

Examples

Examples of reporting violence against women

Identifying information has been removed from the examples themselves, as the purpose is not to pass judgment on particular journalists or publishers. The intention is to assess ethics, method, framing, or language, depending on the lesson being taught. On this content page credit is provided for each article.

Many, though not all, articles included help-seeking information – this has been removed for space. Students may notice its absence.

Lesson 2 Examples

Crime/Court Reports

1. Butcher, S. (2014). 'Judge Jane Compton slams John Grima over vicious attacks on his defector partner', *The Age* <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/judge-janecampton-slams-john-grima-over-vicious-attacks-on-his-defacto-partner-20141009-113jfq.html> 9 October.

Event/Response Stories

2. Unknown, (2015). 'Family violence advisory chair Ken Lay 'brought to tears' by childrens' attitudes', *ABC* <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-25/ken-laybrought-to-tears-by-domestic-violence-stories/6971894> 25 November
3. McKeith, S. (2015). 'Australia Prepares to Unite for White Ribbon Day', *HuffPost Australia* http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2015/11/23/white-ribbonday_n_8634248.html 24 November.
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Issues Based and Personal Stories

5. Dutka, A. (2014). 'Sports and gender: how local councils are leading in the campaign to prevent violence against women' *The Citizen* <https://www.thecitizen.org.au/articles/sports-gender-how-local-councils-are-leading-campaign-prevent-violence-against-women> 9 May
6. Zajac, B. (2014). 'Power and gender: how schools are taking a lead in the campaign to end violence against women' *The Citizen* <http://www.thecitizen.org.au/features/power-andgender-how-schools-are-taking-lead-campaign-end-violence-against-women> 9 May
7. Cooney, E. (2012). "'Michelle' opens up about abuse', *Campapse News*. 13 November.
8. Livingston, A. (2012). 'Shelter in the storm/Mum back from the brink', *Maroondah Leader*. 22 May.

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9. Russell, M. and Hall, B. (2016). 'Man guilty of murder of former Bendigo woman' *Bendigo Advertiser*. <https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/3930758/man-guilty-of-murder-of-former-bendigo-woman/> 26 May
10. Adams, C. (2004). 'Kill husband just 'lost it'' *Herald Sun*. 23 October.
11. Grimes, W. (2015). 'Adele Mailer obituary: Wild wife 'spat out men's bones'' *The Sydney Morning Herald* <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/obituaries/wild-wife-spatout-mens-bones-20151130-glbrtp.html> 30 November
12. Italie, H. (2015). 'Adele Mailer, Former Wife of Norman Mailer, Dead at Age 90' *The Associated Press* <https://www.apnews.com/aa82a380ab8e4d66a5bd3179521642b5> 23 November.

Reporting on Indigenous communities examples

13. Owen, M. (2015). 'Domestic violence behind spikes in indigenous jail numbers: John Rau' *The Australian* <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/nationalaffairs/indigenous/domestic-violence-behind-spike-in-indigenous-jail-numbers-johnrau/news-story/c6b4a43dabbc638d8752a7e7862be08f> 15 September.
14. Gregory, K. (2015). 'Bagot Indigenous leader slams broadcast of Darwin domestic violence offender sentencing' *ABC Online* <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-16/community-reacts-to-domestic-violence-sentencing-broadcast/6779842> 17 September.
15. Bowden, T. (2015). "'I can't hide my scars": Woman who lost eye in hammer attack speaks out against domestic violence' *ABC Online* <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-25/marlene-tighe-loses-eye-teethafter-being-beaten-by-partner/6973972> 25 November.

Example 01

Judge Jane Campton slams John Grima over vicious attacks on his defacto partner

A judge has deemed domestic violence a form of “intimate terrorism” in jailing a man for the “cowardly and brutal” assaults on his defacto partner.

Judge Jane Campton told John Grima he had inflicted “sustained violence” on the woman over four days in breach of an intervention order against him.

Judge Campton said Grima, 37, had punched and kicked her, tried to gouge her eyes, bit her and smashed her head against a wall.

The County Court judge on Thursday said he also had threatened to cut her tongue out and on one occasion hit her on the legs and buttocks with a meat tenderiser until she passed out.

In her sentencing remarks, Judge Campton told Grima his violent behaviour was “appalling, cowardly and brutal and showed a total disrespect for her as a person”.

“You were controlling, threatening and abusive,” she said. Grima, formerly of Gladstone Park, who pleaded guilty to charges of intentionally causing serious injury and contravening a family violence intervention order, was jailed for six years and was ordered to serve a minimum of four years.

Judge Campton said if he had not pleaded guilty - and instead been convicted by a jury - she would have jailed him for eight years with a minimum of six years.

Prosecutor Kristie Churchill had earlier referred in her sentencing submissions to remarks by then Justice Frank Vincent in jailing a man who seriously injured his live-in partner.

“The too-frequent resort to violence by persons who have encountered problems in their personal relationships,” Justice Vincent said, “has produced a strong sense of apprehension and outrage in a society which is not prepared to accept that women and children, in particular, are to be subject to such behaviour.”

Justice Vincent said the law “must be heard to say with crystal clarity that it will not be tolerated” and that sentences must reflect a recognition of the seriousness of such conduct.

Judge Campton noted that it was a “sad comment on our society” that Justice Vincent’s remarks were made more than 20 years ago.

“Unfortunately today in 2014,” she said, “domestic violence remains a serious social problem in our community ... a form of intimate terrorism and those who use violence in this way can expect condign punishment.”

The court heard earlier that the woman, 36, was living with Grima at his house at the time of the offending in April, 2013, and that their relationship had started to deteriorate about a year earlier after he found some explicit photographs of her taken before they met.

After the sustained assaults, the woman on April 20 made a list of “chores” she had done that day and wrote a note that said: “Sorry John but I have to go. You are either going to kill me or I am going to keep coping bashings.”

A friend drove her to a police station where an ambulance was called which took her to hospital and a doctor detailed injuries that included bruising

to her forehead, eyes, cheeks, jaw and right shoulder and behind her ears and forearms. Scratches to her right arm and bloody scabs on her legs were consistent with a meat tenderiser being used.

Another doctor described various elements to the injuries as consistent with blunt force trauma and “defensive in nature”.

Judge Campton said the woman had showed “considerable courage” in reading her victim impact statement to the court in which she spoke of having numerous scars to her body, struggling emotionally and engaging counselling to cope with the depression and anxiety “that has overwhelmed her”.

Grima, an unemployed auto-electrician, has a limited criminal record with none for violence.

Judge Campton said his guilty pleas, while not entered early - the woman had been cross examined at a committal hearing - had spared her further questioning and that they were a reflection of his remorse.

She said he would “need to do more” than attend an anger management course and stop using drugs before his chances of rehabilitation “can be described as good”.

Example 02

Family violence advisory chair Ken Lay 'brought to tears' by childrens' attitudes

Former Victorian Police commissioner Ken Lay has said he cried when he read, in a survey of community attitudes to family violence, that girls as young as 10 were diminishing the seriousness of abuse they received from boys.

The survey, commissioned by the Federal Government, suggested women were often blamed for attacks against them, and men were excused with phrases like "boys will be boys".

The research showed while 96 per cent of Australians condemned domestic violence, underlying attitudes entrenched the problem.

It found blaming the victim was so automatic many people did not realise they were doing it.

Mr Lay, who is now chair of the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and Children, said despite his years leading Victoria's police force he was shocked and saddened by the survey.

"When presented with some scenarios of aggression by boys, I heard with sadness about 10-year-old girls already diminishing the abuse they received from boys," he said.

"I heard girls say about boys harassing them: 'It's not that bad, it's not like he punched her'.

"I heard boys justifying the violence by saying that they just wanted to be heard, that it was harmless.

