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REPORT

The Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children Report of the National Consultations

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive summary	1
Overview	3
What does success look like?	9
What works, and what doesn't work, when it comes to primary prevention of violence against women and their children?	13
What individuals, organisations and communities will it be important for the Foundation to engage and why?	15
Appendix 1: Definitions used in workshop material	16
Appendix 2: Spectrum of strategies – addressing violence against women and their children	17

List of Figures

Figure 1: Workshop locations	7
Figure 2: One word summary	8
Figure 3: Four key areas of success and underpinning principles for the Foundation	9

List of Tables

Table 1: What works/ doesn't work in primary prevention	14
Table 2: Grouping of organisations to engage with	15

WestWood Spice would like to thank everyone participating in the consultation process, in particular the many people around Australia who helped organise events and who gave their time to attend workshops and interviews. We also value the many online and written submissions drawn on for this report.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DSS	Department of Social Services
DVIR	Domestic Violence Incidence Rates
EVA's	Eliminating Violence Against Women (media awards)
NCE	National Centre of Excellence to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
NGO	Non government organisation
PVAW	Preventing Violence Against Women
WWS	WestWood Spice Consultants

THE FOUNDATION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The consultation process canvassed the views of a range of stakeholders nationally about the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children (Foundation). This report captures a broad spectrum of views across the key issues. Among these some clear, consistent themes have emerged to provide guidance and inform the directions of the Foundation.

Stakeholders were very engaged and interested in participating in the consultations to assist in shaping the direction of the Foundation. While many view its establishment as a very positive initiative, there was a call for the early articulation of the role and purpose of the Foundation to be explained to other organisations and the definition of clear outcomes.

Key considerations

The following emerged as areas for the Foundation to consider in planning future directions:

- development of a **comprehensive strategic framework and approach** articulating very clearly the purpose, goals and strategies and clear outcomes the Foundation seeks to achieve. The framework needs to have a clear agenda for addressing gender inequality, be multifaceted, and align with and augment the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, indicate linkages with other relevant organisations and their efforts and delineate clearly the limits of the role of the Foundation;
- use of the **key determinants of violence** and strategies to address these to inform the strategic framework for action of the Foundation;
- articulation of the theoretical basis within a **cohesive theory of change** and a clear logic model which underpins each of the chosen strategies;
- development of a **comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy** as a critical element of the strategic framework with an initial stakeholder/ activity mapping process and ongoing engagement with the broader community; and
- consideration of potential supporters including government and corporate funding opportunities.

Linked to the above the Foundation should develop a robust **evaluation framework** to monitor progress and change over the short, medium and longer term with realistic indicators and measures of success.

The consultation suggests that the specific initiatives listed below may be priorities for action by the Foundation:

- **gather existing evidence** of effectiveness and success in violence prevention from Australia and overseas and **emerging best practice**. As there is currently limited evidence in many aspects of violence prevention on the scale of change sought by the Foundation, drawing on models of effectiveness in other fields will be valuable such as public health programs (tobacco, seat-belts, skin cancer prevention, HIV/AIDS etc);
- consult with key stakeholders to develop and promote nationally consistent terminology related to violence against women;

- develop an **awareness raising strategy/ campaign to increase understanding across the country** of the nature, dimensions, contributors and impacts of violence against women and their children; this includes a **media/ communications strategy**;
- develop a **national violence primary prevention plan** with implementation guidelines linked to the National Plan, National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020, and other relevant strategies/ frameworks; and
- **map key legislative and other systemic factors** and develop a priority action plan to guide the changes required to assist in the prevention of violence.

High expectations

Consultation participants were keen for the Foundation to act as both a national body driving change and as an enabler and catalyst to enhance the effectiveness of existing initiatives to prevent violence against women and their children. Stakeholders consulted realised that it takes time to create a sustainable organisation with solid foundations and genuine partnerships.

It was evident from the consultation process there are a wide range of stakeholders interested in, and working to prevent, violence against women and their children. While the operating environment is complex and dynamic, and will be challenging for a new organisation, the Foundation was seen as having a valuable role to play. It can act as a unifying force through supporting and facilitating strong networks, collaborations and partnerships across multiple sectors.

There were also many organisations and bodies that were viewed as important to engage with in the future as potential supporters and as agents of change in communities. Winning broad support and recognition, including funding, will be critical.

The overall picture that emerged from the consultation was one of eagerness to see the Foundation develop into its role and appreciation of the early opportunity to contribute ideas. Expectations are high, but it is clear that there is interest, enthusiasm and engagement from a wide range of organisations providing a solid underpinning for the Foundation. This is important given the long term mindset and strategy that the Foundation must adopt if it is to achieve lasting generational change.

OVERVIEW

On 26 July 2013 the Commonwealth and the Victorian Government announced the launch of the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children (the Foundation).

