

# fact sheet #3. HOW CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

The most effective way to reduce violence against women is to stop it from happening in the first place. This is known as the primary prevention of violence against women.

The Australian Government has successfully used primary prevention approaches to tackling other public health problems such as smoking and drink driving. Primary prevention approaches are effective because they address the root cause of the problem to stop it from happening in the first place.



This diagram explains the differences between primary prevention and other types of violence prevention. The most important difference is that primary prevention must take place before violent attitudes and behaviours occur, whereas secondary and tertiary prevention happen after the violence has already occurred and aim to stop it from happening again.

This checklist will help you know if a particular program or service is using a primary prevention approach to violence against women:

- ✓ Does it aim to challenge and change attitudes and behaviours that enable violence against women and not just maintain the status quo?
- ✓ Is it implemented before the violent behaviours and attitudes occur?
- ✓ Does it aim to reduce or eliminate the factors that place people at risk of using or experiencing violence?
- ✓ Does it target the broader population and not only 'at risk' groups?
- ✓ Does it promote gender equality and respectful relationships between men and women?

**If you answered 'yes' to these questions then chances are that a primary prevention approach is being used.**



**1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)**

A free 24 hour national domestic and family violence and sexual assault counselling service for people who have experienced violence, and for workers supporting them.

# PART TWO OF THIS TOOLKIT

Part Two of this toolkit provides some examples of common primary prevention approaches to violence against women.

## GROUP ACTIVITY

**Draw** the diagram on the first page onto butcher's paper or a whiteboard.

**Make** a list of all of the programs and initiatives in your community that might reduce violence against women.

**Decide** if these programs and services are primary, secondary or tertiary prevention and record them on the diagram.

**Discuss** whether there are any gaps in community efforts to address violence against women and what could be done to stop violence before it happens.

## RECOMMENDED READING



**Title** Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women (2010)  
**Author** The World Health Organisation (WHO)  
**Link** [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/publications](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications)



**Title** Principles of Prevention (POP): Online Course.  
**Author** Veto Violence (USA)  
**Link** [www.vetoviolence.org/pop](http://www.vetoviolence.org/pop)



**Title** Partners in Prevention Web Portal  
**Author** The Domestic Violence Resource Centre (VIC)  
**Link** [www.partnersinprevention.org.au](http://www.partnersinprevention.org.au)



**Title** 101 Ways Great and Small to Prevent Family Violence  
**Author** The Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre (VIC)  
**Link** [www.dvrcv.org.au/publications/books-and-reports/101-ways](http://www.dvrcv.org.au/publications/books-and-reports/101-ways)

## NOTES

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This is 3 in a series of 15 fact sheets to help communities stop violence against women before it happens. Download the full set at [www.nrwn.org.au](http://www.nrwn.org.au)