



RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND PATHWAYS FOR PROGRESS:  
MAPPING THE GLOBAL SHARED RESEARCH AGENDA  
AGAINST AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA



MARCH 2022





The Equality Institute (EQI) and Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) acknowledge the ongoing leadership role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in preventing violence against women throughout Australia. Indigenous people's generosity, hope and ongoing efforts to prevent violence inspires us. We are committed to listening, learning, and doing this work alongside each other with humility, perseverance and open hearts and minds. It is our hope that we can be a contributor to a future that is just and free from violence for communities everywhere.

EQI was founded in Naarm (Melbourne, Australia) on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country, and ANROWS is based on the Country of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of these lands and waterways, as well as their Elders past, present, and emerging. We also pay our respects to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledge Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work around the world. The land we live, work, and play on always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.



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## THE EQUALITY INSTITUTE

**The Equality Institute (EQI) is a *global feminist agency* working to advance gender equality and end violence against women and girls (VAWG).**

We conduct research, provide guidance on policies and programmes, and build creative ways to incite social change.

Our people are positive, and seek to inspire. We bring together the world's best experts working on gender and violence against women and girls from a range of fields, including research, humanitarian response, design, media and film industry leaders, to build holistic solutions to the problem of violence against women and girls.

The Equality Institute, with the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and with support from Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, developed the Global Shared Research Agenda (GSRA) for research on violence against women in low- and middle-income countries.

This resource was produced in consultation with:

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY (ANROWS)



**ANROWS' mission is to influence, on a national level, evidence-based policy and practice design that *prevents* and *reduces* violence against women and children.**



ANROWS, an independent not-for-profit research organisation, was established by the Commonwealth Government and all state and territory governments of Australia as an initiative of Australia's first *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022 (National Plan)*. ANROWS recognises that multiple forms of inequality intersect with gender inequality to produce the conditions that perpetuate all forms of violence against women and children.

ANROWS has developed a reputation for excellence in the production of evidence to guide policy and practice in the violence against women field. ANROWS developed *Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: ANRA 2020–2022 (ANROWS, 2020)*<sup>i</sup> to provide a framework for, and guidance on, priority areas of research and research topics for academics, research funding bodies and governments across Australia.






<sup>i</sup> Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. (2020). *Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: ANRA 2020–2022*. ANROWS













**GSRA DOMAIN KEY**

-  Research to understand VAW in its multiple forms
-  Intervention research





















-  Improving existing interventions
-  Methodological and measurement gaps



















**ANRA PRIORITY TOPICS KEY**

-  Children and young people
-  Understanding the intersecting drivers of violence against women
-  Sexual violence and harassment
-  What works to prevent violence against women
-  What works in responding to violence against women

	GSRA QUESTIONS	ANRA TOPICS FOR SPECIFIC FOCUS
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 1</b>	 What types of interventions can effectively prevent multiple forms of violence, and why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What works to prevent or reduce VAW, and what are the factors associated with successful outcomes?</li> <li> Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?</li> <li> What works to prevent or minimise the intergenerational transmission of violence?</li> </ul>
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 2</b>	 What types of interventions are most effective for preventing intimate partner violence (IPV) (including 'honour'-based violence) against women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (including age, poverty, disability, ethnicity, race, sexuality)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What is the prevalence and nature of adolescent intimate partner violence (IPV)?</li> <li> How do multiple discriminations and structural inequalities, including gender inequality, racial inequality, class, sexuality and disability, intersect to compound victimisation and perpetration?</li> <li> Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?</li> </ul>
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 3</b>	 How are new feminist social movements (e.g., Me Too, Ni una menos) and meninist social movements (Men's Rights Activists (MRAs), incels etc) positively or negatively influencing individual, social and policy perspectives related to the experience and perpetration of violence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What is normative Australian masculinity and how does it influence VAW?</li> <li> What are Australian men's attitudes in relation to norms and stereotypes of masculinity and what pressure do they feel to adhere to these?</li> </ul>
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 4</b>	 What interventions work to prevent sexual harassment in institutional settings (in-person or online), including in the workplace and educational settings, and why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What is the nature and prevalence of sexual violence within different settings, such as at home and in workplaces, educational settings and entertainment settings (e.g., sporting events and music festivals)?</li> <li> What is the nature and prevalence of sexual harassment within different settings including public places, hospitality and entertainment venues, workplace settings and different industries?</li> <li> How can legislation against sexual harassment in the workplace be better understood and enforced?</li> <li> What are the characteristics and patterns of help-seeking of women who have experienced workplace sexual harassment?</li> </ul>

<sup>ii</sup> Table 1 shows the synergies between the GSRA and ANRA. The GSRA questions are listed in order of priority. Beside each GSRA question, the aligned ANRA questions are listed. The code shows which GSRA domain/ANRA key theme houses that research question (please refer to the key above Table 1). Where there is no ANRA question listed against a particular GSRA research question, this indicates imperfect alignment between the GSRA and ANRA. However, it should be noted that only the topics for specific focus are mapped, and the more extensive list of nearly 200 research topics identified by ANROWS can be found in Appendix B of ANRA. Table 2 lists additional ANRA areas of focus for which there is not a directly aligned question in the GSRA.

