Annie Blatchford reported on the inaugural National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children in Melbourne, from February 23-25, for the Croakey Conference News Service.

Croakey is a public health blog based in Australia. http://croakey.org
ANROWS2016: how can research drive policy, practice to address violence against women & children?

Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) hosted its inaugural National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children.

The three-day Melbourne event featured high profile presenters, including former Australian of the Year Rosie Batty, former Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, and former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick.

Journalist and researcher Annie Blatchford reported on the proceedings for the Croakey Conference News Service. She previewed some of the discussions below, in a Q and A with ANROWS CEO Heather Nancarrow.

Nancarrow said a big focus was on the need for better sharing of information between sectors – long recommended as vital to keeping women and children safe but still not achieved, including between health, police, corrections and victim supports services.

Another focus was on the issues facing vulnerable groups of women, particularly those with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, to make sure they don’t fall through the cracks of mainstream responses, including in national data collections.

The conference was followed on Twitter via the hashtag #ANROWS2016, and via @annieblatch and @wepublichealth, where @JessKBGregory – ANROWS Communications and Media Officer – was at the helm.

Annie Blatchford writes:

Q. We have seen an unprecedented focus in the past year or two on the need to address violence against women and children in Australia: where does the ANROWS conference fit in that context?

Heather Nancarrow: Rosie Batty has been an incredible catalyst for community mobilisation, hence we have seen an unprecedented media and civil society focus on this issue. We are very pleased that Rosie was the speaker at the Conference Dinner on Wednesday.
ANROWS was conceptualised by the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, which produced *Time for Action* (2009), the blueprint for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) 12-year *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*. The Plan sets out to achieve six national outcomes and ANROWS’s role is to produce, disseminate and facilitate the uptake of evidence to support their achievement. The outcomes include “communities are safe and free from violence” and “relationships are respectful”, both of which require broad-based community engagement, and systemic and cultural change.

The ANROWS conference heard findings from new research, across strategic research themes linked to the National Plan, and encouraged discussions by policy-makers, practitioners and decision-makers of the evidence and its implications for their work on addressing violence against women and their children.

**Q. You addressed the conference on translating knowledge into policy and practice: what do you mean by that and can you give some examples of what’s needed and how?**

Heather Nancarrow: We know that influencing the take-up of new evidence – changing the way things are currently done – involves much more than disseminating information from research through publication in journals and on websites, for example. Research findings need to be synthesised, distilled and funneled into action by tailoring communication strategies for relevant audiences. This is an iterative process and takes place in a complex system of interactions between researchers and knowledge users.

Violence against women is a complex field because of the nature of the violence and its multiple impacts on individual victims, their children, families and communities. Its effects relate to policy and practice in the areas of physical and mental health, housing and homelessness, income security, and civil and criminal law. It also cuts across Commonwealth and state and territory jurisdictions.

Information sharing across government and non-government agencies has long been shown in research as critically important to timely and effective responses for women affected by violence, but it has not yet been achieved.

Consecutive inquiries continue to advocate for information sharing, for example, between the federal Family Court and state/territory based child protection and domestic violence service systems. Information sharing between health (particularly mental health), police, corrections and victim supports services also remains a barrier to timely and effective response in many areas of Australia. Implementation of common risk assessment is another area where evidence exists but its uptake is varied.

Further, and bearing in mind that violence against women cuts across all socio-economic, cultural and geographic groups (though some are at greater risk than others), there is insufficient quality evidence in some areas to inform policy and practice.

The **Second Action Plan** of the National Plan identifies the need to prioritise women with disability, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. ANROWS has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Government to analyse existing national data collections relevant to violence against women, identify gaps related to these three groups and make recommendations on improving data collection in future to support future analysis of diverse needs.
ANROWS is also embarking soon on a program of research specifically directed at finding out what governments and practitioners should be doing to best deploy responses to perpetrators of violence against women across Australia.

**Q. What new research or ideas did ANROWS share throughout the conference and what themes have shaped the conference program?**

**Heather Nancarrow:** The conference featured presentations on all 20 projects from ANROWS’ **Research Program 2014-2016**, including a presentation and discussion on Change the story: A shared framework for the prevention of violence, the result of a collaboration between Our Watch, ANROWS and VicHealth. There were presentations on research that is not funded by ANROWS but is consistent with our **National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children**. This includes the results of research on innovative responses to violence against Indigenous women; women’s input into trauma-informed care; and developing informed and effective responses to violence and abuse against women with disabilities.

The ANROWS Research Program 2014-2016 reflects national priorities under the National Research Agenda’s four strategic research themes:

1. women’s experiences of violence and its impact on their lives
2. gender inequality and primary prevention
3. service responses and interventions
4. how systems can work better together.

The three plenary panel discussions, focused more on knowledge translation and exchange than research findings. Every presentation, however, is followed by a facilitated discussion to encourage the uptake of evidence in policy and practice.

**Q. What areas of policy and action need to be prioritised to eliminate violence against women and their children in the future?**

**Heather Nancarrow:** Priority areas include:

- Preventing violence before it starts (systemic and cultural change).
- Holding perpetrators to account (rather than holding victims responsible for violence perpetrated against them, and the impacts on their children).
- Better understanding and acting on knowledge about effective strategies for groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (and recognising the diversity among them), women with disabilities and women from culturally and linguistically diverse groups. If we don’t prioritise these groups, there is a risk of widening a gap between effective responses for them and for women in the mainstream.

**Q. The conference is not ‘just’ about violence against women – can you describe the breadth of issues and topics that will be discussed and why they are important? How critical is intersectionality to addressing violence, and what are the challenges/barriers?**
Violence against women is a capacious concept. It includes domestic, family and sexual violence – so violence perpetrated against women by their current or former intimate partners or other family members, and sexual violence that may be perpetrated by men who may or may not be known to the victim. It involves diverse groups of women, as victims in varying contexts, and men who perpetrate violence who also come from diverse social, cultural and geographic backgrounds. And it involves the effects of violence on children. Understanding and responding to the intersections of various factors in the lives of victims, and perpetrators, is critical to success – this is often expressed as “one-size does not fit all”. What it implies is client-centred responses, whereby the various issues affecting the desired outcome for individuals are addressed. For example, an intervention order in a context where there is extreme social disadvantage and/or substance addiction is unlikely to be effective if the other issues aren’t addressed along with the violence, even acknowledging that they are contributors rather than causes of violence.

Q. What are three things you hope will be achieved from the conference?

Heather Nancarrow:

1. A stronger connection between evidence, policy and practice in the field of violence against women and their children.

2. An increase in the number and diversity of inter-sectoral partnerships (academic, policy and practice) to build further research capacity and facilitate evidence-informed policy and practice.

3. Increased awareness and utilisation of the role of ANROWS in achieving the goal of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.
Strong research, a story & a sharp spear needed to stop Violence Against Women

How can evidence be better shaped and presented to influence policy to address violence against women and children? Who has power and control over an issue that’s so much about power and control? What about the role of the media? And how do researchers and policy makers make sure that violence against women and children stays in the spotlight after so many decades of invisibility?

They were some of the big questions posed on the opening day of the inaugural National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children that had the discussion trending nationally on Twitter at #ANROWS2016.

Annie Blatchford writes:

The ANROWS conference kicked off on a high when Social Services Minister Christian Porter announced a further $10.2 million funding towards the not-for-profit organisation over the next six years.

The energy was sustained throughout the afternoon when a powerful band of women were brought together at the ANROWS Conference to share their insights on turning research on violence against women and their children into policy and practice.
Walkley award winning journalist Sarah Ferguson facilitated the panel made up of former Queensland Premier and Treasurer Anna Bligh, Women’s Health Victoria Board Director Candy Broad, Former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick and former NSW Liberal leader Kerry Chikarovski.

The former leaders shared advice on how best to get research and ideas before the eyes of politicians while there was still bi-partisan support for the issue and a strong public momentum.

**Using heads and hearts**

With an all female panel, and a room made up of mostly female delegates, the unavoidable question was asked: what good could this discussion do without men who hold all the power?

Although the decades of work by women advocates, practitioners and researchers was recognised as vital, Broderick acknowledged that men are still decision makers and needed to be involved in the cause.

Broderick, who helped form the Male Champions of Change group in 2010, said that her power to effect change came from having strong research and data on her side.

The personal stories of survivors such as Rosie Batty and Kristy McKellar however were the tipping point in how she influenced men to become involved with the group that aims to keep the issue of women’s representation in leadership on the agenda.

“We need to move this from our heads to our hearts... paint the human face,” she said.

Chikarovski, now a Government Relations Advisor, agreed that Rosie Batty’s story and courage to speak out is what pushed violence against women and their children into the public’s consciousness.

Talk however is not enough because governments want deliverable outcomes and foreseeable change, she said.

Chikarovski said the best way to get a message heard in government was to connect with people who have a common passion – and sometimes these individuals are not Ministers but instead backbenchers who have the time and space to listen.