"And for the all things I've seen, in my many, many years, in Victoria Police, this important evidence of the origins of gender violence and our complacency to it, brought me to tears."

Mr Lay retired as the chief commissioner of Victoria Police in January this year, after almost four years in the job.

He was in the police force for more than 40 years.

Family violence survey a 'wake-up call'

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull called the study a wake-up call for the nation.

"We have to change our attitudes. We all play a part in breaking this cycle of violence against women and children of domestic violence. This research is very important," he said.

Mr Lay said he felt "embarrassed and ashamed" that the community had got it so wrong.

He said the survey showed that use of authority would not be enough to stop the fundamental drivers of family violence.

"For all the training, the equipment, the power to investigate and arrest, none of this can touch the attitudes we impress on our children," he said.

"None of this can enter our homes, our minds or our families.

"None of this can alter the way we think about ourselves or our children."

"There are very painful personal stories behind those statistics, there are also attitudes and cultural complacency and that's what this research tells us today."

Example 03

Australia prepares to unite for White Ribbon Day

Celebrities, politicians, sportspeople and thousands of ordinary Aussies are gearing up for White Ribbon Day as the nation prepares to say an emphatic no to violence against women.

The national day of action against domestic violence takes place on Wednesday, with events scheduled across the country to raise awareness about the issue Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has described as a national disgrace.

Wednesday's events are part of a 16-day call to action that culminates on November 25 -- the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Australian of the Year for 2015 and family violence activist, Rosie Batty, has been front and centre of the campaign against a national backdrop that has seen the lives of more than 60 women lost to domestic violence this year alone.

Speaking on Tuesday, Turnbull said violence against women started with disrespect.

"All violence against women begins with disrespecting women ... the single most important thing each and every one of us can do as parents, especially as fathers and as mothers, is to make sure that our sons respect their mothers and their sisters," he told a Stand Up to Violence event in Canberra.

"It is so encouraging today to see the ... programs that are operating in our schools to promote respect for each other and respect for women.

He was confident Australia could "build up a set of attitudes, a culture that does not accept, that rejects this disrespect of women".

The PM's full remarks can be read here.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten also condemned violence against women, describing it as "all about power".

"It is caused fundamentally by an imbalance in our society, an imbalance in power," Shorten said.

"So long as women are denied equality then we will still have family violence."

Australians from all walks of life have taken to social media on the eve of this year's event.

Batty, who lost her son Luke to family violence, has previously said much more needs to be done to combat domestic and family violence in Australia.

"We need improved responses and funding because we haven't even touched the tip of the iceberg yet," she told the launch of White Ribbon Week 2015.

Example 04

Domestic violence orders recognised across Australia

DOMESTIC violence orders will be recognised across the country and vital information about violent partners and parents will be shared across jurisdictions as part of new measures to tackle Australia's shameful record on violence within the home.

Court-issued domestic violence orders (DVO) are used to restrain domestic violence perpetrators but currently are only recognised in the state or territory where they are issued, allowing criminals to slip the net.

Under an agreement reached at yesterday's Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting, DVOs will be recognised across all jurisdictions in the first half of 2016.

"All leaders are committed, as I believe all Australians are, to preventing violence against women and children," Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said.

Former Victorian Police Commissioner Ken Lay and Australian of the Year Rosie Batty advised COAG on the issue. There will also be a new domestic violence information sharing system enabling police and courts to share evidence and other information about violent or abusive partners across state and territories.

The system will take several years to implement but an interim system allowing authorities to share information about DVOs will be launched quickly.

The number of domestic assaults in NSW has risen steadily over the past decade, bucking the downward trend in a range of other major crime categories, and in 2014 there were 29,095 cases recorded — up from 25,384 in 2008. There will be a national domestic violence summit next year.

Other agreements reached at the COAG meeting include a plan to leave dangerous terrorists in jail if they still pose a risk at the end of their jail sentences. The vexed issue of tax reform and a possible increase to the GST was shunted down the road until at least March.

Example 05

Sports and gender: how local councils are leading in the campaign to prevent violence against women

Melina Triulcio instantly recalls 1977 as the year she stopped playing competitive softball. She was a 16-year-old high school student.

Four children and 22 years later, Triulcio decided it was time to pick up her bat and ball and play her beloved game again. And for the next 13-plus years she was so determined to play softball that she made the trek from her home in Coburg to play in a league in Melbourne's west.

But three years ago, Triulcio decided she'd had enough and it was time to bring the game back to Coburg.

She approached the West Coburg Sports Club and the Red Backs softball team became a reality. Now, the club fields four teams and has more than 60 members, the majority women and girls.

"I just wanted to see what would happen if I brought softball home to Coburg," Triulcio says proudly. "And it's been embraced with open arms."

As it happened, the creation of the softball teams at the West Coburg club was symbolic of the City of Moreland's initiative launched a year earlier to encourage more female participation in sport — and more women staking their claim to council-owned and operated sporting grounds.

For the first time, a local council in Victoria required all sporting clubs bidding to lease council grounds to show they were inclusive of women and juniors, or risk losing their access to grounds and facilities.

Geoff Law, the secretary of the West Coburg Sports Club, says the decision to expand into softball and netball was influenced by the incentives the council was offering to clubs willing to give girls and women a fair go.

"The policy came with a bit of a carrot in the form of giving inclusive clubs preference in funding, grants and facilities," says Mr Law. It proved a "big factor" in the expansion of West Coburg into softball and netball, which had long fielded male dominated football and cricket teams.

Five years ago only 30 to 40 girls were playing for West Coburg teams. Now, among its 700 listed players are 200 girls and women playing football, cricket, netball and softball, as well as participating in athletics.

Moreland's women participation officer, Brooke Mezzetta, says the municipality's ground-breaking strategy initially was met with mixed feelings among local sports clubs.

But the policy has since become widely-accepted practice and most clubs have either expanded into traditionally female sports or set up mixed teams to be more inclusive.

In 2009, just eight per cent of all players accessing Moreland's sports grounds were female. By 2013, female sports participation had more than doubled to nearly 20 per cent and continues to rise.

"We are the only council to have written out an inclusive women's sports policy in black and white," says Mezzetta. "And it's working."

But the moves are not just about levelling the ratio of male and female competitors and providing equal access to community-funded facilities. Promoting gender equality in all aspects of life is seen as a means of preventing violence against women. Research shows that a key cause of violence against women is persisting gender inequity throughout society.

While for many years local government has responded to such violence by providing essential services and support, a number of municipalities are increasingly focusing on the other end of the spectrum, aiming to prevent violence against women before it happens via community-funded programs and initiatives such as Moreland's sports strategy.

Since 2010, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the peak legislating body for local government and the intermediary with state legislators, has been leading the state in programs encouraging gender equity, particularly in addressing the underlying causes of violence against women.

Kellie Nagle, MAV's policy advisor for preventing violence against women, says local governments are a "national leader" in the area of gender equity and preventing violence against women. Four years ago, the MAV released its leadership statement on preventing violence against women and has since been directing local councils towards gender equity strategies.

"The MAV's leadership role is actively communicated across 79 councils and what it commits to is taken seriously across council," says Ms Nagle.

The MAV has established a preventing violence against women network, a leadership group with ambassadors drawn from local government, a gender equity section on its website and bi-monthly newsletters with more than 160 local government representatives subscribed.

"What the MAV is doing across councils is to illustrate how we can actually do things differently," says Ms Nagle. "Momentum is growing in a relatively short space of time, especially because there is good sharing across councils."

The City of Maribryngong has been one of the leading councils in gender equity since VicHealth funded a three-year pilot project to reduce violence against women in the western region in 2009.

One strategy implemented by Maribryngong was an audit of council-run facilities to assess how inclusive and safe they were for women. Facilities that were assessed included sporting clubs, maternal and child-care centres, libraries and community halls.