	GSRA QUESTIONS	ANRA TOPICS FOR SPECIFIC FOCUS
GSRA PRIORITY 4	 What interventions work to prevent sexual harassment in institutional settings (in-person or online), including in the workplace and educational settings, and why?	 What are the behaviours, characteristics and trends that can be observed in sexual harassers?
		 Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?
GSRA PRIORITY 5	 What are the impacts (including disability-related impacts) of under-researched forms of IPV on women and girls, including emotional and economic IPV, revenge porn and 'honour'-based violence?	 What are the short- and long-term physical, emotional and psychological impacts of Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) on children and young people?
GSRA PRIORITY 6	 What is the level of intensity needed for social norms change interventions to have sustained impact at the community level, including effectively challenging norms that focus on victim behaviour rather than on the perpetration/choice to use violence?	 Which primary prevention strategies impact on which drivers and reinforcing factors of VAW?
		 Which primary prevention strategies are most effective or appropriate for specific populations?
		 What is normative Australian masculinity and how does it influence VAW?
		 What are Australian men's attitudes in relation to norms and stereotypes of masculinity and what pressure do they feel to adhere to these?
		 What are the behaviours, characteristics and trends that can be observed in sexual harassers?
GSRA PRIORITY 7	 What are the cultural, psychological and economic impacts of colonisation on Indigenous men and women, and how do these impacts influence their behaviours and experiences in respect to VAW?	 What is the role of intergenerational trauma and recovery approaches in perpetrator programs?
		 What are appropriate and effective legal responses to VAW, which is perpetrated in contexts of intergenerational and complex trauma?
		 How do multiple discriminations and structural inequalities, including gender inequality, racial inequality, class, sexuality and disability, intersect to compound victimisation and perpetration?
GSRA PRIORITY 8	 What role can formal and informal justice sector reforms, including restorative justice, play in ensuring justice for survivors of violence?	 What are the experiences and service needs of children and young people exposed to DFV in out-of-home care and the juvenile justice system?
		 What works in responding to young people who perpetrate family violence and supporting their victims/survivors?
		 What works in responding to young people who perpetrate IPV and supporting their victims/survivors?
		 What is the effectiveness and appropriateness of restorative justice programs, including consideration of the risks and benefits for victims/survivors?





	GSRA QUESTIONS	ANRA TOPICS FOR SPECIFIC FOCUS
GSRA PRIORITY 8	 What role can formal and informal justice sector reforms, including restorative justice, play in ensuring justice for survivors of violence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> How effective are current legal responses to DFV and sexual violence, and what are the limitations and unintended consequences of current responses?</li> <li> What roles do therapeutic interventions, or restorative justice practices, play in seeking justice for victims/survivors and holding perpetrators accountable?</li> <li> What are appropriate and effective legal responses to VAW which is perpetrated in contexts of intergenerational and complex trauma?</li> <li> What is the nature and extent of systems abuse by perpetrators of coercive control, and how can systems guard against being exploited by perpetrators of coercive control?</li> <li> How can legislation against sexual harassment in the workplace be better understood and enforced?</li> </ul>
GSRA PRIORITY 9	 What interventions or elements of interventions are most effective at preventing violence against adolescent girls, and why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What is the effectiveness and appropriateness of service responses for children and young people exposed to DFV?</li> <li> What are the drivers of, and situational factors that contribute to, adolescent family violence?</li> <li> Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?</li> <li> Which primary prevention strategies impact on which drivers and reinforcing factors of VAW?</li> <li> Are gendered or gender-neutral programs most effective?</li> </ul>
GSRA PRIORITY 10	 What are the most effective tools to measure harmful traditional practices against women and girls (including female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C), early and forced marriage, crimes committed in the name of honour, dowry-related violence, and son preference)?	
GSRA PRIORITY 11	 Which interventions are most effective at addressing shared risk factors for VAW and violence against children (VAC) in the family environment, leading to a reduction in both types of violence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> What are the prevalence and experiences of children and young people exposed to DFV in marginalised populations?</li> <li> What is the prevalence and nature of harmful sexual behaviours, including sibling sexual harm, with a focus on the experience of marginalised groups?</li> <li> What works to prevent or minimise the intergenerational transmission of violence?</li> <li> What works in responding to young people who exhibit harmful sexual behaviours and supporting their victims/survivors?</li> </ul>