“If you go and watch parliament, some of the most effective speeches are when people are visibly moved about what they are talking about because they have related to what you have told them,” she said.

In her experiences as a politician, Bligh said it was the causes that had strong and persistent champions which were elevated to her attention.
She said a 95-page document with 102 arguments had little impact and instead she would respond to the handwritten letters from parents asking for more respite hours for their disabled son.

“Humanity is impossible to ignore,” she said.

Broad, a former State Labor MP, added research that will embed programs, produce results and create long term institutional change are what will rise above other short sighted proposals.

She said it was strongly focussed research, such as VicHealth’s 2004 report, *The Health Costs of Violence*, that initially helped make a case to the government and got violence against women onto the budget table.

**Challenging misinformation and educating the media**

Ferguson raised the threat posed by ‘insidious’ data and misinformation to the sustainability of the violence against women and their children campaign.

Broad replied research can be used strategically to fight back against bad data and fake research.

Bligh agreed that researchers and practitioners have a role to speak out against misinformation, and that governments cannot be left to be champions of the cause, however Broderick also cautioned that sometimes responding to misinformation too soon could fuel a debate and give it more airtime than it deserves.

Broderick also referred to the media’s treatment of the Lockhart murders that reported four victims, including the father Geoff Hunt who murdered his wife and two children, instead of reporting three victims and one perpetrator.

She said that this kind of reporting can reinforce attitudes that these things can happen, which led Chikarovski to ask the one journalist on the panel: what role does the media play?

Ferguson, who was behind the making of the ABC’s documentary on domestic violence ‘Hitting Home’, said that the sector and researchers need to hold the media to the highest of standards by complaining about mistakes and sharing information that will improve reporting.
Targets and attitudinal change

Despite recent progress and success in the area of women’s safety, including the Royal Commission into Family Violence which is set soon to report in Victoria, the panel agreed that there is still a long way to go.

Broderick said there were still people who do not recognise that violence against women is a systemic problem, rather they suggest it is women who need fixing.

She said people fail to imagine what a gender equal workplace, and more broadly, Australia could look like.

Bligh reflected on Queensland’s progress in reducing the road toll and how initially, the imposition of compulsory seatbelts and random breath checks did not sit well with the community, but over time these policy decisions created positive change and became cultural norms.

Bligh’s road toll analogy gave an optimistic glance into a future where violent incidents against women and children were fewer, suggesting targets or benchmarks could help achieve this goal.

Broderick added however that targets are not easily transferred to the context of women’s safety, where the aim should be zero violent incidents and zero deaths of women and children.

As ANROWS CEO Heather Nancarrow noted earlier in the day, it is universally accepted that violence against women is wrong; however, ingrained attitudes continue to fuel violence.

She said it is up to parents, coaches, teachers and community leaders to make young Australians think more critically about their own values and beliefs and break the cycle.

Chikarovski said through her work on the youth-targeted website, The Line, she is starting to see that parents are having conversations with their children about respectful relationships and this in itself is a positive sign.

She said what is important now is that researchers start to look at whether or not attitudinal change can have an impact: has there been a cultural shift and can that shift be pushed further?
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Strong research, a story & a sharp spear needed to stop Violence Against Women

#ANROWS2016

Here are a couple of great pix from the official conference photographer Olivia Blackburn.
Here’s how Day One unfolded on Twitter

Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch · 19 hrs
Heartfelt Welcome to Country from Aunty Georgina Nicholson, Wurundjeri Tribe #ANROWS2016 @croakeyblog
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Strong research, a story & a sharp spear needed to stop Violence Against Women

#ANROWS2016
Safe Schools: politics (again) compounds historical violence against LGBTI people

Dr Philomena Horsley (by Olivia Blackburn)

Shocking levels of violence and abuse that are experienced by lesbian, bisexual and transgender women were detailed at the inaugural National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children.

One of the presentation slides detailed some of the family-related homophobic abuse experienced by two 19 year olds:

“My father and stepmother believed I wouldn’t be gay if they knocked it out of me, quite literally used to slam my head against the wall, gave me a headache, but I’m still gay.”

“I got 3 broken ribs, a broken collar bone, a punctured lung, my jaw broken in 2 different places and 7 of my teeth got punched out when my father found out I was a homosexual.”

They are statistics and experiences that should be topmost in mind for the Federal Government’s alarming review of the Safe Schools program and are a strong rebuke to conservative MPs questioning the need for tolerance in our schools.
Annie Blatchford reports below on the levels of violence faced by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community and growing concerns that these risks are exacerbated when issues like Safe Schools and marriage equality are politicised, such as with the insistence of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to put the same sex marriage proposal to a highly contested plebiscite.

**Annie Blatchford reports:**

La Trobe University Senior Research Fellow Dr Philomena Horsley became visibly upset during her presentation at the conference when she addressed the Federal Government’s decision to review the Safe Schools program in the wake of right wing backbencher complaints that it was a “radical” program of indoctrination.

She urged those attending to write to their MPs in defence of the program and commended Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews for his intervention: see full text below.

Dr Horsley said that the people involved with the Safe Schools program, which aims to create inclusive school environments, had been receiving threatening emails for two weeks. She said the situation is a reminder of the cumulative effect and often difficult lived experiences of the individuals who work to create change in this area.

She was reporting to the conference on her research which focuses on the abuse and violence experienced by lesbian, bisexual and transgender girls and women and where the gaps in research lie.

It is known that lesbian and bisexual women experience significantly more sexual coercion than heterosexual women. Fifty per cent of same sex attracted young women aged 14-21 report homophobic physical and verbal violence in the home and lesbians are more likely to report same sex partner violence than gay men.

These cumulative experiences of violence lead to higher rates of alcohol and drug use, smoking, psychological distress, suicidality and poor health among lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, she said.

Dr Horsley also spoke about violence in the broader community, including the workplace where 10 per cent of gay, lesbian and bisexual Australians report being discriminated against.

The upcoming same-sex marriage plebiscite is yet another example of how public and workplace violence will be exacerbated, she added.

However, she sees hope ahead. Dr Horsley is a trainer at Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria (GLHV), which received government funding to deliver diversity training to the aged and community care sector. In that role, she said she had seen gathering public momentum which will hopefully embed systematic change in the future. As an example, there is progress on the way on the historic criminality of homosexuality, which is still a burning issue for many gay men, with the Victorian Government planning to issue a state apology.
She said GLHV has helped develop national standards and a national service accreditation program – the *Rainbow Tick* – which support organisations to understand and implement LGBTI-inclusive service delivery.

Here’s Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews response to the Safe Schools inquiry:
Safe Schools: politics (again) compounds historical violence against LGBTI people

#ANROWS2016

Some more Twitter reactions:

Women’s Health East @WHEast · 9h
Sexual/gender diversity has been missing from VAW dialogue #ANROWS2016 Philomena Horsley

Inner North West PCP @INW_PCP · 9h
Violence based on sexuality and gender is ‘individually, collectively and institutionally experienced’ #ANROWS2016

Marie McInerney @mariemcinerney · 8h
Now THAT’s a zinger @billshortenmp #ANROWS2016 #safeschools

BERNARDI: At least I’m honest, Bill. You’re a fraud mate.

SHORTEN: No mate, at least I’m not a homophobe either mate, so let’s just do the right thing here about bullying in schools. Children have got a right to go to school and not be bullied. If they’ve got questions about their sexuality, they deserve the right to be able to get answers and be supported and not oppressed. Young people, who are gay, report that 80 per cent of the bullying which occurs occurs at school. We need to make sure that kids are safe, so be it Dennis Jensen, be it Senator Cory Bernardi, you know. It is amazing to me that in the Liberal caucus.

Amy Coopes @coopesdatat · 9h
And this #safeschools

DV Vic @dvc
24% of young people aged 12-21 experienced homophobic violence in the family home @LTU_Sex_Health #ANROWS2016
“I am here. I am the solution”: Time to listen to Indigenous solutions to violence against women

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised from family violence and almost 11 times more likely to be killed as a result of violent assault than other Australians, yet specialist services continue to struggle for funding.

The devastating impact of these rates on individuals, families and communities was a major focus at the National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children hosted by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS).

The Melbourne conference heard from a panel of Aboriginal women experts about an ongoing failure of politicians, policy-makers and universities to listen to Indigenous people and communities for solutions. Led by Kerrie Tim, Principal Advisor on Indigenous Affairs in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the panel members were:

- **Eileen Cummings**, a Rembarrnga-Ngalakan Elder and University Fellow at Charles Darwin University

- **June Oscar AO**, a Bunuba woman and CEO of the Marninwarntikura Women’s Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing, in the central Kimberley region of Western Australia

- **Karen Nangala Woodley**, a Wakka Wakka Warumungu woman, post-grad student, and former social worker and researcher.
They talked about the “invisibility” of Aboriginal people in research and policy development and the complex differences in approaches needed for Indigenous communities, including towards the role of men (perpetrators and others) and alcohol.

**Annie Blatchford reports:**

A strong panel of Aboriginal women shared their experiences of improving responses to family violence in Aboriginal communities and called for culturally competent policies and practices going forward.

