"Given equity between men and women, boys and girls, is assumed to be a fundamental concept at the heart of Australian values, it is rather alarming that we know so little about what citizens really think about gender equality."

Virginia Haussegger AM
Gender equality progress in Australia is in trouble. Despite Australia’s leadership in developing some of the best anti-discrimination legislative frameworks in the world, a brewing climate of backlash is emerging as a whole new challenge.

Meanwhile, Australian women are failing to flourish as well as they should – particularly given our decade long lead in global rankings for female education.

THE ‘FROM GIRLS TO MEN’ PROGRAM AIMS TO CHANGE THIS

OUR PURPOSE:
At the 50/50 by 2030 Foundation we believe Australia is at a critical point. While the progress of women and girls is currently receiving much media and public attention, sexism and gender bias, fueled by perceptions of a growing political correctness, have remained unquantified. Until now.

This Snapshot presents key findings from Stage 1 of our Attitudes Research program. It highlights data from our national survey of 2,122 Australians, aged 18 to 74, conducted in 2018 by Ipsos. It reveals a worrying trend in male feelings of exclusion and disadvantage, particularly among Millennial males.

OUR AIM:
Our aim is to stem a potential backlash against women’s empowerment by broadening discussion with men and women, boys and girls, around building healthy, inclusive and respectful attitudes.

The full report, From Girls to Men: Social Attitudes to Gender Equality in Australia can be found on our website 5050foundation.edu.au

Virginia Haussegger AM
Director, 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, University of Canberra
KEY FINDINGS

- **88%**
  - Australians agree gender equality is still a problem

- **54%**
  - Men agree with the statement: ‘Political correctness means I cannot openly say what I think about gender equality’

- **42%**
  - Men believe gender equality strategies in the workplace do not take men into account

- **65%**
  - Australians believe men have more opportunity than women to earn the main household income

- **1 in 3**
  - More than one in three men believe it is important to maintain traditional gender roles so that families function well and children are properly supported

- **40%**
  - Women believe men and women do not have the same access to career opportunities

- **69%**
  - Men believe freedom of speech is important, even if it means offending someone

- **63%**
  - Women believe sexism in Australia is most widespread in politics

- **53%**
  - Men believe sexism in Australia is most widespread in politics

- **35%**
  - Women believe the government is already doing enough to promote equal opportunities for women
SEXISM IN AUSTRALIA

Three areas of society where Australians believe sexism is most widespread:

- Politics: 58%
- Workplace: 53%
- Media: 42%

Agree or strongly agree with the statement: ‘Women try to behave like men when they take on executive positions or leadership roles’

- Females: 29%
- Males: 33%

Millennials (aged 24 – 38): 25% of females and 29% of males believe women become less likeable when they take on leadership roles

Males believe men and women have different skills and talents based on their gender

- Males: 56%
Women believe people in Australia are hired on merit (29%).

Women believe it is easier to get your dream job if you are male rather than female (51%).

1 in 4 Australians agree or strongly agree with the statement: ‘It is important to maintain traditional gender roles so that Australia remains globally competitive with a well performing economy’ (49%).

Gen Z males (aged 18 – 23) believe caring for children is best done by women (35%).

Women believe that their gender has negatively impacted their career (49%).
**LEADERSHIP**

- **67%** Female
- **32%** Millennial males
- **15%** Millennial females
- **30%** Millennial males

Females believe there **should be more women in positions of power**.

Millennial males believe **men are better suited to leadership roles**.

**30%** of Millennial males believe **men are more ambitious than women** … but only **15%** of Millennial **females agree**.

1 in 3 Australians believe most women **do not aspire to leadership positions** because they have **family responsibilities**.
Men and boys are increasingly excluded from measures to improve gender equality.

Political correctness means I cannot say openly what I think about gender equality.

The government is already doing enough to promote equal opportunities for women.

**HAVE WE GONE TOO FAR?**
For the latest news, views and research on gender equality, subscribe to BroadAgenda
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