	GSRA QUESTIONS	ANRA TOPICS FOR SPECIFIC FOCUS
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 11</b>	 Which interventions are most effective at addressing shared risk factors for VAW and VAC in the family environment, leading to a reduction in both types of violence?	 Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 12</b>	 What methods can be used to measure the intersection and pathways between different types of violence, including polyvictimisation and intersections between VAW and VAC?	 What is the relationship between adolescent violence and perpetration and victimisation in adulthood?  How do multiple discriminations and structural inequalities, including gender inequality, racial inequality, class, sexuality and disability, intersect to compound victimisation and perpetration?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 13</b>	 How to conduct effective, ethical and inclusive research on VAW using online/virtual/remote methods (including social media) and how should these be adapted to reach marginalised populations?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 14</b>	 What research methodologies are most appropriate to measure social norms change in violence prevention interventions?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 15</b>	 In IPV prevention interventions inclusive of women and girls with disabilities, should outcome measures be universal, or should some be disability-specific?	 Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?  How effective are existing services in terms of reducing the impacts of violence, particularly for marginalised populations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from CALD communities, women from LGBTIQ communities, women in rural and remote communities, women with disabilities and older women?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 16</b>	 How do conflict and fragility exacerbate the multiple forms of violence experienced by women and girls?	 How do the drivers of VAW manifest in the context of natural disasters and pandemics?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 17</b>	 What alternative modalities (besides in-person programming) are effective in VAW prevention at scale?	 What are the contextual factors and underlying mechanisms associated with program effectiveness?  Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 18</b>	 How can large-scale sector programmes be adapted to optimise their impact on violence prevention and response, particularly education, health, economic development, infrastructure and social protection programmes?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 19</b>	 How can social movements and feminist activism contribute to preventing and responding to VAW at scale?	







	GSRA QUESTIONS	ANRA TOPICS FOR SPECIFIC FOCUS
GSRA PRIORITY 20	 What are some best practices for ensuring agility and adaptability of VAW interventions, especially those working with marginalised women and girls or operating in complex contexts?	 What are the contextual factors and underlying mechanisms associated with program effectiveness?
		 Which interventions are most successful in which settings, and what are the associated outcomes?
		 What mechanisms for system integration need to be improved to support women subjected to violence and their children?
GSRA PRIORITY 21	 What methodologies can be used to measure and attribute the impact of multi-component interventions on VAW prevention, reduction or cessation?	
GSRA PRIORITY 22	 What are examples of good practice in addressing recognised ethical challenges of undertaking VAW research in resource-poor settings and/or with marginalised communities?	
GSRA PRIORITY 23	 How do we ensure our research impacts policy and programmes and how do we measure that impact?	
GSRA PRIORITY 24	 Do higher costs in resource-intensive violence prevention interventions represent good value for money when taking into account effectiveness in reduction of VAW?	
GSRA PRIORITY 25	 How can promising VAW prevention and response interventions from non-emergency settings be adapted to have effect in conflict and humanitarian contexts (e.g., reduced dosage or brevity, different delivery mechanisms)?	 What does the manifestation of drivers of VAW in times of disasters and pandemics mean for primary prevention strategies?
		 What service responses support victims/survivors of DFV during and after health pandemics and natural disasters?
GSRA PRIORITY 26	 In what ways can innovative technologies and interventions be used to detect and prevent online sexual harassment and online intimate partner violence?	 What mechanisms can be put in place to guard against the use of technology, such as dating apps and social media, to perpetrate sexual abuse and harassment?
GSRA PRIORITY 27	 How can we use tech platforms effectively, safely and cost-efficiently for violence prevention?	 What is the effectiveness of online perpetrator interventions, including consideration of the effectiveness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and those in rural and remote communities?
GSRA PRIORITY 28	 In what ways can justice institutions be held to account and capacitated to be survivor-centred and hold perpetrators accountable, especially in conflict and post-conflict settings?	 What are appropriate and effective legal responses to VAW which is perpetrated in contexts of intergenerational and complex trauma?
GSRA PRIORITY 29	 What are the factors underlying successful intervention and prevention programmes aimed at men, including Indigenous men and other under-researched populations?	 How effective are existing services in terms of reducing the impacts of violence, particularly for marginalised populations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from CALD communities, women from LGBTIQ communities, women in rural and remote communities, women with disabilities and older women?