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments partnered to establish the Foundation, forming a national organisation to raise awareness and engage the community in action to prevent violence against women and their children.

The Foundation's remit is to harness community energy to reject inequality and violence against women, and drive a change in attitudes and behaviour. As a non-government organisation (NGO) it provides opportunities for community leadership as well as supporting future work in the area of primary prevention.

At a national level the Foundation will engage with, and draw from, the work being done to prevent violence against women and their children. It is a key initiative in supporting all Australian governments' commitment to achieving a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children, building on the work of *the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 (the National Plan)*ⁱ.

The establishment of the Foundation responded to a call from the non-government sector for an even stronger approach to primary prevention articulated through the National Plan consultations and research. One of its stated objectives is to provide a platform to bring together and support these organisations, to collaborate in their efforts to stop violence from happening in the first place.

Sustainable change must be built on community participation by men and women taking responsibility for the problems and solutions.

One of the Principles guiding the National Plan

Vision

An Australian community free from violence against women and their children.

Purpose

Provide national leadership to stop violence against women through motivating everyone in the community – men and women of all ages, as well as business, governments and community organisations – to reject violence against women and their children.

Objectives

- raise awareness and engage the community in taking action to prevent violence against women and their children;
- drive a broad-based change in attitudes that condone or excuse violence against women and their children, and promote respect between women and men, including young people and children;
- work with communities in which women and their children can be especially vulnerable to violence. This includes Indigenous communities, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and women and children with disabilities;
- protect children through preventing violence against women, recognising the linkages between violence against women and child safety and wellbeing;
- build a platform to bring together and support existing best practice primary prevention and other community organisations to collaborate in reducing violence against women and their children; and
- establish an innovative and sustainable agency.

A Need for Change

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women definition:

“The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”

Over recent decades, there have been dramatic changes to how governments and the community respond to violence against women in Australia. A lot has been done to improve understanding and awareness of domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and to put legislation and services in place to protect and support women and their children who have experienced violence.

However, with one in three women experiencing physical violence and almost one in five experiencing sexual violence since the age of 15, there is clearly still a lot of work to do. Violence against women is never acceptable, and it has major personal, social and economic costsⁱⁱ.

Violence is a complex and multifaceted issue. It does not occur in isolation from other challenges faced by individuals and communities. This includes the interplay between domestic and family violence and child abuse and neglect, the long term health implications of violence against women, and the impact, reach and cost of violence against women and children across service systems.

Research shows there is a strong link between violence against women and how individuals, communities and society as a whole view the roles of men and women. Advancing gender equality and promoting respect between women and men are essential in preventing violence against women and their children. A long-term and sustainable solution requires attitudes about gender equality and violence against women to change.

The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022

The National Plan is a collaboration between Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments and released in February 2011. The National Plan has the long-term goal of a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women. It targets two main types of violence: domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

The National Plan is underpinned by the belief that involving all governments and the wider community is necessary to reduce violence in the short and longer terms. The plan drives work by governments and NGOs to prevent and reduce violence against women, as well as providing support to women who have experienced violence.

The first three years of National Plan implementation lay the foundations for change. The National Plan focuses strongly on preventing violence against women and their children. It looks to the long-term, building respectful relationships and working to increase gender equality and prevent violence from occurring in the first place. A number of prevention and early intervention initiatives are being delivered under the National Plan, including social marketing campaigns like The Line, respectful relationships programs in schools and communities across Australia, and work with community organisations to change attitudes towards violence at a local level.

The emotional and personal costs of violence against women cannot be measured: the effects reach all levels of society.

Violence not only affects the victim themselves, but the children who are exposed to it, their extended families, their friends, their work colleagues and ultimately the broader community.

Too many young people in Australia have witnessed acts of physical domestic violence against a parent.

National Plan p1

State and Territory Governments have developed policy and program responses in their own jurisdictions that feed into the National Plan. Links to individual plans can be found at the Foundation's website: <http://www.preventviolence.org.au/resources.htm>.

National Centre of Excellence to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

To build the evidence base, the National Centre of Excellence to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (NCE) has been established as a commitment under the National Plan and a partnership between the Commonwealth and states and territories. The NCE will develop a national research agenda to identify good policy and practice to reduce violence against women and their children across Australia. Researchers, policy makers and practitioners in relevant fields will be able to link up and provide evidence-based responses to reduce domestic, family and sexual violence.

Both the NCE and the Foundation have been established as independent organisations. The Foundation will complement the work of the NCE and ensure its crucial learnings regarding primary prevention are translated into action across the Australian community.

Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women and Children 2012-2015

The Victorian Government has partnered with the Commonwealth to establish the Foundation. Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women and Children 2012-2015 (the Action Plan) represents the next wave of significant reform for addressing violence against women and children. The Action Plan engages key ministers and departments across government on this issue, and community organisations and communities.

