic Violence Investigators Course) was introduced in early 2016 for police who work in specialist domestic violence positions in SAPOL.

There has been an increased number of domestic violence-related incidents being reported and recorded by police. SAPOL advised SAMEAC that this is a result of a combination of greater community awareness and improved police awareness and operational response at front-line levels (achieved through additional training, clearer policy and enhanced procedures) which has encouraged victims and community members to engage with police about their concerns.

The 2012 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Australia survey found that one in six women in Australia (or 16.9%) suffered some form of physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner since the age of 15. About one in four women had experienced some form of emotional abuse in the same circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

In 2015 the Department of Social Services released *Hearing her voice: report from the kitchen table conversations with culturally and linguistically diverse women on violence against women and their children*. This report is the result of women from

more than 40 ethnic and cultural backgrounds from around Australia speaking out against violence in their homes and their communities.<sup>2</sup>

The report found general agreement that CALD women share many issues and experiences in common with other Australian women in relation to domestic and family violence and sexual assault, such as finding affordable accommodation, achieving financial independence, undertaking employment, obtaining legal advice and locating appropriate childcare. However, these difficulties can be exacerbated by factors such as not being able to speak English well or at all, having no independent rental history, lower employment rates, lack of transport, and having few friends, family members or other networks in Australia who can provide support.<sup>3</sup>

There was agreement that CALD women are less likely to report violence, can experience more barriers in accessing support services, and are less likely to leave a family violence situation than other Australian women.<sup>4</sup>

Recent research<sup>5</sup> highlights the complexity of addressing domestic violence in CALD communities. Drawing conclusions regarding the nature and extent of domestic violence or sexual assault in selected CALD communities is difficult as studies and surveys have produced mixed findings.<sup>6</sup> However, when such violence does occur, research findings indicate that culturally appropriate service provision gaps lead to access issues and lower rates of reporting.<sup>7</sup>

### **Prevalence and reporting of Domestic Violence in CALD Communities**

In the 2012 Personal Safety Survey, Australian-born women were more likely to report experiencing violence since the age of 15 than those born overseas (44 and 33 per cent respectively).<sup>8</sup>

Similarly, the International Violence Against Women Survey indicated that women from English-speaking backgrounds reported higher levels of physical, sexual and any violence compared to non-English speaking background (NESB) women over their lifetime. However, it is possible that personal, cultural, religious and language factors may have resulted in NESB women who had experienced violence not participating in the survey, or those who did participate being less likely to report incidents of physical and sexual violence or openly discuss such information with survey interviewers.<sup>9</sup> This would be consistent with findings that women from CALD

community backgrounds are less likely to report domestic violence to police or access mainstream services.<sup>10</sup>

The Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre<sup>11</sup> found that women in small and emerging ethnic communities may fear isolation from their community if they report family violence.<sup>12</sup> For women who have recently arrived in Australia there are many barriers to seeking help for family violence, which may include language and a knowledge of local services.<sup>13</sup> Women awaiting the outcome of residency applications may not be eligible to work or receive income support, and are under significant pressure to stay with their spouses lest they endanger their residency. Despite specific provisions designed to protect women in this situation, reports indicate that women do endanger their residency prospects if they leave their spouse, regardless of claims of family violence. Women asylum seekers in detention are particularly vulnerable to violence.<sup>14</sup>

### **Intersecting factors**

The Family Court of Australia points to the importance of intersecting factors which increase the complexity of domestic violence in CALD communities.<sup>15</sup>

The Family Court noted that it is important to recognise that the concept of 'culture' is not fixed and immutable. Attempting to ascribe certain characteristics to particular cultural groups may lead to erroneous generalisations based on racial or ethnic identification. Making assumptions or generalisations about racial, ethnic or religious groups ignores the intersection between, for example, culture and socio-economic status, age, disability, sexual orientation, place of residence, immigration status and homelessness.

Nevertheless, insofar as broad statements can be made about violence and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, research has tended to suggest that cultural values and immigration status increases the complexities normally associated with family violence and abuse. In a summary of the available research, the Australian Institute of Criminology stated that women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are generally less likely to report cases of family violence.<sup>16</sup> The factors that may influence this can include:

- being excluded from their community

- the limited availability of appropriate translator/interpreter services and access to support services
- limited support networks
- reluctance to confide in others
- lack of awareness about the law
- continued abuse from immediate family
- cultural and/or religious shame, and
- religious beliefs about divorce.

Policy and service responses, including those of family courts and allied agencies, need to be developed within an understanding of complex cultural dynamics and the inter-relationship between violence, cultural and religious identity and social marginalisation.

### **Complexity of associated factors**

Domestic violence does not occur in isolation from social, cultural and economic factors. The Office for Women advised SAMEAC that there is a need to focus on prevention and associated issues such as gender equality, the impact of sexual discrimination and economic independence and choice through access to jobs and career pathways.

Migrant and refugee populations are diverse, and cultural values, religious beliefs and immigration status increase the complexity of overlapping issues normally involved in domestic violence.<sup>17</sup> Immigration can also cause social and cultural dislocation and intensify domestic violence.<sup>18</sup>

Researchers point to a range of factors that increase the complexity of domestic violence for CALD women.<sup>19</sup> These include cultural values and immigration, which may result in social and cultural isolation or dislocation, thereby intensify the level of domestic violence.

The Department of Social Services Fact Sheet on *How the Second Action Plan helps Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women*<sup>20</sup> states

Different groups of women have diverse experiences of violence. Some are more vulnerable than others and some may come from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Women who have come to Australia as migrants, refugees and international students can face unique challenges. This can include not having

enough money, not being able to get the support they need if they are experiencing violence and not feeling like they can escape violence. This may be made more difficult by a new language, culture and laws.

The *Hearing Her Voice* research also reports that few mainstream family violence support services provide other general support services, which can make it difficult to address the complex needs of CALD women who do leave violent relationships. It proposes support models which recognise women may need assistance, for instance, to obtain a driver's licence, develop financial management skills and gain confidence in their ability to live independently. Connections need to be made to services that respond to multiple challenges such as education, employment, health issues and social isolation, empowering women to 're-enter society' after escaping violence.<sup>21</sup>

### **Consistent themes**

The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence reported that although each person has a different experience of family violence, there were consistent themes in the evidence presented to the Commission about the particular challenges CALD victims face:

- Social isolation
- Attitudes to family violence and the role of culture
- Reluctance to disclose
- Difficulties with leaving a violent relationship
- Lack of information
- Pre-arrival trauma
- Immigration status.<sup>22</sup>

This is consistent with the views expressed to SAMEAC.

### **Prevention measures**

The Victorian Royal Commission into family Violence heard that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to preventing family violence is not successful for CALD communities.<sup>23</sup> A submission from the Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership noted, 'The experience of family violence in CALD communities is complex and requires an

appropriate mix of tailored prevention and early intervention strategies to be adopted'. This includes strengthening the capacity of CALD communities themselves to identify and respond to family violence. For example, a recent paper published by ANROWS highlighted the importance of consulting and involving community elders and leaders in developing culturally appropriate prevention strategies.