	GSRA QUESTIONS	ANRA TOPICS FOR SPECIFIC FOCUS
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 29</b>	 What are the factors underlying successful intervention and prevention programmes aimed at men, including Indigenous men and other under-researched populations?	 What is the effectiveness of online perpetrator interventions, including consideration of the effectiveness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and those in rural and remote communities?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 30</b>	 How do different forms of violence cluster in women and girls with greater vulnerability and what are the characteristics to detect those vulnerable women and girls?	 What are the prevalence and experiences of children and young people exposed to DFV in marginalised populations?  What roles do poverty, economic inequality and women's socio-economic insecurity play in women's experiences of violence, including for marginalised groups of women?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 31</b>	 What are the causes and drivers of violence against LGBTQI+ women?	 How do multiple discriminations and structural inequalities, including gender inequality, racial inequality, class, sexuality and disability, intersect to compound victimisation and perpetration?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 32</b>	 What are the best methodologies to measure the long-term impacts of violence prevention interventions, including reduction in VAW and other intended and unintended outcomes?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 33</b>	 What types of interventions are most effective in facilitating gender-transformative change in men and women at scale?	 What is normative Australian masculinity and how does it influence VAW?  What are Australian men's attitudes in relation to norms and stereotypes of masculinity and what pressure do they feel to adhere to these?  Are gendered or gender-neutral programs most effective?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 34</b>	 Which analytical approaches (both quantitative and qualitative) are most appropriate for advancing an intersectional approach to research on VAW?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 35</b>	 What is the interaction of climate change impacts with the perpetration or experience of VAW?	 How do the drivers of VAW manifest in the context of natural disasters and pandemics?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 36</b>	 What types of interventions are effective in preventing IPV and other forms of violence against LGBTQI+ people?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 37</b>	 What is the prevalence of different forms of online and technology-facilitated VAW and what are the risk and protective factors for experience and perpetration of these types of violence?	 What mechanisms can be put in place to guard against the use of technology, such as dating apps and social media, to perpetrate sexual abuse and harassment?
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 38</b>	 How can police response more adequately address the needs of LGBTQI+ people reporting IPV, non-partner sexual violence and sexual harassment?	 How effective are current police responses to DFV, with consideration given to the appropriateness of current practices and the capacity of the police to support victims/survivors?






	GSRA QUESTIONS	ANRA TOPICS FOR SPECIFIC FOCUS
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 39</b>	 What steps can be taken to avoid or mitigate resistance to and backlash against women's rights organisations without compromising the focus and aims of these organisations?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 40</b>	 What kinds of faith-based or community-led VAW prevention interventions can be adapted to different faiths, communities and regions effectively?	
<b>GSRA PRIORITY 41</b>	 How do social networks act as a protective factor for violence against women and girls?	 What are the protective factors that support prevention and harm minimisation, in relation to both perpetration of, and exposure to, violence?

### GSRA DOMAIN KEY

-  Research to understand VAW in its multiple forms
-  Intervention research

-  Improving existing interventions
-  Methodological and measurement gaps

### ANRA PRIORITY TOPICS KEY

-  Children and young people
-  Understanding the intersecting drivers of violence against women
-  Sexual violence and harassment
-  What works to prevent violence against women
-  What works in responding to violence against women



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

What are the support and service needs of children and young people who are exposed to DFV, with consideration given to the service needs of children of different ages?

How can service systems best work together to identify, prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of childhood exposure to DFV?

What are the drivers of harmful sexual behaviours among young people, with consideration given to the role of alcohol and other drugs, mental health problems and disability?

What is the prevalence and nature of harmful sexual behaviours, including sibling sexual harm, with a focus on the experience of marginalised groups?

What is the relationship between adolescent violence and perpetration and victimisation in adulthood?

What works in responding to young people who perpetrate family violence and supporting their victims/survivors?



**UNDERSTANDING THE INTERSECTING DRIVERS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

How does coercive control manifest and what are the characteristics of those who perpetrate it?

How prevalent is reproductive coercion and what are the characteristics of those who perpetrate it? What are the impacts of coerced pregnancy on women subjected to such abuse, and their relationships with children born as a result of coercion?

What is the impact on women of coerced pregnancy termination and what therapeutic interventions are required immediately, and in the short term, to mediate long-term mental health impacts?



**WHAT WORKS IN RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

What works to improve the relationships between specialist services, mainstream child and family support services, disability services, alcohol and other drugs services, and the child protection, health and justice systems, including family law?

What constitutes good practice and successful outcomes in integrated service models and service collaborations, including, but not limited to, specialist services dealing with child protection, and health and legal/justice systems?