The tool assessed the design of community facilities in terms of isolation, lighting, possible assault sites, CCTV footage, maintenance and car parks, and raised questions about gender and community safety across Maribryngong.

Maribryngong councillor and gender equity ambassador Sarah Carter says local government is granted privileged access to the community and can be a real driver of change for gender equity and preventing violence against women.

She says Maribryngong is putting its "money where its mouth is" when it comes to promoting gender equality. With more than \$308 million worth of infrastructure and assets, Maribryngong is continuing to "develop an equitable framework based on a gender-lens to be used across a diverse range of council services," she adds.

"I think the more we can do raise awareness around gender equity, the more we get back from the community. It's about allowing everyone to come on the journey."

Meanwhile, in Melbourne's north-east, the City of Whittlesea is in the early stages of a suite of gender equity initiatives and is looking towards councils with established gender equity programs, such as Maribryong, as its model.

After Hume, the City of Whittlesea has the highest reported incidents of family violence in Melbourne's northern region. Between 2007 and 2010 the rate of family violence reported to the police rose by 30 per cent in Whittlesea.

Kathy Greer, Whittlesea's social policy and project officer, says these statistics and the growing momentum towards gender equity across councils prompted Whittlesea to act.

Sports pavilions in Whittlesea have since been upgraded using Maribryong's facility audit tool to make them more accessible for women and girls. Ms Greer says that gender equity is integral to the council's responsibilities. "Insuring men and women have equal access to the things they need for their wellbeing applies to a whole range of our core functions as Council."

Apart from new facility design and its collaboration with the MAV, Whittlesea is also extending parental child health programs into weekends and after hours to improve participation with men.

Moreland's Brooke Mezzetta says that the 'Active Women and Girls in Moreland' strategy is just the beginning of affirming gender equity in sport in the municipality. The next stage of the policy will require at least one fully female team per club in order to secure approval of sports ground allocation.

She is also looking to introduce a prevention of violence against women oath that each club can swear to and display in its clubroom. "It's about raising the bar every year to get the message out there," says Ms Mezzetta.

After years of negotiation with Moreland Council, the West Coburg Sports Club is getting an upgrade to its facilities in Morris Reserve, Pascoe Vale. The new facilities include a gym, pavilion and netball courts with synthetic surfaces.

"The only thing holding us back from getting more girls involved is the lack of facilities around here," says club secretary Geoff Law. "Once we have our new facilities, we'll be able to increase the participation rates of women and girls immensely."

In the distant future Melina Triulcio is also planning to set up a male-only softball team. "The more choice you have coming into a sport regardless of gender, the more you open doors for everyone." Her 18-year-old son plays in the under-19 softball team and "absolutely loves it".

For now, she is dreaming big for the Red Backs softball team. "My ultimate dream would be if council built one or two [playing] diamonds and we could get the schools involved to compete against each other and we can keep growing."

Example 06

Power and gender: how schools are taking a lead in the campaign to prevent violence against women

At a small school in Melbourne's south-east, recess has ended and a dozen teenagers head to their portable classroom for their next lesson. Inside, there is everything you'd expect to find: atlases, dictionaries, trophies. But between the posters about spelling rules and times-tables are less likely teaching tools.

"Sexism is a social disease. Feminists unite!" a poster reads. Declares another: "84% of sexual assault victims are female. Around 1% of perpetrators are female. Destroy the Joint!"

"This is what the ideal male looks like" heads a giant piece of butcher's paper hanging from a window. Beneath is a sketch of a man and a hand-written list of characteristics that men are expected to exhibit — aggressive, strong, masculine.

There are also lists of new words to learn — "hyper-sexualisation", "normalisation", "gender" — while on a whiteboard details of women's wages rank alongside those of men.

The teens, in their ripped skinny jeans and scuffed converse, are assembling for their next two periods of the day.

But this isn't Maths or English or any of the subjects that for decades have routinely made up the Victorian schools' curriculum. This is Gender 101, being served up at the [Southern Teaching Unit](#), a small school that caters for young people dealing with behavioral, social and emotional issues.

On the other side of Port Phillip Bay, a similar message sounds out in a Catholic boy's school 100 times bigger than the Southern Teaching Unit and where Deputy Principal Paul Clohesy stands before his class of 28 and tells his restless charges to "listen up".

"It's now time to come up with slogans about consent and some of the new concepts we've learnt about gender-based violence," he announces.

It is the final lesson in a six-week program designed by the [Centre Against Sexual Assault \(CASA\)](#) that is set to become a permanent part of the Year 9 curriculum at the 80-year-old [St Joseph's College](#) in Geelong.

"The best slogan," promises Clohesy, his voice rising above the buzz in the classroom, "will be chosen by CASA to be included in their next resource materials."

Meanwhile, at [Mount Ridley College](#), a new school in Melbourne's fast-growing northern suburbs — [a region with one of the highest rates of family violence in the state](#) — teachers, parents, local councillors and community health workers gather in the freshly-painted cafeteria around orange juice and sandwiches.

Launching a DVD created by Year 9 students as part of an ambitious gender education project being implemented throughout the school, City of Hume Mayor Casey Nunn tells the students: "By doing this project, you are showing exceptional leadership. As a City, we're very proud of you."

The exercises at Moorabbin, Geelong and Mount Ridley are among a burgeoning number of programs being introduced in schools that fall under the umbrella of respectful relationships education.

Educators believe the programs can help establish a better basis for family harmony, providing a much-needed antidote to a scourge that is the leading preventable cause of death, disability and illness in Victorian women aged 15 to 44 — domestic violence. On average, a woman dies at the hands of her intimate partner or former partner every week in Australia.

Some of the programs have been around for more than a decade. The emergence of others coincides with a growing community awareness that respectful relationships education should be central in any strategy aimed at decreasing levels of violence against women.

But while many Victorian schools are choosing to adopt such programs, the take-up is ad hoc with no clear State Government commitment to cementing respectful relationships education in the curriculum.

“It’s very much a growing field,” says Sharon Simon, who works at the Domestic Violence Resource Centre, which co-ordinates Partners in Prevention, a project that connects interested educators and has more than 400 people on its books.

“Increasingly, schools are interested in doing this work, a lot more services are interested in doing this work and a lot of non-traditional services are also interested. It’s no longer restricted to family violence organisations.”

But Simon warns that real change in community attitudes and behaviour will be slow.

“To achieve really serious change, this is something that every school would need to adopt and that’s in every year level in every school . . . You’ll see a lot of examples of quite high-profile people saying violence against women is wrong, but it’s that next step of linking violence against women with gender inequity and taking a stand against gender inequity which we haven’t got to yet as a society.”

Nevertheless, there exists a widening consensus about how change can best take root.

“In the city of Hume, on average, 42 incidents of family violence are reported to the police every week,” Veronica Jamison, the chief executive officer of Dianella, the municipality’s community health service, tells those gathered for Mount Ridley’s DVD launch.

“Violence against women is serious and prevalent. But it is also preventable, and schools have a big role to play by promoting respectful relationships and gender equity with young people, which will be translated into their homes.”

Respectful relationships programs are a core element of what’s known as “primary prevention” and are now hailed as one of the main tools in the fight to eliminate violence against women.

For 20 years community organisations, usually domestic/family violence and sexual assault services, women’s health and community legal services, have been working with schools to teach students about concepts such as gender, sex and respect.

Programs come in many incarnations and are pitched at different age levels, but a number target Year 9 students and typically run over a term or so through a series of 90-minute sessions.

Through evidence-based strategies, these weekly sessions encourage students to analyse critically what’s around them in terms of gender constructs of power — in pornography, the media, politics, their own families — and to reflect on their own stereotypical attitudes.