### **Response measures**

The South Australian Office for Women's *A Right to Safety*<sup>24</sup> reports that refugee and immigrant women can face language and cultural barriers to accessing services or strategies. They are also more likely to be killed as a result of family violence.<sup>25</sup>

A research paper of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria highlights that, while there is no evidence that family violence is more endemic, or profound in CALD communities, when it does occur, the Australian justice and protection services are not adequately accounting for the additional complexity that can be embedded within CALD women's experiences of violence. These service gaps also have led to lower rates of reporting and disadvantage in access.<sup>26</sup>

The *Hearing Her Voice* report found that the difficulties faced by CALD women can include a lack of support networks, socio-economic disadvantage, language barriers, community pressure and limited knowledge about their rights and Australia's laws. Cultural values and immigration status add a further layer of complexity for CALD women experiencing violence. The report states that these factors may explain why women from CALD backgrounds are less likely to report violence, and may find it more difficult to address or escape violence.<sup>27</sup>

### **Attitudes towards violence against women**

The Report on Attitudes to Violence Against Women Among People Born in Non-Main English Speaking Countries<sup>28</sup> is based on the 2013 National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS).

The report found that "compared with the Australian-born, N-MESC (Non Main English-Speaking Countries) Australians have a lower level of understanding of violence, a greater propensity to endorse violence-supportive attitudes and a lower level of attitudinal support for gender equality. This is especially the case for N-MESC men. Although understanding of violence against women and attitudes to

gender equality are the strongest influences on attitudes, birthplace is among the top three demographic factors.

“This suggests the importance of targeting interventions to minority ethnic communities and the environments supporting the formation of their attitudes. Evidence from the wider literature indicates that differences like those found in NCAS are not inherent features of the cultures of certain minority ethnic groups. Rather, they are due to a range of factors associated with experiences in countries of origin and asylum, as well as exposure to new risks in Australia.

“Working collaboratively with minority ethnic communities to identify and strengthen factors that build positive attitudes and reduce those that increase the risk of violence will be important.”<sup>29</sup>

The Report states that understanding of violence against women and support for gender equality are priorities for prevention because these are the strongest drivers of attitudes towards violence against women among people born in a N-MESC and those born in Australia.

The survey found that understanding of violence against women and attitudes towards gender equality are stronger, and attitudes supportive of violence against women are weaker, among

- those who have lived in Australia for a long time compared with the recently arrived
- those who have a higher level of proficiency in English (compared with those with poor proficiency), and
- second- and third-generation Australians (compared with first-generation Australians).

The report finds that attitudes supporting violence and gender inequality are a feature of the cultures of almost all groups across the globe. The challenge in prevention will be to work with minority ethnic groups in Australia to address risk factors and strengthen factors that protect against violence.

Strong policies to support the settlement of new arrivals and cultural diversity are important foundations for preventing violence against women. This is because social



exclusion of minority ethnic groups has been found in other research to increase the risk of such violence.<sup>30</sup>

### **South Australian Government approach to domestic violence**

In 2014 the Premier of South Australia released the 'Taking a Stand Responding to Domestic Violence' policy.<sup>31</sup> The Policy states that one in six Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a current or former partner. One woman is killed nearly every week in Australia by a male partner or former male partner.

In July 2016 the South Australian Government released a Domestic Violence Discussion Paper.

The Discussion Paper<sup>32</sup> reported that in 2015 there were 8,417 reported occasions of domestic violence in South Australia and nearly 80 per cent of domestic violence-related assault victims were female.

The Discussion Paper explores the following measures

- A disclosure scheme that would enable people with concerns to ask authorities for details about partner's criminal history.
- Allowing Police to use video evidence of Domestic Violence victims in court.
- Imposing a time limit on intervention orders put in place to protect victims.
- Flagging charges and convictions to better track the incidence of DV.
- Better protecting the confidentiality of victims who speak to counsellors.
- Methods to get more perpetrators to undergo rehabilitation.
- Offering more emergency housing.
- Ensuring employers, landlords and others cannot discriminate against someone because they experienced family violence.

The South Australian Government approach to domestic violence is based on four beliefs.<sup>33</sup>

- All forms of violence against women are unacceptable.
- All forms of violence including the threat of violence against women are fundamental violations of human rights.

- Women have the right to be safe from violence and to live free from the fear of violence.
- Women have the right to live in a safe community that promotes and supports their health and well-being.

The approach is built around four elements.<sup>34</sup>

- Prevention
- Service Provision
- Protection
- Performance

The widely reported Coroner's Report into the death of Zahra Abrahamzadeh expressed concerns at all levels.<sup>35</sup>

It is a basic principle that policies and actions addressing each of these four elements must be developed and implemented in collaboration with CALD communities, involve CALD women and respond to the needs and circumstances of specific CALD communities.

### **Focus 1: Prevention**

- **Changing the social and cultural conditions that support violence against women to ensure women are safe and free from violence.**
- **Preventing early signs of violence from escalating into violence.**

Domestic violence is not a new epidemic—it spans history and all cultures. The Common Law of England permitted a man to beat his wife, provided the diameter of the stick so used was not wider than the diameter of his thumb.<sup>36</sup>

In Australia it is only in recent decades that domestic violence has been publically recognised as a serious issue. The first women's shelter was set up in 1974.<sup>37</sup>

Across the world attitudes and practices relating to domestic violence vary significantly. In some parts of the world, so-called 'honour killings' are performed by male family members against girls and young women who are believed to have 'shamed' the family.

South Australians are from more than two hundred countries with many having come to Australia under many different circumstances.

However, culture is never an excuse for domestic violence.

If it has been common practice for individuals to be violent towards their partners or children in their country of origin, that provides no justification to continue to do so.

Survey results do not show that CALD women experience domestic violence more than English speaking women.<sup>38</sup>

### *Zero tolerance to violence*

Issue: It is often reported that many CALD men and women, particularly the more recently arrived, are not aware of Australian laws relating to domestic violence.
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It is often reported that many CALD men and women, particularly the more recently arrived, are not aware of Australian laws relating to domestic violence.

In some countries, domestic and family violence is not considered a crime and sexual assault may not be recognised within a relationship or marriage. In others, family violence is against the law but may be condoned or considered to be a 'private' or personal matter. For these reasons, CALD women and men may not understand that violence in the home is subject to state scrutiny in Australia and is against the law.<sup>39</sup>

This emphasises the need to take action to inform men, women and children that in Australia domestic and family violence is against the law.

The Commonwealth Government has launched a pre-departure information pack to educate women about Australian standards before they move to Australia to be with their partner.<sup>40</sup> The pack contains information about family violence, sexual assault, forced and early marriage, and family violence associated with partner visas. It also gives women information about their rights under Australian law and provides details of who to contact if a woman needs assistance.<sup>41</sup>

The need for pre-departure and subsequent information applies equally to potential CALD domestic violence perpetrators.