What supports or hinders the implementation and sustainability of integrated service responses?


Which models of care that support women and their children in recovery from DFV are most effective in terms of short- and long-term outcomes for women and children, with consideration given to the different settings?

What is the impact of routine screening in various settings (maternity, mental health, primary care, emergency departments), including unanticipated outcomes?

How effective is a specific perpetrator intervention in responding to drivers and reinforcing factors of VAW, including physical health, mental health, quality of life, emotional regulation, substance use and socioeconomic outcomes, as well as changing behaviours and reducing reoffending?

What are the housing and safety needs of victims/survivors of VAW, and how effective are current housing responses, with a specific focus on older women?

What economic support and protection is currently available to victims/survivors of DFV, and how effective are such interventions?



The purpose of this document is to present *key areas of research* related to violence against women and children that have been identified as *priorities for the field* in Australia and globally.

This is based upon an analysis and mapping of two comprehensive research agendas: *Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: ANRA 2020 – 2022* and the *Global Shared Research Agenda for research on violence against women in low- and middle-income countries (GSRA)*. While the agendas were developed separately through distinct processes, the comparison demonstrates that there is significant alignment between the two research agendas. This strengthens the argument for directing research efforts and resources towards identified gaps and priority areas.

The document also identifies lessons learned in the research agenda-setting processes, which should inform future efforts to identify research gaps and set collective priorities.

This document is designed for use:

- by **researchers, funders, practitioners** and **policymakers** to assist with their research planning and resourcing;
- as an advocacy tool to highlight gaps and areas of research that have been identified as important; and
- as a reference for researchers to situate their research within national and international priorities.

Each research agenda was developed through a *rigorous and collaborative process* which engaged researchers, funders and practitioners in the formation and priority-setting of research questions.

Both research agendas were developed in 2020: ANRA was published in 2020 and the GSRA was published in 2021. ANRA was developed by ANROWS, and the development of the GSRA was facilitated by The Equality Institute (EQI) and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) with support from Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

Both the GSRA and ANRA provide guidance on the priority areas of research for researchers, funders and government bodies. Both agendas aim to support and streamline research efforts to focus on identified gaps and priority areas. Through building the evidence base, research agendas can support the development of evidence to inform practice, programming and policy to prevent and respond to violence against women (VAW).



**ANRA  
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

- 1 **Systematic review of the national and international literature to identify research gaps.**
- 2 **Consultation with stakeholders:**
  - a. One-on-one discussions with officials in Commonwealth, state and territory governments with responsibilities related to the implementation of the *National Plan*.
  - b. Survey of subject matter experts, practice leaders, service designers and community group representatives.
  - c. Survey of policymakers to prioritise the preliminary research priorities.
- 3 **Data analysis to determine research priorities.** Research gaps were deemed a priority if **all three** of the following conditions were met:
  - a. Research gap identified in the literature.
  - b. Priority from expert and practitioner perspective.
  - c. Priority from policymaker perspective.

**This process generated five research themes: children and young people; understanding the intersecting drivers of VAW; sexual violence and harassment; what works to prevent VAW; and what works in responding to VAW.** ANRA lists priority research gaps and topics for specific focus for each of its five key themes.

**GSRA  
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

- 1 **Scoping review to identify gaps and develop four domains of research questions:** research to understand VAW in its multiple forms; intervention research; improving existing interventions; and methodological and measurement gaps.
- 2 **The Child Health and Nutrition Initiative (CHNRI) method used to develop the agenda:**
  - a. Advisory groups established to oversee the process.
  - b. Survey sent to the Advisory groups to select the scoring criteria.
  - c. Survey sent to the Advisory groups to gather the research questions.
  - d. Consolidation of research questions to total 41 questions (approximately ten per domain).
  - e. Survey sent to stakeholders in VAW and related fields to score the research questions against the criteria: equity, applicability, and effectiveness.
- 3 **The score of each research question was used to determine its level of priority.** Data was disaggregated and analysed to determine if priorities differed across cohorts. The GSRA presents all 41 questions in order of priority, and in order of priority per domain.

## Both ANRA and the GSRA have several research questions dedicated to better understanding the experience of *multiple forms of violence*, and how this experience may *intersect* with other forms of discrimination.