Ultimately, they aim to give students the skills to engage in respectful, gender-equitable relationships and to shift the attitudes and behaviours that form the basis of a gender-inequitable culture.

Primary prevention evolved in the 1990s when those in the sector became fed up with seeing consistently horrific rates of violence against women and decided to work on understanding its root causes and how they could be addressed long-term.

Emily Maguire, who has worked in the primary prevention field for nearly a decade, says research confirms that violence against women is caused by three factors: gender inequity, a rigid adherence to gender roles and violence-supportive attitudes. Put simply: the more sexism and gender inequality that exists in society, the higher the levels of violence against women.

A Unifem chart that plots gender equity and violence from a variety of international sources bears this out. Countries with the greatest equality between the sexes – Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden, for example – are among those with the lowest rates of violence against women. Conversely, where the gender gap is widest, such as in Yemen, Pakistan, Chad and Syria, rates of violence against women are highest. Australia ranks mid-stream in much of the data.

Maguire says gender inequity means “women being valued less . . . paid, heard, respected less”; or any kind of unequal power between men and women.

A rigid adherence to gender roles and stereotypes, she explains, means strict ideas around acceptable behaviours for men and women; from needing to dress in certain ways and perform certain careers to the kinds of characteristics around sexual activity associated with genders. Further, says Maguire, violence-supportive attitudes are often victim blaming attitudes, present in comments like “she was asking for it.”

According to VicHeath research, gender inequitable attitudes and those supportive violence are “astoundingly common”, especially among people aged 18 to 24.

“In Australia, although it may not seem as explicit as it is in other societies, we do have rigidly defined ideas about what men and women are supposed to do,” she says.

These prevailing attitudes are what create a culture where violence against women is more common.

“We’re not saying if you hold this attitude you’re going to perpetrate violence,” says Maguire. “What we’re saying is that in a patriarchal society where people think women and men should and shouldn’t do certain things, and where there’s a culture where violence is tolerated, individuals who live in that world are more likely to perpetrate violence than they would if things were more equal.”

The upshot is that the closer a society can come to embracing gender equity, the greater the reduction in violence against women. As a result, respectful relationships education became a key focus of those working in the primary prevention sector.

A key turning point came in 2009 when VicHealth produced a landmark report, a blueprint for how respectful relationships programs could be most effective in turning the tide on sexism and inequity.

Around the same time, the Brumby Labor government unveiled its 10-year [Right to Respect Plan](#) and dedicated an unprecedented \$14 million to primary prevention. The government also committed funding for a pilot program in four schools with a reinvigorated sector hopeful that, once these were completed, additional funding would be given to roll programs out across the state. But then, in 2010, the government changed and [funding was cut](#).

Maguire says the current State Government has violence against women prevention programs in its statewide plan but money is concentrated at the response end of the issue with “dramatically less” than there was under the Right to Respect Plan now allocated for primary prevention work, including respectful relationships education.

Even so, many schools are taking on the programs regardless of government support.

At Craigieburn’s Mount Ridley College, the incentive came when the local health service, Dianella Community Health, made the prevention of violence against women a priority.

Dianella’s health promotions officer, Jeny Gautam, says when the service looked at evidence about what works best long-term, respectful relationships education was at the top of its list.

At [Glenroy College](#), which has been running a respectful relationships curriculum for 10 years, teacher Lidia Tizian says that the school recognised that gender education was vital because students were “not necessarily getting those messages in other places”.

While the efforts of individual schools have been praised, the domestic violence sector believes that without the necessary resources and a government-driven co-ordinated approach, outcomes are likely to be compromised.

Deakin University lecturer Debbie Ollis, a leader in respectful relationships education, says at most schools “sexuality education takes a biomedical approach and issues around gender are just missing”. She says there are problems with the current ad-hoc take-up of programs by schools with no proper evaluation to see which methods work best.

Another problem, says Sharon Simon, of the Domestic Violence Resource Centre, is that schools might have good intentions but often run one-off programs that may miss their mark.

Evidence shows that not only are these programs ineffective, but they can be harmful because they’re likely to raise issues for young people without providing the trained support staff to deal with them.

And what is most problematic, these experts say, is schools often adopt anti-violence education, but sanitise it to avoid parts that make teachers uncomfortable, such as sexual violence, and don’t follow what the 2009 report found to be “best practice”.

The report found it is essential that programs use what’s called a “feminist approach”. This means they don’t just challenge violence generally but challenge the gender inequity proven to be the root cause of violence against women.

Schools often run anti-bullying programs but because they don’t talk about gender or challenge gender inequity, they don’t create the change in attitudes needed to succeed in their goal, says Ollis.

Primary prevention specialist Emily Maguire says that in the best programs, before there is talk about violence against women, “what you’ve got to do essentially is get people to reflect on how they ‘do gender.’”

“You’ve got to talk about what gender means and how it constrains people, and get people to reflect on their own stereotypical attitudes.” Most importantly, “you’ve got to give people the skills to do things differently”.

Sharon Simon says currently programs tend to begin with Year 9 and 10 students because they are often in their first relationships and are still forming gender attitudes.

“But ideally you’d have a program running at an early childhood centre, and you’d build on that in kindergarten, primary and secondary [schools], so every year of that young person’s development they have access to respectful relationships education.”

Evidence shows that “the more this message is reinforced the more likely it will change attitudes and behaviors”, she adds.

Critically, say the experts, programs should take a “whole-of-school approach”, meaning the project isn’t confined to the curriculum of the one class where it takes place but addresses a school’s entire culture.

This approach could mean a maths teacher using the gender pay gap to teach percentages; a history teacher looking at changing gender roles over a certain historical period; a librarian stocking their collection with more female authors. It could be the principal challenging the predominance of male science teachers or female home economics teachers or conducting a gender pay audit of staff.

And a whole-of-school approach would ideally involve parents and the broader community, says Maguire, because “if you’ve got a school doing a program that is perfect but kids are being told something different by their parents or footy coach, then that’s going to undermine what they’re getting at school”.

At Mount Ridley, part of their whole-of-school approach has involved a “student working group” which meets in their lunchtime to examine school culture through a gender lens. They might, for example, look at the gendered nature of uniform policy or make sure the school gets as excited about girls’ sporting success as it does when boys’ teams do well.

Meanwhile, at the Southern Teaching Unit, a student-led White Ribbon night is held for parents. Simon says what is done in school is one opportunity to change attitudes but that message should be “saturating” every aspect of young lives.

“Ideally, you would have this message provided within the school, youth centres, sporting clubs and local media. You need to work with the whole community so the message these young people receive is that violence is not OK, gender inequity is not OK and gender inequity leads to violence. That message needs to be reinforced from early childhood right through to tertiary.”

Steph Tipping, the schools program co-ordinator of CASA House in Melbourne says although CASA would like to expand and develop its program to get more schools on board, a lack of resources makes this impossible. While the program has been implemented in more than 35 schools, it is currently funded through the general budgets of individual CASAs, which are struggling to meet demand.

Deakin’s Debbie Ollis says what is critical to extending the reach of respectful relationships programs is support for teacher training and professional development.

“Unless teachers have professional development, they don’t have the comfort, skills and understanding to address sensitive issues like this,” she notes. “They need to have an opportunity to explore their own positioning around gender-based violence; they need to know how to address it in the classroom, and how to deal with issues if they’re disclosed. And you can’t expect teachers to do that without some professional learning that is funded because schools don’t have the money to release teachers.”

Maguire adds that experience shows that many people in the community hold certain violence supportive and gender stereotypical attitudes. It stands to reason that some of those people will be teachers who, without appropriate skills, cannot be expected to deliver programs effectively or model the right behaviour for their students. She says that for teachers, a key ingredient is gaining the confidence to deliver the material and call people out on sexism when they see it.

