

The 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey (NCAS)

The National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey, or NCAS, is a resource for anyone wanting to understand and prevent the [serious](#) and [prevalent](#) problem of violence against women. It can be used by educators, policy-makers, program planners, researchers, journalists and students.

The NCAS tells us how people understand violence against women, their attitudes towards it, what influences their attitudes, and if there has been a change over time. It also gauges attitudes to gender equality and people's preparedness to intervene when witnessing violence or its precursors.

The survey collects information through telephone interviews with over 17,500 Australians 16 years and over. Results are analysed for or by:

- the Australian community as a whole
- each state and territory
- young people
- Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders
- people from non-English speaking backgrounds
- people with disabilities
- other relevant demographic and contextual indicators

The NCAS is the world's longest-running survey of community attitudes towards violence against women. The first survey took place in 1987. It has evolved over time with the current NCAS based on a survey used in 1995.

It is implemented every four years. The last two national waves were led by [VicHealth](#) (2009 and 2013). ANROWS is proud to lead the next wave with the 2017 NCAS.

The Australian Government [Department of Social Services](#) (DSS) funds the NCAS as part of the [National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022](#). It is one way of monitoring the progress of the National Plan.

The 2017 NCAS is closely aligned with [Change the Story](#), the national framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia.

The NCAS also complements the [Personal Safety Survey](#), which asks people about their experiences of violence. This survey is led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is funded by DSS.

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New features of the 2017 NCAS

- Improved scales designed to measure:
 - understanding of violence against women
 - support for violence against women
 - support for gender equality
- New measures designed to better understand what shapes attitudes, including composite measures of:
 - support for the use of violence in general
 - the gender make-up of a person's social networks
 - prejudice towards people on the basis of ethnicity, Aboriginality, sexuality and disability
- A different approach to collecting data that enables us to examine attitudes in specific occupations.
- New questions measuring how willing and confident people are to take action when they witness behaviours that may lead to violence.
- A strong alignment with [Change the Story](#).
- Some approaches to gauging the influence of 'social norms', measured by what people think others think or what is expected of them.

An overview of the 2017 NCAS is represented in the Survey Framework overleaf.



Survey Framework

FACTORS

demographic, contextual & attitudinal factors that may be associated with and influence attitudes

Demographic factors

- Gender
- Age
- Household composition
- Education
- Labour force status
- Occupation of respondent and main household income earner
- Postcode
- Self-identified disability
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status
- Country of birth of respondent and their mother and father
- Year of arrival
- Language other than English spoken at home
- English language proficiency

Contextual factors

- Gender make-up of a person's social networks

Attitudinal constructs

- Prejudice towards people on the basis of ethnicity, Aboriginality, sexuality and disability
- Support for the use of violence in general

SURVEY COMPONENTS

with themes

Knowledge of violence against women

- Definition / nature of the problem
- Violence & the law
- Patterns & consequences
- Contributing factors
- Knowledge of resources

Attitudes towards gender equality

- Promoting women's independence & decision-making
- Public life
 - Private life
- Challenging
- Gender stereotypes & roles
 - Male peer relations emphasising aggression & disrespect
 - Backlash to women's equality

Attitudes towards violence against women

- Excusing the perpetrator, blaming women for violence or expecting them to manage its consequences
- Minimising the violence
- Mistrusting women's reports of violence
- Disregarding women's right to consent

Bystander action

- When witnessing behaviour that may lead to violence
- Intentions
 - Confidence
 - Anticipation of social support

Social norms*

- Measured by what people think others think or what is expected of them
- Social norms pertaining to violence against women and gender equality
- *subject to future development*

COMPOSITE MEASURES

made from groups of questions to measure an overall concept

Understanding Violence Against Women Scale (UVAWS)

Gender Equality Attitudes Scale (GEAS) and scale themes

Community Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women Scale (CASVAWS) and scale themes

Intention to Act (ITA) Construct

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AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY
to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

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