### AREAS OF ALIGNMENT

Table 1 shows that there is clear alignment between the two research agendas. The GSRA’s “intervention research” and “improving existing interventions” domains clearly align with ANRA’s key themes of “what works to prevent VAW”, “what works in responding to VAW”, “understanding the intersecting drivers of VAW” and “sexual violence and harassment”. Intervention research was most highly prioritised under the GSRA, and ANRA’s aligning themes show that this presents a considerable gap in the evidence base. ANRA presents research questions dedicated to understanding which interventions are most effective in what settings, as well as which primary prevention strategies are most effective or appropriate for specific populations. It is evident that stakeholders at both global and national levels agree that intervention research should be prioritised to inform the development of effective policy and programming to prevent and respond to VAW.

There is also alignment between GSRA’s domain of “research to understand VAW in its multiple forms” and ANRA’s key themes of “children and young people”, “sexual violence and harassment”, and “what works in responding to VAW”. This alignment, as well as another of ANRA’s key themes, “understanding the intersecting drivers of VAW”, points to the need to better understand how VAW manifests in different contexts, and to better understand different cohorts’ experiences of violence. Of particular importance is understanding how different systems of power and oppression intersect to make particular groups more vulnerable to experiencing violence. This will help to ensure that programs and interventions are tailored to meet the diverse needs of different people, and that multiple forms of discrimination are addressed in programming responses.

Several GSRA questions focused on feminist social movements and whether these are effective in preventing VAW. This perhaps reflects the influence of broader global social movements, such as Me Too and Black Lives Matter, and the need to understand how they may be instrumental in creating change. Other highly prioritised GSRA questions focus on backlash to feminist movements. Resistance and backlash are key reinforcing factors of violence, as identified by Our Watch (2021) in *Change the Story*.<sup>2</sup> These research priorities link to several of ANRA’s questions related to normative masculinity, Australian men’s attitudes to norms and stereotypes of masculinity, and the pressure they may feel to adhere to these.

While not a topic of specific focus, there is further alignment between this domain and ANROWS’s *National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS)*. The NCAS is a population survey conducted approximately every four years to monitor the Australian community’s understanding of violence against women, their attitudes to gender equality and violence against women, and the factors underlying community knowledge and attitudes. Past results of this survey orientate us to key concerns where efforts can be focused in the future. Future waves of the NCAS will continue to chart progress, but also highlight the areas where our continued efforts need to be focused, including in relation to understanding resistance and backlash to feminist social movements.

## SOME AREAS OF DIFFERENT FOCUS

While the GSRA includes a particular focus on methodological and measurement gaps, the structure of ANRA does not include methodological gaps as specific topics of focus, but rather in the principles of the document. This domain in the GSRA highlights gaps related to how research is conducted, including ethical issues, and

effective and innovative ways to measure VAW. This domain speaks to a need identified, particularly in the global field, to expand definitions of “knowledge” and “evidence” to include qualitative research, practice-based learning and learning from Indigenous knowledge systems.

Further, through this research question the GSRA explicitly aims to increase diversity in research, to ensure that those who have historically been marginalised have a seat at the table in agenda-setting, research design, and decision-making. ANRA similarly centres intersectionality and inclusion as two of its key principles – noting ANRA is grounded in the diverse lived experiences of women and children, experiences that are located at the intersections of multiple structural inequalities or disadvantage. ANRA also emphasises the need to centre the perspectives of victims and survivors in building the evidence base to enable the development of policy and practice design sensitive to their needs.

ANRA contains further questions that address certain gaps, however, these are not listed in the “Topics for specific focus” but are instead contained in the appendix “Preliminary research priorities and research underway”.<sup>ii</sup> As this list contains almost 200 questions that are more nuanced than the “Topics for specific focus” questions, they have not been included in the mapping, but these questions should be noted for the broad topics they cover, such as the questions that aim to understand intersectionality, structural inequalities and experiences of violence by marginalised populations.

There are some ANRA-specific topic areas of focus (listed in Table 2) that are not a focus of the GSRA. This may be because the GSRA takes a global view while ANRA is country-specific and presents the research priorities of Australian stakeholders.<sup>iii</sup> The specific topic areas in Table 2 tend to reflect the Australian national context.

**ANRA emphasises as one of its key principles that *research should be practicable and outcomes-oriented* and promotes the use of a wide range of methods appropriate to development of an evidence base for change, such as applied and action research and effectiveness evaluations.**

<sup>ii</sup> Appendix B of ANRA contains the full list of questions that were synthesised to produce the “Topics for specific focus” questions. The full list can be accessed at [https://20ian81kynqg38bl3l3eh8bf-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ANROWS-ANRA\\_20-22.1.pdf](https://20ian81kynqg38bl3l3eh8bf-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ANROWS-ANRA_20-22.1.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> It should be noted that ANROWS will be releasing an updated ANRA in the second half of 2022.



This mapping shows that there is *broad agreement* and *relevant contextual differences* between agenda-setting processes at global and national levels.