The panel was facilitated by Kerrie Tim, Principal Advisor, Indigenous Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet, who set the tone of the discussion to come in her Welcome to Country:

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**Invisibility of Aboriginal people**

The panelists each spoke passionately about the need to be listened to by researchers, practitioners and the government on what should be done to improve the well-being of Aboriginal communities. Yet, in 2016, they still felt unheard.

Wakka Wakka Warumungu woman Karen Nangala Woodley comes from a background of social work and research where she has seen firsthand how systems, such as universities, can marginalise learning on on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

> “When we are educating young people in social work theory and practice, we are completely eliminating a race of people,” she said.

Woodley said that, in more cases than not, social work students will go on to counsel Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, despite having no understanding of their history, system of governance, family and community connections.

> “In 2016, this is unacceptable,” she said.
June Oscar from Fitzroy Crossing in the Central Kimberley region of Western Australia and CEO of Marninwarntikura Women’s Resource Centre, said her work means she is forever looking through two separate lenses. She said Aboriginal people have different sources of knowledge that can help create informed and culturally appropriate policies and programs, and it is time to bridge the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal views on social issues.

“I am here, I am the solution,” she said.

Charles Darwin University Research Fellow and Rembarrnga-Ngalakan elder Eileen Cummings agreed: “We are the nation’s First Peoples and we can say what we want for the future.”

Community-led and innovative interventions

Indigenous leaders and services have long held that community-led family violence interventions are likely to be most effective. Their views were supported by a recent study of the current state of knowledge, practice and responses to violence against women in Indigenous communities by Australian National University’s Dr Ray Lovett and Dr Anna Olsen (pictured, right, supplied by ANROWS).

Ahead of the panel session, Lovett and Olsen presented the findings from their report, which was commissioned by ANROWS and reviewed Indigenous viewpoints on ‘what works’. The findings include that programs addressing family violence need to be multi-faceted and include Indigenous opinions, cultural foundations and community cohesion.

The literature also revealed that perpetrators need to be involved in the solution to family violence, a departure from mainstream approaches to violence against women. (See the media release, issued with the report in January, that noted that solutions developed by Indigenous people are likely to focus on community healing, restoration of family cohesion and processes that aim to let both the victim and perpetrator deal with their pain and suffering.)

Cummings spoke further on the need to involve perpetrators and Indigenous men more generally:

“You cannot try and stop something if you have not got the men’s input to help you resolve the issue. They are the only ones that can resolve it.”

University of Western Australia Professor Harry Blagg, whose research involves partnerships with the panellists, agreed that because family violence is seen as part of the wider Aboriginal community, perpetrators must be active participants in the solution too. (See Annie Blatchford’s interview with Professor Blagg at CroakeyTV.)
Oscar said community led interventions are effective because the people involved are committed to making something work, but instead authoritarian, external and imposed interventions continue to make matters worse.

**Policies as perpetrators of trauma**

Cummings has continued to work with Aboriginal communities since retiring from government. She shared her story of being removed from her Aboriginal mother at the age of four. She said this led her to committing her career to resolving issues of alcohol, family violence and abuse against children in Aboriginal communities as a means to get back to her culture and community.

Towards the end of her time working with government, she was proud to have recruited Aboriginal men who were ready to help find solutions to these problems.

However, Cummings’ retirement coincided with the introduction of the Northern Territory Intervention, which she said completely floored all of her work and degraded the role of Aboriginal men.

External business decisions around the supply of alcohol to Aboriginal communities have also contradicted community-led work which helped impose alcohol restrictions to tackle the negative impacts of over-consumption, she said.

Oscar reflected on her involvement with the advocacy for restrictions and said that, in a community at risk of being wiped out by alcohol, the people were fighting for a right to live, while businesses were fighting for their right to profit.

Again, this begged the question – why weren’t Aboriginal people being listened to?

Oscar said the evident relationship between alcohol and levels of family violence in Aboriginal communities is not widely understood (and differs from mainstream views that alcohol and drugs are reinforcing factors but not a cause of violence against women.)

**Difference between demoralisation and healing**

Oscar said inappropriate practices and policies also emerge from decisions that don’t acknowledge trauma.

“The way we are currently funded to deliver frontline services is holding a crisis paradigm intact and not allowing preventative healing work that is based on cultural strength,” she said.

A question from the audience prompted discussion about ‘Basics Cards’ which control incomes and are only able to be used at approved stores and businesses, and cashless welfare cards which receive 80 per cent of a person’s government payment and cannot be used on alcohol or gambling.
Woodley said that the welfare cards, which are currently in a trial period across Australia, were demeaning and shaming of Aboriginal people and the most demoralising thing to be introduced since the Intervention.

Cummings, who has witnessed the impact of such policies on the Northern Territory, said these initiatives do not recognise that some Aboriginal people have been affected by alcohol all their lives and are unable to adapt to these practices. A person affected by drugs or alcohol will not wait in line at Centrelink for hours to ask why their Basics Card has no money on it, she said.

See how Twitter reported and responded to the session

Covering #ANROWS2016 @WoPublicHealth · 20h
Amazing intros by Elder Eileen Cummings June Oscar & Karen Ngala Woodley. Clear message: listen to & learn from Indigenous women
#ANROWS2016

Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch · 14h
Kerrie Tim imagines that in 50 years time, kids might say 'We don’t have the same levels of violence you had back then' #ANROWS2016

Ingrid Wilson @ingridmwilson
June Oscar poses THE question: if a person was abuse-free and trauma-free would that person be a different person? #anrows2016

bonney corbin @bonneycorbin · 17h
Addressing VAW throughout Australia requires personal and political reflection for all #ANROWS2016

NO ROOM FOR RACISM
“I am here. I am the solution”: Time to listen to Indigenous solutions to violence against women

#ANROWS2016

You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

"I am here. I am the solution": Time to listen to Indigenous solutions to violence against women

#ANROWS2016

Ann intersection Indigenous communities addressing DFV getting underway facilitated by Kerrie Tim, Dept PMC

"I am here. I am the solution": Time to listen to Indigenous solutions to violence against women
#ANROWS2016

Kerrie Tim asks delegation to stand & look at each other w/compassion. Don’t forget we’re on same side #ANROWS2016

Lovely moment #ANROWS2016


You can talk about the stats till the cows come home, but until you put a human face to it, it won’t engage anyone - Kerrie Tim #ANROWS2016
1 child killed every 2 weeks by family member: time to free children’s lives from violence

This photograph of students from Keilor Heights Primary School in Melbourne, presented as a gift to the National Children’s Commissioner, was used as the cover image for the Children’s Rights Report 2015.

The urgent need to eliminate violence from the lives of children was a big focus on the final day of the National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children hosted by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS).

National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell provided devastating proof of that need in her keynote address and called for a major improvement in the quality of data on children’s experiences of family violence, saying it was currently “a national disgrace”.

You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

http://bit.ly/1TePRgF
Like others at the conference, Mitchell praised Rosie Batty, whose son Luke was killed by his father, for her courage in speaking out and helping to finally bring national attention to the issue of violence against women and children.

Rosie was guest speaker at the conference dinner; however, the event was closed to the media in recognition that she has completed her responsibilities as 2015 Australian of the Year. See below for Twitter responses from those who attended.

Annie Blatchford reports:

One child is murdered every fortnight at the hands of a family member. This was just one of the harrowing statistics presented by National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell at the ANROWS conference on Thursday.

With figures such as these, she told delegates, it is imperative that children are put at the forefront of research and policy-making and be understood in their own right, not as part of work around the adult victims or perpetrators.

A child’s right to live free from violence

Since Mitchell took up the role of Children’s Commissioner in 2013, she has issued three major reports, (see also a child-friendly version), and sought to respond to “grave concerns” from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child at Australian children’s exposure to family and domestic violence, and in particular its impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. See the committee’s 2012 report.

But Mitchell said it was not just adults in Geneva who were worried. Children themselves were telling her: “Life would be better if the government encouraged people who are violent to stop.”


At a roundtable in Queensland, a police representative who had reviewed all child suicides over the past year in one state told her: “Every child who suicided in the last 12 months came from a domestic violence family.”
Address data quality ‘disgrace’

Mitchell said although data showed children’s experiences of family or domestic violence were widespread, the quality of information was a “national disgrace”, based on proxy measures, estimates, one off surveys, and administrative data sets associated with child protection and homelessness services.

She said it was encouraging that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is working towards a national data collection and reporting framework, an approach that was commended a number of times throughout the ANROWS conference, and emphasised the need for data about children to be recorded separately and not just part of an adult entry.

However, the conference heard from former senior VicHealth project officer, now independent consultant, Kim Webster, that the new National Burden of Disease study examining the impact of violence against women will unfortunately exclude experiences of children witnessing family and domestic violence (see study details on p22 of this report).

Mitchell said that historically children have been peripheral to the issue of family and domestic violence and are increasingly folded into the subject of child protection responses.