The Action Plan contains actions and initiatives spanning prevention, early intervention and response. Prevention is a major focus of the plan with a suite of new and expanded prevention initiatives worth almost \$8 million. Initiatives include investment in raising community awareness to change attitudes and behaviours; working with schools to incorporate more information on respectful relationships into the school curriculum; developing workplace environments that are inclusive, safe and supportive of women; a bystander program to equip people with knowledge about what to do when someone known to them is experiencing violence, or using violence against women; and working with the media on responsible reporting of violence against women and training survivors to be media and public spokespeople.

The Action Plan also recognises the importance of improved research and evidence to increase understandings of violence against women and children. This will enable the development and implementation of better interventions to stop such violence in the future.

Primary prevention strategies seek to prevent violence before it occurs. Primary prevention strategies focus on:

- changing attitudes, behaviour and/or building knowledge and skills across the community;
- the structural, cultural and societal contexts in which violence occurs; and
- addressing the underlying causes of violence against women, such as gender inequality.

National Consultations workshop briefing paper (DSS/ WWS 2013)

National Consultations

Research shows that key predictors of violence against women relate to how individuals, communities and society as a whole view the roles of men and women.

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children: Progress Report 2010-2012 (2013).

(DSS 2013)

The national consultations to inform the establishment and the work of the Foundation started one week following the launch of the new organisation in July 2013. This reflected the importance placed by the Foundation on talking early on with people working on, and connected with, issues of violence against women and their children.

The process was managed and facilitated by independent consultants, WestWood Spice, and all of the events were attended by a representative of the Foundation (the majority saw the participation of the Chair and Interim CEO) and a representative from the Commonwealth Government.

Aim

The overall aim of the national consultations was to promote the sharing of ideas around how the Foundation could work most effectively to prevent violence against women and their children.

Format

Consultations were in five different formats to offer opportunities for engagement with a wide range of stakeholders: workshops, online survey, webinar, interview and written submission. Workshops took place in 13 locations indicated in the map below. Dovetailing with the consultation process, the Chair and Interim CEO met with representatives of state and territory governments as well as media across Australia.

All of the consultation activities focussed on the same three areas, framed through the questions:

- What would success look like for the Foundation, and what opportunities are there?
- What works and what doesn't work in Australia when it comes to primary prevention of violence against women and their children?
- What individuals, organisations and communities will it be important for the Foundation to engage and collaborate with, and why, including for philanthropic purposes?

Participation

The consultation process canvassed the views of a wide range of stakeholders nationally, with over 250 organisations participating. A broad spectrum of views around the key issues was captured. The diverse range of organisations and different roles played by participants naturally led to varied inputs and perspectives. Some offered a strategic

perspective informed by experience or research both in Australia and overseas, others were more operational, grounded in the day-to-day service delivery to women experiencing domestic and family violence and sexual assault. Participants also represented the diversity of women in Australia, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, CALD, refugee and new migrant women, and women with disability.

People and organisations participating

Workshops	231	Online survey	85
Webinar	23	Written submissions	18
Interviews	18	Organisations	250+

From the diversity of views some clear, consistent themes emerged to provide guidance and inform the directions of the Foundation. The overall picture that emerged from the consultation was very positive; people used words such as “excited”, “hopeful” and “interested” to describe how they felt about the initiative. A minority of participants were cautious in their support and used words like “sceptical”, “anxious” and “cynical”. The consultation highlighted some of the areas of concern the Foundation will need to be mindful of as it proceeds.

Figure 1: Workshop locations

The locations and sequence of consultation workshops was:

