

## 1800RESPECT responds to findings in Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report on family, domestic and sexual violence

### **Embargoed until 1.00am, 28 February 2018**

1800RESPECT welcomes the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's comprehensive report into family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia.

The detailed findings build a picture about who is impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia, and what is known about victims, perpetrators and at-risk groups.

1800RESPECT General Manager, Nicole McMahon says that the findings are consistent with the contacts to 1800RESPECT—the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service.

“This report highlights what we see every day through the calls and online chats coming in to 1800RESPECT.

“Violence is not limited to gender; it affects all people of all ages and it is not acceptable in any circumstance.

“The majority of people who contact us are women, but we're also listening, supporting and providing advice to children and men who are impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence.”

“The report finds that women are more likely to experience violence from someone they know in their home and this is what women are telling us when they call our service,” said Ms McMahon.

1800RESPECT Counselling Manager, Rachel Bowes, says that sexual, domestic and family violence can happen in any relationship and it is never okay.

“Some of the phone calls and online chats we receive at 1800RESPECT are from people who are being told that they're worthless, no-one cares about them and they have no value.

“This type of emotional abuse can often go for years unseen and can significantly impact people's health and their relationships with everyone around them.

“Others contacting 1800RESPECT are concerned about their partner's controlling behaviour including restricting their access to money, preventing them from seeing friends or using children to manipulate behaviour.

“This type of manipulative behaviour is a form of violence along with physical violence or threats of physical violence and it is never acceptable,” says Ms Bowes.

The report also highlights that some groups are at greater risk of family, domestic and sexual violence.

1800RESPECT is focused on these at-risk groups and has established a National Sector Advisory Group to bring together family, domestic and sexual violence experts with knowledge and experience in family law matters, issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,

culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, same sex relationships, as well as Australians in rural and remote areas and people with disability.

“We’re working hard to ensure that all Australians who are impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence have access to 1800RESPECT,” says Ms McMahon.

**If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit [1800RESPECT.org.au](https://www.1800respect.org.au) In an emergency, call 000.**

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