“If you’re a good teacher, you’ll know how to lead a discussion about certain statements you overhear, but to do that you’ve got to have a strong sense of gender equity yourself and teachers at the moment aren’t trained in that.”

Kate Cooper, of the Southern Teaching Unit, agrees that confidence is essential. “My background was as a primary school teacher so we didn’t talk about sex-ed besides ‘This is a vagina and this is a penis’, so I really had to learn the confidence to talk about the content. But once you’ve got it, you just fly with it.”

Ollis says she would like gender education put into primary and secondary teacher training courses, as well as government support for well-developed resources, a whole-of-school approach and continuing evaluation of programs. For that to happen, she says, there needs to be political will.

“Just like we need leadership in a school to make a program work,” adds Dianella’s Jeny Gautam, “we need the leadership support for the state to make this sustainable. There are already so many organisations doing this that if the government said they wanted to make it a statewide thing, it would be a matter of us simply banding together to put the curriculum in place.”

Ollis thinks the first step is for the government to put respectful relationships education in the curriculum. And the advent of a [national curriculum](#) was providing a wonderful opportunity to do just that.

“In an ideal world,” she says, “all our students would leave secondary school with a solid and comprehensive background in health and sexuality education that would involve a focus on respectful relationships.”

And in that world, violence against women, which claims the lives of approximately 50 Australian women every year, would be greatly reduced.

Showing respect: Different programs, different schools

- The Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) has been running respectful relationships programs for more than a decade. The *Sexual Assault Prevention Program in Secondary Schools*, or SAPPSS, takes a whole-of-school approach, focusing on issues of sexual violence and consent. Centered around six sessions for Year 9 students, it has been introduced in about 35 schools.
- *Youth Advocates Against Family Violence* has been developed by Inner Melbourne Community Legal and Dousta Galla Community Health. The project also takes a whole-of-school approach, runs through 12 sessions and aims to address responses to family violence as well as prevention measures. Delivered to four inner-city schools in 2013, it is currently being evaluated.
- *Girls Talk–Guys Talk* was developed in 2007 by Women’s Health West, a family violence and health promotion service for women in Melbourne’s western suburbs. Focused essentially on 14 and 15 year olds, it also takes a whole-of-school approach, aiming to build supportive school environments that promote healthy relationships and sexual choices. It has been rolled out in four schools.
- The Good Samaritan Inn in Preston is a crisis accommodation centre for homeless women and their children, most of whom are victims of family violence. While their work focuses mainly on a response to domestic violence, the centre developed *We Can Do It*, a respectful relationships program for local schools.
- Darebin City Council is developing a school-based program for Year 10 students, to be introduced this year. It explores the link between gender inequity and male violence against women, with a focus on gender, consent, power and control, and support services available to respond to victims.
- The *Gippsland Respectful Relationship Education in Schools* program (GRREiS, pronounced ‘grease’) was developed in 2007 by the Gippsland Women’s Health Service. It uses a whole-school approach and focuses on working to help teachers become comfortable delivering curriculum. It is aimed primarily at students in Years 8 and 9 and is operating in four schools.
- The *Respectful Community Initiative* is a primary prevention strategy aimed at preventing inter-personal and sexual violence within the entire Monash University community. It began in July 2012, has been delivered to about 2000 students and is the only program targeting universities. It provides presentations on how to create respectful communities with a focus on sports teams, residential colleges and Monash clubs, societies, associations and unions.
- The *Sexuality Education & Community Support* (SECS) program works on a whole-of-school approach to sexuality education from Prep to Year 12. It has been introduced over the past three years at Northern Bay College – a cluster of nine campuses across northern Geelong. Driven by Barwon Health, parents and local education representatives.
- The *Be the Hero* program, originally set up by the Victorian Women’s Trust, is a web-based program for boys and young men, encouraging them to take a lead in promoting respectful relationships with women. It involves four 50-minute sessions, and has been embraced by hundreds of schools.
- Maribyrnong City Council has run respectful relationships programs in local schools for more than 10 years. In their peer-support model, 12-15 students from a school participate in a five-week program and then share what they have learnt with their peers. Maribyrnong’s *Phoenix Youth Centre produced a video on gender equity* while taking the program.

Example 07

'Michelle' opens up about abuse

A Rochester woman has been to hell and back at the hands of her ex-husband who mentally and sexually abused for her nearly 20 years.

After many torturous years, she is now fighting back and urges anyone else affected by domestic violence to speak up.

'Michelle' (not her real name) said she felt many people in Rochester questioned her sanity.

"You learn who your friends are and you discover that more people tolerate it and would rather not know about it and see someone suffer than get off their a**e and do something," she said.

"I know that sounds terrible, but people in this town — particularly here, but I'm finding it in general — they want the Snow White meets Prince Charming . . . happily ever after.

"They don't want to know when Snow White meets Prince Charming and he becomes a monster."

Michelle said she found it difficult to watch her husband, whom she loved, change into someone else.

"You cringe when you hear the car pull up in the driveway. You see a reflection of a tie in a shop and it makes you lose your breath," she said.

"To go from having lost your breath in love to fear, it's a very . . . (breaks down crying)

"There are days it catches me like it was yesterday and there are days where I don't think about it at all.

"For a long time, I was determined that marriage should work, people should stay together forever . . . but not when it's like it was.

"It's not life at all. It's a miserable existence."

Michelle was a teenager when she began dating 'Greg' (not his real name) and they spent every waking minute together.

Three years later, they married and had children.

Michelle said Greg had always controlled her finances and she only noticed something was wrong many years into the relationship.

It was when she had to ask her father for \$5 to buy a drink after Greg refused to give her \$20 to have lunch with her father.

"I knew things were funny . . . it was more Dad's reaction than anything . . . and that had been a frequent thing for me to have to do and no-one had ever really seen it, so I had never really seen anyone's reaction to it," she said.

"I regularly had to run an account with Murray Goulburn (store) which used to cop me a flogging if I had to use that.

"I'd get to the check-out (of the supermarket) with the trolley full of shopping and I would be locked out of the bank, with all the codes changed and left with no access to money."

Michelle said she often noticed chalk marks on the tyres in the morning so her husband could see if the car had been moved.

Sometimes, her keys were taken or the petrol siphoned out of the car to make sure she stayed in the house all day.

For the first 10 years, there was no physical abuse, she said.

“It was more subtle; giving up your independence and giving up your power,” she said.

“If my sister called and asked if I wanted to come down for a girls’ weekend, I’d have to ask permission.

“If I got that permission, I’d have to spend the week preparing; doing the lawns, scrubbing the walls, making sure the meals were prepared.”

After 10 years of marriage, Greg started raping Michelle as punishment for when she would leave the house for more than a day.

“There was always a rape before and a rape after because I had been away from the house. . . there was always a punishment.”

Michelle told the police and they encouraged her to report the abuse and provided her with the names of shelters and support groups.

“He explained how much harder it is within marriage, but almost begged me not to let that deter me . . . that anyone who has that right taken away should stand up, whether it’s someone you are married to or not.”

The night before Michelle left Greg permanently, she was raped as he was furious she had been away for work, she said.

That morning was the most violent rape she had experienced throughout the relationship.

“There had been dangerous times before when I had an asthma attacks in the middle of it (the rape) and he wouldn’t stop . . . but I think I was getting to the point where I spent most of my days on the floor looking for my sanity . . . or what was left of my heart.

“I knew that if it wasn’t him that killed me, it would be me and I didn’t want my kids burying me.”

That morning, she could not walk and had to be carried from her home.

The most heartbreaking thing for Michelle was leaving her children behind, but she could not physically care for them at that point.

She now has custody of her children and is enjoying her newfound freedom.

Learning to live all over again is difficult for Michelle, who struggles to decide what to wear or who to meet for dinner.