There is a role for those who provide settlement and other services for those coming to Australia on temporary or permanent visas. While asserting that culture and religion never justify domestic violence, staff (paid and volunteers) should undertake training about domestic violence across culturally diverse settings. This should include consideration of information about:

- Cultural and religious differences about what comprises marriage
- Cultural differences about the significance of personal, family and community reputation
- Cultural differences about the place of family in personal and community life
- Laws and regulations relating visa conditions, Centrelink payments, Medicare and other supports for those who have come to Australia on spousal visas, have been sponsored or are otherwise on temporary or provisional visas.

#### **Recommendation 1**

##### **Raising awareness of DV issues among new arrivals**

The Department of Social Services, as part of the pre-departure and post-arrival information program for men and women, to place an increased emphasis on Australian laws, expectations and services relating to domestic violence.

For women who have recently arrived in Australia there are many barriers to seeking help for family violence, which may include language and a knowledge of local services.<sup>42</sup> Women awaiting the outcome of residency applications may not be eligible to work or receive income support, and are under significant pressure to stay with their spouses lest they endanger their residency. Despite specific provisions designed to protect women in this situation, reports indicate that women do endanger their residency prospects if they leave their spouse, regardless of claims of family violence. Women asylum seekers in detention are particularly vulnerable to violence.<sup>43</sup>

The ANROWS research *Promoting community-led responses to violence against immigrant and refugee women in metropolitan and regional Australia*<sup>44</sup> reported that family violence cut across all migration streams. Certain visa classes however, rendered women particularly vulnerable to different types of abuse and also shaped their experiences of seeking help and accessing services. Women often had very

little understanding of their entitlements, in many instances because perpetrators controlled their access to information, but also due to communication barriers, confusing rules and regulations during application processes, and the challenges of accessing specialist legal advice. Women reported that they required professional support to access their legal rights in regard to immigration status.

The ANROWS research found that a frequently recurring theme throughout their project was the way that precarious migration status was used by perpetrators to wield power and control over women, including through threats of deportation, threats to family living overseas and threats that women would lose access to their children.<sup>45</sup>

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection family violence provisions allow certain people applying for permanent residence in Australia to continue with their application after the breakdown of their married or de facto relationship, if they or a member of their family unit have experienced family violence by their partner.

A message arising from the ANROWS research calls on authorities to amend the Family Violence Provisions policy to recognise that perpetrators of family violence can include any family member, including non-sponsors; expand access to the family violence provisions to persons on non-partner visas (e.g. students, partners of students, fiancées); and remove barriers to Centrelink income support and Medicare-funded services for any victim of family violence regardless of visa status.<sup>46</sup>

The Legal Services Commission reported that at least 30 per cent of their migration lawyers' caseloads involve clients on temporary partner visas who have left the relationship with their sponsor due to family violence. Where appropriate, clients are assisted to apply for visas pursuant to the domestic and family violence provisions of the Migration Act. Most migration law clients with family violence matters are referred to their Migration section through specialist Domestic Violence services or Health and Social Support agencies.

More than 30 per cent of the Legal Services Commission Specialist Domestic Violence advice clients are from CALD backgrounds. Family Violence clients from CALD backgrounds are assisted by specialist DV legal advisers across a range of matters including.

## **Recommendation 2**

### **Focus on Family Violence Provisions**

The Commonwealth Government to expand access to the family violence provisions of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to persons on non-partner visas.

## **Recommendation 3**

### **Victims on temporary visas**

The Commonwealth Government to remove barriers to Centrelink income support and Medicare-funded services for any victim of family violence regardless of visa status.

### *Targeting and Supporting CALD communities*

Issue: The 2013 National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS) report found that compared with the Australian-born, N-MESC (Non Main English-Speaking Countries) Australians have a lower level of understanding of violence, a greater propensity to endorse violence-supportive attitudes and a lower level of attitudinal support for gender equality.

CALD women contributing to the 'Hearing her voice' report felt there is an important role for community and religious leaders in preventing violence and supporting women who are in violent relationships. Leaders need to learn how to recognise the warning signs of family violence and respond effectively to disclosures about violence. They also need to play a broader role in preventing violence through speaking out against domestic and family violence and sexual assault, promoting healthy relationships and encouraging violent men to change their behaviour. Some leaders are already playing these roles, while others require significantly more education, training and professional development in order to do so.<sup>47</sup>

There is an important role for men in addressing domestic violence. Many women feel the most effective way to educate adult CALD men is for community leaders who are non-violent to lead by example. If well-respected CALD men were to lead by example, speak out against violence and support the need for change in the community, more men would listen and take steps to change their behaviour.<sup>48</sup>

A submission from Ms A Rahman called for a range of training and education measures targeted at migrants, religious leaders and teachers.<sup>49</sup>

The Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC) advised SAMEAC that since 2013 it has produced and delivered considerable and nationally recognized resources and

programs including training within South Australia and interstate supporting the campaign against domestic violence. It has contractual partnerships with White Ribbon Australia and DV Alert Lifeline. They are also in receipt of Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, Stronger Families Stronger Communities funding to progress this work over the next two years.

As part of this work the AMRC has provided a series of training workshops in regional and metropolitan areas. Workshops have been delivered for culturally and linguistically diverse men on preventing gender-based violence in our communities and for women on family violence awareness and prevention in new and emerging communities.

The Australian Refugee Association (ARA) major focus over the last 2 years has been the development of services to support families experiencing relationship and family difficulties such as domestic violence, family breakdown and conflict. Through its Family Wellbeing program ARA provides case management to families and individuals who experience family relationship issues including domestic or family violence.

ARA reports that it aims to educate people about domestic violence and put both perpetrators and victims in touch with an emergency or other services. Tailored workshops have been held with Bhutanese, Somali, Burundian, Iraqi, Liberian and other new arrival communities.

ARA advised SAMEAC it has signed a partnership with the Western Adelaide Domestic Violence Service (A service of Women's Safety Services SA) to provide specialist support to women and children from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds who are experiencing and/or fleeing domestic and family violence.

People enter the domestic violence support system through many entry points including police, schools, hospitals, churches, doctors and community groups.

SAPOL indicated that it is generally expected that non-government organisations (NGOs) are the main pathway for interaction with communities. Where there are instances of domestic violence in the communities NGOs are expected to make referrals to SAPOL. This places a responsibility on community leaders to play a role in facilitating entry into the domestic violence support system.

Guidance from community leaders is needed for both the victims and perpetrators to enable them to access support and navigate the legal and other processes.

A recent Vic Health Report found that CALD communities respond to campaigns that are run at community levels, developed within a cultural framework they understand, and rather than having a particular focus on violence, are positive about families and the behaviours and conditions likely to support healthy family relationships.<sup>50</sup>

#### **Recommendation 4**

##### **Focus on the role of community leaders**

Male and female community leaders and spiritual leaders to be encouraged and supported to take responsibility and to play a leadership role in preventing men's violence against women in their community. For example, male leaders may apply for membership as White Ribbon Ambassadors to outwardly demonstrate the opposition to domestic violence.