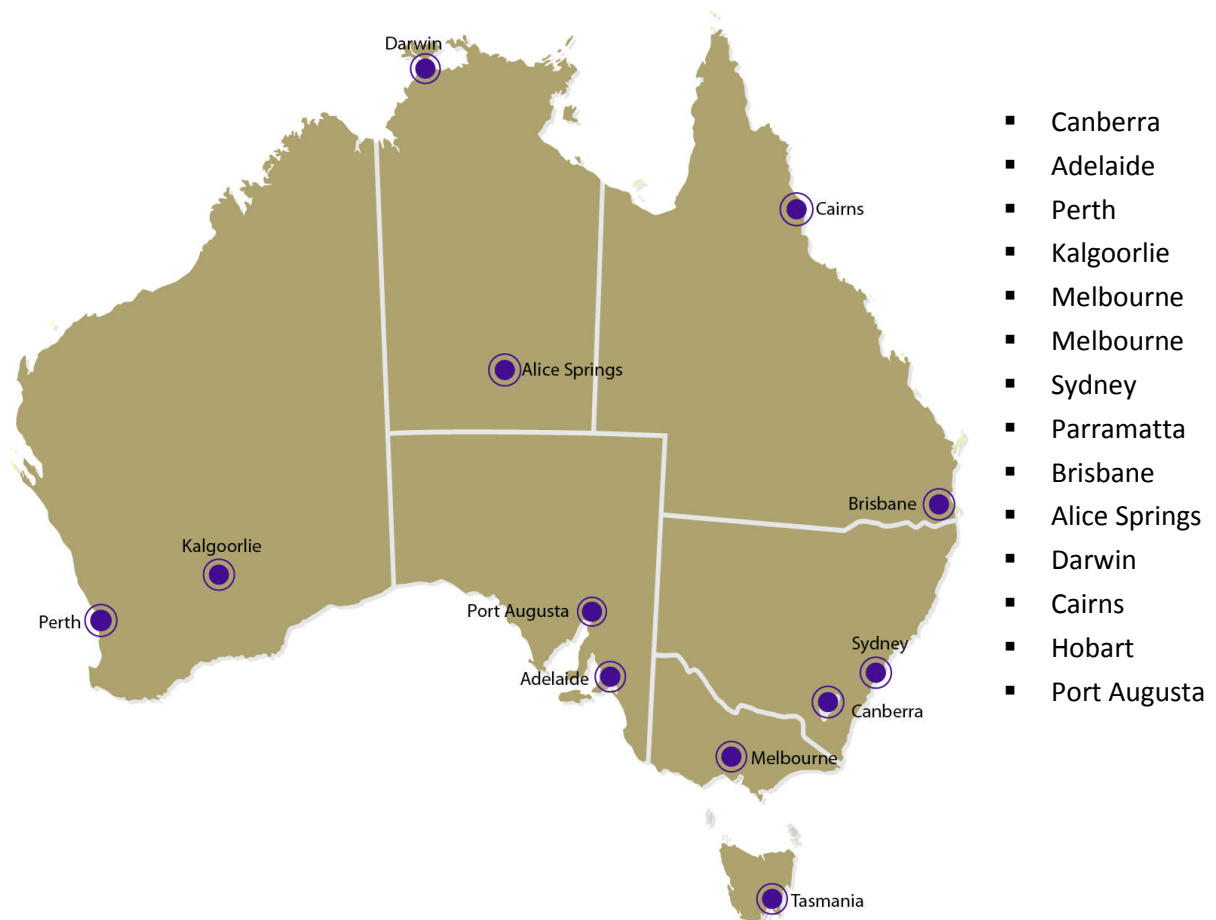
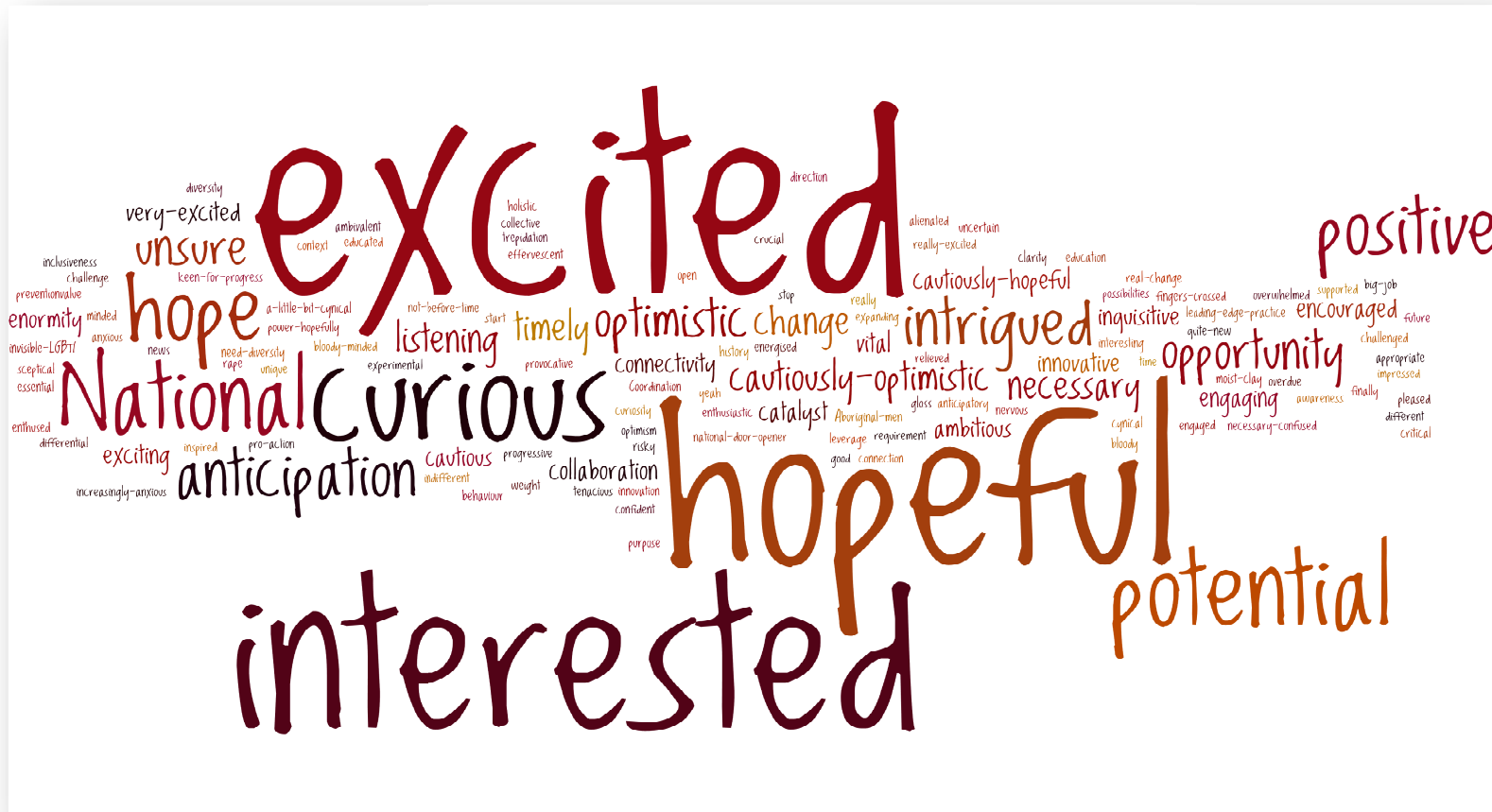


