**The expected process of change: progress in prevention of violence against women in Australia**

**Infrastructure** (such as an expert workforce and coordination mechanisms) is crucial to support the ‘grey line’ in the figure below.

This work in turn will begin to increase gender equality, and promote equal and respectful relationships, as represented by the gradual upward trajectory of the blue line. While it may seem counter-intuitive, demand for formal response services (represented by the purple line) is expected to increase in the medium-term as prevention infrastructure and programming improves. These improvements will raise community awareness, challenge violence-condoning attitudes and encourage reporting of incidents. As a result, women experiencing violence will be more likely to seek help from formal services. But as more people stand up against violence and the behaviours and attitudes that support it, women have greater independence and decision-making power, as gender roles are less rigidly enforced, and more people have the skills and desire to create positive, equal and respectful relationships. Then—only then—will we start to see a decrease in rates of violence against women. Twelve month prevalence rates will demonstrate the earliest positive impacts (shown in orange below).

Lifetime prevalence rates (red) will take much longer to improve, because incidents experienced earlier in people’s lives will continue to be included in this measure, long after any prevention strategies have been introduced. However, as subsequent generations of girls grow up in an Australia where gender equality, respect and non-violent norms are the norm, then lifetime prevalence rates will start to fall.

**An intersectional approach to measuring prevention**

The gendered drivers, and reinforcing factors, of violence against women should always be considered together with other forms of social, political and economic discrimination and inequality (such as racism or classism), as these influence and interact with gender inequality. This is called an intersectional approach, and needs to influence the way we track population-level progress toward prevention.

While intersectional methodologies for collecting and analysing population data are still evolving, counting on change has identified ways in which a process of tracking prevention progress at a population level can be informed by an intersectional approach:

1. Establish an Intersectionality Advisory Group
2. Seek out population group disaggregated data sets and analyse and report on in a comprehensive way
3. Highlight gaps in data on intersectionality
4. Ask the tough ‘intersectionality questions.’ For example: Who is missing from this data? Is this statistic accurate for all women?

**Key elements of prevention monitoring**

Counting on change outlines the key elements needed to provide a more comprehensive picture of the status of the drivers and reinforcing factors of violence against women at a national and state/territory level. The four elements below are needed to effectively collect data, report on findings, and reduce gaps in the current body of knowledge:

1. A coordination mechanism
2. A process for data collection and analysis
3. A process for reporting and communicating the findings
4. A research strategy to reduce data gaps.
Indicators and data sources

Counting on change sets out a total of 5 long-term indicators, 33 medium-term indicators, and 43 suggested measures for prevention infrastructure and programs. Select examples of indicators and suggested measures identified in the Guide are outlined below. For a full list of the proposed indicators and suggested measures, please visit the Our Watch website www.ourwatch.org.au for a copy of Counting on change.

PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (5 INDICATORS IN TOTAL)

INDICATOR: Proportion of women subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence, by a current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months.
SOURCE: Personal Safety Survey.

INDICATOR: Proportion of women subjected to sexual violence, by persons partner other than an intimate partner in their lifetime.
SOURCE: Personal Safety Survey.

DRIVERS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (23 INDICATORS IN TOTAL)

INDICATOR: Community attitudes towards violence against women.
SOURCE: National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS).

INDICATOR: Proportion of time women spend in unpaid care work compared to men.
SOURCE: Household Income and Labour Dynamics Australia.

REINFORCING FACTORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (10 INDICATORS IN TOTAL)

INDICATOR: Percentage of women who experienced violence reporting that children heard or saw the violence.
SOURCE: Personal Safety Survey.

INDICATOR: Percentage of population who express denial of continued gender inequality and hostility towards women.
SOURCE: National Community Attitudes Survey (NCAS).

PREVENTION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS (43 SUGGESTED MEASURES)

POSSIBLE MEASURE: An increasing number of university/TAFE courses include preservice qualification standards and competencies on prevention.

POSSIBLE MEASURE: Governments (federal, state/territory, and local) have a dedicated policy for primary prevention, aligned with Change the story.