The Commission welcomes the South Australian Government's provision of increased funding for Multicultural Grants and for the Multicultural Stronger Families Stronger Communities grants. It is proposed that grant application guidelines and assessment processes systematically provide preferential weighting on projects addressing domestic violence in CALD communities.

#### **Recommendation 5**

##### **Targeted funding to build the capacity of CALD organisations**

The Stronger Families Stronger Communities grant process to place a preferential weighting on projects intended to build the capacity of CALD community organisations to play a leadership role in preventing men's violence against women in their community.

#### **Recommendation 6**

##### **Targeted funding for community projects**

The Multicultural Grant process to place a preferential weighting on ethno specific community managed domestic violence projects targeting men, women and children and promoting respectful relationships, zero tolerance of violence and gender equality.

The South Australian Government South Australia's Women's Safety Strategy *A Right to Safety, 2011-2022* reaffirms the commitment to reducing violence against women and outlines the reforms to drive South Australia's commitment to The National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.



The Strategy should specifically involve measures targeting CALD communities. The measures should ensure that targeted early intervention and prevention programs are designed in collaboration with CALD communities, involve women and respond to the needs of specific communities.

The Office for Women has lead responsibility for the South Australian Government's Violence Against Women Strategy and also leads the State's response to the National Plan to reduce violence against women and children.

#### **Recommendation 7**

##### **South Australian Strategy *A Right to Safety* to target CALD**

CALD communities to be targeted as part of the South Australian Government Women's Safety Strategy *A Right to Safety 2011-2022* to promote and support South Australian communities to not tolerate violence against women; promote respectful relationships; and promote gender equality.

State Government agencies to develop and implement strategies to raise awareness of domestic violence issues in CALD communities as an integral part of their normal business.

#### **Recommendation 8**

##### **Target communities with highest incidence of domestic violence**

Funding for projects aimed at raising awareness of domestic violence issues be targeted initially at communities where there is evidence of higher incidence of domestic violence.

### **Focus 2: Service Provision**

- **Ensuring services meet the needs of women experiencing violence, and their children, through joined up services and systems**

*Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS)*

Issue: The South Australian Government set up the MAPS as a trial to co-ordinate the efforts of police and various government and support agencies and its future should be assured.

One of the important steps forward in responding to domestic violence in South Australia has been the trialling of the Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS).

MAPS brings together representatives of the South Australia Police, the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, the Department for Education and Child Development, the SA Health and the Department for Correctional Services.

South Australia Police leads this initiative that provides a gateway for the participating agencies to raise cases where there are domestic violence. MAPS is a multi-agency action planning approach to reduce risk and harm at early points of intervention and complements the Family Safety Framework. MAPS establishes a process for the gathering, sharing and disseminating information between participating agencies.

When required, MAPS issues actions to relevant agencies for further work or enquiries to be undertaken. It does not engage in front line operational activities nor does it have direct contact with either victims or perpetrators. A critical feature of the service is the co-location of partner agencies. This enables the integration of information from multiple sources and the development of a shared knowledge base to inform timely action.

The agencies share information about victims, women at risk and their life domains which determine their level of vulnerability. Each week more than 400 cases are referred to MAPS by SA Police. Approximately 10% of incidents are “mapped” focussing on high risk, and moderate risk with particular indicators present. The MAPS team meets twice a day (10am and 2pm) to collectively review all Summary Documents and make determinations about what actions or interventions, if any, are necessary.

By sharing information and working together the MAPS approach results in a single Summary Document being available for each case. It also provides the basis for assessing the risk and determining frontline actions for each case based on a range of reports and documents that provide a more detailed profile of victims and women at risk.

It is important that those involved in making these assessments and determining frontline actions be required to undertake CALD cultural intelligence training and have access to and draw on expert advice on domestic violence in specific CALD communities. An appropriate lead agency should be identified to develop and maintain a panel of suitable CALD experts.

When established, MAPS involved government agencies only.

SAMEAC, therefore, welcomes the 2016-17 South Australian Budget measure to provide \$683,000 over four years to expand the MAPS service to include non government women's domestic violence services in MAPS.

**Recommendation 9**

**Cultural competency for MAPS team**

MAPS team members to be required to undertake CALD cultural competency training.

**Recommendation 10**

**Expert CALD advice team**

MAPS team members involved in making assessments and determining frontline actions to have access to and draw on advice from a panel of agencies and individuals with expertise on domestic violence in specific CALD communities.

*Language barrier*

Issue: Prevention measures and responses to domestic violence can be ineffective without the use of appropriate interpreters and bilingual workers.

SAMEAC was advised that there are occasions when there is a language barrier between service providers and victims or perpetrators.

If a service provider doubts the ability of a victim or perpetrator to understand and speak English, or if they request it, the service provider should always arrange for an accredited interpreter or refer the matter to a suitable bilingual worker. An interpreter should always be used in a situation that may lead to the person involved being required to give evidence in court in relation to their role as an interpreter.

Interpreters are available 24 hours a day through providers such as the South Australian Government's Interpreting and Translating Centre or the Commonwealth Government's Translating and Interpreting Service.

Using family members to interpret is unacceptable as their presence may be used to coerce or unduly influence a victim to either remain silent or minimise the description of the extent of violence perpetrated against them.

Confidentiality can be critical in domestic violence matters. CALD victims and others may be reluctant to use an interpreter from their own community because of privacy

issues, particularly in small communities, or fear of shame and potential alienation. Under these circumstances the most practical solution may be to use an interpreter from elsewhere.

**Recommendation 11**

**Interpreters to be used**

Where an interpreter is required and a suitable South Australian interpreter is not available agencies to use telephone interpreters from elsewhere.

Agencies involved in responding to domestic violence to avoid using children or family members as interpreters and using the same interpreter for both perpetrator and victim.

**Recommendation 12**

**Interpreter training**

Agencies arranging for interpreters for domestic violence circumstances to always request professional and accredited interpreters with specialist training in domestic violence situations.

*Domestic violence services and CALD communities*

Issue: There is a common perception that domestic violence services are shelters which primarily provide alternative safe accommodation. This makes some women reluctant to contact these services.

The Executive Director of the Central Domestic Violence Service advised SAMEAC that they have actively promoted services to CALD groups. Thirty per cent of their staff are bi-lingual or multi-lingual. Nevertheless, she described the services as largely a 'white and western model'. As a result, the Executive Director observed that innovative and tailor-made approaches are required for different cultural groups to understand the issues of domestic violence and its implications within the immediate family, extended family and community.

Given the complex nature of domestic violence in CALD communities, each element of the CALD domestic violence strategy requires an innovative and tailor made approach; one size does not fit all.