There is also a lack of in-depth research on the different factors that drive a child’s resilience and ability to cope with family or domestic violence, she said, a gap noted by another conference presenter, Dr Rae Kaspiew, in her research on domestic and family violence and its relationship with parenting.

University of Melbourne Professor Kelsey Hegarty, in the audience, said PhD student Anita Morris was currently conducting research in this area and her findings show that children thrive and survive particularly when they have distance from the perpetrator.
Dr Kaspiew’s presentation also prompted comments from the audience about a lack of research and services for children entering homelessness services and for young parents aged 15 to 16. She said these gaps and service mapping should be addressed in the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, currently being considered by the ANROWS board and due in mid-2016.

**Kids Helpline calls reveal abuse, anxiety**

New sources of data published by the Commissioner have included information from Kids Helpline which received 999 contacts from children aged 5 to 17 years old between January 2012 and December 2014 where family or domestic violence was a main or significant secondary concern.

Of the 999 contacts, 34 per cent of the children were 10 to 13 years old and the largest proportion of the children (40 per cent) were calling in relation to exposure to violence between parents, or a parent and partner or ex-partner.

Mitchell said the Kids Helpline staff identified a number of themes from their contact with this group of children including anxiety, isolation, loneliness, sympathy for the victim and sometimes perpetrator, fear for siblings’ safety and feelings of guilt over having bad thoughts, such as wishing the perpetrator would die.

Other new data, based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) **Personal Safety Survey** (PSS) 2012, estimated one in 12 people first experienced physical abuse as a child before the age of 15 at the hands of a family member, and one in 28 people first experienced sexual abuse before the age of 15 also by a family member.

**Amplify the voices of children**

Mitchell said her direct conversations with children have confirmed they themselves are an invaluable source of information which should be tapped into more frequently.

She referred to a **study** commissioned by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse which revealed that children wanted greater involvement in conversations about their own safety, and being excluded made them feel more afraid.
“Silencing children does not protect them,” she said, “We think we know what they are feeling and seeing, but when you talk to them it is a very different world that they live in, we need to ensure their voices are front and centre.”

Mitchell referred to the horrific murder of Luke Batty by his father in February 2014 and said that the courage shown by his mother Rosie meant we can no longer as a nation ignore the issue.

As a result, she said, political leaders across Australia have come together in an unprecedented way to address family and domestic violence which has given her the opportunity to raise the importance of a child’s right to live free from violence and shine a light on the experience of children.

“There is a moral objective to eliminate violence from the lives of children and remove them from the menu of problem solving once and for all,” she said.

See also these slides from her presentation:

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**Overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Estimated Indigenous Child Population 0-17 Years</th>
<th>Proportion of Police Recorded Child Victims of Physical Assault</th>
<th>Proportion of Police Recorded Child Victims of Sexual Assault</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>5.51%</td>
<td>10.75%</td>
<td>11.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>14.05%</td>
<td>14.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>42.94%</td>
<td>70.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>11.32%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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‘Every child who suicided in the last 12 months came from a domestic violence family’

*Police officer at Queensland roundtable*

1 child killed every 2 weeks by family member: time to free children’s lives from violence

See a selection of tweets relating to the session

WRAP Centre @GoodAdvocacy · Feb 24
Children as victims: shocking statistic that a child is killed by DFV every 2 weeks- Megan Mitchell, Child Safety Commissioner
#ANROWS2016

You Retweeted

Covering #ANROWS2018 @WePublicHealth · Feb 24
Need better national data to properly understand the impact of DFV on children & most effective way to address it. @MeganM4Kids #ANROWS2016

You Retweeted

Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch · Feb 24
ABS tasked w creating national framework for DFV data collection. @MeganM4Kids recommended separate entries about child victims #ANROWS2016

You Retweeted

Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch · Feb 24
Heartbreaking data from @KidsHelplineAU revealed kids’ feelings of guilt over wishing perpetrator wld die, among other issues #ANROWS2016

SRPassesItOn @SallyRMelb · Feb 24
Audience- DV sector can learn from sexual assault sector about inclusion of children in work & collaboration across sectors #ANROWS2016

bonney corbin @bonneycorbin · Feb 24
"The failure of the service systems to collaborate... There is a risk adverse nature of service delivery systems..." Liz Little #ANROWS2016

Amie O'Shea @AmieOShea · Feb 24
#ANROWS2016 there are extra challenges for women w/ disability who don't want to engage w child protection via FV services

SRPassesItOn @SallyRMelb · Feb 24
Please don't measure numbers of 'incidents' of DV children have had in their home #ChildProtection tells ongoing pattern of life #ANROWS2016

Women's Legal NSW @womenslegalnsw · Feb 24
Should support the protective parent in DV families not take child away #ANROWS2016

WRAP Centre @GoodAdvocacy · Feb 24
From audience: evidence that child's resilience increased by having agency, having abuse named as such, and distance from abuser #ANROWS2016
And responses to Rosie Batty's conference dinner speech

Michelle Macvean @MacveanMichelle - 8h
Privileged to hear Rosie Batty address #ANROWS2016. Compelling, moving, unifying all to end #VAW & children. Thank you Rosie.

WDVCASNSW @wdvcasnsw - 11h
Thank you @rosiebatty for your amazing address to #ANROWS2016 and to the sector. You're contribution is incredible, moving and so brave.

bonney corbin @bonneycorbin - 11h
"You cant undo what you now know. Something shifts." Rosie Batty #ANROWS2016

bonney corbin @bonneycorbin - 11h
We need to collectively gather our strengths...The community, the corporate culture & the gov are ready for change - Rosie Batty #ANROWS2016

Lisa McGhee @LisaMMcGhee - 11h
You could hear a pin drop; all are #listening to @RosieBatty1 at #ANROWS2016. "Victims voices should be heard. My journey will never stop."

bonney corbin @bonneycorbin - 11h
"We should no longer be a sector that is undervalued and unheard..." Rosie Batty #ANROWS2016
How everyone’s research on violence against women should intersect with disability

In the 12 months prior to the survey:

Women with a disability were more likely to experience multiple incidents of violence by a male perpetrator.

What does it take to make sure that we have informed and effective tertiary responses to violence and abuse of women and girls with disabilities in Australia?

More focus and more collaboration. But in particular recognising the intersectionality of violence – connecting with the question of disability in all research about violence against women, in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, rural and remote areas, or elsewhere.

That was the message in this Croakey #Periscope discussion between Deakin University’s Dr Patsie Frawley and Women with Disabilities Victoria Executive Director Keran Howe at last week’s National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children hosted by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS).

The interview followed Frawley’s conference presentation of her research work for ANROWS, which has seen this state of knowledge report published as the first stage in the project on tertiary responses to violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities (see p19 of ANROWS Research Program).

It comes in a context where women and girls with disability, particularly cognitive impairments, are consistently identified as experiencing violence and abuse at rates of between 40-70 per cent per cent higher than women in the general population, and more like to experience violence from multiple perpetrators and over extended periods.
However, anecdotal evidence suggests that women with disability are less likely to be believed when they disclose violence, have poor access to effective and timely information and support services and poor justice outcomes.

See also wraps below of projects involving immigrant and refugee women and a participatory action research program involving Aboriginal women in Alice Springs described by one participant as “better than therapy”.

**Annie Blatchford reports:**

Dr Patsie Frawley told ANROWS delegates that it is imperative for researchers to ensure they have resources and methodologies that allow for the inclusion of women from groups that are often marginalised, including women with disabilities.

Frawley, who is Senior Research Fellow at the School of Health & Social Development – Disability & Inclusion at Deakin University, said academics need to empower disability services and make use of their expertise – a research strategy that is being used in the ANROWS funded project looking at tertiary responses to violence and abuse against women and girls with disabilities.

The two-year national project will identify models of good practice for responding to women and girls with disabilities who have experience family violence or sexual assault. It includes in-depth case studies of disability services in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, built on interviews with the service managers, focus groups with clients, and a consultative research group of women with disabilities with expertise around violence against women.

Frawley later told Croakey that ANROWS commitment to fund a stream of research around disability is a wonderful opportunity that is not found from other sources such as the Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council or even disability funded research.

She warned, however, that an isolated stream of research can give the impression that women with disabilities are the responsibility of only one group of researchers when in fact it should be an issue identified and assessed by all.
The phenomenon of ‘intersectionality’

The literature review prepared by Frawley’s team as the first stage of the project, to map out the ‘state of knowledge’ currently available, states that that violence against women with disabilities is not a simple matter of gender.

According to the research, violence against women is not limited to any group or class in society and the experience depends on factors such as class, culture, disability and gender identity – a phenomenon called ‘intersectionality’.

The research team called for more data to understand experiences of disability in Aboriginal communities, rural women with disabilities, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds along with information about income, education and other social indicators of inclusion and experiences of violence and abuse.

“Collaboration with women with disability organisations and cross sector work is the only way we get to the intersectional message about violence and how disability is absolutely a part of that story,” Frawley said.