Figure 2: One word summary



Workshop and webinar consultation participants were asked to use one word to describe how they felt about the launch of the Foundation. The size of the word reflects the frequency it occurred.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

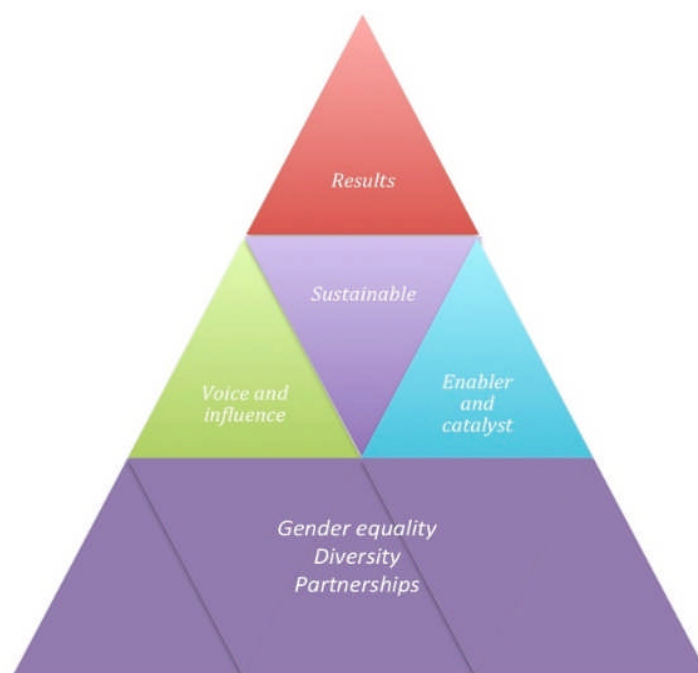
The consultation invited participants to describe what success for the Foundation looked like from their perspective. Feedback emphasised the need for long term, generational change and the importance of pacing the Foundations work and community expectations of the Foundation accordingly. Responses can be grouped into four broad areas:

- **Results.** The results sought in terms of the reduction in, and the prevention of, violence against women and their children.
- **Voice and influence.** The role of the Foundation as a national body driving cultural and behavioural change across the Australian community.
- **Enabler and catalyst.** A collaborating and facilitating role. The consultations recognised the shared vision provided by the National Plan. What was needed was a mechanism to sustain national dialogue about preventing violence. This includes creating a strategic framework and approach.
- **A robust sustainable organisation.** Supported by income from a wide range of sources as well as clear goals, operational plans and strong partnerships.

Three principles were articulated underpinning all four areas:

- **gender equality as the driver of action:** a major success suggested by stakeholders would be greater community understanding of gender inequality and its resultant impacts on women and their children experiencing violence. As well how gender inequality intersects with other inequalities – for instance disability, poverty, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and cultural status, Gay Lesbian Bisexual (GLB) and Intersex and/or Sex and Gender Diverse (ISGD). This understanding can assist in both galvanising diverse stakeholder action and informing more effective interventions;
- **recognition of the diversity of experiences of women in relation to violence;** and
- **working partnerships:** strong emphasis was placed on the need to ensure strong networks and partnerships to ensure that the diversity of experience is translated into good strategies and action.