In domestic violence services the priority is on removing women from danger. This focus tends to create a perception that domestic violence services place an emphasis on removing women from the perpetrators of violence and physically re-

locating them in alternative accommodation. They are often thought of as women's shelters – places for women to go to escape from violence.

Many women of all backgrounds are seeking a safe resolution to their situation without breaking up their relationship. Many CALD women, in particular, consider leaving their partner to be unthinkable. Others seek a resolution where there is no real or perceived threat of their children being taken away from them.

In a number of cultures, the needs of the family and the community are placed above those of the individual. Some women note that out of respect for cultural beliefs they focus primarily on their responsibilities as wives, mothers and carers rather than caring for their personal health and well-being. Within this context, they may endure violence by a partner because they feel obligated to fulfil family responsibilities first.<sup>51</sup>

Women in some ethnic communities may fear isolation from their community if they report family violence or if they leave their partner.

The Central Domestic Violence Service advised SAMEAC that CALD women are often reluctant to report domestic violence for several reasons including

- Cultural stigma and the risk of experiencing shame from their families and rejection from community
- Fear of lack of cultural understanding by mainstream services
- Fear of retaliation from perpetrator and family
- Doubt that police will believe them.

It is the responsibility of the police and other service providers to build a trust relationship with communities so that victims feel confident they will be believed and understood.

Women awaiting the outcome of residency applications may not be eligible to work or receive income support, and are under significant pressure to stay with their spouses lest they endanger their residency. Despite specific provisions designed to protect women in this situation, reports indicate that women do endanger their residency prospects if they leave their spouse, regardless of claims of family violence. Women asylum seekers in detention are particularly vulnerable to violence.<sup>52</sup>

The *Hearing Her Voice* report found a strong distrust among some CALD communities of domestic and family violence services due to a perception these services favour separation and divorce.<sup>53</sup>

There is a common perception that domestic violence services are shelters which primarily provide alternative safe accommodation. This makes some women reluctant to contact these services.

Domestic violence services generally provide a range of support and information services in addition to the emergency and longer term safe accommodation.

The *Hearing Her Voice* report emphasised that CALD women are often seeking support to end the violence, but not to end the relationship. CALD women may hope that the services will explain Australian law to the perpetrators, intervene in specific situations, or provide ongoing personal support and safety planning, rather than encourage separation, divorce or an end to contact with violent family members. It was acknowledged that such hopes might prove to be unrealistic. Nevertheless, participants emphasised the appropriateness of framing initial discussions with clients in terms of establishing 'healthy relationships' and 'strong families' rather than encouraging separation.<sup>54</sup>

SAPOL advised SAMEAC that domestic violence services provide options to women and support them to make safe choices for themselves and their children which includes (but does not compel) the option of emergency accommodation.

The Central Domestic Violence Service advised SAMEAC that its service accommodates approximately 90 families at one time, and accommodation options include: crisis units, transitional houses and supportive accommodation.

Importantly, they also provide outreach support to women and children who may still be in the relationship or have had the resources or support to leave the home and reside somewhere safe.

The Central Domestic Violence Service aims to empower women who have experienced domestic violence to provide a safe environment for themselves and their children, and to determine and pursue positive life outcomes. They do this by:

- Providing a variety of services that recognise the complexity of issues faced and respect each individual's culture, beliefs, needs, values and emotional well-being;
- Increasing awareness about the impact of domestic violence through advocacy, education and the creation of partnerships with other organisations;
- and working collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes for women and children who utilise our service

For domestic violence services to better meet the needs of CALD women there is a need to

- broaden the public perception of the services to include a range of discreet support and information services in addition to safe accommodation
- build the capacity of generalist services to provide culturally appropriate responses and support for CALD women.

Domestic violence services should ensure that their services include discreet, culturally appropriate support and information in addition to safe accommodation; and broaden their public image to reflect the breadth of their services.

In the context of budgetary constraints, service providers are seen to be placing an emphasis on safety. If a person's physical safety is not threatened then little or no resources are available. This applies to circumstances before a crisis arises and after a crisis.

The Migrant Women's Support Service advised SAMEAC that domestic violence resources are generally geared towards short-term responses. They believe that resource allocations must go further to provide a better response. This includes a need to support women who are concerned about their migration status, their knowledge about their rights and entitlements, and where to go for assistance.

The work of the Zahra Foundation is directed to supporting women beyond the time of an immediate threat to safety.

The intention of the Foundation is to help women who are victims of domestic violence attain a degree of economic independence. The Foundation provides

- emergency grants to assist women to buy basic necessities

- financial literacy and economic empowerment by giving back control to women.

### **Recommendation 13**

#### **Support beyond times of physical threat**

While acknowledging the priority of addressing threats to physical safety, government and other agencies to provide support for women and families facing a threat of domestic violence beyond circumstances involving a threat to a person's physical safety. The support for CALD women and families should be culturally relevant and adequate in responding to their high and complex needs at the time.

The impacts of domestic and family violence can be particularly severe for CALD women who cannot find support services and experience cultural pressure to stay in an abusive relationship. Lack of information about or familiarity with available support services is a significant barrier for CALD women seeking assistance.<sup>55</sup>

The Central Domestic Violence Service that they provide responsive services to CALD women by:

- Ensuring diversity within our staffing structure, currently 30% of CDVS DV staff are from a CALD background and/or are bilingual/multilingual
- Appropriate partnerships and referrals with other CALD services
- Access and use of interpreters
- Access to brokerage monies for clients needing specialist services
- Developing a culture within the organisation that encourages diversity and the right to choose.

The *Hearing Her Voice* report highlights the finding that CALD women have specific needs for services to be accessible and culturally responsive and for services to include post-crisis support. The report found that CALD women observed that the support framework for domestic and family violence services is predominantly mainstream with a focus on high risk or crisis situations. There was a perception that such mainstream services are not for CALD women and 'mainstream' in practice means 'Anglo'. More specifically, participants felt such services are not able to meet the basic needs of CALD women. For example, some Muslim women can find that their religious needs are not provided for in terms of food preparation and prayer facilities. Service providers need bi-cultural or community-specific workers who



speak the language and (or at least) understand the cultural issues and family dynamics for CALD women.<sup>56</sup>

The Central Domestic Violence Service reported that they had been successful in raising awareness of domestic violence issues among Liberian women. Their initiative involved informal community-based approach i.e. Sunday morning coffee meetings which focused on “What does a healthy / unhealthy relationship mean to you?”

**Recommendation 14**

**Service providers to build relationships with CALD communities**

Domestic violence service agencies to build relationships with CALD communities, in particular CALD women’s organisations. Communities where there is evidence of higher incidence of domestic violence to be a priority.

The Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) is an independent, not-for-profit company established as an initiative under Australia’s National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. It is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments of Australia, who are the members of the company.<sup>57</sup>

ANROWS 2015 report, *Promoting community-led responses to violence against immigrant and refugee women in metropolitan and regional Australia*, recommended that there be investment in culturally/ethno-specific family violence services that provide specialist crisis and outreach support to immigrant and refugee women. ANROWS found that many studies have identified the importance of culturally specific family violence specialist service provision in reducing ongoing risks and vulnerabilities. These agencies, they propose, must be funded to provide bilingual/bicultural support, interact with the family violence system and justice settings, work respectfully with community members’ confidentiality and privacy rights, and provide women and children’s counselling and men’s behaviour change programs that are culturally specific and delivered in community languages.<sup>58</sup>

Each domestic violence service funded in South Australia has a requirement to provide a percentage of their services to CALD and Indigenous clients.

In South Australia the Migrant Women’s Support Service (now Migrant Support Service, a program within Women’s Safety Services SA) is the only domestic violence support service specially established to assist CALD women. This service

has developed a strong and trusted relationship with CALD women and should receive continued and adequate support.

**Recommendation 15**

**Support for migrant and refugee DV services**

All domestic violence services to be supported to provide specialist crisis and outreach support to immigrant and refugee women.

**Recommendation 16**

**Specialist migrant and refugee services**

Specialist migrant and refugee services (as in the Migrant Support Service program) to be retained and adequately resourced proportionately to the extent of the occurrence of domestic and family violence within those communities

**Recommendation 17**

**CALD cultural competency training for service providers**

Staff in all domestic violence service agencies to be required to undertake CALD cultural intelligence training to develop their ability to function effectively in culturally diverse situations.

**Recommendation 18**

**DV services to employ appropriate bicultural / bilingual workers**

Domestic violence service agencies to seek to employ workers with relevant bicultural and bilingual skills to meet the needs of specific client communities.

*Domestic violence services and minors*

Issue: There is a gap in knowledge and services for minors experiencing intimate partner violence.

Multicultural Youth SA (MYSA) has commissioned the University of South Australia to undertake research into Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among refugee minors.<sup>59</sup> The research finds that very little is known about how IPV is experienced by adolescent girls, particularly those from refugee communities.

MYSA advised SAMEAC that in order to effectively plan for the needs of adolescents, policy makers, service planners, program managers, and service providers need a clear understanding of their experiences including their help-seeking patterns.

Preliminary findings of the study indicate that

- IPV starts young, as young as 12 years of age, and the partners are generally much older than the minors (19-25 years)

- Most minors do not know about the cycle of violence because they were excluded from culturally distributed forms of knowledge that their Australian-born peers take for granted.

The preliminary findings indicate that the violence takes many forms and reporting is limited by several factors.

The preliminary report states that community elders and leaders are not aware of the extent of the problem because adolescents do not trust them enough to tell them. Furthermore, in many communities, the elders pass the management of IPV to older women. These women often advise girls to return to violent relationships. They also advise girls about what they (not the men) need to do in order to make the violence stop.

The preliminary report also states that

- young women cannot access domestic violence services established for the general population or CALD communities until they reach 18 years of age
- even if this were not the case domestic violence services do not have the skills, knowledge or experience to respond to the unique needs of minors, particularly those with high and complex needs.

Early intervention, prevention and support measures should be accessible for CALD young people. These measures should be developed in consultation with young CALD people and should use an approach which takes account of the social, psychological, cultural and economic needs and circumstances of CALD minors.

#### **Recommendation 19**

##### **Responding to intimate partner violence among CALD minors**

Further research to be undertaken into the nature and extent of intimate partner violence among CALD minors.

A youth-specific CALD Intimate Partner Violence program to be developed and to include early intervention, prevention and support elements.

#### **Focus 3: Protection**

- **Women who experience or fear violence must be able to seek protection and have access to effective and affordable legal remedies.**
- **The perpetrators of violent acts against women must be held accountable for their behaviour**

#### *The Courts*

Issue: There are significant barriers to CALD women reporting domestic violence and understanding judicial processes.

The Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity is an advisory body formed to assist Australian courts, judicial officers and administrators to positively respond to diverse needs. The Council is an initiative of the Chief Justice and endorsed by the Council of Chief Justices of Australia (CCJ). It provides policy advice and recommendations to the CCJ.

In March 2016 the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity published its Migrant and Refugee Women's Experience of the Courts Report.<sup>60</sup> The Report addresses a wide range of issues associated with Courts' responses to cultural diversity generally. Through the Report, stakeholders and women made a series of recommendations and suggestions for consideration by the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity and the Australian court system more broadly. Of particular relevance to domestic and family violence matters are the following.<sup>61</sup>

1. Judicial officers should maintain an ongoing commitment to building relationships with settlement services, domestic violence services, legal services, and police. This would enable the joint provision of community education forums for migrant and refugee communities, as well as the sharing of expertise among staff.

The JCCD consultations indicated that a major barrier to migrant and refugee women reporting family violence is a lack of knowledge of their legal rights and avenues to assistance. The legal knowledge of migrant and refugee women could be improved if various service providers, police, court staff and judicial officers jointly provided community education forums. Such forums would also assist in demonstrating that the courts are accessible.

Further, stakeholders suggested that caseworkers need more training to understand the operation of the legal system. This would assist them to make appropriate referrals and better support women through the legal process. Better linkages between judicial officers, court staff and service providers would be beneficial in building this knowledge base.

- 2.1 Magistrates Courts should implement education sessions for women applying for intervention orders to provide them with information about the process.

Women stated that they had little knowledge of the process of applying for an intervention order and what an intervention order meant. There were women who withdrew their application following community pressure and other women who did not know about the possibility of altering the standard conditions of intervention orders.

Court information sessions would assist women to understand the process. They would be beneficial for migrant and refugee women in particular, as they face additional pressures during family violence

matters stemming from community pressure, immigration status and language barriers.

4. Courts should invest in comprehensive cultural competency and family violence training for all court staff.

Court staff are the main point of engagement for migrant and refugee women with the court system. It is therefore fundamental that all staff are trained to understand the needs of migrant and refugee court users so they can ensure they respond appropriately.

5. All judicial officers should receive cultural competency training. Judicial officers who work in family violence matters should receive additional training in cultural competency within the context of family violence and family breakdown.

One of the major factors that impacted upon women's perceptions of the justice system was the treatment they received from judicial officers. Of concern is that there were a number of judicial officers who demonstrated poor understanding of the particular needs of migrant and refugee women or of the dynamics of family violence. Greater judicial education would assist in rectifying this.

7. Courts should give priority to establishing separate waiting areas for women attending court for family violence matters.

Women reported significant concerns about waiting in the same area as the perpetrator. Countless stories were advised of men using this time to intimidate and harass women. Separate waiting areas would greatly assist in alleviating women's stress at court.

8. Courts should permit women to participate in hearings via video link and, if this is not available, take other measures to reduce women's stress in the court environment, including when giving evidence.

Many women found it highly stressful to attend court and be in the same room as the perpetrator. There is a risk of further traumatising survivors of family violence, particularly women who have traumatic backgrounds. Allowing women to participate in the hearing via video link would reduce women's stress and enable them to participate more fully.