“I’m about to buy my first car and that’s huge . . . And it’s not just me, it’s my children,” she said.

“Most young women get to do that.”

Although it was exciting to have choices and freedom, Michelle said she was also terrified.

One of the simple things she enjoys is sitting down to watch Sex and the City.

“Most women watch it. I used to have to sneak to my neighbours to watch it and we’d have a few glasses of wine, but if I got caught, I’d be punished,” she said.

“Now, to be able to sit down and watch it, I can actually laugh out loud on my own couch and not grip the chair.”

Example 08

Shelter in the storm / Mum arrives back from the brink

WOMEN and children can arrive at any hour of the day or night.

Rich, poor or in between, they're all running from violent men.

They leave because staying means injury or even death.

Maroondah Halfway House chief executive Janine Mahoney said women from across the east arrived at the house in a crisis.

"We work with the most highly vulnerable families that are at imminent risk from family violence," Ms Mahoney said.

"Their lives are at risk, and so are those of their children."

Maroondah Halfway House and Brenda House in Whitehorse will merge in June to form the Safe Futures Foundation.

Ms Mahoney said the new organisation would be able to help even more women and children across the east.

Safe Futures Foundation strategic policy manager Wendy Austin said in her time as manager of Brenda House, she noticed one thing that unified all women walking in.

She said those living with violence often lacked self-esteem.

Ms Austin said family violence broke down women's abilities to think positively about themselves, which was unsurprising "when you are consistently put down".

That's where the Maroondah Halfway House and its staff are making it easier for women and children when they are at their most vulnerable.

The original refuge, a 1970s share house model, has been redesigned to include self-contained individual units and universal access units for women and children with a disability.

Ms Mahoney said the new set-up allowed women some privacy and dignity.

It also allowed the house to take large families with up to six or seven children.

The Federal Government recently handed over \$43,000 to improve security at the house. Deakin federal Labor MP Mike Symon said it was a worthwhile use of money that had come from fines and penalties handed out in Victoria.

Ms Mahoney said extra security would provide peace of mind for the families.

She said they usually lost everything when family violence forced them out.

"It basically means they're homeless," Ms Mahoney said.

"The children are unable to continue going to their current school.

"Children often lose their friends from school, their pets, their toys, all of their belongings."

Mum arrives back from the brink

NANCY thought about killing herself twice a week.

Her husband pulled her hair, hit her, slapped her.

And the abuse was only getting worse.

“I came here five years ago with my husband,” Nancy (not her real name) said.

“Before I got pregnant, he was good with me, he was not bad.

“But after I had my first (child) . . . he started to be very crazy.”

Nancy moved to Australia from a Middle Eastern country where men have all the legal rights in a relationship.

She had no family support and no idea where to turn.

She hit rock bottom last year with the birth of her second child.

“I had enough. I feel like I want to kill myself,” she said.

A nurse noticed Nancy was struggling and asked for her story. When she revealed the violence was getting worse each week, the nurse referred her to a social worker.

Nancy and her children left home soon after and ended up at the Maroondah Halfway House.

It has marked a period of personal growth for the young mum.

Nancy said her young daughter deserved a better life than she had.

“I don’t like her to live like me,” she said.

“My dad was hitting my mum all the time for nothing and we felt sorry for our mum but we can’t do anything.”

Nancy said the support from workers at Maroondah Halfway House and other agencies meant she was able to break the cycle of violence.

“To have this support makes me strong,” she said. “When I look back, it was dark. Dark life for me.”

Nancy said she had changed 100 per cent and things now looked “bright”.

“I want to continue life,” she said. “I want to put my kids in good schools.”

Nancy has only seen her husband in court since she left about a year ago. She said he and her family still believed she was just angry and would return to him, which she refused to do.

“He said if he finds me he will kill me and take the kids,” she said.

But Nancy said she wasn’t letting anyone else control her life any more.

“I feel happy now,” she said.

“Before I was crying all the time.

“(Now) I feel like I want to run, but where, I don’t know.”

Example 09

Man guilty of murder of former Bendigo woman

A man who claimed he stabbed his former partner six times in broad daylight outside a Sunshine shopping centre in self-defence has been found guilty of murder.

Craig McDermott, 39, showed no emotion as the jury of five women and seven men unanimously found he had murdered Fiona Warzywoda, 33, a day after a court refused him access to their children

McDermott had told a Supreme Court jury that Ms Warzywoda, the mother of his four children, was the one armed with the knife and he had only wanted to speak to her when she was returning to her car after seeing her solicitor.

In court, Ms Warzywoda's family members broke down in tears as the verdict was read.

McDermott had denied having minutes earlier bought a knife from a nearby shop or having ever been armed with a knife when struggling with Ms Warzywoda, his former partner of 18 years, and stabbing her six times on April 16, 2014.

Crown prosecutor Brendan Kissane, QC, had told the jury McDermott had murderous intent when he confronted Ms Warzywoda in broad daylight in front of dozens of shoppers.

"Clearly this was not an accident," Mr Kissane said.

"If you stab someone six times, you intend to kill them ... and you don't stab somebody six times believing that it's necessary to do that to defend yourself."

Mr Kissane said a pathologist gave evidence about each of the stab wounds, including how two were fatal stab wounds to the chest and the others to different parts of the body.

The prosecutor pointed to evidence from eyewitnesses about how Ms Warzywoda was screaming when being chased by McDermott who had been keeping watch for her at a nearby cafe.

One witness described the incident as being like a cat chasing a mouse.

Mr Kissane said Ms Warzywoda had been to the magistrates' court earlier that day to obtain an intervention order against McDermott and the pair had left the court at about the same time.

Ms Warzywoda then went to her solicitor's office as McDermott lay in wait.

One witness claimed the stabbing was ferocious after McDermott had rugby tackled Ms Warzywoda to the ground.

Another witness claimed Ms Warzywoda was lying on the ground on her stomach when McDermott rolled her over and stabbed her in the chest the first time.

McDermott and Ms Warzywoda had been together for 18 years and had had four children but their relationship ended in February 2014 after a family party.

McDermott had been drunk and abusive at the party after being told to leave and smashed the window of Ms Warzywoda's car on his way out.

He later allegedly told one of the couple's children that he was going to kill Ms Warzywoda with a pocket knife he kept in his car.

Another witness claimed McDermott vowed he was "going to slice her".

Ms Warzywoda told people on the day she died that she was in fear of McDermott and how he had confronted her and told her, "You're f--ked."

Defence barrister John Desmond told the jury it was not far-fetched to suggest Ms Warzywoda had been carrying the knife.

"This is a very graphic physical incident where the deceased has been stabbed six times in broad daylight, public thoroughfare in front of umpteen numbers of people," Mr Desmond said.

"One could easily jump the gun and say it's got to be murder. But it's jumping the gun.

"If it is correct that Fiona had the knife and came at him with it, thrusting it forward, any objective measure of the situation begins to point to a conclusion that it may not be murder.

"Because a person is entitled to defend him or herself."

Mr Desmond said McDermott largely had no memory of what happened from the moment he tried to deflect the knife away from him and grabbed Ms Warzywoda's hand holding the knife.

McDermott will be sentenced at a later date.

Example 10

Kill husband just ‘lost it’

A REJECTED and belittled husband may have been behaving like any ordinary man when he strangled his wife, a court heard yesterday.

The Supreme Court was told James Stuart Ramage was dealt a “catastrophic blow” when his wife left him and a month later taunted him with details of her new lover.

The wealthy Balwyn businessman has pleaded not guilty to murdering his wife in July last year. But he does not deny punching and strangling her when he “lost it”.

Jury members have been asked to consider whether Mrs Ramage’s treatment of her husband in the weeks before her death may have provoked him to kill her and, if so, whether his charge should be reduced to manslaughter.