Frawley referred to the cross-sectoral work of Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV), the Office of the Public Advocate and Domestic Violence Resource Centre on the Voices Against Violence project which investigated the nature of violence against women with disabilities in Victoria.

WDV Executive Director Keran Howe, who facilitated the presentation, said it was important that disability advocacy services such as WDV are resourced to make a contribution to research.

“[Research] takes time, work and thought. We need to do it properly and to do that we need to be funded,” she said.

Frawley said organisations such as WDV are set up to create connections with women with disabilities and so they are in a prime position to help inform research. However, this cannot be done without researchers being able to fund and support them through honorariums, meeting spaces, taxi vouchers and so forth – “everything has a cost”.

“There is an assumption we are all sitting around with that kind of money, but the reality is that universities do not have that kind of money, advocacy organisations do not have that kind of money and women with disabilities definitely do not have that kind of money,” she said.

Throughout the research project, Frawley said the researchers are taking information they have learned back to the three case study sites so they could put best practice in place – establishing a form of ‘participatory action research’.

The project also involves a consultation research group of women with disabilities who had all done work around sexuality, abuse prevention, domestic violence and self-advocacy.
A member of the consultation group, Jane Rosengrave, spoke to the ANROWS audience about the importance of women having their own say so their experiences of violence could be properly addressed.

As was re-tweeted a number of times throughout the presentation, ‘Nothing about us, without us’ continues to be the all-inclusive catchcry for using on-the-ground expertise, respectful collaborations, intersectionality and participatory action research.

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**Be sure to hear refugee and immigrant women's voices**

With 20 per cent of the Australian population born in places where English is not the first language, it is clear that immigrant and refugees are not an “exotic” group of people, said University of Melbourne’s **Dr Cathy Vaughan**.

“Immigrant and refugee women are a large proportion of the population and need to be considered across all of our work – cities, health care, technologies, same-sex relationships and children,” Vaughan said.

The ANROWS funded project, ‘**Promoting community-led responses to violence against immigrant and refugee women in metropolitan and regional Australia**’ (the ASPIRE project), looked at current research on refugee and immigrant women and their experiences of violence through an intersectional lens to understand how different dynamics impact experiences of violence.

The ASPIRE project’s review of the current **state of knowledge** represented a number of ways factors such as gender, culture, displacement and marginalisation can intersect.

For example, it says, immigration policies can cause tensions when women rely on perpetrators of violence for economic security and residency rights, and many women will try to resolve family violence without leaving the perpetrator or breaking up the family because of immigration concerns or family and community pressures.

The paper also revealed limitations in researching this group, including that studies are often conducted in English (thus excluding a large proportion of women that are trying to be reached) and that data is often from service providers rather than the women themselves.
A positive finding however was the identification of an **Australian participatory research project** conducted in collaboration with service provider, inTouch Multicultural Centre against Family Violence.

The project found that women were unsure about the family violence system and how to access support and that distrust of the system could be linked to lack of integration between family violence and settlement services – yet another display of the need for collaboration and interagency work.

**A grass roots approach to empowering Aboriginal women**

University of New South Wales Research Fellow **Dr Jane Lloyd** described participatory research methods as “messy” and “groping”, but necessary to understanding the influence of Aboriginal women on family violence services responses.

The ANROWS project ‘Advocacy for safety and empowerment’ worked with the four services; Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, Women’s Council Family and Domestic Violence Service, ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Service and the Alice Springs Women’s Shelter to speak with both workers and clients about what makes an effective service.

ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Service worker **Jennifer Cook** presented a series of photos to the ANROWS audience which were previously shown to women involved in the project to help them identify their feelings during and after periods of crisis.

The Aboriginal women responded to pictures reflecting times of violence with the words “trapped”, “scared” and “shredded” and went on to use language such as, “safer”, “reassured” and “hope for the future” in response to post-crisis images.

Alice Springs Women’s Shelter worker **Kate Csillag** also presented responses from women about their service experiences including:

> “The shelter is good. You can come here and you can get a hot shower, have a sleep, washing clothes, watching TV”

> “Cup of tea, happy and comfortable talking story with other women.”
University of New England Research Consultant Cath O’Leary spoke on behalf of Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (also known as the Women’s Council) about what women who had used the service in the last 12 months thought made a good worker.

Their responses included:

“**We want the worker between us and the police**”

“A good worker…takes the worry from you so you can relax and tell your story, let it out.”

The project’s literature review prepared by Griffith University Research Fellow Dr Robyn Holder, University of New England Adjunct Senior Lecturer Dr Judy Putt and O’Leary echoed the findings of many other ANROWS projects that ground-up and active involvement of communities in planning, delivering and evaluating responses to violence against women is best practice. It said:

“**Empowerment is a complex and malleable notion but self-definition is the critical starting point.”**

More from the #ANROWS2016 Twitterverse
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

How everyone's research on violence against women should intersect with disability

#ANROWS2016

Dr Jess Cadwallader @JessPWDA - Feb 24
Frawley: The consultative research group have all done work around sexuality, abuse prevention, domestic violence, self-advocacy #ANROWS2016

Amie O'Shea @AmieOShea - Feb 24
Frawley: including 'harder to reach' women with disability: intellectual disability and complex communication needs #ANROWS2016

Dr Jess Cadwallader @JessPWDA - Feb 24
Frawley: Our work is informed by the political significance of disability: Women with disability are "made" vulnerable by society #ANROWS2016

Dr Jess Cadwallader @JessPWDA - Feb 24
Frawley: 20 services expressed interest in working with us to enhance access, shortlisted down to 13, then whittled down to 3 #ANROWS2016

WHISE @whisewomen - Feb 24
Congratulations to Dr Patsy Frawley et al. for an inclusive study highlighting the social construction of disability. #ANROWS2016

Dr Jess Cadwallader @JessPWDA - Feb 24
Frawley: Survey asking services: how do you work with women with disability? Identify good practice, and help us identify sites. #ANROWS2016

Whose @DV_NSW
@JessPWDA @ANROWS amazing advances but disability still= social disadvantage & this intersects with violence/abuse

Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch - Feb 24
Women w/ disabilities are not "vulnerable", but strong & independent - Dr Frawley #ANROWS2016
@JessPWDA: 'Often violence against people with disabilities is treated as a service incident not a crime' #ANROWS2016

Dr Jess Cadwallader @JessPWDA · Feb 24
Interesting, tho - the view they need disability workers might be a bit inaccurate...! #ANROWS2016

Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch
Key findings incl. barriers: building access, lack of staff training/knowledge & lack of disability workers - Dr Frawley #ANROWS2016

You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.
Bringing together agencies on family violence, child protection IS “rocket science” & it’s urgent

Increasing the number and diversity of inter-sectoral partnerships (academic, policy and practice) to build further research capacity and generate evidence-informed policy and practice was a goal and over-arching theme of the National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children hosted by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS).

In her final #ANROWS2016 report for the Croakey Conference News Service, journalist and researcher Annie Blatchford reported on efforts to bring sectors together – notably child protection with family violence and and family law services, and alcohol and sexual assault services.

She also profiles research into engaging men and boys in violence against women primary prevention which looks beyond attitude change to behaviour change.

Interagency between child protection, domestic violence services and the law

Annie Blatchford writes:

University of Melbourne Professor of Social Work Cathy Humphreys nodded to a presentation slide citing a “gaggle” of researchers involved in the PATRICIA project, and said: “We do collaboration in a big way.”

The PATRICIA project (see also the description on ANROWS site) looks at the barriers and facilitating factors for collaborative work across statutory child protection, domestic and family violence support services and family law services.
Humphreys said the best way to illustrate why collaboration between these three systems is so important was through a story she had recently been told.

A family violence service worker was involved in a case where the perpetrator allowed the mother of his children to return home only if she lived in a bathroom and was without a mobile phone.

On the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management report (also known as an L17 form) the police recorded that returning home was a potentially “high risk” situation – even though they didn’t know about the perpetrator’s conditions – but they viewed the woman also as problematic.

The worker went to child protection services to explain what was happening, only to learn that they also agreed that the woman was problematic because she kept leaving the children.

It was not until the worker began talking with the perpetrator, and challenging his responses – something the police or child protection had not done – that the truth about violence began to come out, and which explained why the woman was constantly leaving the home and her children.

Humphreys and the PATRICIA research team’s work involved an analysis of 24 Australian and international models of interagency work, the most common of which were colocation of workers, new governance arrangements and agreed criteria for assessment and risk management.

The project’s literature review, however, revealed there is little evidence around the effectiveness of interagency work between child protection, domestic and family violence services and the family law.

The team recommended a stronger knowledge base including more evaluation of interagency models and that services thoroughly consider how infrastructure, such as management and operations, might support interagency collaboration.

Listen also to Humphreys on Radio National’s Life Matters program on Family violence: helping the kids and watch this Periscope interview with her ahead of her presentation at the conference.