Figure 3: Four key areas of success and underpinning principles for the Foundation



1. Results

Consultation participants suggested that success for the Foundation could be measured by clear impact measures tracked through a number of surveys – for instance:

- ABS Australian Social Trends (young people and safety, crime and safety);
- the ABS Personal Safety Survey; and
- National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women survey.

“We need a generation to assess efforts.”

Interviewee

Contributing to achieving the fundamental aim of preventing violence, consultation participants also suggested success could be measured by increases in key areas and activities such as:

- increased prioritisation of addressing the issues related to violence across the Commonwealth and state and territory governments;
- the inclusion of building gender equality into a broad spectrum of policies, legislation, infrastructure settings;
- prevention education “a program embedded in the curriculum at all levels”;
- professional development including mandatory understanding of prevention (police, social work, GP training for example), accredited practitioner programs;
- more opportunities to engage men in primary prevention initiatives to support cultural and behavioural change and contribute to changing peer norms;
- increased bystander action through increased awareness and support for action; and
- engagement of the media.

Measuring success effectively will require the Foundation to develop a realistic, practical evaluation framework that is embedded in all the strategies it undertakes. Achieving results will require efforts by multiple agencies, it was emphasised this is not work that any single organisation can tackle alone or be solely responsible for.

It was noted in consultations, that if strategies to raise awareness of the issue are effective, it may initially result in an increase in reporting and more people seeking help. Therefore it would be important to reflect this within the overall goals of the Foundation and recognise the associated capacity issues for the service system, including domestic and family violence and sexual assault services, child protection and family services and homelessness agencies. If the Foundation is successful in raising awareness and prompting action, it could create demand for services the sector could not meet. Furthermore, there will be a need for sensitivity around the concern expressed by some participants that the Foundation could divert resources from secondary or tertiary service providers.

2. Voice and Influence

Many stakeholders emphasised the important role the Foundation can play as an organisation with a high national profile, having a recognised voice of influence driving change across all jurisdictions. The Foundation should aspire to be a “known and trusted voice” and present a “coherent national vision” in the words of workshop participants.

“We need more conversations at BBQs about the issue of violence against women.”

Workshop participant

A key role was described as facilitation of open and frank public dialogue about the fundamental issues relating to violence and its determinants, in particular:

- the impact of gender inequality – this will require effective use of all types of media;
- the importance of engaging young people through appropriate messaging and use of social interaction channels; and
- the important role community education plays, including raising awareness and work in schools.

“We need to consult young people and involve them in designing work.

We need to be good with things like android text.”

Workshop participants

Some of the ways in which success could be measured in this area highlighted by stakeholders include:

- measurable raised awareness;
- clear consistent messages;
- changed language in the media about the issue and representations of women and of violence;
- less stigma attached to those who experience domestic and family violence and sexual assault;
- national curriculum – implemented by states and territories;
- national consistency within key legal processes relevant to family and domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- involvement of “non usual suspects”, this included a wide range of sectors, employers, unions as well as sporting codes, business and community leaders and celebrities.

Success would, in the views of stakeholders, also see the Foundation around the table at key decision making forums. It would be viewed as the “go to” central point or portal of information relating to all relevant aspects of violence and prevention of violence with links to relevant organisations and resources. Comprehensive mapping of stakeholders with clear description of various roles and responsibilities would assist in navigating the complexity of the field.

3. Enabler and catalyst: a collaborating and facilitating role

“Love to see a great exchange, training, conferences, production of valuable guides, research briefs.”

Workshop participant

Consultation participants described a key role for the Foundation as an enabler, building on existing work and providing an evidence base to support innovation and the dissemination of good practice.

Projects and interventions undertaken or supported by the Foundation should be based on sound evidence of best practice and draw on learnings from a wide range of initiatives across the country and internationally.

Specific areas where the Foundation should focus were described as:

- a national primary prevention plan;
- a clear shared understanding of approaches to prevention, terminology, roles and responsibilities;

“The Foundation should be a spokesperson and advocate for people working in the space with limited resources, it will be good to have solid national foundation.”

Workshop participant

- support for increased research into primary prevention in Australia and internationally through the NCE and other research and learning institutions, building on existing evidence of good practice and disseminating nationally;
- support for and facilitation of strong networks, collaboration and partnerships across multiple players/ sectors/ government. The Foundation can act as a unifying force for different organisations with a common cause;
- building capacity across the country in relation to primary prevention practice and workforce development; and
- evidence of influencing more integrated approaches.

An important result indicating Foundation success would be evidence of effective partnerships and collaborations between various players who are taking concerted action in a range of different areas related to violence against women and their children.