The development of these two agendas, as well as this mapping exercise, reflects several **key lessons** for the VAW field:

1

## The importance of methodology to facilitate diverse representation

Agenda-setting processes, as well as research in general, need to include diverse voices and perspectives. These voices should not just be included, they must be heard. Priority-setting exercises should engage a wide range of people from different geographical, linguistic and cultural contexts. Diverse voices, for example from people with disability, LGBTQ and intersex people, and Indigenous people, should all be heard in this process. Diverse representation is key to the development of safe and ethical research practices and the construction of an evidence base which informs policy

and programs to meet the diverse needs of the population. The methodology used to develop research agendas should be collaborative and the approach should be one that privileges diverse voices, seeks to address power imbalances and barriers to access, and decolonises research practices. Drawing upon networks of researchers, practitioners and funders, particularly in low-resource settings, to encourage participation is one way of facilitating diverse representation. Ensuring there are multiple opportunities to participate, in different formats and on different platforms, is another.

2

## Accessibility and dissemination

Research agendas and research products should be disseminated widely to facilitate their uptake. Research cannot meaningfully inform policy and programming if it is only accessed by a select few. Therefore, the ways in which research is created and shared must be accessible to a wide variety of people, including affected communities, so they can use it meaningfully.

Research products should be linguistically and culturally accessible, meet the needs of people with disability, and consider geographical and infrastructure barriers, such as low bandwidth and lack of phone network. Overcoming barriers to access and dissemination should be a part of all research planning.

3

## Partnerships

Ensuring that research agendas are useful and applicable requires strong partnerships. These partnerships should be based on mutual benefit and reciprocity. Partnerships between researchers and practitioners, for example, can assist monitoring and evaluation efforts, and drive efforts in intervention research. Partnerships between funders, researchers and programs can produce powerful participatory research that

yields important lessons and insights applicable in a range of different contexts. Researchers can work with and alongside affected communities to generate knowledge that is useful, and meaningful, and supports the priorities of that community. Consultation with those who can influence and change policy (the end users) of evidence is also key to ensure research informs action and change.

4

## Engaging and nurturing researchers

Supporting researchers, particularly emerging researchers, is vital to ensure sustainability of the VAW field and of feminist leadership. In this context, research programs should engage and nurture upcoming researchers through mentorship and skills development opportunities.

There must be a concerted effort to share space and platforms, increase diversity in research, and deconstruct power imbalances and hierarchies of knowledge.

5

## Priority-setting is important



Research agendas provide a framework and guidance for research. These agendas can help to avoid duplication and direct resources towards evidence gaps. Therefore, it is important that research agendas prioritise identified research gaps as determined by key stakeholders, such as those who can use the evidence to effect change in policy and practice.

These priorities should then be presented in a way that streamlines research towards priority areas.





## This resource can support research efforts by:

- supporting researchers, academics and others to **highlight the relevance of their VAW research** in the field;
- guiding early-career researchers and higher degree researchers to **identify and select research areas of focus** where there is a clear research gap;
- guiding research grant awarding bodies and funders, and assisting in **directing resources towards priority areas**;
- **encouraging the generation of evidence** needed to inform policy and practice design to reduce VAW and improve outcomes for victims and survivors and their children;
- guiding researchers in the ways in which they conduct VAW research, by **encouraging approaches that place intersectionality, inclusion and the perspectives of victims and survivors at the centre**; and
- **steering future work** and agenda-setting processes, such as through the adaptation of the GSRA to the Asia and Pacific region.<sup>iv</sup>

<sup>iv</sup> An adaptation of the GSRA is being undertaken in Latin America and the Caribbean, and there are plans to adapt the GSRA to the Asia and Pacific region beginning in 2022.

ANRA PRIORITY TOPICS	DEFINITION
 <p data-bbox="222 625 418 703"><b>Children and young people</b></p>	<p data-bbox="489 483 1308 871">The impact of DFV on children and young people is increasingly recognised as an issue of great concern, with long-term negative impacts including elevated risk of victimisation and perpetration of domestic, family and sexual violence in adulthood. Despite its prevalence, this continues to be a well-recognised research gap. To develop tailored services that are age-appropriate, there is an urgent need to investigate the nature, experience and impacts of childhood exposure to DFV.<sup>3</sup></p>
 <p data-bbox="207 1066 430 1270"><b>Understanding the intersecting drivers of violence against women</b></p>	<p data-bbox="489 924 1308 1764">International research consistently demonstrates that gender inequality is the primary driver of VAW, while the roles of intersecting drivers are not so well understood, specifically in regard to coercive control and “fights”. Moreover, the role of intersecting drivers of VAW in regard to coercive control and fights is critically important to inform the development of appropriate and effective primary prevention, early intervention, men’s behaviour change programs and legal responses. The role of structural inequality associated with gender, race, class and other factors – including economic status, mental health, emotional wellbeing, and drug and alcohol use – remains poorly understood. In addition, there is a need to better understand the link between violence and particular notions of masculinity to develop effective prevention initiatives that target both individual and broader attitudinal change. There is also a need to better understand norms of masculinity and what they mean to men in various cohorts, and how they intersect with structural inequality and disadvantage.<sup>4</sup></p>