**Building a bridge between the alcohol and sexual assault sectors**

Evidence has shown a consistent connection between child sexual victimisation and substance abuse. The ANROWS funded project – “Establishing the connection” [between alcohol and other drug use and sexual victimisation] – presented by Mary Stathopoulos, Senior Research Officer at the Australian Institute of Family Studies called for better coordination between the two sectors to help serve clients experiencing both these issues.
The prevalence statistics around these two issues make the need for connection clear. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2013 17 per cent of Australian women and 4 per cent of men reported an experience of sexual assault since the age of 15. Last year the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found 5 per cent of Australians met the criteria for substance use disorders.

Stathopoulos said little was known about how practitioners from sexual assault and alcohol or drug sectors were building a bridge between services in order to support shared learning and referrals. Through the research, however, which included a literature review, interviews with service providers and an online survey, the readiness for collaboration was clear.

A research participant said:

“There is value in working together. I think we have to stop thinking of ourselves as separate... 'cause we’re not. We’re dealing with the same people.”

What can prevent that from happening includes lack of resourcing, uncertainty about how the other sector works, lack of communication and fear of stepping on the other person’s toes – also referred to as “role-creep”.

As a result of the project, a set of shared practiced guidelines have been developed and are due to be released later this month.

The guide includes information about the connection between sexual abuse and substance use, how to respond to disclosures, referrals and secondary consultations and other resources.

**Buy-in from men and boys to prevent violence against women**

Western Sydney University Lecturer in Criminology Dr Michael Salter presented research – Less to lose and more to gain? Men and boys violence prevention research project – on the role of men and boys in primary prevention of violence against women, which revealed programs work best when they engage at a community or organisational level.

In an interview with Croakey, Salter said:

“Some agencies and literature assumes that if we engage men and boys, we have prevented violence against women. But primary prevention is much bigger then getting men’s bums on seats.”

The National Rugby League’s Respectful Relationship Sex & Ethics program was one of the interventions studied in Salter’s work, and showed a number of effective measures that can create actual behavioural and attitudinal change.
The program was embedded in a broader health promotion agenda looking at the wellbeing of men and boys more broadly and also supported men who took an interest to train up and drive the agenda forward, he said. Salter said:

“The key element is that once an organisation or community is invested in an intervention they are the ones that will implement it, and it has a much bigger buy-in than an agency coming in briefly, contracted to tell people what to do and then they leave. That is not what we are looking for.”

Another program that was reviewed by the study was the Strong Aboriginal Men program (SAM) delivered in 23 Aboriginal communities across New South Wales by the NSW Health Education Centre Against Violence (alongside ECAV’s Strong Aboriginal Women program). This study revealed culturally effective approaches that are emerging as best practice in this field, including the use of community and self-mobilisation.

SAM involved building a skilled Aboriginal male educator team, who run participatory workshops with men to help them understand the impact of family violence on their lives, and are concluded with sessions of brainstorming about how they can go on to lead and contribute to community efforts to prevent violence and abuse.

Salter said the men who complete the workshops are also able to elect to go onto participate in further training (the ECAV’s Aboriginal Qualification Pathway (which includes University level)) – both parts of the program need more funding.

“The possibility that the initial primary prevention can then actually develop a new Aboriginal prevention workforce, for us that was just really outstanding,” he said.

See some more Twitter responses...

...on men

[Image]
Bringing together agencies on family violence, child protection is "rocket science" and it's urgent.

#ANROWS2016

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You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

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...on PATRICIA

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### Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch · Feb 23

The sharp spear would be to change interventions with perpetrators - would make a big impact. @ProfHumphreys #ANROWS2016

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### Marie McInerney @mariemcinerney · Feb 23

Much of interest #ANROWS2016 on inter-agency approach of PATRICIA project healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/research2/soci... @ProfHumphreys

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### Dr Jess Cadwallader @JessFWDA

Humphreys: Arrangements created so advocates visit situations of FDV with CP. Changes to CP responses, reduction in child removal. #ANROWS2016
Watch the latest research news on preventing violence against women & children

As well as tweeting and reporting from the recent National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children hosted by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS), Annie Blatchford conducted several interviews via the Periscope app for the Croakey Conference News Service.

They are all available at Croakey TV – or click on the images below.

On the need for everyone’s research on violence against women and children to intersect with disability

Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV) executive director Keran Howe talks with Dr Patsie Frawley from Deakin University about ANROWS research into how to develop informed and effective tertiary responses to violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities.

Changing attitudes and behaviour in men and boys over the long-term

Western Sydney University’s Dr Michael Salter talks about research into male-focused primary prevention programs in Australia, and how to ensure that attitudinal and behavioural change is sustainable. The work looked at two interesting case studies, the National Rugby League’s Respectful Relationships program and Strong Aboriginal Men.
Bringing sectors together IS rocket science, and it’s urgent

Melbourne University’s Professor Cathy Humphreys gives a preview of her presentation about the PATRICIA project, examining ways to bring together the agencies and sectors working in child protection and family violence.

On the ground approaches by Indigenous women

Professor Harry Blagg from the University of Western Australia talks about innovative models for address violence against Indigenous women, drawn from community focused research in WA, the Northern Territory and Queensland. The work has looked particularly at how Aboriginal women engage on the ground on the issue, and how their approaches, working from a cultural base, differ from the mainstream, notably in the role of men.

On improving how the media portrays family violence

University of Melbourne’s Dr Georgina Sutherland talks about national research into media representations of violence against women and their children. There is, she says, an overwhelming consensus on what can improve coverage, for example reporting social contexts, not perpetuating myths, avoiding blaming women, and going beyond the police for information. And then there’s the issue of the images we can now access....
Sharing survivor stories and reflecting on personal safety

Melbourne Alliance to End Violence Against Women members Dr Laura Tarzia and Violeta Politoff talk about the recently launched ‘Not the Only One’ website which welcomes the sharing of survivor stories. Violeta and Laura also talk about another University of Melbourne project called i-Decide, which is testing a website for women to self-reflect on the health of their relationships, become more informed about what might help them, and plan for their safety and well being.
What’s needed to end violence against women and children? A wrap of the ANROWS2016 conference

What were the highlights and takeaway lessons of the recent National Research Conference on Violence against Women and Children hosted by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)?

This post includes reflections from some participants and presenters (who we thank for taking the time), Twitter responses to the final session on priorities ahead, and other conference pix.
Highlights and reflections

What is your main takeaway/reflection from the conference?

Adele Murdolo, Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health

The conference confirmed the power of research to transform understanding about violence against women and their children. The more we know, the more effectively we can respond and prevent. The work of ANROWS is indispensable in that process and it was great to find out that their funding was confirmed for the life of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.

Tallying up what we know also confirms where our gaps are, and we still have many gaps in relation to understanding violence against those very women who are most vulnerable, including women with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) women, women from immigrant and refugee communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. There were some transformative presentations at the conference about these issues, but they were still siloed off into specific sessions.

We are yet to graduate to an integrated and intersectional approach where, as well as conducting specialised and specific research on particular cohorts, we are also integrating our research to include a broad cross-section of women and their issues. The idea that there is no generic woman, and that we need to change our frameworks so that the margins are brought to the centre, is yet to be integrated throughout our research methodologies. Such thinking would make us consider a range of new issues, such as how our family violence and child protection systems impact on women in their diversity, and differentially, or how media representations of women vary depending on whether the woman being represented is white, urban and middle class, or whether she is Aboriginal and living in a remote community. I’m looking forward to seeing questions like these being considered in the next phase of ANROWS research, throughout the whole research program.

Georgina Sutherland, Melbourne University, and conference presenter

While the conference was one of the most emotionally draining that I have attended, I took away from the conference an overwhelming sense of optimism. That significant social change is possible.

Jess Cadwallader, People with Disability Australia

That it is absolutely essential that the experiences of women with disability are included across all the work happening in the space of violence against women, not just in specialised pockets. Women with disability experience higher levels of violence, yet are routinely excluded from research, from policy development and from practice in the area of violence against women. This is often because it’s thought that there will be specialist ‘disability’ research, policy and practice, somewhere else. This betrays the ongoing difficulty that feminism has with intersectionality. Women with disability are women, and not only in as much as their experiences match up with able-bodied women.
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Kathy Landvogt:

- Family and domestic violence discourses really ‘dialoguing’ with other sectors and therefore seeing issues within a wider context, for example child protection, child rights, empowering Indigenous communities.

- Data and its importance to discerning next steps, for example Rae Kaspiew on family-child relationships in family violence – this type of information is critically important.

Yvonne Lay:

It is an exciting time to be working in this space – there is a lot of momentum and drive from within and outside of the women’s/family and domestic violence sector. This is wonderful to see and to be a part of. Gender inequality, and the harm that this has on women and children is being woven into the general discourse. Again, it is great to be a part of this right now. However, we talk about gender equality and I wonder what we are striving to make women equal to? And who is deciding this? The issue is ‘the system’ – government, institutions, corporations, legal system – all of it has been designed and continues to be set up for men, at the deliberate exclusion of women.