4. Sustainable organisation

Participants recognised the need for the Foundation to be sustainable and that success would also need to be reflected in a clear vision, a long term cohesive strategy and measured by strong infrastructure, funding from donors and commitment from all levels of government.

“It is important the Foundation doesn’t rush into short term activity, they need to build infrastructure and that takes time.”

Workshop participant

The development of a robust strategic framework and approach was identified as a priority.

The framework would:

- guide its activities, with clear strategies, underpinned by change theories and a coherent logic together with explicit success indicators to measure the effectiveness of its work over time; and
- clearly articulate the role of the Foundation and the various responsibilities for change in relevant sectors.

Strategies need to incorporate multi-level initiatives, high level national advocacy and influence work, diverse partnerships across sectors and also incorporate clear links with the jurisdictional and regional initiatives.

“The opportunity exists for the Foundation to assist with developing tools to assist with the evaluation of prevention work. Measuring change in attitudes and behaviour is difficult. However, evaluation provides an opportunity to develop and strengthen programs. The development of common indicators that could be applied to prevention of violence against women work would be beneficial to the whole prevention sector.”

Survey response

Sustainability will also be evidenced by the Foundation working well across various sectors and players – national and regional, public, private and community, with effective partnerships and collaborations building a comprehensive set of strategies across the country.

There was a strong view that in order to be sustainable the Foundation would need to seek longer term funding from a wide range of sources. The Foundation was encouraged by consultation participants to work with Australia’s largest organisations both to win financial support and raise awareness of what they can do to address gender inequality and issues of violence against women and their children.

WHAT WORKS, AND WHAT DOESN'T WORK, WHEN IT COMES TO PRIMARY PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN?

A number of topics emerged in response to the question “what works, and what doesn’t work in Australia, when it comes to primary prevention”? These can be broadly grouped into the following three categories:

1. Awareness and education
2. Strategies and actions
 - a. Principles of practice
 - b. Targeted approaches
3. Leadership and capacity building

Following is a list of the topics raised. The most frequently raised issue was the importance of addressing underlying gender inequality.

In discussing this area consultation participants focussed on best practice principles that will need to be considered in developing the work of the Foundation. There were very wide ranging perspectives on this and also differing views across the diversity of stakeholders represented. A strongly held view shared by many stakeholders is the priority to address the fundamental gender inequality underpinning women’s more vulnerable position in society – primary prevention needs to reduce inequalities in power, challenge gender stereotypes and promote widespread behavioural and attitudinal changes. The long-term nature, scope and complexity of change will require sustained effort to lead to generational change with long-term interventions.

“Build on work with first time parents and maternal-child health settings – key moments for intervention during a vulnerable transition where a lot of VAW starts.”

Interviewee

There was significant consistency in the views of stakeholders of what does not work in interventions and approaches to preventing violence. Some of these factors are, unsurprisingly, the opposite of what is understood to work.

“Community engagement and mobilisation is critical – supported by other systems. There is a critical issue of inconsistent messages.”

Interviewee

Table 1: What works/ doesn't work in primary prevention

What works in primary prevention

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

1. Gender equality perspective
2. Addressing determinants contributing to violence
3. Broad community ownership and responsibility
4. Promotion of wider understanding of the nature and impacts of violence
5. Empowerment of women
6. Engagement and support of men as leaders, advocates and positive role models
7. Education with children and young people
8. Critical role for media

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Principles of practice

1. Evidence based, well designed strategies
2. Comprehensive, ecological approach with multi-pronged programs
3. Flexible and tailored interventions
4. Cultural sensitivity and respect
5. Designing interventions across the life-course

Targeted Approaches

1. Focus on well-being of children
2. Working in communities that can be particularly vulnerable

LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY

1. Leadership at many levels
2. Linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary prevention
3. Positive role models
4. Training, professional development and capacity building across a range of sectors

What doesn't work

- Fragmented, ad hoc approaches and short term funding
- Working in silos
- One size fits all
- Poorly constructed programs/strategies
- Poor messaging
- Inadequate skills and capacity
- Adversarial and narrowly framed approaches
- Lack of flexibility

WHAT INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES WILL IT BE IMPORTANT FOR THE FOUNDATION TO ENGAGE AND WHY?

It was evident from the consultation process that there is a very wide range of stakeholders actively involved in issues associated with responding to and preventing violence against women; the list of over 250 organisations participating in workshop meetings and making online survey comments provides some indication of the diversity of stakeholders. There were also many bodies that were viewed as important to engage with in the future as potential funders or organisations with influence to assist in changing attitudes and/or the systemic barriers to gender equality. The consultation process elicited a long list of organisations suggested by participants, and they can be grouped into the broad categories listed below.

"It's a big common cause, bigger than any one organisation – we have to park our own interests."