If video link technology is not available, courts should take other measures.

## **Recommendation 20**

### ***Migrant and Refugee Women's Experience of the Courts***

South Australian courts should respond to the recommendations and suggestions in the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity *Migrant and Refugee Women's Experience of the Courts Report*

#### *Reluctance to report domestic violence*

Issue: Although domestic violence service providers report that their goal is to strengthen the bond between women and children – this is contrary to the perception of some CALD women.

The Department of Social Services Report, *Women, Domestic and Family Violence and Homelessness: A Synthesis Report* found that women from CALD backgrounds may not access services because of fear of losing their family (children).<sup>62</sup>

The fear held by some CALD women is that if they report domestic violence then the authorities will take the view that the home is not a safe place for the children and that the authorities will remove the children from the custody of the parents.

This prevents some CALD women from connecting with service providers.

Concern about losing custody of children is likely to apply to all parents. The elevated concern among many CALD women may be attributable to the relative strength of their emphasis on their collectivist values and traditions.

## **Recommendation 21**

### ***Provide information about removing a child from their parents***

Domestic Violence Service providers and other agencies which engage with domestic violence matters to provide information from the Department for Child Protection to CALD communities explaining the principles which are used to determine any decisions to remove a child from their parents' custody.

#### **Focus 4: Performance**

- **Women are safe and free from violence in South Australia.**
- **Services meet the needs of women experiencing violence, and their children, through joined up services and systems.**
- **Men who use violence are held accountable and supported to change their behaviour.**

#### *Working with CALD communities*

There are several barriers which make members of CALD communities reluctant to report incidents to the police.

For many communities there is a lack of trust or confidence in authorities. Their previous experience of authorities in their country of birth may have been linked to corruption, abuse and violence.

About 230,000 South Australians speak a language other than English at home. About 40,000 speak English not well or not at all.<sup>63</sup> Where agencies do not have established procedures to respond to people with limited English proficiency, those people become less likely to seek services or information from those agencies.

SAPOL reported that many domestic violence incidents are one aspect of complex cases. Indeed, other issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, disability, mental illness and sexual abuse against children may be identified. In these cases, the domestic violence incidents need to be considered in the context of these other factors. SAMEAC was advised that a victim of domestic violence or at risk of domestic violence is often homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In many instances the women do not want the perpetrator to be removed; they just want a change in their behaviour. There are situations where there is a need to focus initially on other contributing factors associated with the complex case.

Culture is never an excuse for domestic violence. Social and cultural dislocation associated with immigration and settlement may contribute to disadvantages in areas such as housing, health and unemployment. It is therefore important that those involved in providing frontline services, assessing domestic violence incidents or determining responses to incidents should have an understanding of cultures and working with people from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds.

#### **Recommendation 22**

##### **CALD cultural intelligence training for all involved in responses**

All staff involved in providing frontline services, assessing domestic violence incidents or determining responses to domestic violence incidents to be required to undertake CALD cultural intelligence training to develop their ability to function effectively in culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse situations.

#### **Recommendation 23**

##### **Clear procedures for dealing with CALD**

Agencies should have transparent procedures for responding to people with limited English proficiency. These procedures need to be implemented and monitored to ensure that services are inclusive of individuals from CALD backgrounds.

#### *Data*

Issue: A critical aspect in responding to and assessing performance and reviewing strategies and action plans is having access to data on achievements against target outcomes.

SAPOL reported that the collection of data regarding domestic violence in CALD communities is difficult as victims are not required to identify their ethnicity in Police Incident Reports (PIRs) and Domestic Abuse Reports (DARs).

The Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence has found that evidence regarding the prevalence of family violence in CALD communities is inconclusive. There is no reliable data available to provide a clear picture of the scale of the problem.<sup>64</sup>

On 7 August 2015 the Commonwealth Government announced \$160,000 in funding for a 'diversity data' project to be carried out by ANROWS. The project will examine how CALD women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women with disabilities experience violence and identify options for improving future data collection.<sup>65</sup>

Improved data collection is one of the key focus areas of the South Australian Government's Domestic Violence Discussion Paper.<sup>66</sup>

#### **Recommendation 24**

##### **Office for Women to coordinate data collection**

The Office for Women, in conjunction with agencies involved in the Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS), to take lead responsibility for developing a practical standard data collection template and coordinating CALD domestic violence data collection across service delivery and justice agencies, taking account of the findings of the ANROWS 'diversity data' project.

The Office for Women to report to the Minister for the Status of Women annually on the incidence of domestic violence in CALD communities and the cultural background of the victims.

#### **Recommendation 25**

##### **All agencies to collect data**

All agencies involved in responding to domestic violence to be required to use the standard data collection template (see Recommendation 24) to collect data on the incidence of domestic violence in CALD communities and the cultural background of the victims.

#### *Male perpetrators*

Issue: Programs for domestic violence perpetrators need to take account of the cultural background of the perpetrators

Mr Arman Abrahamzadeh, the founder of the Zahra Foundation advised SAMEAC the focus on domestic violence must shift from the victim to the perpetrator.



SAMEAC was advised by the Central Domestic Violence Service that programs for CALD men who commit domestic violence tend to be ‘white and western’, with programs for behavioural change being ‘mandated from the bench.’

In some cases, these programs may not recognise or take into account the cultural background attitudes of the perpetrators, which may be useful to ‘unlock’ the reasons behind the domestic violence.

Research undertaken by Professor Thea Brown, Monash University,<sup>67</sup> indicates that behaviour change programs can be effective in reducing domestic violence. The Monash University study involving 300 Australian men who use violence, and their partners (or ex-partners), over two years, found the number of men inflicting violence fell by half across all categories of abusive behaviour, from physical violence to demeaning behaviour.

SAMEAC was advised by the Migrant Women’s Support Service, the Australian Migrant Resource Centre and the Multicultural Communities Council that there are generally few to no culturally appropriate perpetrator programs for CALD men.

ANROWS has undertaken a review of Perpetrator interventions in Australia.<sup>68</sup> The review reported “There is no review of sex offender programs for men from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in the following discussion given the absence of material on this topic in the literature.”

**Recommendation 26**

**Court orders to take account of CALD background of perpetrators**

Court-ordered behavioural-change programs for CALD male perpetrators of domestic violence to be tailored to take into account the culture of the perpetrator to ensure the best chance of success in changing their behaviour and attitude towards violence against women.

**Recommendation 27**

**Culturally appropriate perpetrator programs for CALD men**

The development of culturally appropriate behavioural-change programs for CALD male perpetrators of domestic violence to be supported.