Mr Ramage’s lawyer, Phil Dunn, QC, told the court Mrs Ramage’s final “hurtful” words to her husband may have been “like a fly that lands on a car that is teetering on the edge of a cliff”.

The court heard Mr Ramage became obsessed with reconciliation after Mrs Ramage moved out of their family home in June last year, complaining he was too controlling.

In the five weeks they were apart, he sent her flowers, CDs, letters and poems and talked incessantly to counsellors and friends about how he could make himself better for his wife.

Mr Dunn said Mrs Ramage had lied to her husband and covered up her budding relationship with a bush poet because she wanted to “let him down gently”.

Mr Dunn said an ordinary 45-year-old man in his situation may have reacted in the same way if their wife told them that sex with them repulsed her and that their new lover was better.

“Every issue of this man’s life was being attacked . . . his sexuality, his role as a husband, his role as as a father,” Mr Dunn said.

“To be told the last 10 years . . . all those walks, those talks, those cuddles, those kisses . . . were all a sham.”

Mr Dunn said in his final address that a prosecution theory that Mr Ramage prepared a piece of rope to strangle his wife was a “red herring” aimed at distracting the jury from the truth.

“It’s a trick and it’s a trick on you,” he told the jury. He said there was no evidence that the rope, found in a hole near where Mr Ramage buried his wife’s body, held any clothing fibres, DNA or blood.

The trial before Justice Robert Osborn continues next week.

Example 11

Wild wife ‘spat out men’s bones’

Adele Mailer

Marital firecracker

12-6-1925 – 22-11-2015

Adele Mailer, second wife of Norman Mailer, wanted to live on the wild side. According to her memoirs, she decided to become “that beautiful temptress who ate men alive, flossed her teeth and spat out the bones, wearing an endless supply of costumes by Frederick’s of Hollywood”. The Mailers made headlines in 1960 when Adele was stabbed and seriously wounded by her husband at a drunken party in their apartment.

Adele Morales had been an aspiring painter in 1951 when she met Mailer, the author of *The Naked and the Dead*, who was on his way to becoming recognized as one of the pre-eminent postwar American novelists. The two began living together and married three years later. It was Norman Mailer’s second marriage.

The relationship, marked by heavy drinking and ancillary love affairs on both sides, was stormy. Adele’s notion of romantic life was along the lines of the opera *Carman* – she said “you lived from crisis to crisis, sang love duets and had screaming fights”. The stabbing took place the year Norman Mailer announced his improbable candidacy for mayor of New York. He decided to celebrate with a party at their apartment on the Upper West Side. The guest list was unusual – since the author thought of his natural constituency as the disenfranchised, he invited several strangers off the street.

He summoned the city’s power elite, including the police and fire commissioners, the banker David Rockefeller and the Aga Khan, but none of them came. However the party could still be described as glittering, with attendees such as poets Allen Ginsberg and Delmore Schwartz, the editor Norman Podhoretz and the actor Tony Franciosa. With the liquor flowing, it all made for a volatile mix. Ginsberg and Podhoretz got into a fight and had to be separated. Drunk and belligerent, Mailer, wearing a ruffled matador shirt, repeatedly tangled with his guests. Around 4 a.m., he confronted his wife in an incoherent rage.

In a memoir, Adele Mailer recalled having taunted her husband, bluntly deriding his manhood, referring to “your ugly whore of a mistress” and following with an obscenity. Some guests recalled that the point of no return came when she told her husband that he was not as good as Dostoyevsky. Norman Mailer stabbed her in the stomach and back with a penknife, puncturing her cardiac sac.

Mailer was charged with felonious assault and committed to Bellevue Hospital for psychiatric observation.

In court, Norman Mailer argued, “Naturally I have been a little upset, but I have never been out of my mental faculties. It is important for me not to be sent to a mental hospital, because my work in the future will be considered that of a disordered mind. My pride is that I can explore areas of experience that other men are afraid of. I insist I am sane.”

Mailer pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of third-degree assault and received a suspended sentence. The couple divorced the next year. Speaking to *The New York Times Magazine* in 1979, Norman Mailer said, “A decade’s anger made me do it. After that, I felt better.” In a documentary shown on PBS in 2000 as part of the series “*American Masters*,” he took a more remorseful

tone. "It changed everything in my life," he said. "It is the one act I can look back on and regret for the rest of my life."

Adele Carolyn Morales was born in Brooklyn. Her mother, Consuela Rodriguez, was of Spanish descent. Her father, Albert, who came to New York from Peru as a teenager, was a newspaper typesetter and a lightweight boxer who taught his son-in-law a good deal of what he knew about the sport. Some lessons were emphatically hands-on, with Norman Mailer going down for the count in one early sparring session.

After her divorce, Adele Mailer, who had studied acting, appeared in several off-Broadway productions. She did not remarry and in later years lived a frugal existence in a one-bedroom apartment. She is survived by their daughters Danielle and Elizabeth. Norman Mailer, who married six times, died in 2007.

Example 12

Adele Mailer, former wife of Norman Mailer, dead at 90

Adele Morales Mailer, an actress and artist who studied under Lee Strasberg and Hans Hoffman, but found unwanted fame as the stabbing victim of her then-husband Norman Mailer, died Sunday at age 90 at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

The cause was pneumonia, daughter Danielle Mailer told The Associated Press on Monday.

“She wanted to be remembered as a gifted painter and actress and as a mother who was fiercely devoted to her (two) girls,” Danielle Mailer said, while acknowledging that she would be known to many for an act of violence her husband committed 55 years ago.

Adele Morales Mailer was the second of Norman Mailer’s six wives. They had been married six years when in November 1960 they got into a drunken argument after a party at their Manhattan apartment and the author stabbed her near the heart with a penknife.

The widely reported incident left her in critical condition, with wounds in her abdomen and back. Norman Mailer was indicted for felonious assault, but Adele declined to press charges, saying she wanted to protect their daughters. He later received a suspended sentence after pleading guilty to third-degree assault.

“I came in contact for the first time in my life with the depths of my own rage,” he later said of the stabbing, which helped define his belligerent image.

The Mailers were divorced in 1962 and Adele remained scarred and angry for decades after, her daughter told the AP. While Norman Mailer’s career continued with barely an interruption, Adele ended up in a Manhattan tenement.

“I can’t believe I’ve come to this, and a lot of that is due to him, because Mailer wouldn’t help me,” she told The New York Times in 2007, not long after the author’s death. “I’m living in poverty.”

Danielle Mailer said her mother remained dedicated to art after her marriage and turned her home into a “giant installation” of assemblages, her chosen medium.

“She lived and breathed her art and she passed it on to us,” Danielle said, noting that she was a painter and her sister, Elizabeth, a writer.

A native of New York City, Adele met Mailer in the early 1950s, when she was a painter and bohemian who had briefly dated Jack Kerouac and he was the renowned author of “The Naked and the Dead.” They later had homes in Manhattan and Connecticut, and socialized with William Styron, James Baldwin and others. But they argued often and she also had to intervene when he fought with others, once bailing him out after he had a drunken encounter with police.

Adele Mailer wrote of the stabbing in her 1997 memoir, “The Last Party,” and recalled it for the 2010 documentary “Norman Mailer: The American.”

“He was down in the street punching people,” she said of that night, when he had intended to launch a bid for New York City mayor. “He didn’t know who he was. He didn’t know what his name was, he was so out of it.

She would remember him bursting in on her in their apartment — “his body coming toward me in a rush. I didn’t see the knife in his hand” — and his indifference as she lay bleeding.

“That will be seared in my memory for ever and ever,” she said.