So without dismantling these systems, I feel like we’re doing ourselves a disservice. I would like to hear the terms ‘patriarchy’ and ‘hegemonic masculinity’ used when we talk about gender inequality, and not just when we talk about primary prevention. I fear that the neutral term of ‘gender inequality’ downplays the impacts that our patriarchal system has on the day-to-day lives of women.

Michael Salter, University of Western Sydney and conference presenter

There’s a terrific sense of momentum in the area of violence against women. I think we are all keen to ensure that gains in public awareness translate into real outcomes for women and kids. This means building the evidence base for good policy and practice. A consistent focus of conference discussions was around the complexity of working across multiple systems and institutions, from child protection to housing, welfare, family law and criminal justice. The need for coordination and shared values and goals in working with women and kids is going to be a major area of activity into the future.

Alison McDonald, Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic)

Our team was in and out of the conference over the three days but we all found the sessions we attended really interesting and we feel that we have a much better grip on the range of research that’s currently underway. We’re going to have such a wealth of evidence in this field as the national research agenda rolls on.

The breadth of topics explored within the conference program was brilliant. The focus on Indigenous family violence in the program was particularly welcome and we heard some really useful commentary.
What were the standout presentations and why?

Adele Murdolo, Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health

All of the presentations I attended were excellent and all sparked deep thinking and reflection, which is wonderful. But two panel presentations stood out. The power panel on the first day which invited five amazing women (journalist Sarah Ferguson facilitating the panel of former Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, Women’s Health Victoria Board Director Candy Broad, former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick and former NSW Liberal leader Kerry Chikarovski) to reflect on the way that research is used in advocacy and policy change was very engaging, and helped us focus our thoughts on the practical application of research, particularly in the political context.

On the second day, the panel of accomplished and wise Aboriginal women (led by senior federal advisor Kerrie Tim, with Eileen Cummings, June Oscar AO, and Karen Nangala Woodley) was also a standout because it reminded us how important it is that we acknowledge that our research is taking place in a context of a colonised white Australia, and that white research has long been used to entrench racism and sexism in Aboriginal communities, rather than to enhance understanding and bring about transformative social change. Research must be undertaken in true partnership with Aboriginal people, and harnessed through self-advocacy to empower and liberate.

Georgina Sutherland, Melbourne University, and conference presenter

There were lots of standout presentations, but there are two that standout in my mind. The first was the plenary session on Wednesday afternoon: the Indigenous communities addressing domestic and family violence panel. Strong, passionate, courageous and wise female leaders. Started with a beautiful acknowledgement “The dust of the bones of Aboriginal and white ancestors now shape the ground on which we stand.” And the second was the presentation by Dr Cathy Vaughan speaking about the ASPIRE project on community-led responses to violence against immigrant and refugee women.

Jess Cadwallader, People with Disability Australia

There were many excellent presentations of really innovative and insightful research. Many are in the early stages of their projects, but already demonstrating important findings. The joint presentation by Dr Patsie Frawley (Chief Investigator) and Jane Rosengrave (Consultative Research Group member and an Aboriginal woman with disability) on the ANROWS-funded ‘What does it take? Developing informed and effective tertiary responses to violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities in Australia’ was standout for me. It modelled the inclusive design of the research project, including a woman with disability in the presentation. If we are serious about Knowledge Translation and Exchange, it’s not just service practitioners we need to include in research design and implementation, but also women and survivor-advocates.

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Kathy Landvogt:

• Research to Policy Panel was brilliant because of the huge experience and tiny egos on show form those remarkable women in political and policy life. And Sarah Ferguson’s standout facilitation. Real skill, not for amateurs.
• **Cathy Humphreys on the PATRICIA Project** – because she tackled key questions honestly and with open curiosity, and not just the obvious themes (child protection and family violence) but the process issues of institutional collaboration.

• Indigenous women’s sessions were very enlightening, challenging us to think and act differently if we are not to replicate oppression- not just at policy level (for example, get rid of Basics Card) but also at family violence practice end (include men).

**Yvonne Lay:**

Dr. Michael Salter on **men and boys violence prevention research** – the insights he offered were refreshing. The women’s sector have long been arguing and advocating for tailored responses to the needs of victims/survivors. And rightly so. It is then no surprise that a one-size-fits all won’t work for men either. Dr. Salter offered a number of things for me to think about in relation to how we frame prevention, and what we can do differently to positively and genuinely engage men in a manner that resonates with them. Dr Salter calls for national standards for primary prevention programs – I agree that this is critical in ensuring that how we engage men, and what we engage them with reflects best practice.

**Dr Michael Salter,** University of Western Sydney and conference presenter

The panel facilitated by journalist Sarah Ferguson with prominent leaders in the field of violence against women, including Anna Bligh, Candy Broad, Kerry Chikarovski and Liz Broderick, provided some unique insights into the role of effective advocacy in changing public policy. The women on the panel discussed in straightforward terms what it has taken to get violence against women on the agenda of policy makers and the mass media. It was encouraging to hear from Anna Bligh about the power of cut-through statistics (“killer facts”) and targeted messages (“sharp spears”) in changing government policy.

June Oscar provided a valuable perspective on bridging Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal worldviews in order to bring about positive change for Aboriginal people. Her description of Australian policies as a form of traumatic perpetration pulled into focus the harms of top-down, disempowering interventions. She also proposed a number of potential solutions, including the need for meaningful linkages and partnerships with Aboriginal communities that reflect Aboriginal frameworks of understanding and sources of knowledge, as well as place-based strategies and community-controlled organisations that draw on local expertise. It was quite inspiring to hear about her role in mobilising Aboriginal women to reduce alcohol-related harm in her local area, which has been met with stiff resistance from the alcohol lobby.

**Alison McDonald,** Domestic Violence Victoria (DVVic)

The sessions on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence were really excellent, as was the presentation by Patsie Frawley and Joan Rosengrove on working with women and girls with disabilities – incredibly important on process.

Philomena Horsley’s presentation on **LGBTI women** was very interesting and showed a dire need for comprehensive research on this area. Initial studies show that LBT women have equal or higher rates of violence against them and that we need to better understand the links between homophobia and gender inequality (a presenter implied that they are distinct and don’t fit the gender inequality causes for violence but I wouldn’t necessarily agree). Would be great to see ANROWS make this a key research area for their next round.

Cathy Vaughan on the ASPIRE project was excellent on issues for refugee and immigrant women.
Any standout quotes, evidence, or tweets?

Adele Murdolo, Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health

“Migration law has overarching impact on immigrant & refugee women’s experiences of violence & how they seek help #ANROWS2016

Domestic Violence Victoria

Dr Vaughan makes strong case for inclusive research & design principles in research on violence against immigrant & refugee women #ANROWS2016

Michael Salter @mike_salter · Feb 23

Needs of diverse women (cultural, linguistic, disability) should be addressed across research not siloed #ANROWS2016

Georgina Sutherland, Melbourne University, and conference presenter

One of the most repeated and tweeted (perhaps) quote was from Anna Bligh in reference to throwing “one sharp spear” in order to get the message onto the political agenda. The most powerful quote was from Cathy Vaughan and I can’t recall it exactly but the message was that when our migration policies tie women’s visa status to their husband, we make them vulnerable to violence.

Jess Cadwallader, People with Disability Australia

I especially enjoyed being challenged by Dr Victoria Hovane’s observation, which I summarised in a tweet as:

“You might see gender inequality as the root of all violence, but we see something different: Colonisation”.

It is very powerful, this sense for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that the idea of carving ‘violence against women’ off from the rest of the community’s experiences of violence makes no sense.

It also raises questions about how the National Plan thinks about violence, and violence against women. This kind of conceptual research is essential, especially in ensuring that policy and practice truly address the issue. Limiting the definition of violence against women to domestic and family violence, and sexual violence, as the National Plan does, fails to grapple with the full intersectional complexity of the issue and all the drivers of violence.

Croakey’s Marie McInerney, watching Dr Patsie Frawley on a video interview, tweeted: “Dr Patsie Frawley says we would expect to hear how everybody’s #vaw research is intersecting with disability. But we’re not! #ANROWS2016”. I don’t think I need to add anything to that!
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

**Kathy Landvogt:**

Some @GoodAdvocacy tweets:

A personal favourite that tackled tricky issue of researching children:

- *Silencing children doesn’t protect them. They need conversations to have agency and we need their knowledge.*

Some others:

- *If we want change we have to influence men, with stories plus data, because they hold most of power says @LizBroderick*

- *How to cut through to politics to impact on policy? Focus, persevere, ‘throw one sharp spear’ says former premier Anna Bligh*

- *Another incisive question from @FergusonNews - What’s the way forward when there’s now a plethora of #VAW voices? Focus on quality*

- *Practitioners and community orgs may have the next set of solutions- best ideas don’t always come from govt says Anna Bligh*

And finally:

- *It’s unanimous from this panel: Basics and Welfare Cards are demeaning, simplistic & doomed to fail in their current form*

**Michael Salter,** University of Western Sydney and conference presenter

Liz Broderick really stirred the room when she said that we have to stop trying to change women in order to fit them into the system, but instead we have to fix the system that excludes them. Her description of gender inequality as “gender asbestos” that invisibly lines the walls, floors and ceilings of many workplaces was evocative.
There was a tremendous amount of respect paid to the contribution of 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty by a number of speakers. As Kerry Chikarovski said, we cannot under estimate the impact of Rosie on public awareness and government interest in addressing violence against women. Rosie spoke to us at the conference dinner, and it was a deeply personal and affecting address. It’ll be fascinating to see what she does next.