# Australian Bureau of Statistics

49060DO003\_2012 Personal Safety, Australia, 2012

**Table 10 EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, Country of birth**

	Experienced violence during the last 12 months		Did not experience violence during the last 12 months		Experienced violence since the age of 15		Did not experience violence since the age of 15		Total persons	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>MALES</b>										
<b>Country of Birth</b>										
Australia	609.7	10.5	5,172.0	89.5	3,062.3	53.0	2,719.5	47.0	5,781.7	100.0
Born overseas	127.3	4.7	2,557.1	95.3	1,085.7	40.4	1,598.2	59.5	2,684.5	100.0
Main English speaking countries(c)	80.7	8.4	877.4	91.6	548.2	57.2	410.0	42.8	958.1	100.0
Other countries(d)	46.6	2.7	1,679.7	97.3	537.6	31.1	1,188.8	68.9	1,726.3	100.0
<i>Total males</i>	<i>737.1</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>7,729.2</i>	<i>91.3</i>	<i>4,148.0</i>	<i>49.0</i>	<i>4,318.2</i>	<i>51.0</i>	<i>8,466.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>FEMALES</b>										
<b>Country of Birth</b>										
Australia	366.2	6.1	5,672.4	93.9	2,681.7	44.4	3,356.9	55.6	6,038.6	100.0
Born overseas	101.2	3.8	2,595.7	96.2	878.9	32.6	1,817.9	67.4	2,696.9	100.0
Main English speaking countries(c)	38.2	4.0	908.0	96.0	432.8	45.7	513.3	54.3	946.1	100.0
Other countries(d)	63.0	3.6	1,687.7	96.4	446.1	25.5	1,304.6	74.5	1,750.7	100.0
<i>Total females</i>	<i>467.3</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>8,268.1</i>	<i>94.7</i>	<i>3,560.6</i>	<i>40.8</i>	<i>5,174.8</i>	<i>59.2</i>	<i>8,735.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>PERSONS</b>										
<b>Country of Birth</b>										
Australia	975.9	8.3	10,844.4	91.7	5,744.0	48.6	6,076.4	51.4	11,820.3	100.0
Born overseas	228.5	4.2	5,152.8	95.8	1,964.7	36.5	3,416.7	63.5	5,381.3	100.0
Main English speaking countries(c)	118.9	6.2	1,785.4	93.8	981.0	51.5	923.3	48.5	1,904.3	100.0
Other countries(d)	109.6	3.2	3,367.4	96.8	983.7	28.3	2,493.4	71.7	3,477.1	100.0
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>1,204.4</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>15,997.3</i>	<i>93.0</i>	<i>7,708.6</i>	<i>44.8</i>	<i>9,493.0</i>	<i>55.2</i>	<i>17,201.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>

**Agencies making a presentation or providing input to SAMEAC about  
Domestic Violence in CALD communities**

Australian Migrant Resource Centre

- Ms Eugenia Tsoulis, Chief Executive Officer

Australian Refugee Association

- Ms Kirsten Bickendorf, Chief Executive Officer

Central Domestic Violence Service

- Ms Maria Hagias, Executive Director,

Department for Communities and Social Inclusion

- Mr Tony Harrison, Chief Executive
- Ms Carol Shard, Director, Statewide Services, Housing SA
- Ms Ingrid Scicluna, Senior Project Officer – Domestic & Aboriginal Family Violence /Regionalisation Project, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.
- Jessica Olds

Migrant Women's Support Service Inc.

- Ms Milenka Vasekova

Multicultural Communities Council

- Ms Helena Kyriazopoulos, Chief Executive Officer

Multicultural Youth SA

- Ms Tamara Stewart-Jones

Office for Women

- Ms Fiona Mort, Director

South Australian Police

- Police Commissioner Grant Stevens
- Inspector Sandy Morey, Strategy Policy & Programs Section
- Detective Inspector Deborah McLean
- Sergeant Phil Gurr
- Senior Constable Kerry Rouse

## Zahra Foundation

- Mr Arman Abrahamzadeh, Founder

## **Footnotes**

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- <sup>3</sup> Department of Social Services. *Hearing her voice: report from the kitchen table conversations with culturally and linguistically diverse women on violence against women and their children*. 2015. p.3.
- <sup>4</sup> Department of Social Services. *Hearing her voice: report from the kitchen table conversations with culturally and linguistically diverse women on violence against women and their children*. 2015. p.4.
- <sup>5</sup> Commonwealth Library Research Paper Series, 2014–15, 14 October 2014, *Domestic, family and sexual violence in Australia: an overview of the issues*, p.12
- <sup>6</sup> Morgan A and Chadwick, H 'Key issues in domestic violence', *Research in Practice*, 7, December 2009, pp. 4–5, accessed 25 September 2014.
- <sup>7</sup> Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (EECV), *Women surviving violence: cultural competence in critical services*, ECCV policy research paper, 2013; A Allimant and B Ostapiej-Piatkowski, 'Supporting women from CALD backgrounds who are victims/survivors of sexual violence: challenges and opportunities for practitioners', *ACSSA Wrap*, 9, 2011, accessed 2 July 2014.
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- <sup>9</sup> Mouzos J and Makkai T, *Women's experiences of male violence: findings from the Australian component of the International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS)*, Research and Public Policy Series, 56, AIC, Canberra, 2004, pp. 31–32.; ABS, *Personal safety survey Australia 2005*, cat. no. 4906.0, ABS, Canberra, 2006, p. 21, accessed 29 April 2014; ABS, *Personal safety survey Australia 2012*, op. cit.
- <sup>10</sup> Bonar M and Roberts D, *A review of literature relating to family and domestic violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia*, Western Australia Department for Communities, Perth, 2006; Morgan and Chadwick, op. cit., p. 5
- <sup>11</sup> Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre's *101 Ways Great & Small To Prevent Family Violence* reported (p.12)
- <sup>12</sup> Office of Women's Policy, 2002, *Women's Safety Strategy: A Policy Framework*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, p.32
- <sup>13</sup> Office of Women's Policy, 2002, *Women's Safety Strategy: A Policy Framework*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, p.32
- <sup>14</sup> Office of Women's Policy, 2002, *Women's Safety Strategy: A Policy Framework*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, p.32
- <sup>15</sup> [www.familycourt.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/fcoaweb/reports-and-publications/publications/family-violence-best-practice-principles-december-2015](http://www.familycourt.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/fcoaweb/reports-and-publications/publications/family-violence-best-practice-principles-december-2015)
- <sup>16</sup> Australian Institute of Criminology, "*Emerging Issues in Domestic/Family Violence Research*", *Research in Practice* report no.10, April 2010, p. 5.

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- <sup>17</sup> Pease B and Rees S, 'Theorising men's violence towards women in refugee families: towards an intersectional feminist framework', *Just Policy*, 47, 2008, pp. 39–45, accessed 2 July 2014.
- <sup>18</sup> Ghafournia N 'Battered at home, played down in policy: migrant women and domestic violence in Australia', *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 16, 2011, pp. 207–213.
- <sup>19</sup> Commonwealth Library Research Paper Series, 2014–15, 26 March 2015, *Domestic violence in Australia: a quick guide to the issues*, p.2
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