Example 13

Domestic violence behind spike in indigenous jail numbers: John Rau

Among key reasons for the “very high number” of Aborigines imprisoned is that indigenous Australians do not have any role models and are domestic violence perpetrators, South Australia’s Attorney-General John Rau says.

Mr Rau, the Deputy Premier, acknowledged Aboriginal incarceration was “a very, very serious problem ... something as a nation we really need to be very concerned about”.

In response to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures that show South Australia has the second highest rate of Aboriginal imprisonment of all states, Mr Rau said the problem was not the state’s corrections system but rather a “deeply entrenched disadvantage in Aboriginal society ... which is becoming an intergenerational problem”.

“Aboriginal people do not have work, they don’t have educational opportunities, they don’t have role models ... of course this causes tremendous misery,” he said.

According to the ABS Corrective Services September quarter statistics, more than 2.5 per cent of the state’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population are in prison, well above the national average and second only to Western Australia, one of only three states where this rate did not decrease this year.

Mr Rau said this was related to police arresting and charging more domestic violence offenders from Aboriginal communities, who ended up in jail: “It is true that in South Australia, as I think is the case in Western Australia, that things many years ago were perhaps not policed in the way they are now.

“The fact is, when Aboriginal people are involved in domestic violence these days, to the credit of the police force they actually get involved and ... arrest the offenders ... and those who are charged and convicted wind up often in prison.”

Mr Rau said it was up to the wider Australian community to help “completely transform the experience of being an Aboriginal in the 21st century ... and see if we can’t find ways where we can actually give people positive directions, positive role models and opportunities to have an aspiration in life.”

Opposition correctional services spokesman John Gardner said the government had provided a lot of excuses but would have more credibility if it took some action.

Example 14

Bagot Indigenous leader slams broadcast of Darwin domestic violence offender sentencing

A Darwin Aboriginal leader says she is worried a judge's comments about a domestic violence case in her community have caused more harm than good.

At a sentencing hearing held in Darwin this week, Supreme Court Judge Judith Kelly took the unprecedented step of allowing media to film the sentencing of Conway Stephenson, who bashed his wife to death in the Darwin Bagot Community two years ago.

Stevenson was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for the sustained attack on his wife, and the judge said the case was so brutal she needed to send a message to both perpetrators and bystanders of domestic violence.

Justice Kelly also used the victim's name - Terasita Bigfoot - with permission from her family.

To make this case, the Aboriginal case, as a case study for the media to record is a bit disappointing.

She also said that her decision to allow media to broadcast the sentencing was in the public interest, because society must be informed about the dangers of domestic violence, and the levels of drunken violence in Aboriginal communities.

But according to Bagot community leader Helen Fejo Frith, the decision to broadcast the sentencing unfairly singled out Aboriginal people as being the main perpetrators of domestic violence.

"We are not all violent people and we are not all like this, because when you look at it, it's right across the board whether it's an Aboriginal person or whether it's a European person," Ms Fejo Frith said.

In her sentencing remarks, Justice Kelly asked the courtroom, "What are we? What have we become?" as to why nobody intervened to stop the five-hour, sustained attack on Ms Bigfoot.

"On the night [Ms Bigfoot] died, many people at the Bagot community and also people passing by on Bagot Road, saw and heard Conway Stevenson abusing and bashing Terasita Bigfoot, but no-one helped her, no-one tried to stop him and no-one called the police," Justice Kelly said in her sentencing remarks.

But Ms Fejo Frith said people in the community did intervene, not physically because of fear, but they called the police several times.

"I don't know whether their calls were taken seriously, but if it was, she wouldn't have been gone now," Ms Fejo Frith said.

John Paterson, head of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance in the Northern Territory, also criticised the decision to allow the cameras in.

He said the broadcast makes domestic violence seem as though it was solely an Aboriginal issue.

"To make this case, the Aboriginal case as a case study for the media to record is a bit disappointing," Mr Paterson said.

"Not only in the Indigenous community, but community wide - there's non-Indigenous people ... there's all sorts of domestic violence going on, and probably to the same severe levels," he said.

Justice Kelly noted in her remarks to the court that the Northern Territory had the highest rates of domestic violence in Australia and Indigenous females represented 73 per cent of the NT's domestic violence victims.

The Northern Territory Law Society welcomed Justice Kelly's decision to live stream the sentencing, saying it was a graphic way to inform the public about the dangers of domestic violence.

The society's Tass Liveris said cameras should be allowed in courtrooms for cases that are in the public interest.

"I think that it highlights the fact that domestic violence is such a widespread and problematic issue in the community at the moment, that drawing attention to it in such a graphic way is really something that's in the public interest in this particular case," Ms Liveris said.

Example 15

“I can’t hide my scars”: woman who lost eye in hammer attack speaks out against domestic violence

“I live with it every day ‘cause my scars are on my face, I can’t hide my scars.”

Marlene Tighe’s face tells a story; a shocking story of domestic violence.

“It is there every day,” she told 7.30.

“I am not the person I used to be.”

Ms Tighe had returned to live in her home town on the New South Wales south coast, and hooked up with an old flame. But she soon realised he had become a violent man.

“Within two years I probably went through domestic violence with him about four, five times,” she said.

“Then the last one was the one I nearly lost my life.”

It happened in the early hours of the morning after the couple had had an argument. Ms Tighe wanted to end the relationship, and asked him to leave.

“He didn’t like it so he turned around and picked up a hammer and hit me in the face,” she said.

Geraldine Thomas lived just down the road and came to help. She barely recognised Ms Tighe.

“I just was holding her and cuddling her. She was covered in blood, blood was all over her face, her hair,” Ms Thomas said.

“I was really scared, in her condition I wasn’t sure if she was going to make it or not.”

Ms Tighe said she remembers lying there and thinking she would not wake up.

She was in hospital for weeks and underwent several operations.

“I lost one eye, I got 11 plates in my face, fractured jaw, got no teeth,” she said.

Two years on, Ms Tighe said she is not as confident as she once was, but she is determined to stop the cycle of domestic violence.

“We need our kids to be educated and let them know domestic violence is not right,” she said.

“People that live on our communities, we’ve got to stop being silent and being quiet, it’s not OK to allow it to happen.

“The kids, they are the ones seeing the trauma, it is like going through a war zone what these kids see, they are traumatised.”

Ms Tighe told her story publicly for the first time at a women’s summit, which was organised as a direct result of [a story on 7.30 back in August](#).

Toni Wright suffered brain damage after being attacked by her daughter’s ex-boyfriend.

“He was kicking me in the head, and my face was all busted up ... I know I’m a bit slow and I get upset and it hurts when other people can see it,” she told 7.30 then.

Summit organiser Annie Vanderwyk from the Red Cross watched Ms Wright's story.

"After the story I was stunned, then my phone started to ring," she told 7.30.

"Toni had this voice, this opportunity for voice and it was so powerful.

"We decided we need to have a voice, and we needed to be able to gather together and stand up and we needed to do it quickly."

The three-day summit was launched by NSW opposition Aboriginal affairs spokeswoman Linda Burney.

"We can't any longer tolerate what is going on for Aboriginal women, Aboriginal families, Aboriginal children," Ms Burney told 7.30.

"There are some real ways to arrest the rate of domestic violence within the Aboriginal community and it starts with young people, it starts with babies, it starts with empowering women and empowering communities to be able to stand up, to say this isn't acceptable anymore."

Ms Tighe spoke at the summit, shedding tears as she told her story.

"I was really nervous but I felt good after I done it, once I got it out I was happy," she said after telling her story.

After the summit the women prepared a statement, urging governments to consult with Indigenous women and adopt their plans to help tackle domestic violence.

Two years after the attack, Ms Tighe is urging other women to escape violent relationships before it is too late.

"I have always wanted to try and have a voice and do something for my people," she said.

"And maybe because of what's happened this is the way I get my voice out."