Alison McDonald, Domestic Violence Victoria (DV Vic)

Annie Blatchford’s coverage at Croakey (and via @annieblatch) was excellent – really timely. Michael Salter (@mike_salter) is very worth following too. (The Age’s) Miki Perkin’s coverage, while she was there, was great – and her quoting Elizabeth Broderick on the first day panel was great. Adele Murdolo (@AdeleMurdolo) is always a good to follow and had some perspicacious tweets.

Will you change the way you work as a result of the conference?

Adele Murdolo, Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health

The conference provided a great opportunity to network with other researchers across the violence against women field, and I will follow up with new people and read more of the work that has been done. I will also use the new knowledge I gained about the impact of family violence on children, and incorporate that more into my own work.

Georgina Sutherland, Melbourne University, and conference presenter

I will certainly seek people out who I meet at the conference to collaborate with. An amazing, eclectic mix of front line workers, policy makers across all levels of government, new and emerging researchers and those who have been slogging away in this area for many many years. Everyone adds a valuable and important perspective.

Jess Cadwallader, People with Disability Australia

Yes. It has emphasised for me that intersectionality is essential. It’s so important to ensure that women with disability are centred in research in this space, because research leads to policy development. Without the research being inclusive of women with disability, the policy and practice outcomes will not be positive for those women. Women with disability represented 36 per cent of all women experiencing personal violence in 2011-12, so this is essential for the whole community in addressing violence against women.

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Kathy Landvogt:

- Research will be better because it will be contextualised on a broader canvas and we can see better where the gaps are in knowledge.

- Networking – many fruitful conversations – the range of people across states and federal, and across sectors, universities, government: very useful to conceptualising future projects and to creating new partnerships.
Yvonne Lay:
Drawing on Dr. Salter’s presentation again, I am much more cognisant of the need for intersectional theory to guide and structure the way I work, and think about primary prevention/intervention strategies in general.

Michael Salter, University of Western Sydney and conference presenter
I have an increased appreciation for the complexity of the systems that are involved in the response to violence against women, and the ways in which those systems sometimes entangle and entrap (rather than support) women and kids. Looking for coordination mechanisms and ways of complementing activity across multiple sectors is going to be key.

Alison McDonald, Domestic Violence Victoria (DVVic)
Yes, in relation to approaching violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I also feel a lot more confident re who to talk to about what bits of emerging evidence.

Any reflections for future conferences?
Adele Murdolo, Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health
I would love to attend more such conferences. I would particularly like to see at future conferences an integrated approach to all violence against women and children research – that considers the layers of intersectional identity and structural oppression that combine to define women’s experiences of violence.

Jess Cadwallader, People with Disability Australia
In line with my observations above, I hope to see that all the research projects consider how the experiences of violence that women with disability intersect with their research. Do Safe at Home programs matter more if you have accessibility modifications made to your current home? Does Child Protection put women with disability and their kids at higher risk of violence because women with disability so frequently lose custody and so don’t want to risk reporting?

I would also like to see more conversations with researchers and others working in this area, including those outside the current ANROWS stable. There is a lot of excellent research happening at the moment around issues of violence against women. It’s wonderful to hear about ANROWS-funded research but, in setting policy agendas, we should all be able to work with the best possible evidence we can access. Just one example is the recently published “Prevalence and risk of violence against people with and without disabilities: findings from an Australian population-based study” by Lauren Krnjacki et al, which found that women with disability experienced significantly higher levels of violence than other women.

And finally, I’d like to see some robust acknowledgement that many people described as ‘practitioners’ and ‘from organisations’ have substantial research experience and expertise, which should be included, recognised and honoured. The gasp that went through the room when Professor Cathy Humphreys mentioned offering honorariums to their associates was amusing, and telling.
Organisations will often offer expertise ‘in-kind’ because they want to support the research and are committed to the outcomes. But this is getting harder in a climate of reduced funding for peaks, services and other organisations. They must be understood as valued partners, and compensated for their time and expertise.

**Kathy Landvogt**, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

The ‘dialogic approach’ that was the stated goal for some of the key speaker sessions was well-intentioned but didn’t create anything markedly different – I don’t think it was dialogic most of the time. The exception was the actual panels.

Booking in was clunky, especially as had to decide workshops and then this turned out to be not important.

**Michael Salter**, University of Western Sydney and conference presenter

I’d like to see a stronger focus on sexual violence in the future. Recent discussions and policy reforms in the area of violence against women have been mostly targeted towards intimate partner violence. Although there are overlaps, sexual violence has specific dynamics and impacts that need further research and elaboration. In particular, the linkages between child sexual abuse and victimisation or perpetration in adulthood, and the complex mental health implications of chronic sexual victimisation, have major policy and practice implications that we need to come to grips with so we can find and implement solutions.

**Alison McDonald**, Domestic Violence Victoria (DVVic)

Look forward to future conferences where research findings will be able to be reported on, as this conference was more focussed on methodology and preliminary findings due to where projects were up to in the research cycle.

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**Where to now: Future directions**

The final session, hosted by the ANROWS board, looked at influencing the third stage the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. Here were some of the room’s thoughts and reactions via Twitter.
What's needed to end violence against women and children? A wrap of the ANROWS2016 conference

#ANROWS2016

Final notes from Annie Blatchford:

A message from Board member Kay Bentham was that the key to the next action plan was to try and cover enough without covering everything to ensure meaningful actions and results that will take us forward. She said key areas that will be built on including disability, children, sexual violence and the legal system.

ANROWS CEO Heather Nancarrow’s final comment was about making sure we recognise the importance of place both in a mainstream sense and in terms of Aboriginal culture – that is, land, law and country and what that connection means to Aboriginal people. She said, “We need to get better at listening and hearing.”
And some hints.....

Ingrid Wilson @ingridmwlison · Feb 24
Bipartisan agreement on national plan was important goal - hard work and worth the effort #ANROWS2016

SRPassItOn @SallyRMelb · Feb 24
Hope ANROWS Board helpers will trawl through #ANROWS2016 tweets - lots of good suggestions there to consider for next Action Plan

A taste of the space

Benney Corbin @BenneyCorbin · Feb 23
Two metres of pavlova are quick to boost energy and optimism levels #EVAW #SugarSugar #ANROWS2016

Annie O'Shea @AnnieOShea · Feb 24
Productive listening going on next to me at #ANROWS2016

And thanks from inside and outside the roomwrap

Adele Murdolo @AdeleMurdolo · Feb 24
Congratulations to @ANROWS staff and Board on #ANROWS2016. An amazing conference I’ll be processing & sharing over coming months. Thanks!

Annie Blatchford @AnnieBlatch · Feb 24
Small @ANROWS team & leader Heather Nancarrow commended for their hard work. “eternally grateful”. Annie Edwards #ANROWS2016

Fiona Hukula @finah_lk · Feb 24
Thanks for all the tweets from #ANROWS2016

RizeUp @RizeUpAustralia · Feb 24
Absolutely! #ANROWS2016 Very informative for those who can’t be there. Positive power of social media!

Equality Rights @eraustralia
Thanks to everyone tweeting the really insightful & informative stuff from #ANROWS2016 - great to follow
Family Violence Contacts

• In emergency situations or danger, call police on 000
• For confidential help and referral, call the National Sexual Assault, Family & Domestic Violence Counselling Line on 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)
• Children/young people needing help should call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.
• Call the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria toll free on 1800 105 303.
• The National Sexual Assault, Family & Domestic Violence Counselling help line can be reached at 1800 737 732
• The Men’s Referral Service provides anonymous and confidential telephone counselling, information and referrals to men to help them take action to stop using violent and controlling behaviour: 1300 766 491

Mental Health Contacts

For people who may be experiencing sadness or trauma, please visit these links to services and support

• If you are depressed or contemplating suicide, help is available at Lifeline on 131 114 or online. Alternatively you can call the Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467.
• For young people 5-25 years, call kids help line 1800 55 1800
• For resources on social and emotional wellbeing and mental health services in Aboriginal Australia, see here.
What’s needed to end violence against women and children? A wrap of the ANROWS2016 conference

The Twitter transcript from 20 Feb to 6 March: #ANROWS2016.

Analytics, from 20 Feb to 6 March is here.

Thanks from Croakey to Olivia Blackburn for use of official photos, ANROWS Jessica Gregory for ongoing editorial support, White Ribbon Australia acting CEO Jessica Luter for the tweet that is our feature image on this post, and all presenters, participants, and tweeps who have contributed to coverage of the conference by the Croakey Conference News Service.

Croakey Conference News Service

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