 <p data-bbox="1641 247 1872 325"><b>Sexual violence and harassment</b></p>	<p data-bbox="1920 105 2751 493">To develop tailored primary prevention and early intervention strategies, it is critical to build on existing data and research to better understand the context of sexual harassment, as well as particular risk factors that create an environment in which sexual harassment is more likely to occur. To develop tailored sexual violence interventions that meet the needs of victims and survivors in their recovery, it is critical to gain a better understanding of the occurrence and impact of sexual violence.<sup>5</sup></p>
 <p data-bbox="1641 686 1872 798"><b>What works to prevent violence against women</b></p>	<p data-bbox="1920 546 2772 1155">To reduce rates of VAW, there is a need to develop an evidence base in relation to the effectiveness of primary prevention initiatives to reduce sexual violence, sexual harassment and DFV. Primary prevention is fundamental to reducing VAW and, although it is a substantial emerging area of practice, it currently receives little research attention and there remains a need to establish what works. Few studies evaluate primary prevention strategies, and the body of prevention research is almost entirely qualitative. There is a need for both process and effectiveness evaluations to determine what works to reduce or stop VAW, as well as implementation research that provides insight into the appropriateness of interventions, implementation barriers and enablers, and strategies to support scaling up.<sup>6</sup></p>
 <p data-bbox="1641 1348 1872 1507"><b>What works in responding to violence against women</b></p>	<p data-bbox="1920 1207 2772 1774">There is a need to develop a comprehensive understanding of what works to respond to VAW, with a focus on integrated care and interagency collaboration. There is a need to establish the effectiveness of service responses, including health, primary care, justice and specialist service responses; police and legal responses; perpetrator intervention programs; and housing and homelessness services, with a specific focus on service integration and the service systems from which interventions are most effectively delivered. There is a need to establish the effectiveness of system and service responses, as well as to develop an understanding of why and how interventions work, and identify where and when interventions are most effective (including in terms of cost).<sup>7</sup></p>

GSRA DOMAINS	DEFINITION
 <p data-bbox="195 520 528 594"><b>Research to understand VAW in its multiple forms</b></p>	<p data-bbox="581 380 1329 590">Research to understand VAW in its multiple forms, including prevalence of different types of VAW, risk and protective factors for VAW experience and perpetration, and the causes and consequences of VAW, including health and psychosocial consequences.<sup>8</sup></p>
 <p data-bbox="210 783 513 814"><b>Intervention research</b></p>	<p data-bbox="581 644 1317 814">Intervention research, including research on violence prevention and response interventions, and various types of evaluations of interventions, including process, formative and impact evaluations.<sup>9</sup></p>
 <p data-bbox="231 1008 492 1081"><b>Improving existing interventions</b></p>	<p data-bbox="581 869 1329 1173">Improving existing interventions, including scale-up research, costing research, intervention science, process research and other forms of research that generate innovative solutions to improve existing interventions, making them more deliverable, affordable or sustainable, including research aimed at understanding the impact of policies and laws on VAW.<sup>10</sup></p>
 <p data-bbox="225 1360 498 1434"><b>Methodological and measurement gaps</b></p>	<p data-bbox="581 1243 1317 1413">Methodological and measurement gaps, including new and innovative ways to measure VAW, hierarchies of knowledge, practice-based learning, sticky ethical issues, and monitoring and evaluation of interventions.<sup>11</sup></p>





<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Sexual Violence Research Initiative, and The Equality Institute. (2021). *Global shared research agenda for research on violence against women in low and middle-income countries*. Sexual Violence Research Initiative; and Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. (2020). *Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: ANRA 2020–2022*. ANROWS.

<sup>2</sup> Our Watch. (2021). *Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia*. Our Watch.

<sup>3</sup> Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. (2020). *Australia's National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: ANRA 2020–2022*. ANROWS.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Sexual Violence Research Initiative, and The Equality Institute. (2021). *Global shared research agenda for research on violence against women in low and middle-income countries*. Sexual Violence Research Initiative.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



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