Interviewee

Table 2: Grouping of organisations to engage with

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governments at all levels – Commonwealth, state, territory, local government ▪ Peaks and networks – women's services, children and families, disability, homelessness, mental health, drug and alcohol, gamblers help and financial counselling, Indigenous, refugee and multicultural, welfare, justice, advocacy ▪ Philanthropic – trusts and corporate foundations ▪ Research – NCE, AIFS, AIHW, ABS, AHURI ▪ Specific communities – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, refugee ▪ Corporate – across industries – financial/banking, mining, manufacturing, retail, entertainment, hospitality, Business Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Media – large networks, media associations, high profile media commentators, social media ▪ Health – women and men's health, mental health, drug and alcohol, maternal and child health services, government services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services, general practitioners, community health ▪ Education – schools, universities, TAFEs, teacher bodies and professional associations ▪ Sport – key codes and high profile sporting figures ▪ Employers/ employee bodies – unions/ federations, peak business bodies and councils ▪ Justice, Legal and Advocacy – community legal centres, Legal Aid, women's legal services, law reform, human rights bodies, police and the judiciary |
|--|--|

"Engage voices of survivors from all backgrounds (where possible): This is important for diversity of voices, experiences and ensuring all rights are upheld in Australia, and action is taken to reduce the gap."

Survey response

Feedback emphasised the importance of the Foundation playing a national and strategic role, but maintaining close links with the "coal face" of work with women and their children.

Across Australia, many consultation participants were familiar with work undertaken in Victoria on primary prevention and emphasised how important it was that the Foundation draws on and builds from this alongside

the best of other initiatives. As noted earlier the role of research, evaluation and dissemination of learning about what works and what doesn't work is crucial, so NCE and academic partnerships will make a significant contribution.

The value of drawing on individual stories as a way of changing attitudes was highlighted and the experience of victims of violence was raised in some consultations.

APPENDIX 1: DEFINITIONS USED IN WORKSHOP MATERIAL

Violence against women – definitions

Violence against women can be described in many different ways, and laws in each state and territory have their own definitions.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women definition:

"The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life."

Domestic violence refers to acts of violence that occur between people who have, or have had, an intimate relationship. While there is no single definition, the central element of domestic violence is an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling a partner through fear, for example by using behaviour which is violent and threatening. In most cases, the violent behaviour is part of a range of tactics to exercise power and control over women and their children, and can be both criminal and non-criminal.

Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse.

Physical violence can include slaps, shoves, hits, punches, pushes, being thrown down stairs or across the room, kicking, twisting of arms, choking, and being burnt or stabbed.

Sexual assault or sexual violence can include rape, sexual assault with implements, being forced to watch or engage in pornography, enforced prostitution, and being made to have sex with friends of the perpetrator.

Psychological and emotional abuse can include a range of controlling behaviours such as control of finances, isolation from family and friends, continual humiliation, threats against children or being threatened with injury or death.

Family violence is a broader term that refers to violence between family members, as well as violence between intimate partners. It involves the same sorts of behaviours as described for domestic violence. The term, 'family violence' is the most widely used term to identify the experiences of Indigenous people, because it includes the broad range of marital and kinship relationships in which violence may occur.

NATIONAL PLAN TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN 2010-2022

APPENDIX 2: SPECTRUM OF STRATEGIES – ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

There are three levels at which strategies to address violence against women can be implemented. While there is some variation in the way these strategies are defined and addressed, below is a brief synopsis of basic concepts.

Primary prevention – preventing violence before it occurs

Primary prevention strategies seek to prevent violence before it occurs. Primary prevention strategies focus on:

- changing attitudes, behaviour and/or building knowledge and skills across the community;
- the structural, cultural and societal contexts in which violence occurs; and
- addressing the underlying causes of violence against women, such as gender inequality.

Early intervention strategies – taking action on the early signs of violence

Early intervention is targeted at individuals and groups who exhibit early signs of perpetrating violent behaviour or of being subject to, or at risk of violence:

- at the individual level, early intervention can seek to address behaviours before they escalate or become established patterns; and
- early intervention strategies can also be targeted where there are strong signs that violence may occur, for example, peer groups.

Intervention strategies – intervening after violence has occurred

Intervention involves providing support and treatment to women and children who are affected by violence or to men who use violence. Intervention strategies are implemented after violence occurs. They aim to create safety for victims and deal with the consequences of their experiences, and to ensure that it does not occur again or escalate. Intervention strategies can include:

- crisis accommodation and support for victims;
- health and mental health services;
- therapeutic interventions for perpetrators; and
- criminal justice responses.

ⁱ National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children <http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children/national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children> (accessed 11 October 2013)

ⁱⁱ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006, Personal safety survey (reissue), Cat. No. 4906.0, Canberra and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2006, Family Violence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Cat. No. IHW 17, Canberra.